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Volume 7 Standalone Appendices

Appendix 7 Proposed Development (Onshore) Schedule of Mitigation

Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm Limited

5th Floor Atria One, 144 Morrison Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8EX

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OCEAN WINDS

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AMSC	Approval of Matters Specified in Conditions
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CMS	Construction Method Statement
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
dB	Decibels
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
GWDTE	Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
LMP	Lighting Management Plan
m	Metre
MMP	Materials Management Plan
NSRs	Noise Sensitive Receptors
ONEC	Onshore Export Cable Corridor
OnTI	Onshore Transmission Infrastructure
PPP	Planning Permission in Principle
PWS	Private Water Supply
RLB	Red Line Boundary
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency

SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
SQE	Suitably Qualified Ecologist
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WFD	Water Framework Directive

1 Introduction

1.1.1.1 This chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) outlines the proposed mitigation for the Proposed Development (Onshore).

1.1.1.2 As detailed within Volume 1, Chapter 7: EIA Methodology, two forms of mitigation are presented in the topic chapters of the EIAR, embedded mitigation (also identified as primary and tertiary mitigation) and secondary mitigation.

1.1.1.3 Embedded mitigation encompasses measures that have been considered in the site selection process, have been identified within the design or have been incorporated into construction, operation, or decommissioning methodologies to avoid or reduce potential significant environmental effects. This mitigation is also known as primary mitigation.

1.1.1.4 Embedded mitigation can also take the form of tried and tested best practice mitigation required by legislation or industry practices, known as tertiary mitigation.

1.1.1.5 Where there are significant effects identified which cannot be mitigated through the implementation of the embedded mitigation, secondary mitigation (actions that require further activity), has been identified to further avoid and/or reduce the significant adverse effects.

1.1.1.6 Through consultation and agreement with stakeholders, the need for monitoring may also be required to validate the conclusions of the assessment or the effectiveness of mitigation. Where monitoring is required, it is also detailed within this document.

1.1.1.7 Mitigation measures are presented for each EIAR topic chapter in the tables below.

2 Land Use

2.1.1.1 Table 2-1 lists the mitigation measures identified within Volume 5, Chapter 2: Land Use.

Table 2-1: Mitigation Measures for Land Use

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
Embedded Mitigation		
M-39	An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been produced and included alongside the EIAR to support the Planning Permission in Principle (PPP) (Volume 7, Appendix 10: Outline Construction Environment Management Plan). The Outline CEMP includes measures on pollution prevention, noise control, biosecurity, and waste management. The Outline CEMP will then be developed further through the final design process and this will result in a detailed CEMP being submitted for discharge. The CEMP will be implemented to avoid, minimise or mitigate effects on the environment during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development (Onshore).	Detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-40	Following construction, agricultural land not required through the operational phase will be reinstated to ensure it can return to existing agricultural use. Once land is no longer required for installation of the Onshore Export Cable Circuits the land will be reinstated to its original use for the remainder of the construction stage (where applicable) and for the operation and maintenance stage. Temporary access infrastructure could be permanently retained where sought by the landowner but would be subject to the required consents being obtained prior to reinstatement activities occurring. Topsoil and sub-soil will be treated and stored appropriately to minimise risk of erosion and/or soil degradation indirectly affecting soil quality.	Design Principles through Construction Method Statement (CMS) secured through a condition attached to the PPP. Materials Management Plan (MMP) as part of the detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-41	Engagement with landowners throughout the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process as part of the evolution of the design process. Continued engagement with landowners throughout the detailed design phase.	External communication with landowners will be undertaken by the Community Liaison Officer

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
		(CLO) and secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-65	Avoidance of high value agricultural and forestry land. The Onshore Export Cable Corridor (ONEC) avoids areas of high value agricultural and forestry value as far as practicable. Agricultural land and other sensitivities were carefully considered as part of the site selection and alternatives process and feedback gathered from public consultation was used to amend the ONEC.	Design Principles through a CMS secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-66	Notable forested areas at Scattery around the river Deveron will be avoided via crossing of the river using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)[i]. Impacts to semi-natural woodland adjacent to Boyndie Visitor Centre will be minimised or avoided where practicable. Any resultant loss of woodland will be compensated to ensure no loss of woodland at detailed design stage and secured through the relevant Approval of Matters Specified in Conditions (AMSC) application.	Design Principles through a CMS secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-67	Temporary land take required for construction will be minimised with the land-take for the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (OnTI) Red Line Boundary (RLB) kept to the minimum necessary for safe construction. The OnTI RLB has been established based on identifying the shortest and most economical route from landfall to Grid Connection Point avoiding sensitive environmental constraints.	Design Principles through a CMS secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-68	Field drains will be protected as far as practicable and impacts to field drains as a result of construction activities will be remedied at source.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-69	Livestock water supplies will be protected, and alternative supplies provided where access could be compromised by works.	Design Principles through a CMS secured through a condition attached to the PPP.

