



**Code:** UKCAL-CWF-CON-EIA-APL-00001-A001

# Application Document 1

## Pre-Application Consultation Report

Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm Ltd

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>EIAR</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
<b>GW</b>	Gigawatt
<b>HDD</b>	Horizontal Directional Drilling
<b>HVAC</b>	High Voltage Alternating Current
<b>LPA</b>	Local Planning Authority
<b>MCA</b>	Marine and Coastguard Agency
<b>MD-LOT</b>	Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team
<b>MHWS</b>	Mean High Water Springs
<b>MLWS</b>	Mean Low Water Springs
<b>NETS</b>	National Electricity Transmission System
<b>OnTI</b>	Onshore Transmission Infrastructure
<b>OSP</b>	Offshore Substation Platform
<b>OWF</b>	Offshore Wind Farm
<b>PAC</b>	Pre-Application Consultation
<b>PAN</b>	Proposal of Application Notice
<b>PPP</b>	Planning Permission in Principle
<b>SEPA</b>	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
<b>SMP</b>	Sectoral Marine Plan
<b>WTG</b>	Wind Turbine Generator

## Executive Summary

This Pre-Application Consultation Report summarises the consultation carried out by Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm Limited (the Applicant) for the onshore and offshore elements of the proposed Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm.

This report accompanies the relevant onshore and offshore consent applications as well as an Environmental Impact Assessment Report in accordance with the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 for the relevant marine licenses, Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for electricity generation and transmission and the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for planning permission in principle.

The Applicant has undertaken extensive communication since the award of the seabed lease in 2022. Views have been sought from a diverse range of stakeholders, including statutory and non-statutory bodies, local and national politicians and local communities which has informed the development of the Proposed Development.

This has included 88 hours of direct public engagement over 12 public exhibitions at venues in Highland, Moray and Aberdeenshire between November 2022 and June 2024. These events were held over two phases; the first phase of 7 exhibitions sought public views and comments on the development proposals. Key themes raised by the public included objections to new overhead powerlines, impacts caused as a result of construction traffic, impacts of floating infrastructure on specific commercial fisheries, and opportunities for local economic development.

Applicant analysed the feedback received during the first round of consultation, information on how the Applicant responded to these points was shared during the second round of consultation events. Further detail on these responses is captured in this report.

The Applicant will continue to consult and engage with both statutory and non-statutory consultees as the development of the Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm progresses.



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Overview and Purpose

- 1.1.1.1 This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report ('the Report') has been prepared on behalf of Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm Limited, ('the Applicant') to support consenting applications for the proposed Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm (OWF).
- 1.1.1.2 Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ocean Winds UK Limited.
- 1.1.1.3 The Caledonia OWF comprises, Caledonia North and Caledonia South, collectively referred to as the Proposed Development (Offshore). The Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (OnTI) required to transfer the power from the Proposed Development (Offshore) to a connection to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) is referred to as the Proposed Development (Onshore). Collectively, the Proposed Development (Offshore) and Proposed Development (Onshore) are referred to in this Report as the ('Proposed Development').
- 1.1.1.4 This Report has been prepared to accompany the Proposed Development consent applications in accordance with the requirements for planning permission in principle (PPP) under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) (Scottish Parliament, 1997<sup>1</sup>), Marine Licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (Scottish Parliament, 2010<sup>2</sup>) and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (UK Parliament, 2009<sup>3</sup>) and consents under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (UK Parliament, 1989<sup>4</sup>).
- 1.1.1.5 This Report provides a description of the Proposed Development, an overview of the legislative requirements that PAC must comply with, a description of how consultation was undertaken, key issues raised and how they have been addressed.

## 1.2 The Proposed Development

### 1.2.1 Proposed Development (Offshore)

1.2.1.1 The Proposed Development (Offshore) Array Area<sup>i</sup> is located within the NE4 Option Agreement Area, approximately 429km<sup>2</sup> in size, identified in the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (Scottish Government, 2020<sup>5</sup>) and awarded to the Applicant through the ScotWind Leasing process.

1.2.1.2 The Proposed Development (Offshore) is located in the Moray Firth in the North Sea. The northern limit of the Array Area is approximately 22km off the coast of Wick, Highland and the southern limit of the site is approximately 38km off the coast of Banff, Aberdeenshire.

1.2.1.3 The Proposed Development (Offshore) will incorporate various offshore infrastructure within the Array Area and Offshore Export Cable Corridor (OECC) between the Array Area and preferred Landfall Site.

1.2.1.4 The two consent applications for each phase of the Proposed Development (Offshore) are referred to as:

- Caledonia North; and
- Caledonia South.

1.2.1.5 The Caledonia North application(s) seek to construct and operate all infrastructure which will be sited within the Caledonia North Array Area (fixed foundation WTGs, Inter-Array/Interconnector Cables, Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs) as well as the Offshore Export Cables which will be installed within the Caledonia North OECC and extend to the Landfall Site on the Aberdeenshire coast up to Mean High Water Springs (MHWS).

1.2.1.6 The Caledonia South application(s) seeks to construct and operate all infrastructure which will be sited within the Caledonia South Site Array Area (potentially a mixture of fixed and floating foundation WTGs, Inter-Array/Interconnector Cables, OSPs as well the Offshore Export Cables which will be installed in the Caledonia South OECC and extend to the Landfall Site on the Aberdeenshire coast up to MHWS).

1.2.1.7 Further details of the Proposed Development (Offshore) are contained within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description (Offshore).

<sup>i</sup> The area of the Proposed Development (Offshore) within the Moray Firth in which the Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), inter-array/interconnector cables and Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs) would be located.

## 1.2.2 Proposed Development (Onshore)

1.2.2.1 OnTI is required to transfer the power from the Proposed Development (Offshore) to a connection to the NETS.

1.2.2.2 At the Landfall Site, buried Offshore Export Cable circuits will come to shore and will be connected to the Onshore Export Cable Circuits at Transition Joint Bays (TJB). Buried Onshore Export Cable Circuits situated within an Onshore Export Cable Corridor will transmit the power inland to two co-located Onshore Substations, where it will be transformed to 400 Kilovolts (kV) before connecting to the NETS at a Grid Connection Point at New Deer for Phase 1, via up to two Grid Connection Cable Circuits with a nominal voltage of up to 400kV. All OnTI associated with the Caledonia OWF landward of Mean Low Water Spring (MLWS) is collectively referred to as the Proposed Development (Onshore) and will be constructed in up to two phases aligned with the Proposed Development (Offshore).

1.2.2.3 Further details of the Proposed Development (Onshore) are contained within the EIAR in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Proposed Development Description (Onshore).

## 1.3 Consenting Approach

1.3.1.1 To facilitate the development of the Caledonia OWF and support the deliverability of phasing, the Applicant is required to submit the following consenting applications:

- 2no. Section 36 applications under the Electricity Act 1989 (UK Parliament, 1989) (one for Caledonia North and one for Caledonia South) for the construction of the power generation site (offshore wind farm). To be submitted to the Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT).
- 4no. Marine Licence applications under The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (Scottish Parliament, 2010<sup>2</sup> and Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (UK Parliament, 2009<sup>3</sup>) for any offshore platforms and cabling to the platforms and to shore, to be submitted to MD-LOT, including:
  - 2no. marine licence applications for Generation (one for Caledonia North and one for Caledonia South); and
  - 2no. marine licence applications for Transmission (one for Caledonia North and one for Caledonia South).
- A PPP application under the Town and Country Planning Act 1997 (Scottish Parliament, 1997<sup>1</sup>) submitted to Aberdeenshire Council for all onshore works (all works landward of MLWS).

1.3.1.2 These applications are supported by a single EIAR (covering the Proposed Development).

## 1.4 Report Structure

1.4.1.1 The remainder of this Report is structured as follows:

- Section 2: Pre-application Consultation Legislation and Guidance. This section of the Report outlines the statutory pre-application consultation requirements and best practice guidance for the Proposed Development.
- Section 3: Pre-Application Consultation Strategy. This section of the Report outlines the consultation objectives, programme and summary of consultation activities carried out.
- Section 4: Pre-Application Consultation Activities. This section of the Report outlines the activities undertaken for each round of onshore and offshore consultation, a summary of feedback received and the Applicant’s response.
- Section 5: Conclusion. This section of the Report provides a conclusion demonstrating how the PAC has complied with statutory requirements.

1.4.1.2 Documentation in support of the Report is included in the following appendices detailed in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1: List of Appendices

Appendix	Document
1-1	Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) and Marine Compliance Documentation
1-2	Statement of Compliance
1-3	List of Stakeholders and Stakeholder Meetings
1-4	First Round Proposed Development (Offshore) Consultation Materials
1-5	First Round Proposed Development (Onshore) Consultation Materials
1-6	Second Round Combined Consultation Materials (including developers response to consultation)

## 2 Pre-application Consultation Legislation and Guidance

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1.1 The approach to PAC has been informed by statutory requirements set out in offshore and onshore legislation and good practice guidance. This section outlines the relevant legislative requirements and guidance in relation to the Proposed Development.

### 2.2 Offshore Legislation and Policy

2.2.1.1 The Proposed Development (Offshore) is to be consented under the following legislation:

- The Electricity Act 1989 (UK Parliament, 1989<sup>4</sup>) (1 x Section 36 application for Caledonia North and 1 x Section 36 application for Caledonia South) for the construction of the power generation site (offshore wind farm).
- The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (Scottish Parliament, 2010<sup>2</sup>) and Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (UK Parliament, 2009<sup>3</sup>) for any offshore platforms and cabling to the platforms and to shore (4 x Marine Licence applications; 2 x Generation including assets under generating station and 2 x Transmission).

2.2.1.2 There is no statutory PAC procedure for Section 36 consent under the Electricity Act 1989 (UK Parliament, 1989<sup>4</sup>), however the Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 produced by the Scottish Government (Scottish Government, 2022<sup>6</sup>) sets out their expectations for PAC. It is expected that applicants follow the minimum requirements for a national or major development under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (Scottish Parliament, 1997<sup>1</sup>), which are outlined in Section 2.3.2.

2.2.1.3 The relevant regulations for PAC relating to Marine Licence applications are outlined within the Marine Licensing (Pre-application consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Scottish Parliament, 2013<sup>7</sup>), commonly referred to as the Marine Licensing PAC Regulations.

2.2.1.4 There are no PAC requirements for the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (UK Parliament, 2009<sup>3</sup>).

## 2.2.2 Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

2.2.2.1 The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (“the 2010 Act”) (Scottish Parliament, 2010<sup>2</sup>) provides the legislative and management framework for the marine environment within Scottish Territorial Waters (from MHWS out to 12 nm). Under the 2010 Act, the Proposed Development (Offshore) will be required to obtain separate Marine Licences for Caledonia North and Caledonia South in relation to the construction and deposition of structures below MHWS.

2.2.2.2 Part 4, Section 23 of the 2010 Act requires PAC to be undertaken for developments of certain classes or descriptions within Scottish Territorial Waters. These classes of development are set out in the Marine Licensing (Pre-application consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Scottish Parliament, 2013).

2.2.2.3 Section 23 (1) of the 2010 Act requires prospective applicants to give notice that an application for a Marine Licence is to be submitted. The notice should be given to specified persons and contain:

- (a) a description in general terms of the activity to be carried out;
- (b) a plan or chart showing the outline of the location at which the activity is to be carried out (including, as appropriate, the route to be taken in order to carry out the activity), which is sufficient to identify the location;
- (c) details as to how the prospective applicant is to be contacted; and
- (d) such other information as may be prescribed by regulations made by the Scottish Ministers.

2.2.2.4 Section 23 (2) of the 2010 Act states that an application for Marine Licences can be submitted no earlier than 12 weeks following notice that an application will be submitted.

2.2.2.5 Section 24 of the 2010 Act requires a PAC report to be prepared and submitted to Scottish Ministers outlining the activities that have been carried out in compliance with Section 23.

## 2.2.3 Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

2.2.3.1 The Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Scottish Parliament, 2013<sup>7</sup>) came into force in April 2014 and set out the marine licensable activities that are subject to PAC in combination with the 2010 Act.