[i] Trenchless crossing techniques hereafter referred to as 'HDD' in this document.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
M-70	Prevention of soil borne pests and diseases through adoption of precautions as recommended by Scotland's Environment and Rural Services and specified within the MMP as part of the detailed CEMP.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-92	Works around Hill of Scattery woodland strip will adhere to the following principles: ▪ Establish root and tree canopy protection zones for all trees not being removed to minimize soil compaction and impact on trees remaining in situ. ▪ Reduction in corridor width: The working corridor width will be reduced to 50 metres (m).	Design Principles through a CMS secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-96	Where cable crossings of private access tracks are required alternative access arrangements will be provided or crossing works scheduled in agreement with landowners to ensure access is maintained for residents when they require it.	Design Principles through a CMS secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
Secondary Mitigation		
SM-1	Secondary mitigation is proposed in the form of bespoke agreements with landowners where certain construction infrastructure such as haul roads and construction compounds are left in-situ for a period exceeding 5 years. Agreements will be developed on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the relevant landowners and may encompass measures such as appropriate siting of infrastructure so as to minimise impacts as far as practicable.	It is anticipated that this would be secured through the CEMP and the requirement for a CLO / community engagement.

3 Terrestrial Ecology and Biodiversity

3.1.1.1 Table 3-1 lists the mitigation measures identified within Volume 5, Chapter 3: Terrestrial Ecology and Biodiversity.

Table 3-1: Mitigation Measures for Terrestrial Ecology and Biodiversity

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
Embedded Mitigation		
M-39	An Outline CEMP has been produced and included alongside the EIAR to support the PPP (Volume 7, Appendix 10: Outline Construction Environment Management Plan). The Outline CEMP includes measures on pollution prevention, noise control, biosecurity, and waste management. The Outline CEMP will then be developed further through the final design process and this will result in a detailed CEMP being submitted for discharge. The CEMP will be implemented to avoid, minimise or mitigate effects on the environment during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development (Onshore).	Detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-40	Following construction, agricultural land not required through the operational phase will be reinstated to ensure it can return to existing agricultural use. Once land is no longer required for installation of the Onshore Export Cable Circuits the land will be reinstated to its original use for the remainder of the construction stage (where applicable) and for the operation and maintenance stage. Temporary access infrastructure could be permanently retained where sought by the landowner but would be subject to the required consents being obtained prior to reinstatement activities occurring. Topsoil and sub-soil will be treated and stored appropriately to minimise risk of erosion and/or soil degradation indirectly affecting soil quality.	Design Principles through a CMS secured through a condition attached to the PPP. MMP as part of the detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-47	Design of culverts will adhere to guidance outlined in the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) position statement on culverting of watercourses (WAT-PS-06-02).	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
M-50	Works will be carried out in accordance with permitting requirements, including the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended).	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-52	Trenchless techniques, such as HDD, will be the preferential crossing methodology for all Water Framework Directive (WFD) watercourses and salmonid watercourses	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-53	The existing watercourse crossing for the Onshore Substations used by the residential receptor to the west of the Onshore Substation will be retained and reused, and if upgraded will not increase or reduce the size of the culvert. If changes to the culvert size are required, a FRA will be completed on the proposed design.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-55	The selection of the Onshore Substation Site was influenced by prioritising avoidance of potential peatland, wells, watercourses and potential Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE).	The OnTI RLB within the PPP and accordance with mitigation measures identified within the EIAR submitted with the PPP.
M-56	The Onshore Substations are set back at least 10m from the Burn of Asleid to minimise any impact on the watercourse.	The OnTI RLB within the PPP and accordance with mitigation measures identified within the EIAR submitted with the PPP.
M-63	A MMP will be required to be prepared where soils are required for re-use within the Proposed Development (Onshore)	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-64	Production of the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP), as presented in Volume 7E, Appendix 9-2: Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan. The Outline CTMP will then be developed further with submission of a detailed planning application and supporting CTMP at a later date.	The CTMP will be secured through a condition attached to the PPP.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
	The Outline CTMP sets out a basic framework and series of vehicle management actions or principles that will help facilitate the safe operation of construction vehicles to, from and within the limits of the construction boundary. This Outline CTMP is based upon the information available at the time of writing, including but not limited to, an estimation on the location and number of construction compounds (derived from a provisional construction programme). The contents of the Outline CTMP are based upon a 'worst case' scenario whereby the greatest volume of construction traffic has been identified and then routed through the surrounding local road network.	
M-65	Avoidance of high value agricultural and forestry land. The ONEC avoids areas of high value agricultural and forestry value as far as practicable. Agricultural land and other sensitivities were carefully considered as part of the site selection and alternatives process and feedback gathered from public consultation was used to amend the ONEC.	Design Principles through Construction Method Statement secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-67	Temporary land take required for construction will be minimised with the land-take for the OnTI RLB kept to the minimum necessary for safe construction. The OnTI RLB has been established based on identifying the shortest and most economical route from landfall to Grid Connection Point avoiding sensitive environmental constraints.	Design Principles through a CMS secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-68	Field drains will be protected as far as practicable and impacts to field drains as a result of construction activities will be remedied at source.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-70	Prevention of soil borne pests and diseases through adoption of precautions as recommended by Scotland's Environment and Rural Services and specified within the MMP as part of the detailed CEMP.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
M-76	Use of trenchless crossing techniques at key crossing areas including: ▪ Class A roads; ▪ Protected woodlands; ▪ Drains adjacent to A roads; ▪ Major watercourses; ▪ WFD Waterbodies; ▪ Salmon Watercourses; and ▪ Drainage features (ditches / drains) or minor watercourses adjacent to major watercourses. The micro-routing of ONEC to avoid loss of hedgerows and trees where practical.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-78	Compensatory planting of removed trees and ecologically notable hedgerows within the ONEC is to be implemented during or at end of construction period.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-79	Implementation of mitigation planting around the Onshore Substations including native hedgerows, and native deciduous and mixed native woodland planting for screening. Some planting to be implemented in advance of the start of construction activity and some at the end of construction of Phases 1 and 2.	Route design / Design Principles and planting undertaken in accordance with landscape mitigation proposals outlined within the EIAR, secured via PPP condition which requires a Landscape Management Plan to be provided at AMSC stage.
M-86	HDD will be utilised for the Landfall Site at the coastline to ensure avoidance of coastal cliffs and all habitats associated with the Cullen to Stake Ness Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).	Condition attached to the PPP.