- 2.2.3.2 The Marine Licensing PAC Regulations apply to activities occurring within Scottish Territorial Waters (i.e., from MHWS out to 12 nm). Whilst these requirements do not apply in respect of relevant applications in the Scottish Offshore Region (beyond 12 nm), the principles of the Marine Licensing PAC Regulations will be followed for all offshore aspects of the Proposed Development (Offshore).
- 2.2.3.3 PAC is required for, but not limited to, the following activities:
- The deposit of a submarine cable into the sea or on or under the seabed from a vehicle, vessel, aircraft, marine structure, or floating container, where that cable is over 1853 meters (approx. 1 nautical mile) in length and where it crosses the inter-tidal boundary; and
  - The construction of a renewable energy structure in or over the sea or on or under the seabed, where the total area in which the structure is to be located exceeds 10,000 square meters.
- 2.2.3.4 For a prescribed class of activity, within which offshore wind developments is captured, Section 7 of the Marine Licensing PAC Regulations require developers to carry out the following activities:
- Notify the Marine and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB), NatureScot and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) along with any delegate for a relevant marine region.
  - Advertise a public notice in a local newspaper indicating where information on the proposal can be obtained, how to make views known to the applicant and the details of the first public event.
  - Developers must hold at least one pre-application event for which notification is given to these bodies, and members of the public may provide comments to the developer. The event must be no earlier than six weeks following notification to statutory consultees and publication in a newspaper.
  - Submit a PAC Report alongside the Marine Licence application to MD-LOT, detailing the consultation undertaken (as above).
- 2.2.3.5 As set out in the Marine Licensing PAC Regulations, a PAC report must include:
- A description of the consultation event;
  - A description of the information provided by the prospective applicant at the event;
  - Comments received by the prospective applicant at the pre-application event;
  - A description of amendments to be made to the Marine Licence application, where applicable, in response to those comments; and

- An explanation for the approach taken where, despite the prospective applicant receiving relevant comments and objections no relevant alterations are proposed to be made to the Marine Licence application.

2.2.3.6 Figure 2-1 below summarises the statutory PAC requirements for Marine Licence applications.

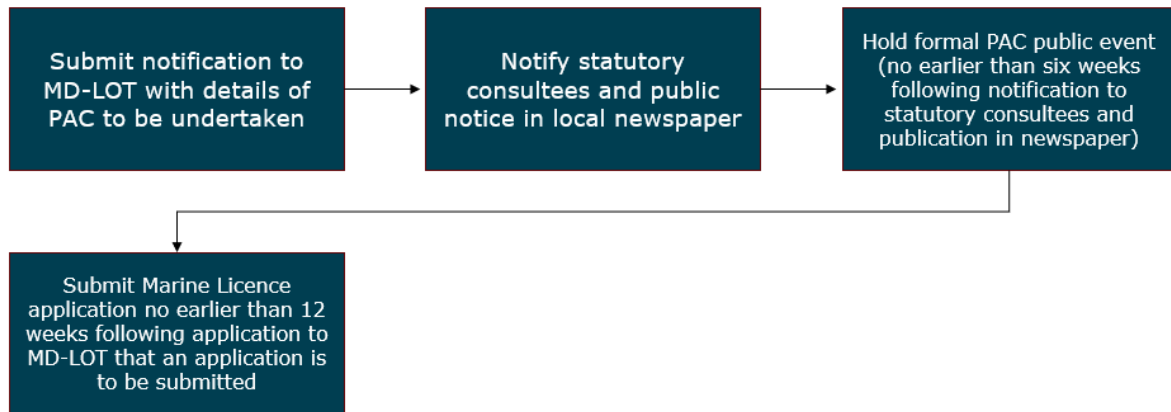


Figure 2-1: Statutory requirements for Marine Licensing PAC

## 2.2.4 Compliance with Statutory Marine Notification Requirements

2.2.4.1 As required by Regulation 6 of the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Scottish Parliament, 2013<sup>7</sup>), a notice was issued to the following statutory consultees to advise them of upcoming consultation events for the Proposed Development (Offshore):

- the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses;
- the Maritime and Coastguard Agency;
- SEPA; and
- NatureScot

2.2.4.2 A notice was sent to MD-LOT on 6 May 2024 informing them of the PAC events, a copy of which is provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-1: Proposal of Application Notice and Marine Compliance Documentation, Section 6.

## 2.3 Onshore Legislation and Policy

2.3.1.1 The Proposed Development (Onshore) is to be consented through an application for PPP, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (Scottish Parliament, 1997<sup>1</sup>) ('the 1997 Act').



2.3.1.2 The requirement for PAC is set out in the 1997 Act and the detailed procedures are set out in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Scottish Parliament, 2013<sup>8</sup>) and the Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 (Scottish Parliament, 2021<sup>9</sup>).

## 2.3.2 The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)

2.3.2.1 The requirement to undertake PAC in relation to the Proposed Development (Onshore) is set out in Sections 35A to C of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (Scottish Parliament, 1997<sup>1</sup>).

2.3.2.2 Section 35 A (1) requires that applicants must notify the local planning authority (LPA) stating whether they consider PAC is required and comply with the regulations set out in Section 35B (2).

2.3.2.3 Section 35A (3) and 35B (2) outlines that where PAC is required, the applicant must submit a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) to give notice to the LPA that an application for planning permission for the development is to be submitted.

2.3.2.4 Section 35B (3) states that a period of at least 12 weeks but no more than 18 months must elapse between giving the notice and submitting any such application.

2.3.2.5 Section 35B (4) sets out the requirements for a PAN, which are as follows:

- (a) a description in general terms of the development to be carried out;
- (b) if the site at which the development is to be carried out has a postal address, that address;
- (c) a plan showing the outline of the site at which the development is to be carried out and sufficient to identify that site; and
- (d) details as to how the prospective applicant may be contacted and corresponded with.

2.3.2.6 Section 35B (7) outlines that the LPA should respond within 21 days confirming if they are satisfied with the details included within the PAN, if additional consultation activities are required and/or additional persons to be notified.

2.3.2.7 Section 35C requires that a PAC Report is produced and submitted alongside an application for planning permission to demonstrate compliance.

### 2.3.3 The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended)

2.3.3.1 Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended) (Scottish Parliament, 2013<sup>8</sup>) which were amended by the Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 (Scottish Parliament, 2021<sup>9</sup>) set out in detail the procedures to be undertaken at each stage of PAC process.

2.3.3.2 Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended) (Scottish Parliament, 2013<sup>8</sup>) confirms that the requirements for PAC outlined above relates to national and major classes of development.

2.3.3.3 Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended) (Scottish Parliament, 2013<sup>8</sup>) requires the following activities to take place for PAC:

- a minimum of two public events to be organised by the Applicant where members of the public may make comments to the Applicant regarding the proposed development;
- newspaper notices to be placed by the Applicant in relation to each such statutory public event (indicating where additional information can be obtained and how comments can be made to the prospective applicant);
- consultation to be undertaken with relevant community councils;
- feedback to be provided at the final public event;
- compliance with new statutory requirements on the content of the PAC report;
- exemptions to PAC requirements in certain cases (i.e., where a proposal for the same development has been through PAC before and an earlier application was then made within the previous 18 months); and
- submission of proposal of application notice (PAN) to the local authority.

2.3.3.4 As stated in Regulation 7B of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended) (Scottish Parliament, 2013<sup>8</sup>) a PAC report must include the following:

- The dates on which and places where public events were held (as required in accordance with regulation 7(2));
- A description of any additional consultation or notification required by the LPA any additional steps taken by the applicant to consult the public, a list of bodies, groups and organisations who were consulted by the Applicant and evidence as to how the application carried out activities;

- Must include copies of materials sent to consultees, materials provided in public events, visual representations shown at public events including display boards and models and confirmation that consultees were informed that PAC does not remove the right to comment on the final planning application; and
- A summary of the responses to consultation, views raised at public events and an indicative number of responses, how the Applicant took account of the views and how the public were given feedback.

2.3.3.5 Figure 2-2 summarises the statutory PAC requirements for PPP under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended) (Scottish Parliament, 2013<sup>8</sup>).

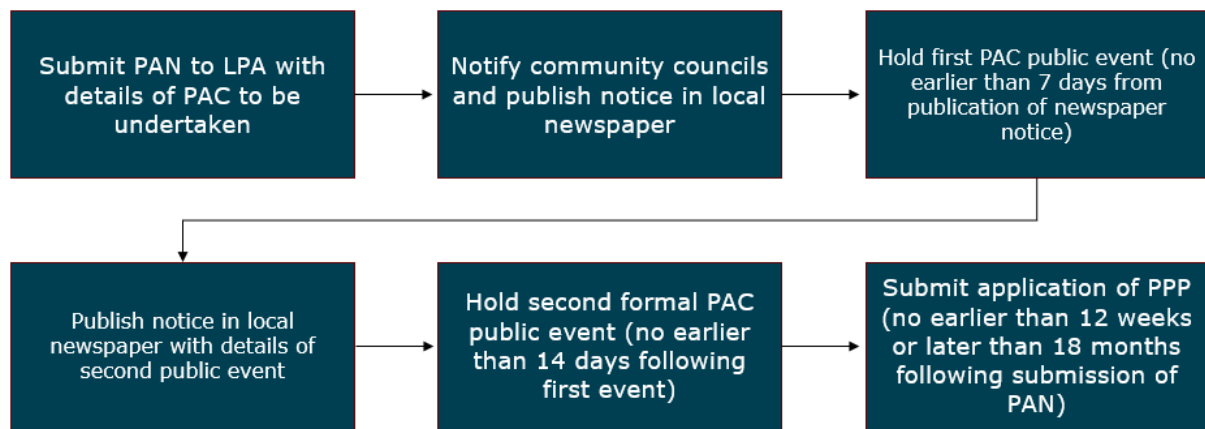


Figure 2-2: Statutory PAC process for PPP

## 2.3.4 Compliance with Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) requirements

2.3.4.1 As required by sections 35A and 35B of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (Scottish Parliament, 1997), the Applicant submitted a PAN to Aberdeenshire Council on 17 May 2023 for the Proposed Development (Onshore).

2.3.4.2 The PAN was also issued to the relevant Community Councils listed below in Table 2-1 on 17 May 2023.

Table 2-1: Community Councils

<b>Community Councils Issued PAN</b>	
Methlick	King Edward & Gamrie
Deer	Banff & Macduff
Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquithter	Whitehills
Turriff & District	Portsoy
Alvagh & Forglen	Fordyce, Sandend & District

- 2.3.4.3 The PAN submission included; a PAN form and covering letter, which included the PAC activities proposed to be carried out, in line with the Consultation Strategy detailed in Section 3.2 and a red line boundary plan of the preliminary OnTI cable corridor of the Proposed Development (Onshore).
- 2.3.4.4 On 30 May 2023, Aberdeenshire Council requested further details of the PAC activities including the times and venues of the June 2023 consultations and requested a copy of the advertisement proposed to be included in local newspapers. This additional information was submitted to Aberdeenshire Council on 31 May 2023.
- 2.3.4.5 The proposed PAC activities were deemed acceptable by Aberdeenshire Council on 9 June 2023.
- 2.3.4.6 The PAN issued to Aberdeenshire Council and Community Councils along with the confirmation from Aberdeenshire Council is provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-1: Proposal of Application Notice and Marine Compliance Documentation, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

## 2.3.5 Best Practice Guidance

2.3.5.1 The Applicant has sought to follow best practice throughout pre-application consultation and engagement on the Proposed Development.

2.3.5.2 The Applicant has endeavoured to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to all stakeholder concerns and that opinions are integrated into the Proposed Development decision making process. Throughout the development phase of the Proposed Development, the Applicant has ensured consultation and engagement with statutory and non-statutory consultees, and with members of the public has followed the principles and best practice guidance including:

- The Aarhus Convention: An Implementation Guide (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, 2014<sup>10</sup>) (2011 and 2014 versions) representing best practice in respect of how to consult with members of the public on major projects;
- The Gunning Principles: Legal tests, which if followed, are designed to make consultation fair and a worthwhile exercise (Scottish Government, 2022<sup>11</sup>). The tests are:
  - that consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage;
  - that the proposer must give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit of intelligent consideration and response;
  - that adequate time is given for consideration and response; and
  - that the product of consultation is conscientiously taken into account when finalising the decision.
- The Scottish Government's Planning Advice Note (PAN) PAN3 / 2010 Community Engagement (Scottish Government, 2010<sup>12</sup>) which provides advice to applicants on ways to effectively engage with communities on planning matters.
- Successful Planning - Equals Effective Engagement and Delivery (SP=EED) Framework, which was developed by Planning Aid for Scotland (PAS) (Planning Aid Scotland, 2020<sup>13</sup>). A guide to engagement in planning by PAS targeted at all stakeholders in Scotland's planning system designed to help design, deliver and assess the process of engagement.

## 2.3.6 Pre-Application Consultation Compliance

2.3.6.1 Application Document 1, Appendix 1-2: Statement of Compliance demonstrates how the Applicant has fulfilled their statutory requirements for PAC as set out in the legislation above.

## **3 Pre-Application Consultation Strategy**

### **3.1 Introduction**

3.1.1.1 The Applicant is fully committed to achieving the highest standards of stakeholder engagement and consultation and has taken steps to ensure best practice guidance has been followed. This builds on the Applicant's expansive stakeholder network developed over 12 years of development and construction in the Moray Firth from the delivery of the Moray East and Moray West Offshore Wind Farms.

### **3.2 Consultation Strategy**

#### **3.2.1 Approach to Consultation**

- 3.2.1.1 The Applicant recognises that early engagement is crucial to ensure that stakeholders have an opportunity to meaningfully respond to the proposals. To achieve this, the Applicant developed a Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan at an early stage of the Proposed Development planning. The Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan is an internal document used by the project team to align engagement activities with statutory requirements and best practice guidance across different stakeholder groups.
- 3.2.1.2 The delivery of the consultation was based on the principle of consulting on proposals at key stages of the Proposed Development timeline to ensure that key stakeholders and members of the project team were able to give feedback before the finalisation of the design. This helped to facilitate informed and meaningful feedback by including different perspectives and local insight into relevant issues, which has been incorporated into the development of the Proposed Development.
- 3.2.1.3 To achieve the aims of the consultation, engagement activities were designed to maximise the number and type of people consulted in order to appreciate diverse viewpoints. The Applicant took an inclusive approach to the design of engagement events and methods, including traditional engagement methods such as public exhibitions in community halls supplemented by online engagement methods including a 'Virtual Engage' platform for both onshore and offshore consultation.
- 3.2.1.4 Where possible and appropriate, the Applicant has sought to combine consultation and engagement activities for onshore and offshore to limit the burden on stakeholders and reduce consultation fatigue.

3.2.1.5 The Applicant has, since 2010, undertaken in excess of 500 hours of direct community engagement events in the Moray Firth and has accumulated specific and local knowledge in relation to communities, venues, media and advertising. This experience has been used in the delivery of engagement activities for the Proposed Development to tailor engagement activities to local circumstances against the changing dynamics of public communications, especially in the post-Covid-19 era.

### **3.2.2 Consultation Objectives**

3.2.2.1 The iterative rounds of consultation were designed to engage with key stakeholders, local communities, landowners and individual residents, allowing them to give feedback on the proposals.

3.2.2.2 The following objectives were identified in the Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan and have been followed throughout:

- Identify – identification of those stakeholders with an interest in the Proposed Development.
- Communicate – provide appropriate information on the Proposed Development to stakeholders including any potential positive (beneficial) or negative (adverse) impacts that the Proposed Development may have.
- Consult – seek and record views and potential concerns of stakeholders.
- Communicate again – provide information to stakeholders detailing the results of consultation and provide reassurance to any concerns raised.

3.2.2.3 The strategy and objectives for the consultation and engagement undertaken are aligned with the statutory obligations outlined in Section 2.

### **3.2.3 Stakeholder mapping**

3.2.3.1 A detailed stakeholder mapping exercise was undertaken prior to the submission of the Proposed Development (Onshore) and Proposed Development (Offshore) scoping opinion requests which mapped out a detailed forward-looking plan to understand which stakeholders to engage with and when.

3.2.3.2 The stakeholder map provided a record of the stakeholders for the Proposed Development and provided a repository of information on stakeholders that may be contacted during the consultation and engagement process in line with statutory requirements and best practice principles.

### 3.2.4 Consultation Programme

3.2.4.1 Figure 3-1 shows the high-level stages of consultation and engagement undertaken by the Applicant with stakeholders and members of the public in line with the programme for the Proposed Development.

3.2.4.2 It indicates the sequence of consultation events, both in addition to and required through legislation, that have taken place for both the Proposed Development (Offshore) and Proposed Development (Onshore) consent applications.

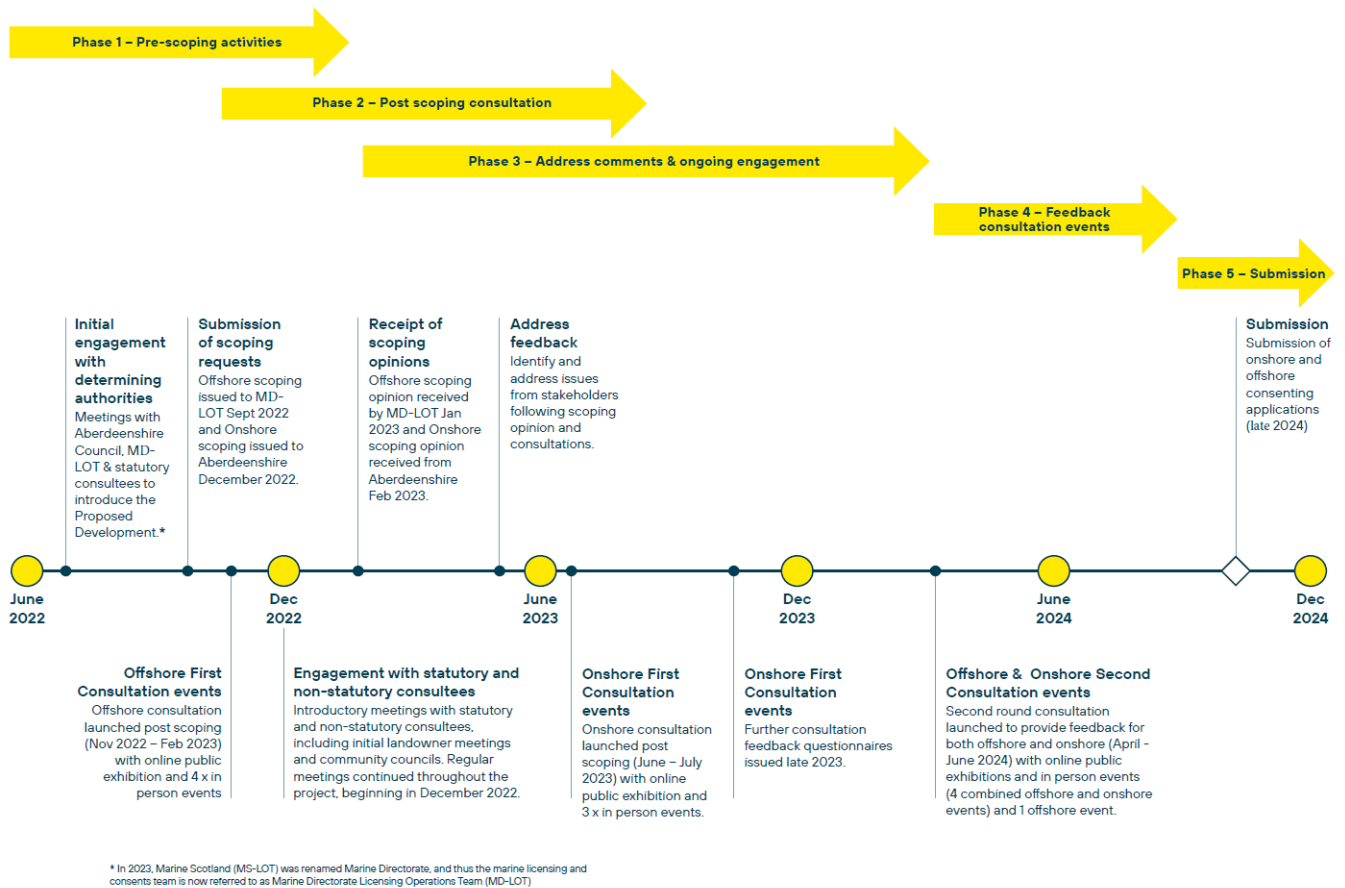


Figure 3-1: Consultation and engagement process.

#### Phase 1: Pre-scoping activities

3.2.4.3 Prior to scoping for the EIAR, the Applicant held meetings with various stakeholders and determining authorities including Aberdeenshire Council, MD-LOT, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and commercial fisheries stakeholders. The purpose of these initial meetings was to introduce consultees to the Proposed Development and provide a general overview of planned activities.



3.2.4.4 Section 4.2 provides further detail on the activities carried out.

## **Phase 2: Post scoping consultation**

- 3.2.4.5 The Proposed Development (Offshore) and Proposed Development (Onshore) scoping reports were issued to MD-LOT and Aberdeenshire Council respectively in September and December 2022. Statutory consultees and key stakeholders were then offered the opportunity for comment and feedback.
- 3.2.4.6 Following the submission of the Proposed Development (Offshore) Scoping Opinion Request to MD-LOT in September 2022, the first offshore PAC events were held at three venues in Buckie, Wick and Fraserburgh, in November 2022. Feedback from these events indicate that the local community would welcome an additional event at Banff, which was arranged by the Applicant to take place in February 2023.
- 3.2.4.7 A Virtual Engage online consultation room was launched for the Proposed Development (Offshore) in July 2022 to support the in-person events, replicating the information presented at in-person events and offering the opportunity for feedback on the Proposed Development. Once launched, the 'online room' remained active until December 2022, and then extended to accommodate the additional event in Banff.
- 3.2.4.8 The first onshore PAC events occurred between June and July 2023 with three in person events in Banff, Turriff and New Deer. Similarly, a Virtual Engage online consultation room was launched for the Proposed Development (Onshore) in June 2023 to support the in-person events. The online room remained live until December 2023.
- 3.2.4.9 Community councils in the vicinity of the Proposed Development (Onshore) were notified of PAC events in May 2023 and were given the opportunity to meet with the Applicant.
- 3.2.4.10 In June 2023, the Applicant issued letters to landowners who at that point in time would likely be directly impacted by the Proposed Development (Onshore), and informed landowners of the public consultation events. Initial briefings with landowners were also held in June 2023 ahead of PAC events to communicate the proposals, consenting route and proposed timeline.
- 3.2.4.11 Responding to points raised during the first round of onshore consultation events, the Applicant wrote to all addresses within the PAN boundary to provide project information and feedback opportunity. The aim of this direct correspondence was to minimise confusion caused by multiple projects consulting on proposals within a similar geography and timescale.
- 3.2.4.12 Sections 4.3 and 4.4 provide further detail on the activities carried out.

### **Phase 3: Addressing comments and ongoing engagement**

- 3.2.4.13 Following on from the initial meetings with statutory and non-statutory consultees, landowners and community councils, the Applicant collated and reviewed the responses received from stakeholders. This feedback informed the development of the Proposed Development design process, for example amendments to the Red Line Boundary.
- 3.2.4.14 Ongoing engagement with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders also continued to take place through regular meetings and emails. A list of the meetings held with statutory and non-statutory consultees is included in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-3: List of Stakeholders and Stakeholder Meetings, Section 1.

### **Phase 4: Feedback consultation events**

- 3.2.4.15 The second round of PAC events occurred between April and June 2024 at several locations within Aberdeenshire, Moray and Highland Council in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. A Virtual Engage online consultation room was launched for the feedback events in April 2024 to support the in-person events.
- 3.2.4.16 The second round of PAC events provided feedback to stakeholders on the development of the EIA and design of the Proposed Development (Offshore and Onshore) and detailed how the Applicant had considered previous consultation responses.
- 3.2.4.17 Sections 4.5 provides further detail on the activities carried out.