M-87	The detailed design of the OnTI will be refined after targeted ecological surveys to relocate (micro-site) those works away from the more important or legally protected habitat and species features such as badger setts, otter holts, pine	Condition attached to the PPP.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
	marten dens and red squirrel drey, water vole burrow. These ecological surveys will be undertaken during the appropriate season.	
M-88	No aboveground works will occur within the Cullen to Stake Ness Coast SSSI. The construction compounds will be set back from the SSSI with suitable buffers in place to ensure no workers or plant enter the SSSI.	Condition attached to the PPP.
M-89	Where works will occur within 30m of an otter holt or shelter or will require the removal of these features, a licence from NatureScot will be applied for. As an European Protected Species, a licence for development works that affect otter are required to demonstrate that three tests are met. A detailed otter protection plan will be produced and provided to NatureScot. The species protection plan will include mitigation that is approved by NatureScot prior to works commencing.	Condition attached to the PPP.
M-90	A licence from NatureScot will be applied for where water vole burrows will be damaged or removed as part of construction of the Proposed Development (Onshore). A detailed water vole protection plan will be produced and provided to NatureScot. The species protection plan will include mitigation that is approved by NatureScot prior to works commencing. Further, where works must occur where water vole burrows occur, a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) will undertake trapping and translocation of any water vole within the area being cleared based on advice from research findings (NatureScot 2024[1]; Gelling et al., 2018[2]). This too, will require a licence. Prior to any licence being obtained, a plan will be produced by a SQE detailing the provenance of water voles to be released, as well as the carrying capacity of the receptor site.	Condition attached to the PPP.
M-91	Where works will occur within 30m of a badger sett or will require the removal of a badger sett, a licence from NatureScot will be applied for. This licence application will include detailed supporting information as required by NatureScot and the production of a badger protection plan. The species protection plan will include mitigation that is approved by NatureScot prior to works commencing.	Condition attached to the PPP.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
M-92	Works around Hill of Scattery woodland strip will adhere to the following principles: ▪ Establish root and tree canopy protection zones for all trees not being removed to minimize soil compaction and impact on trees remaining in situ. ▪ Reduction in corridor width: The working corridor width will be reduced to 50m.	Design Principles through a CMS secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-93	Targeted ecological surveys will be undertaken at the preconstruction stage and during the appropriate season (as determined by an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)) with sufficient time in advance of construction to ensure any required licencing can be put in place in time to avoid construction delays.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
Secondary Mitigation		
SM-2	**General Construction Mitigation Measures** Detailed protected and notable habitats and species ecological surveys will be undertaken prior to construction. A suitably qualified ECoW will be appointed prior to commencement of works and employed when/where appropriate during the construction phase. Best practice mitigation measures will be applied to avoid or minimise potential impacts upon key ecological features and will include: ▪ Tool-box talks ▪ Construction activities limited to clearly defined working areas and vegetation clearance kept to a minimum. Habitat removal will be timed and phased to minimise potential effects ▪ Habitat connectivity will be retained wherever possible ▪ The CEMP will include lighting plans for construction compounds	Detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
SM-3	**General Operation Mitigation Measures** The detailed design will include a lighting management plan (LMP) for the operational phase of the Onshore Substations. This LMP will be prepared in consultation with a suitably qualified ecologist	Detailed LMP secured through a condition attached to PPP.
SM-4	**Protected Habitats** ▪ Landscape mitigation planting around the onshore substation site has been designed to maximise outcomes for biodiversity ▪ When fragmenting hedgerows the construction working width will be minimised as far as practicable. ▪ Root and canopy protection zones will be established and movement of construction plant will be minimised to avoid soils compaction. ▪ Where hedges are not reinstated following phase 1, the gaps will be filled using brash to allow for continuity of linear features.	Detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
SM-5	**Breeding birds** ▪ Works involving suitable nesting habitats will be undertaken outside of bird nesting season (01 March to 31 August). When this is not possible, pre-construction checks will be undertaken by a SQE who will maintain a watching brief in advance of works, and protect nesting birds as required.	Detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
SM-6	**Fish and Freshwater Pearl Mussel** ▪ Night time works within 30m of a watercourse will be limited where possible. ▪ Works that have the potential to give rise to excessive vibration, such as HDD, will be consulted on with the River Deveron DSFB and the Ythan DSFB when more information on the design of the trenchless crossing is confirmed. Suitable mitigation measures will be agreed prior to works being undertaken. ▪ A fish rescue will be undertaken for any works which will isolate fish from the main channel.	Detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
	▪ An ECoW should be present during early spring and summer to support mitigation for eel. ▪ A detailed monitoring plan will be produced prior to construction to monitor impacts to fish species. ▪ Consultation with District Salmon Fisheries Boards	
SM-7	**Otter and Water Vole** ▪ Otter holts where present will be identified through pre-construction ecological surveys. Suitable otter exclusion zones will be determined by an SQE. ▪ Where works must occur where water vole burrows occur, a SQE will undertake trapping and translocation of any water vole within the area being cleared based on advice from research findings	Detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
SM-8	**Badger** Wherever possible foraging and commuting routes, identified though the updated surveys as outlined in embedded mitigation, will be avoided. Wherever possible, these routes will be maintained as dark corridors with at least a 30m buffer zone from construction areas. Where this is not possible temporary routes will be provided around these construction areas. This will include directing badger around the construction area using a mixture of fencing, two way gates, underpasses and green corridors to maintain habitat connectivity. These will be created, maintained and monitored by an ECoW.	Detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.