## **3.2.5 Who We Consulted**

- 3.2.5.1 The Applicant has engaged with a wide range of stakeholders identified through the stakeholder mapping exercise, both formally and informally. These include the statutory bodies required under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (Scottish Parliament, 2010<sup>2</sup>) and the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (Scottish Parliament, 1997<sup>1</sup>), and non-statutory bodies, interest groups, the local community, landowners, and environmental organisations.
- 3.2.5.2 These groups are listed in Figure 3-2 below. A full list of stakeholders consulted is provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-3: List of Stakeholders and Stakeholder Meetings, Section 2.



Figure 3-2: Stakeholders Consulted

### 3.3 Methods of Consultation

#### 3.3.1 Engagement with Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees

3.3.1.1 The Applicant undertook initial engagement prior to submission of scoping opinion requests with determining authorities (Aberdeenshire Council and MD-LOT) and statutory stakeholders including the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Scottish Fishermen’s Federation to introduce the Proposed Development, present the overall programme and the Proposed Development (Onshore) and Proposed Development (Offshore) scoping corridors.

- 3.3.1.2 The Applicant recognises the importance of engaging with local communities. The geography of the area is diverse, ranging from dispersed rural villages and hamlets to towns, and this is reflected in the diversity of those communities, and the way communication is undertaken within those communities.
- 3.3.1.3 The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (UK Parliament, 1973<sup>14</sup>) established Community Councils as the smallest and most local unit of statutorily available representation, these are regarded by the applicant as important stakeholders, providing a key conduit for information to local communities. Community councils have a role as statutory consultees for onshore planning matters through the PAC Process, and 10 community councils immediately within the vicinity of the onshore infrastructure have been directly engaged through email and in person meetings.
- 3.3.1.4 By its nature, the Proposed Development (Offshore) is at least 22km from the nearest onshore settlement, outside the geography of elected representation. Experience from previous developments has shown that activities in the Firth are of interest to coastal settlements, and the applicant has used the community council structure to engage with those communities; having identified 52 coastal community councils which have been notified of the consultation events and also engaged with via briefings. Local communities were also encouraged to provide feedback to consultation at both in-person events and online.
- 3.3.1.5 Landowners potentially impacted by the Proposed Development (Onshore) were issued letters, specifically advising them of the commencement of the public consultation events. This landowner communication has since been supplemented with a series of newsletters to directly impacted landowners informing them of the development of the Proposed Development (particularly the onshore cable corridor) and the process for future engagement to agree the relevant and necessary land rights for the Caledonia OWF. The engagement for voluntary land agreements is ongoing and will be aligned to the lands subject to the PPP application.

## **3.3.2 EIA Consultation**

- 3.3.2.1 The scope of the Onshore and Offshore EIAR has been informed by the formal Scoping exercise. EIA scoping is a non-mandatory part of the EIA process in which the applicant identifies the key issues to be assessed in detail as part of the EIA and aspects of the assessment methodology that will be used. Scoping is an important preliminary step in the EIA process, which sets the context for agreeing the content of the EIAR.
- 3.3.2.2 The EIA Methodology (EIAR Volume 1, Chapter 7) describes the EIA scoping process undertaken and how the comments raised have been addressed through each of the topic specific chapters.

- 3.3.2.3 In relation to the Proposed Development (Offshore):
- The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to Scottish Ministers, via MD-LOT<sup>ii</sup> in September 2022
  - A Scoping Opinion was received from MD-LOT in January 2023.
- 3.3.2.4 In relation to the Proposed Development (Onshore):
- The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to Aberdeenshire Council in December 2022 (Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2022<sup>15</sup>)
  - A Scoping Opinion was received from Aberdeenshire Council in February 2023.
- 3.3.2.5 Each Scoping Opinion detailed a summary of the key points raised by Aberdeenshire Council, MD-LOT and relevant consultees on the proposed scope of the EIAR. A copy of the Scoping Reports and Scoping Opinions received can be found within EIAR Volume 7, Appendix 1, 2, 3 and 4. The adoption of the Scoping Opinions informed the next stage in the EIA process, namely the preparation of the EIAR.
- 3.3.2.6 A list of bodies that responded to the Scoping Request(s) is presented in EIAR Volume 7, Appendix 3: Offshore Scoping Opinion and Volume 7, Appendix 4: Onshore Scoping Opinion. Each EIAR chapter provides an overview of the relevant comments received from stakeholders in regards to that environmental topic and the Applicants' response, demonstrating how each comment has been addressed.

### **3.3.3 Proposed Development Website**

- 3.3.3.1 The Applicant maintained a project specific website at: <https://www.caledoniaoffshorewind.com>. The website published the EIA Scoping Reports for the Proposed Development and continues to provide up to date information on Proposed Development activities.
- 3.3.3.2 Public exhibitions were replicated as an 'on-line village hall' through styled virtual engagement which provided information on the Proposed Development and forms to provide feedback on the Proposed Development. The online exhibition was hosted on the digital platform Virtual Engage.

<sup>ii</sup> In 2023, Marine Scotland (MS-LOT) was renamed Marine Directorate, and thus the marine licensing and consents team is now referred to as Marine Directorate Licencing Team (MD-LOT).

### **3.3.4 Awareness raising and publicity**

3.3.4.1 The Applicant carried out several activities to increase awareness of the Proposed Development including:

- Publishing advertisements in local newspapers;
- Quarterly updates on LinkedIn;
- Displaying posters in the local community and harbour authorities;
- Targeted direct mailing to properties within the vicinity of the Proposed Development (Onshore); and
- Briefings to political stakeholders and interest groups.

### **3.3.5 Feedback Mechanisms**

3.3.5.1 The Applicant established a dedicated contact point for the Proposed Development in August 2022 to enable key stakeholders and members of the public to contact the team via the following channels:

- Email: [caledonia.info@oceanwinds.com](mailto:caledonia.info@oceanwinds.com)
- Address: Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm Ltd, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 144 Morrison Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8EX.

3.3.5.2 The email mailbox and postal address were monitored by members of the stakeholder engagement and consenting teams, who then dealt with the responses accordingly.

### **3.3.6 Consultation Materials**

3.3.6.1 A range of materials were provided at both the in-person and online consultation events, both in digital and hard copy, to help enable the public to have a clear understanding of the Proposed Development, its potential environmental impacts and the way that feedback could be provided.

### **3.3.7 Consultation Response Analysis**

3.3.7.1 The Applicant logged and recorded all consultation responses from events, meetings, emails and post for analysis. Responses were reviewed by the stakeholder engagement team with support from the wider Caledonia team, with feedback and further information provided to stakeholders on request.

## 4 Summary of Pre-Application Consultation Activities

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1.1 This section summarises the consultation activities carried out by the Applicant both prior to formal PAC activities and during the statutory PAC periods. It is considered that the activities detailed within this PAC Report are in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (Scottish Parliament, 2010<sup>2</sup>) and Sections 35A and B of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (Scottish Parliament, 1997<sup>1</sup>) and go above and beyond the minimum statutory requirements.

### 4.2 Pre-Scoping Engagement

4.2.1.1 The Applicant commenced early stakeholder engagement in 2019 prior to securing NE4 site through the ScotWind leasing round. The Applicant has engaged with the following stakeholders from 2019; MD-LOT, NatureScot, RSPB, JNCC, MCA, Chamber of Shipping, Scottish Fishermen's Federation and the Northern Lighthouse Board.

4.2.1.2 This early engagement helped inform site selection and site definition. The engagement approach was built on earlier relationships formed around Moray East and Moray West OWF's and helped to inform their understanding of site constraints and secure agreement on the methodology for digital aerial surveys which were commenced in 2021, in advance of securing the site through the leasing round.

4.2.1.3 Between March and December 2022, the Applicant undertook a series of initial meetings with determining authorities (Aberdeenshire Council and MD-LOT) prior to issue of scoping opinion requests and receipt of Scoping Opinions, to introduce the Proposed Development and the overall programme.

4.2.1.4 Additionally, the Applicant met with statutory and non-statutory groups to inform them of the Proposed Development.

4.2.1.5 Application Document 1, Appendix 1-3: List of Stakeholders and Stakeholder Meetings, Section 1 summarises the key meetings that have taken place with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders at each stage of the Proposed Development.

## 4.3 First Round of Offshore Consultation

### 4.3.1 Overview and Aims of this Consultation

4.3.1.1 The purpose of the first round of offshore consultation was to introduce the Proposed Development (Offshore) to the local community and other stakeholders and to give stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Development (Offshore).

### 4.3.2 Consultation Activities and Materials

#### In person events

4.3.2.1 During the consultation period between November 2022 and February 2023, four in-person consultation events were held at locations (Wick, Fraserburgh, Buckie and Banff) within the vicinity of the Landfall Site, to provide the public an opportunity to view information about the Proposed Development (Offshore) and speak with members of the project team.

4.3.2.2 Paper and online copies of feedback questionnaires were provided for attendees to provide feedback on the Proposed Development (Offshore).

4.3.2.3 The in-person consultation events were run as 'drop-in' sessions, so that attendees could turn up at any point at their own convenience within the advertised times. Based on experience from previous developments, events were held from 12pm – 8pm to allow attendance from a broad range of people, for example those with work or caring commitments appreciate the opportunity to attend either at lunchtime or in the evening, especially in rural areas where travel is a consideration.

4.3.2.4 Consultation materials such as exhibition banners, maps and the Proposed Development (Offshore) visualisations were available to view at these events. Figure 4-1 shows the format for displaying materials during consultation events.

4.3.2.5 In addition to the exhibition banners, maps and the Proposed Development (Offshore) visualisations were available digitally and hard copies of a Proposed Development (Offshore) brochure were also available for attendees to take away.

4.3.2.6 The consultation materials are provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-4: First Round Proposed Development (Offshore) Consultation Materials, Section 1.





Figure 4-1: Public exhibition banners at Wick event

4.3.2.7 Table 4-1 provides a breakdown of the times, dates, locations and approximate number of attendees for each of the offshore events. In total, approximately<sup>iii</sup> 80 people attended all offshore events.

Table 4-1: First Round of Offshore Consultation Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of Attendees (approximate)</b>
7 November 2022	12.00-20.00	Mackays Hotel, Union Street, Wick, KW1 5ED	26
9 November 2022	12.00-20.00	Fraserburgh Leisure Centre, North Links, Seaforth Street, Fraserburgh AB43 9BB	18
10 November 2022	12.00-20.00	Buckie Thistle Ace Winches Lounge, Midmar Street, Buckie AB56 1BJ	31
2 February 2023	12.00-20.00	Banff Springs Hotel, Golden Knowes Road, Banff AB45 2JE	27

<sup>iii</sup> Number is approximate as some attendees requested their attendance was not recorded.

**Virtual Exhibition**

- 4.3.2.8 Experience gained through previous projects indicated that, in particular since Covid-19, there had been a change in expectations of public consultation, with an increased public appetite for online engagement opportunities, available “on demand” to the public.
- 4.3.2.9 This was recognised as of significant importance in the case of the Proposed Development, which is one of 26 projects in the Scotwind process, eight of which are on the east coast. In addition, various other electricity projects, including battery storage, and the strengthening of the electricity grid are underway. All of these projects are accompanied by statutory consultation events, giving rise to potential consultation fatigue.
- 4.3.2.10 Provision of online information replicating that which would be available to those attending the events in person, was a key mitigation strategy to enable information about the Proposed Development to be obtained without having to attend events in person.
- 4.3.2.11 A virtual exhibition room, accessible via the project webpage, was open throughout the duration of the consultation period (from July to December 2022) for the first round of Proposed Development (Offshore) consultation. The layout of the virtual exhibition room replicated the in-person events, allowing users to explore the consultation materials online at a time that suited them, see Figure 4-2.
- 4.3.2.12 Individuals could click on exhibition banners, maps and documents and watch the welcome video.



Figure 4-2: Virtual Exhibition Room

**Consultation Materials**

- 4.3.2.13 Both the in-person and virtual exhibitions featured ‘banners’ summarising the Proposed Development information, including:
- Information on the Applicant and details of their other developments in the UK.
  - An overview of the need for renewable energy generation and transmission.
  - Description of the Proposed Development components and high-level project timeline.
  - Map illustrating the offshore components of the Proposed Development (Offshore).
  - Overview of the Proposed Development (Offshore) design.
  - An explanation of the Proposed Development (Offshore) EIA findings so far detailing potential impacts on the environment including offshore ornithology, marine mammals, benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology, commercial fisheries and shipping and navigation.
  - Details on the positive socio-economic impacts of the Proposed Development and impact on Scotland’s supply chain.
- 4.3.2.14 A copy of the consultation materials are provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-4: First Round Proposed Development (Offshore) Consultation Materials, Section 1.

**Feedback Questionnaire**

- 4.3.2.15 The feedback questionnaires available both online and in person included 12 questions soliciting opinions on the Proposed Development (Offshore). The questions asked are shown below in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2: First Round Offshore Questionnaire

First Round Offshore Questionnaire	
Do you agree that Scotland required to build new renewable generation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and maintain a secure supply of energy?	Yes/No
Are you aware of the existing offshore wind farms in the Moray Firth?	Yes/No
Do you believe the existing wind farms in the Moray Firth have been positive or negative for Scotland?	Positive/Negative
Do you support the extension of offshore wind into deeper waters, further from shore in the Moray Firth by using floating foundations?	Yes/No

First Round Offshore Questionnaire	
Do you support the delivery of Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm?	Yes/No
What do you believe is the most important advantage of offshore wind development?	No Advantage/Secure electricity supply/Transition to Net Zero/Protecting Consumers from increasing bills/Local economic growth/Other
What is your biggest concern about further offshore wind deployment in the Moray Firth	No Concerns/Impact on Human Environment/Impact on Natural Environment/Visual impact on views of seascape/Other
In which local authority area do you live?	Aberdeenshire/Moray/Highland/Other
Has this exhibition/consultation provided information about Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm proposals which is suitable to your needs?	Yes/No
Do you prefer online virtual consultation or in-person consultation events (online/in person)	Online/In-Person
If you have any comments about the proposals for Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm, please detail below	Free text

### 4.3.3 Advertising and Publicity of the Consultation

#### Local Press

- 4.3.3.1 Notices for consultation events were published in the relevant local newspapers in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 7 (1) (b) of the Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations (2013) (Scottish Parliament 2013<sup>7</sup>) Whilst the 2013 regulations are not applicable as the wind farm is in excess of 12nm, the Applicant took the view that the wider Proposed Development (Offshore) should be consulted on.
- 4.3.3.2 Table 4-3 lists where the newspaper advertisements were placed, and a copy of each advertisement is provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-4: First Round Proposed Development (Offshore) Consultation Materials, Section 2.

Table 4-3: Local Press advertisement for first round of offshore consultation

Newspaper	Date Published
Banffshire Advertiser	01 November 2022
Fraserburgh Herald	03 November 2022
John O Groats Journal	04 November 2022
Banffshire Advertiser	24 January 2023

4.3.3.3 A press release was issued to various publications for the first round of offshore consultation which provided information on the consultation events and an overview of the Proposed Development (Offshore). In total, 10 pieces of coverage were secured. Table 4-4 below summarises the online publications which ran the story and copies of online publications are provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-4: First Round Proposed Development (Offshore) Consultation Materials, Section 3.

Table 4-4: Local press headlines for first round of offshore consultation

Publication	Title and link to publication	Date Published
John O'Groats Journal	<i>"Wick consultation event over plans for Caledonia offshore wind farm"</i> <sup>16</sup>	04 October 2022
John O'Groats Journal	<i>"Offshore wind growth 'a matter of pride' for communities around Moray Firth"</i> <sup>17</sup>	08 November 2022
ReNews Ocean	<i>"Winds to host 2GW Caledonia consultations"</i> <sup>18</sup>	03 November 2022
Energy Voice	<i>"Public views sought on Scottish offshore wind farm"</i> <sup>19</sup>	03 November 2022

Publication	Title and link to publication	Date Published
Northern Scot	<i>"Caledonia offshore wind farm set for Moray date"</i> <sup>20</sup>	05 November 2022
Energy Northern Perspective	<i>"Public consultation events for Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm"</i> <sup>iv 21</sup>	05 November 2022
Northern Times	<i>"Feedback sought on Caledonia wind farm plans at Wick consultation event"</i> <sup>22</sup>	05 November 2022
4C Offshore	<i>"Public consultation events scheduled for Caledonia wind farm"</i> <sup>23</sup>	03 November 2022
Grampian Online	<i>"Caledonia offshore wind farm consultation set for Buckie date"</i> <sup>24</sup>	05 November 2022
Forres Gazette	<i>"Caledonia offshore wind farm consultation unveils Moray date"</i> <sup>25</sup>	05 November 2022

## Community Notices

- 4.3.3.4 Physical notices publicising the events were placed in Harbour notice boards in Fraserburgh, Buckie and Banff, close to the vicinity of the Proposed Development (Offshore).

<sup>iv</sup> Energy Northern Perspective is no longer a news provider therefore no link is available.

## Statutory Consultees and Interest Groups

### Statutory Consultees

4.3.3.5 The Applicant regularly engaged with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouse and MD-LOT throughout 2022 prior to public consultation. Engagement with statutory consultees was ongoing throughout the public consultation period. Application Document 1, Appendix 1-3: List of Stakeholders and Stakeholder Meetings, Section 1 summarises the key meetings that have taken place during the design of the Proposed Development with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders.

### Political Stakeholders

4.3.3.6 The Applicant sought to engage with political stakeholders including MPs, MSPs and Local Councillors during the consultation period.

4.3.3.7 Recognising that local authorities are statutory consultees of Marine Directorate, the Applicant has taken measures to engage directly with the 168 unitary authority members in the three local authorities relevant to the site (Aberdeenshire, Highland and Moray). This has taken the form of sending a letter of invitation to all councillors inviting them to briefing sessions, where possible taking advantage of the onshore infrastructure established for the applicant’s previous projects, Moray East and Moray West Offshore Wind farms

4.3.3.8 A letter was sent to the following community councils in coastal communities relevant to the Proposed Development (Offshore) on 28 October 2022 inviting them to engage in consultation, see Table 4-5. An example letter is included at Application Document 1, Appendix 1-4: First Round Proposed Development (Offshore) Consultation Materials, section 4.

Table 4-5: Coastal Communities Councils Contacted

Coastal Community Councils		
Alness	Dyke Landward	Latheron, Kybster and Clyth
Ardersier and Petty	Edderton	Lennox
Avoch and Killen	Fearn	Lossiemouth
Balloch	Ferintosh	Muiroford
Berriedale and Dunbeath	Findhorn and Kinloss	Nigg and Shandwick
Bower	Findochty	Port Knockie
Brora	Fortrose and Rosemarkie	Resolis

Coastal Community Councils		
Buckie and District	Golspie	Saltburn and Westwood
Burghead and Cummington	Halkirk and District	Sinclair's Bay
Caithness West	Heldon	Smithton
Castletown	Helmsdale	Tain
Cradlehall and Westhill	Innes	Tannach and District
Cromarty	Inver	Tarbat
Croy and Culloden Moor	Invergordon	Thurso
Cullen and Deskford	Killearnan	Watten
Culloden	Kilmuir and Logie Easter	Wick
Dornoch	Kiltearn	
Dunnet and Cainisbay	Knockbain	

### MPs and MSPs

4.3.3.9 A letter was sent to MPs and MSPs, listed in Table 4-6 on 28 October 2022, informing them of the Proposed Development (Offshore) and inviting them to engage in consultation. An example letter is included at Application Document 1, Appendix 1-4: First Round Proposed Development (Offshore) Consultation Materials, Section 5.

Table 4-6: MPs and MSPs Consulted for first round offshore

MPs and MSPs Consulted	
Ariane Burgess MSP	Michael Mara MSP
Tim Eagle MSP	Mercedes Villalba MSP
Rhoda Grant MSP	Tess White MSP
Jamie Halcrok MSP	Karen Adam MSP
Edward Mountain MSP	Fergus Ewing MSP
Emma Roddick MSP	Richard Lohead MSP



<b>MPs and MSPs Consulted</b>	
Maggie Chapman MSP	Maree Todd MSP
Marice Golden MSP	Drew Henry MP
Liam Kerr MSP	Jamie Stone MP
Douglas Lumsden MSP	David Duguid MP
Douglas Ross MP	Gillian Martin MSP

## Social Media

4.3.3.10 The Applicant used LinkedIn to provide updates on the Proposed Development (Offshore) at key milestones and share details of the in-person consultation events and the online virtual engagement room for the first round of offshore consultation.

## 4.3.4 Summary of Responses Received

### Methodology

4.3.4.1 Responses to the consultation were received through both physical and digital means. These were collected via questionnaires at in-person events and received via the Virtual Engage platform.

4.3.4.2 The physical and digital data were collected and collated into a single database. Data was then reviewed for accuracy and comments were reviewed by the stakeholder team to draw out main themes from the responses. A summary of the main themes is presented below in addition to how the issues were taken into account by the Applicant.

### Feedback Received

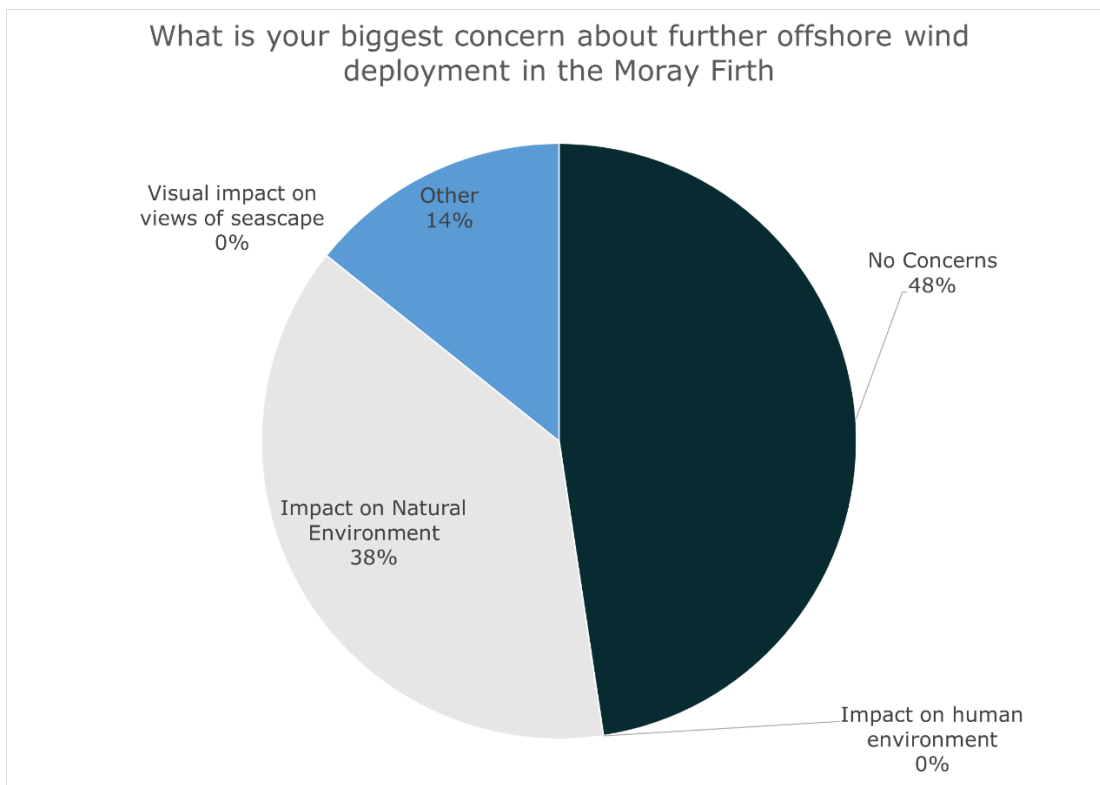
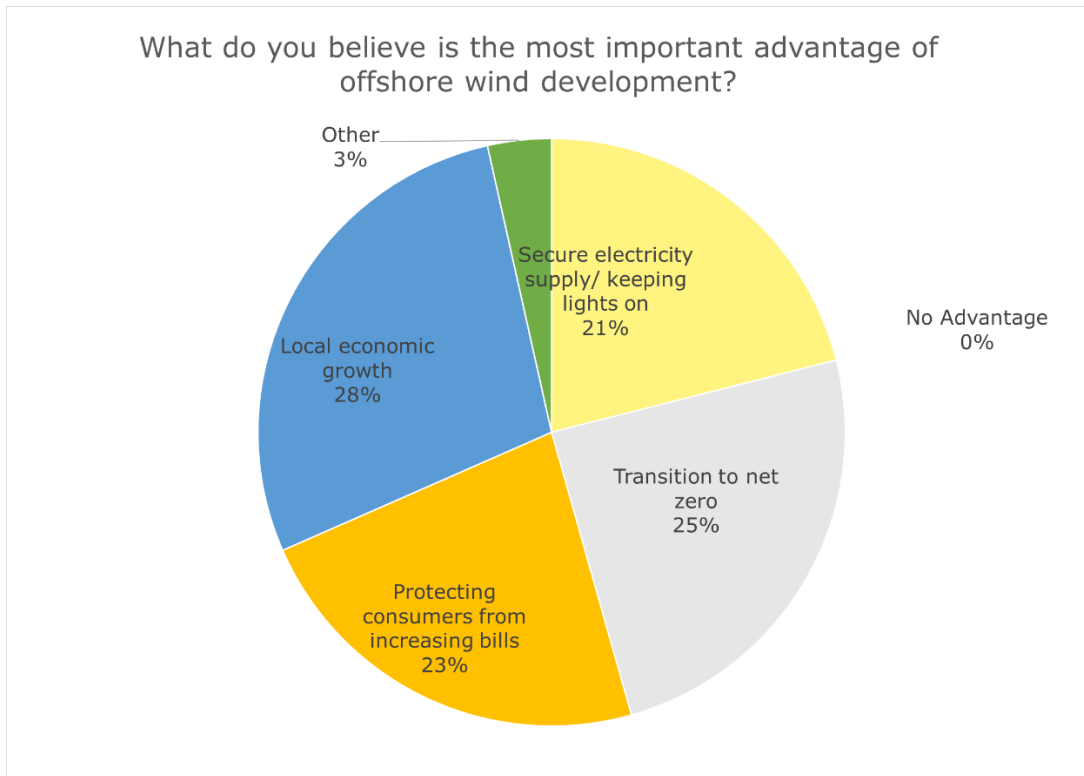
4.3.4.3 The Applicant received 23 responses to the questionnaires provided at the in-person consultation events.

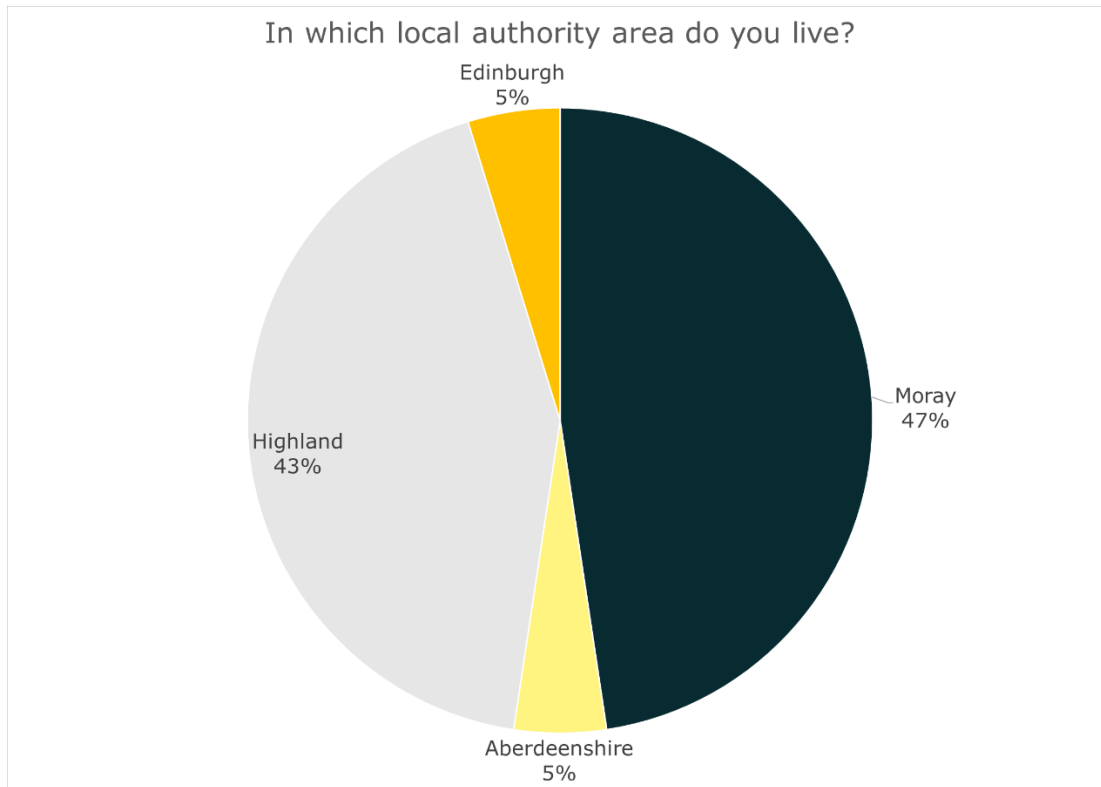
4.3.4.4 Table 4-7 summarises the results from the questionnaire and demonstrates the levels of support for the Proposed Development (Offshore) and awareness of the Applicant's previous development in the area.

Table 4-7: Questionnaire Results first round offshore

Question	Responses received		
	Yes	No	No Opinion
Do you support the delivery of the proposed Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm in the Moray Firth?	96%	0%	4%
Are you aware of the existing offshore Wind Farms in the Moray Firth?	100%	0%	0%
Do you believe the existing wind farms in the Moray Firth have been positive or negative for Scotland?	91%	0%	9%
Do you support the extension of offshore wind into deeper waters, further from shore in the Moray Firth by using floating foundations?	83%	0%	17%
Do you agree that Scotland required to build new renewable generation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and maintain a secure supply of energy?	95%	0%	5%
Has this exhibition/consultation provided information about Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm proposals which is suitable to your needs?	100%	0%	0%

Figure 4-3: Questionnaire Results first round offshore





- 4.3.4.5 After collecting and analysing the feedback from both physical and digital consultation methods, feedback was considered within the relevant receptor chapters of the EIAR and any relevant amendments to the design presented in the feedback events in 2024.
- 4.3.4.6 A summary of the Applicants response to feedback is provided at Table 4-15.

## 4.4 First Round of Onshore Consultation

### 4.4.1 Overview and Aims of this consultation

- 4.4.1.1 The first round of onshore consultation was launched in June 2023. This involved in-person public exhibitions and the provision of an online public exhibition platform. The purpose of this consultation was to introduce the Proposed Development (Onshore) to the local community and other stakeholders and to give the public an opportunity to comment on the Proposed Development (Onshore).

## 4.4.2 Consultation Activities and Materials

### In person events

- 4.4.2.1 Three in-person consultation events were held at locations (Banff, Turriff and New Deer) within the vicinity of the Proposed Development (Onshore).
- 4.4.2.2 Paper and online copies of feedback questionnaires were provided for attendees to provide feedback on the Proposed Development (Onshore).
- 4.4.2.3 The in-person consultation events were run as 'drop-in' sessions for members of the public to attend at a time that was convenient for them.
- 4.4.2.4 Consultation materials such as exhibition banners and maps were available to view at these events. Figure 4-4 shows the format for displaying materials during consultation events.
- 4.4.2.5 The consultation materials are provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-5: First Round Proposed Development (Onshore) Consultation Materials, Section 1.



Figure 4-4: Public exhibition banners at New Deer event

- 4.4.2.6 Table 4-8 provides a breakdown of the times, dates, locations and approximate number of attendees for each of the events. In total, approximately<sup>v</sup> 84 people attended these events.

<sup>v</sup> Number is approximate as some attendees requested their attendance was not recorded.

Table 4-8: First Round of Onshore Consultation Events

Date	Time	Location	Approximate Number of Attendees
20 June 2023	12.00-19.00	Banff Springs Hotel, Golden Knowes Road, Banff AB45 2JE	27
21 June 2023	12.00-19.00	Fife Arms Hotel, The Square, Turriff AB53 4AE	22
22 June 2023	12.00-19.00	St Kane’s Church, Church Crescent, New Deer AB53 6WD	35

### Virtual Exhibition

- 4.4.2.7 A virtual exhibition room, accessible via the project webpage, was open throughout the duration (June to December 2023) of the first round of consultation for the Proposed Development (Onshore). The layout of the virtual exhibition room replicated the in-person events, allowing users to explore the consultation materials online at a time that suited them.
- 4.4.2.8 Individuals could access the exhibition banners, maps and documents and watch the welcome video.

### Materials

- 4.4.2.9 Both the in-person and virtual exhibitions featured ‘banners’ summarising the Proposed Development information, including:
  - Information on the Applicant and details of their other developments in the UK.
  - An overview of the need for renewable energy generation and transmission.
  - Description of the Proposed Development components and high-level project timeline.
  - Map illustrating the onshore components of the Proposed Development (Onshore).
  - Overview of the Proposed Development (Onshore) design.
  - An explanation of the Proposed Development (Onshore) EIA findings so far detailing potential impacts on the environment including traffic and transport, landscape and visual, hydrology and hydrogeology, noise and vibration and geology, soils and contaminated land.
  - Details on the positive socio-economic impacts of the Proposed Development and impact on Scotland’s supply chain.

- 4.4.2.10 A brochure was provided at the public consultation events which included information on the Proposed Development. This brochure combined all of the information previously made available for the Proposed Development (Offshore), together with the additional information about the Proposed Development (Onshore) in order to allow consultees to understand the context of the Proposed Development.
- 4.4.2.11 A copy of the consultation materials is provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-5: First Round Proposed Development (Onshore) Consultation Materials, Section 1.

## Feedback Questionnaire

- 4.4.2.12 The feedback questionnaires available both online and in person included 12 questions soliciting opinions on the Proposed Development (Onshore). Questions asked are provided below in Table 4-9.

Table 4-9: Onshore Questionnaire

Question	Answer Options
Do you support the delivery of the proposed Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm in the Moray Firth?	Yes/No/No Opinion
Are you aware of the works to deliver the existing Moray East Offshore Wind Farm Transmission Infrastructure in Aberdeenshire 2018-2021?	Yes/No
Do you have any comment on the Moray East works which could inform the way similar future works are undertaken?	Free Text
Do you have any comments on the potential cable landfall locations?	Free Text
Do you have any comments on the proposed cable route corridor?	Free Text
Do you have any comments on the proposed substation location?	Free Text
Do you have any comments on the timeframe on which works are expected to be undertaken?	Free Text
If you have any other comments about the proposals for Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm transmission infrastructure , please detail below:	Free Text

### 4.4.3 Advertising and Publicity of the Consultation

#### Local Press

- 4.4.3.1 A notice was published in newspapers in accordance with Regulation 7 (2) (b) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations (Scottish Parliament, 2013<sup>8</sup>) A list of newspapers advertised in is shown in Table 4-10 and a copy of the advertisements is provided at Application Document 1, Appendix 1-5: First Round Proposed Development (Onshore) Consultation Materials, Section 2.

Table 4-10: Local Press advertisement for the first round of onshore consultation

Newspaper	Date Published
Banffshire Advertiser	6 June 2023
Banffshire Journal	6 June 2023
Banffshire Herald	6 June 2023
Huntly Express	6 June 2023
Press & Journal	8 June 2023

- 4.4.3.2 A press release was issued to various publications for the first round of onshore consultation which provided information on the consultation events and an overview of the Proposed Development (Onshore). Coverage was secured in the Grampian Online which has an estimated audience of 711 visitors a day. A copy of the notice is provided at Application Document 1, Appendix 1-5, Section 2.

#### Statutory Consultees and Interest Groups

##### Community Councils

- 4.4.3.3 The Applicant contacted the relevant community councils as required by Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Scottish Parliament, 2013<sup>8</sup>) on 17 May 2023 as part of the PAN process outlined in Section 2.3.4. A copy of the letter issued to community councils is included in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-5: First Round Proposed Development (Onshore) Consultation Materials, Section 3.
- 4.4.3.4 The Applicant regularly engaged with statutory and non-statutory consultees and interest groups in recurring meetings throughout the consultation period. A consultation log has been provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-3: List of Stakeholders and Stakeholder Meetings,



Section 1 which demonstrates the extent of engagement the Applicant undertook with consultees.

### **Landowners**

- 4.4.3.5 The Applicant issued letters to 70 landowners potentially impacted by the Proposed Development (Onshore). The letters included details of the Proposed Development, details of the in-person consultation events and the online virtual engagement room and contact details for the project team. Additionally, the process for future engagement to agree the relevant and necessary land rights for the Caledonia OWF was provided.
- 4.4.3.6 A copy of the letter sent to landowners is provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-5: First Round Proposed Development (Onshore) Consultation Materials, Section 4.

### **Political Stakeholders**

- 4.4.3.7 The Applicant held a briefing session for all Aberdeenshire Council Members on 28 of June 2023 in the Moray East Operations and Maintenance (O&M) base at Fraserburgh Harbour, Aberdeenshire.
- 4.4.3.8 All Aberdeenshire councillors were invited to the briefing covering both onshore and offshore aspects of the work. This included a tour of the base (which was opened in 2020) to provide context and understanding of the work and economic opportunities which Ocean Winds had already brought to the area through development of the Moray East Offshore Wind Farm. A total of 8 councillors and officials attended, and discussion ranged from onshore infrastructure through local economic development and diversification.

### **Social Media**

- 4.4.3.9 The Applicant used LinkedIn to provide regular updates on the Proposed Development (Onshore). A post was published on LinkedIn prior to the consultation events which detailed the locations, dates and times of events.

### **Direct Mailing**

- 4.4.3.10 Following feedback from the "in person" consultation events in June, it became clear that a significant number of electricity infrastructure projects, including other ScotWind projects, battery storage projects and SSEN's proposals to upgrade the transmission grid in the area were under development in the Banff and Turriff areas at the same time as the Proposed Development, meaning that similar consultation events were underway in a similar timeframe. This was resulting in consultation fatigue, lower than expected public turn out, as well as introducing potential confusion about the different projects.

- 4.4.3.11 In order to address these issues and ensure that those for whom the Caledonia OWF infrastructure was most geographically relevant received information about the Proposed Development, and had the opportunity to comment about the Proposed Development, the Applicant undertook a direct mailing exercise to all of the properties within the PAN boundary.
- 4.4.3.12 A total of 3,219 addresses were identified, and a consultation pack was sent to each. Consultation materials provided in the direct mailing included a cover letter, feedback questionnaire, brochure and post-paid return envelope, to allow consultees to respond to the proposals in the brochure using the questionnaire free of charge.
- 4.4.3.13 Members of the public who received the direct mailing were asked if they would like to be included on the mailing list to be kept informed of proposals and Proposed Development updates, including dates for future events.
- 4.4.3.14 The consultation materials included in the direct mailing are provided at Application Document 1, Appendix 1-5: First Round Proposed Development (Onshore) Consultation Materials, Section 5 and 6.

#### **4.4.4 Summary of Responses Received**

##### **Methodology**

- 4.4.4.1 Responses to the consultation were received through both physical and digital means. These were collected via feedback questionnaires at in-person events, received via the Virtual Engage platform and the direct mailing issued to local residents.
- 4.4.4.2 Data from the three types of responses were collected and collated into a single database. Data was then reviewed for accuracy and comments were reviewed by the stakeholder team to draw out main themes from the responses. A summary of the main themes is presented below in addition to how the Applicant has taken into account the issues raised.

##### **Feedback Received**

- 4.4.4.3 The Applicant received a total of 131 responses to the questionnaires. Table 4-11 summarises the number and types of responses received from the questionnaires.

Table 4-11: Number of Consultation Responses Received

Response Type	Number of Responses Received
Direct Mailing	107
Virtual Engage	13
Public Exhibitions	11
Total	131

4.4.4.4 Table 4-12 shows the percentage of respondents in favour of the Proposed Development (Onshore) and the percentage of those that are aware of the Applicant’s previous development in the area.

Table 4-12: Questionnaire results first round onshore

Question	Responses received		
	Yes	No	No Opinion
Do you support the delivery of the proposed Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm in the Moray Firth?	74%	18.4%	7.6%
Are you aware of the works to deliver the existing Moray East Offshore Wind Farm Transmission Infrastructure in Aberdeenshire 2018-2021?	79%	19%	2%

4.4.4.5 After collecting and analysing the feedback from both physical and digital consultation methods, feedback was considered within the relevant receptor chapters of the EIAR and any relevant amendments to the design presented in the feedback events in 2024.

4.4.4.6 A summary of the key issues raised to open ended questions from the questionnaire is provided in Table 4-13. Where issues raised were the same as those raised in the offshore consultation, these have not been repeated.

Table 4-13: Response to first round onshore questionnaire

<b>Comment raised</b>
<p><b>Infrastructure Placement</b></p> <p>Some respondents indicated that there was uncertainty caused by too many broadly-drafted proposals for electrical infrastructure, in particular overhead transmission lines.</p> <p>Some respondents indicated that landscape and visual impacts should be appropriately mitigated.</p> <p>Some respondents also queried whether the Proposed Development could utilise the transmission infrastructure put in place for Moray East OWF.</p>
<p><b>Traffic and Transport</b></p> <p>Some respondents identified concerns with the potential impacts to the local road network, as a result of increased construction traffic.</p>
<p><b>Location of New Substation</b></p> <p>Some respondents identified a preference for the Onshore Substations to be sited within close proximity to the existing Moray East Substation, to avoid rural sprawl of transmission infrastructure.</p>
<p><b>Community benefit &amp; Local Economic Development</b></p> <p>Some respondents asked if there would be a community benefit scheme associated with the project.</p> <p>Some respondents identified a desire for the project to result in local economic development opportunities.</p>
<p><b>Cumulative Impact</b></p> <p>Some respondents were concerned with the number of infrastructure projects being progressed within a similar timeframe.</p>

4.4.4.7 A summary of the Applicants response to feedback is provided at Table 4-15, in section 4.5.2.

## **4.5 Second Round Feedback Consultation Events**

### **4.5.1 Overview**

4.5.1.1 The second round of consultation events were held from April to June 2024 and involved five in-person public exhibitions and the provision of an online public exhibition platform.

4.5.1.2 The consultation consisted of in-person events which addressed either the Proposed Development (Offshore), or combined consultation events addressing the Proposed Development.

- 4.5.1.3 The purpose of these consultation events was to provide an update on the Proposed Development since the first rounds of consultation and outline how feedback from the local community and other stakeholders had been considered through the design by the Applicant.
- 4.5.1.4 During the in-person consultation events, members of the public were able to view and provide comments on the updated design of the Proposed Development.

## 4.5.2 Consultation Activities and Materials

### In person events

- 4.5.2.1 During the consultation period, five in-person consultation events were held at locations within the vicinity of the Proposed Development.
- 4.5.2.2 The first four consultation events held in April 2024 were combined events which comprised the Proposed Development (Onshore) and Proposed Development (Offshore). A final consultation event was held on 19 June 2024 relating to the Proposed Development (Offshore).
- 4.5.2.3 The events provided the opportunity for the Applicant to provide responses and information on how the Proposed Development has considered feedback received during the first round of consultation events, both onshore and offshore. It secondly provided a forum for the public to view information about the Proposed Development and speak with members of the project team.
- 4.5.2.4 The in-person consultation events were run as 'drop-in' sessions, for members of the public to attend at a time that was convenient for them.
- 4.5.2.5 Consultation materials such as exhibition banners, maps and the Proposed Development visualisations were available to view at these events.
- 4.5.2.6 In addition to the exhibition banners, maps and the Proposed Development visualisations were available digitally and hard copies of a Proposed Development brochure were also available for participants to take away.
- 4.5.2.7 Table 4-14 provides a breakdown of the times, dates, locations and approximate<sup>vi</sup> number of attendees for each of the events.

<sup>vi</sup> Approximate number due to some attendees requesting their attendance was not registered.

Table 4-14: Second Round Combined Consultation Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Approximate Number of Attendees</b>	<b>Proposed Development Components (Onshore/Offshore)</b>
16 April 2024	12.00-19.00	Buckie Thistle Football Ground, Midmar Street, Buckie AB56 1BJ	18	Combined
18 April 2024	12:00-19:00	Mackays Hotel, Union Street, Wick, KW1 5ED	13	Combined
23 April 2024	12.00-19.00	Banff Springs Hotel, Golden Knowes Road, Banff AB45 2JE	33	Combined
25 April 2024	12.00-19.00	New Deer Public Hall, Church Crescent, New Deer AB53 6WD	100	Combined
19 June 2024	14.00-18.00	Banff Springs Hotel, Golden Knowes Road, Banff AB45 2JE	0	Offshore

## Virtual Exhibition

4.5.2.8 A virtual exhibition room, accessible via the project webpage, was open throughout the duration (April to September) of the consultation period. The layout of the virtual exhibition room replicated the in-person events, allowing users to explore the consultation materials online at a time that suited them.

4.5.2.9 Individuals could access exhibition banners, maps and documents and watch the welcome video. The virtual exhibition also included interactive Webmaps of the Proposed Development which allowed users to zoom in and out on the map and view layers such as environmental constraints.

## Consultation Materials

4.5.2.10 Both the in-person and virtual exhibitions featured 'banners' summarising the Proposed Development information, included:

- Information on the Applicant and details of their other developments in the UK.

- An overview of the need for renewable energy generation and transmission.
- Description of the Proposed Development components and high-level project timeline.
- Map illustrating the offshore components of the Proposed Development (Offshore).
- Map illustrating the onshore components of the Proposed Development (Onshore).
- Overview of the Proposed Development (Onshore) design.
- Overview of the Proposed Development (Offshore) design.
- An explanation of the Proposed Development (Onshore) EIA findings so far detailing potential impacts on the environment including traffic and transport, landscape and visual, hydrology and hydrogeology, noise and vibration and geology, soils and contaminated land.
- An explanation of the Proposed Development (Offshore) EIA findings so far detailing potential impacts on the environment including offshore ornithology, marine mammals, benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology, commercial fisheries and shipping and navigation.
- An overview of consultation responses received and how the Applicant has addressed these in the form of “you said, we did”.
- Details on the positive socio-economic impacts of the Proposed Development and impact on Scotland’s supply chain.

4.5.2.11 A brochure was provided at the public consultation events which provided information on the Proposed Development.

4.5.2.12 The primary purpose of the second round of engagement is intended by the regulations to inform the consultees how the Proposed Development has responded to comments received during the first round of events. The Applicants response is detailed in Table 4-15 below. A copy of the consultation materials is provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-6: Second Round Combined Consultation Materials, Section 1.

Table 4-15: Applicant Response to First Round Feedback

Comment	Developer Response
Respondents were concerned with the volume and nature of transmission infrastructure within the area. Respondents sought assurances that the Applicant was not seeking to install overhead transmission lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The projects onshore transmission infrastructure will be located underground, with the exception of the onshore substations.</li> </ul>
Respondents were concerned that too wide an area was under risk of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We have significantly refined and reduced the width of our red line boundary for the onshore cable corridor in advance of the</li> </ul>

Comment	Developer Response
development by electricity transmission development.	planning application being made, thus reducing uncertainty for those local to proposed infrastructure.
Respondents were concerned with rural sprawl of electrical infrastructure. A few respondents requested that the Onshore Substation is sited within close proximity to the existing Moray East Substation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We have tried to locate the substation as close to the existing Moray East and SSEN-T New Deer substations as possible to avoid impacting any new areas.</li> </ul>
Respondents had concerns about cumulative impacts from multiple infrastructure projects in the local area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The project is aware of other energy developments proposed in the area. We are engaging with other offshore wind developers and SSEN-T to mitigate impacts on communities and the environment.</li> </ul>
Respondents were concerned with the impact of construction traffic to the local road network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Production of Traffic Management Plan:</li> <li>▪ Review and revision of contracting arrangements with contractors and subcontractors.</li> <li>▪ Review of contracting arrangements for those delivering materials and equipment to site.</li> <li>▪ In communication with other developers to work together during construction.</li> </ul>
Respondents requested that the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Base was situated locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Applicant has developed two O&amp;M bases in the Banff and Buchan area for previous OWF projects.</li> <li>▪ Caledonia have not yet finalised an Operation and Maintenance Strategy for the project. This will be developed in the next few months.</li> </ul>
Respondents from the fishing community were concerned that floating wind turbines could impact key commercial fishery areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Feedback from stakeholders has been balanced with technical work to refine the Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm design. This includes the adaptation of the southeastern boundary to reduce pressure on commercial fishing interests from floating turbines.</li> </ul>
Respondents from the fishing community requested continued engagement on the timing of offshore construction, continuing to use the mechanism established by Moray West during its construction phase.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Applicant is committed to continuing engagement with commercial fisheries throughout the lifecycle of the project. The Applicant has committed to continuing use of direct communications with individual fishermen during construction activities.</li> </ul>



Comment	Developer Response
<p>Respondents asked what opportunities the Proposed Development would have to support local economic development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The project remains committed to creating local opportunities and strengthening the local economy close to the project. It will support the development of supply chain competencies that are globally competitive, invest in infrastructure, and provide opportunities for skills development.</li> <li>▪ Caledonia have committed to investment through our Supply Chain Development Statement, which will be directed towards building critical supply chain competencies that are competitive globally.</li> <li>▪ Caledonia also provide a supply chain portal to grow and expand the companies we work with based in Scotland.</li> </ul>
<p>Respondents requested information on whether the Proposed Development would provide a community benefit scheme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The UK Government’s Department of Energy Security and Net Zero is developing recommendations for funding for communities in proximity to electricity transmission network infrastructure. The Applicant will comply with these recommendations once these are finalised and will consult on our proposals when these recommendations have been issued.</li> </ul>

4.5.2.13 Responding to those who had completed a questionnaire which was sent via direct mail as part of the first round of Consultation, the Applicant issued a letter on 14 April 2024 summarising the issues raised and how the Applicant would respond to feedback and incorporate it into Proposed Development design considerations. The letter addressed feedback in six topics:

- Requirement for OnTI.
- The Landfall Site.
- The Onshore Export Cable Route.
- Traffic and Transport.
- The Onshore Substation.
- The cost of Energy.

4.5.2.14 The letter is provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-5: First Round Proposed Development (Onshore) Consultation Materials, Section 7.

## 4.5.3 Advertising and Publicity of the Consultation

### Local Press

4.5.3.1 Notices for consultation events were published in the relevant local newspapers in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 7 (1) (b) of the Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations (2013) (Scottish Parliament, 2013<sup>7</sup>) and Regulation 7 (2) (b) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations (2013) (Scottish Parliament, 2013<sup>8,7</sup>).

4.5.3.2 Table 4-16 summarises the newspapers where notices were published and copies of the newspaper advertisements are provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-6: Second Round Combined Consultation Materials, Section 2.

Table 4-16: Second Round of Consultation Newspaper Advertisements

Newspaper	Date Published
Banffshire Advertiser	09 April 2024
Banffshire Journal	09 April 2024
Banffshire Herald	09 April 2024
Huntly Express	09 April 2024
John O’Groats Journal	12 April 2024
Press and Journal	15 April 2024
Press and Journal	16 April 2024
Press and Journal	22 April 2024
Banffshire Herald	07 May 2024
Banffshire Advertiser	07 May 2024
Banffshire Journal	07 May 2024
Huntly Express	07 May 2024

### General Public

4.5.3.3 Individuals who had signed up to the Proposed Development mailbox to receive updates on the Proposed Development were issued an email update in advance of consultation to inform them about the consultation events. Notably this also included local residents who received the direct mailing

during the first round of onshore consultation and chose to be kept informed.

- 4.5.3.4 A copy of the email notification is provided at Application Document 1, Appendix 1-6: Second Round Combined Consultation Materials, Section 5.

## **Statutory Consultees and Interest Groups**

- 4.5.3.5 Statutory consultees were informed of the consultation events during a pre-application meeting led by Aberdeenshire Council on 21 March 2024. Those in attendance included:

- Aberdeenshire Council departments responsible for the following topics:
  - Archaeology
  - Built Heritage
  - Contaminated Land
  - Environmental Health
  - Flood Risk and Coastal Protection
  - Natural Heritage
  - Roads Development
- Scottish Environment Protection Authority (SEPA)
- Scottish and Southern Energy (Transmission) (SSE)
- NatureScot

- 4.5.3.6 The Applicant regularly engaged with statutory and non-statutory consultees and interest groups in recurring meetings throughout the consultation period. A consultation log has been provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-3: List of Stakeholders and Stakeholder Meetings, Section 1 which demonstrates the extent of engagement the Applicant undertook with consultees.

## **Community Councils**

- 4.5.3.7 The Applicant contacted the relevant community councils as required by Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Scottish Parliament, 2013<sup>8</sup>) to inform them of the upcoming PAC events and to offer briefing sessions on the Proposed Development.

- 4.5.3.8 The following community councils were contacted directly via email on 29 March 2024 to inform them of the planned consultation events:

- Turriff & District;
- Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquhitter;
- Methlick;
- Alvah & Forglen

- Deer;
- Fordyce, Sandend & District;
- Portsoy & District;
- Whitehills & District;
- Banff & Macduff; and
- King Edward & Gamrie.

4.5.3.9 Following the consultation events, the Applicant wrote to each of the above community councils via email asking for the opportunity to present a project update. Table 4-17 summarises the following meetings that have taken place with Community Councils on request from the Applicant.

4.5.3.10 A copy of the letter inviting Community Councils to the consultation events and the follow up letter are both provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-6: Second Round Combined Consultation Materials, Section 3.

Table 4-17: Second Round of Consultation Community Council Meetings

Date	Community Council	Purpose
16 May 2024	Whitehills	To provide information related to the project and specifically the interface of the projects RLB with the Community Council area.
03 June 2024	Turriff & District	
30 July 2024	Alvagh & Forglen	
20 August 2024 <sup>vii</sup>	Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquhitter	

**Coastal community councils**

4.5.3.11 Coastal community councils (see Table 4-5) were invited to the consultation events via email on 2 April 2024. A copy of the email is provided at Application Document 1, Appendix 1-6: Second Round Combined Consultation Materials, Section 6.

**Marine Licence Notice**

4.5.3.12 A notice was sent to MD-LOT on 6 May 2024 informing them of the PAC events, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Scottish Parliament, 2013<sup>7</sup>)

4.5.3.13 The same notice was issued to the following statutory consultees on the 10 May 2024, in addition to those listed in Table 4-18, to comply with Regulation 6 of the Marine Licencing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Scottish Parliament, 2013<sup>7</sup>):

<sup>vii</sup> At time of writing, this meeting has been postponed at the request of the Community Council

- the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses;
- the Maritime and Coastguard Agency;
- SEPA; and
- NatureScot

4.5.3.14 A copy of the notice served is provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-1: Proposal of Application Notice and Marine Compliance Documentation, Section 6.

Table 4-18: Relevant marine stakeholders

<b>Relevant Marine Stakeholders</b>		
The Scottish White Fish Producers Association	Scottish Fishermen’s Federation	North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fishery Group
Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB)	Banff, Lossiemouth and Nairn Sailing Clubs	Chamber of Shipping
Surfers Against Sewage	Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society	Banff, Portsoy and MacDuff Harbour Authorities
Royal Yachting Association	Ministry of Defence	National Air Traffic Services (NATS)
Highlands and Islands Airport	Whitehills Harbour	Buckie Harbour
SHEFA	SSEN	North Sea Transition Authority
Aberdeenshire Council	Highland Council	Moray Council

**Social Media**

4.5.3.15 The Applicant used LinkedIn to provide regular updates on the Proposed Development (Onshore). A post was published on LinkedIn prior to the consultation events which detailed the locations, dates and times of events.

**Political Stakeholders**

4.5.3.16 Recognising that local authorities are statutory consultees of Marine Scotland, the applicant has taken measures to engage directly with the 168 unitary authority members in the three local authorities relevant to the site (Aberdeenshire, Highland and Moray). This has taken the form of sending a letter of invitation to all councillors inviting them to briefing sessions, where possible taking advantage of the onshore infrastructure established for the applicant’s previous projects, Moray East and Moray West Offshore Windfarms

- A briefing for Aberdeenshire Councillors was held on 28 June in the Moray East O&M base at Fraserburgh Harbour, Aberdeenshire (8 attended)
- A briefing for Highland Councillors was held on 9 Feb at the Palace hotel Inverness (10 attended)
- A briefing for Moray Councillors is proposed to be held in autumn 2024 at the Moray West Operations & Maintenance Base, Buckie Harbour, Moray, after that facility has been officially opened.

#### **4.5.4 Continuing Project Refinement in Response to Feedback**

4.5.4.1 Although the second round of events were primarily aimed to close the feedback reporting loop to communities, the Applicant had further discussions with attendees during the course of the events. The feedback received will continue to shape the proposed development during the next phase of the development lifecycle.

### **4.6 Wider Engagement**

4.6.1.1 In addition to formal pre-application consultation events, the Applicant has carried out local engagement with the public, community councils, businesses and local organisations. Information has been communicated to the wider community through a variety of channels, both in the lead up to and in addition to the consultation events. This has included leaflet drops, newspaper adverts, newsletters, posters in local venues and press releases.

4.6.1.2 The Proposed Development website has been kept up to date with relevant information including both onshore and offshore aspects of the Proposed Development. The website also includes details and facts about the Proposed Development, and ways to contact the Proposed Development team.

4.6.1.3 The Applicant attended local community events, including the Cullen Harbour Gala, the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival, and Banff Castle Family Fun Day to raise awareness of the Proposed Development.

4.6.1.4 Figure 4-5 below shows the Applicant at the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival in Portsoy, Aberdeenshire in June 2024.

4.6.1.5 Figure 4-6 below shows a LinkedIn post by the Applicant, advising of their attendance at the Cullen Harbour Gala in July 2024.



Figure 4-5: The Applicant at the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival



**CALEDONIA Offshore Wind Farm**

4,379 followers

1mo • 🌐

Our team is looking forward to attending The Cullen Harbour Gala on Sunday, July 21. It's set to be a day of family fun and we'll be on hand to answer any questions or hear your thoughts and feedback on the Caledonia project.

Be sure to pop by the **OW Ocean Winds** stall and say hello 🍷

More information on the gala can be found here: <https://lnkd.in/e2YpRJCj>

[#Caledonia](#) [#OffshoreWind](#) [#FixedWind](#) [#ScotWind](#) [#CommunityEngagement](#)



Figure 4-6: LinkedIn post advertising the Applicants attendance



## 5 Conclusion

- 5.1.1.1 This Report is submitted to support the s36 consent application and marine licence applications for the Proposed Development (Offshore) and in support of the PPP application for the Proposed Development (Onshore).
- 5.1.1.2 This Report provides an overview of the consultation undertaken by the Applicant in order to fulfil the statutory requirements for PAC and meet best practice guidance as outlined in Section 2 of this Report.
- 5.1.1.3 A Statement of Compliance is provided in Application Document 1, Appendix 1-2: Statement of Compliance and details how each statutory requirement was fulfilled.

## 6 References

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- <sup>11</sup> Scottish Government (2022) 'Consultations in the Scottish Government: guidance'. Available at: <http://www.gov.scot/publications/consultations-in-the-scottish-government-guidance/> (Accessed 19/04/2024).
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