4 Landscape and Visual

4.1.1.1 Table 4-1 lists the mitigation measures identified within Volume 5, Chapter 4:Landscape and Visual.

Table 4-1: Mitigation Measures for Landscape and Visual

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
Embedded Mitigation		
M-76	Use of trenchless crossing techniques at key crossing areas including: ▪ Class A roads ▪ Protected woodlands ▪ Drains adjacent to A roads ▪ Major watercourses ▪ WFD Waterbodies ▪ Salmon Watercourses; and ▪ Drainage features (ditches / drains) or minor watercourses adjacent to major watercourses. The micro-routing of ONEC to avoid loss of hedgerows and trees where practical.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-77	Location of construction compounds to avoid loss of hedgerows and trees where practical.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-78	Compensatory planting of removed trees and ecologically notable hedgerows within the ONEC is to be implemented during or at end of construction period.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-79	Implementation of mitigation planting around the Onshore Substations including native hedgerows, and native deciduous and mixed native woodland planting for screening. Some planting to be implemented in advance of the start of construction activity and some at the end of construction of Phases 1 and 2.	Route design / Design Principles and planting undertaken in accordance with landscape mitigation proposals outlined within the EIAR, secured via

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
		PPP condition which requires a Landscape Management Plan to be provided at AMSC stage.
M-92	Works around Hill of Scattery woodland strip will adhere to the following principles: ▪ Establish root and tree canopy protection zones for all trees not being removed to minimize soil compaction and impact on trees remaining in situ. ▪ Reduction in corridor width: The working corridor width will be reduced to 50m.	Design Principles through a CMS secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
Secondary Mitigation		
No secondary mitigation has been proposed or is practicable with respect to the Landscape and Visual effects.		

5 Terrestrial Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

5.1.1.1 Table 5-1 lists the mitigation measures identified within Volume 5, Chapter 5: Terrestrial Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.

Table 5-1: Mitigation Measures for Terrestrial Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
Embedded Mitigation		
M-42	OnTI RLB which avoids direct impact on Scheduled Monuments and Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes (and other designated structures therein).	The OnTI RLB as presented within this EIAR and consented through the Planning Permission in Principle (PPP) application for the Proposed Development (Onshore).
M-79	Implementation of mitigation planting around the Onshore Substations including native hedgerows, and native deciduous and mixed native woodland planting for screening. Some planting to be implemented in advance of the start of construction activity and some at the end of construction of Phases 1 and 2.	Route design / Design Principles and planting undertaken in accordance with landscape mitigation proposals outlined within the EIAR, secured via PPP condition which requires a Landscape Management Plan to be provided at Approval of Matters Specified in Condition stage.
Secondary Mitigation		
SM-9	Secondary Mitigation is proposed to mitigate effects arising from the construction of the Proposed Development (Onshore) to terrestrial archaeology by the implementation of an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation and recording. Further mitigation for preservation in situ or further excavations may be required depending on the results of trial trench evaluations.	This would be secured by approval of a Written Scheme of Investigation from an Archaeology Officer prior to commencement of the works.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
		Secured by condition attached to the PPP.
SM-10	There may be the need to mitigate the potential effects arising from construction activities in relation to construction traffic to and from the Onshore Substation Site should construction traffic use a lane adjacent to the listed Millbrex Church. Mitigation measures could include limiting the use of the lane adjacent to the church as a construction route, providing a limit on the weight of construction vehicles utilising the route, and/or restrictions in regards the type of construction vehicles utilising the route.	Condition for a detailed CTMP attached to the PPP.

6 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

6.1.1.1 Table 6-1 lists the mitigation measures identified within Volume 5, Chapter 6: Hydrology and Hydrogeology.

Table 6-1: Mitigation Measures for Hydrology and Hydrogeology

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
Embedded Mitigation		
M-39	An Outline CEMP has been produced and included alongside the EIAR to support the PPP (Volume 7, Appendix 10: Outline Construction Environment Management Plan). The Outline CEMP includes measures on pollution prevention, noise control, biosecurity, and waste management. The Outline CEMP will then be developed further through the final design process and this will result in a detailed CEMP being submitted for discharge. The CEMP will be implemented to avoid, minimise or mitigate effects on the environment during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development (Onshore).	Detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-43	Any works impacting the floodplain (areas of Flood Zones 2 and 3) will be accompanied by a suitable floodplain compensation strategy, where necessary subject to consultation with SEPA and Aberdeenshire Council Flooding team, to include measures to manage the impacts of loss of floodplain storage or conveyance.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-44	Any works within or alongside watercourses will be designed to ensure no significant detrimental impact on flow conveyance and no localised or catchment wide impacts on flood risk; this will include any watercourse diversions, or any culverting required as a result of the permanent works.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-45	Any permanent watercourse diversions will be designed to ensure continuity of conveyance and floodplain utilisation such that there is no significant detrimental impact on the wider catchment.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
M-46	A surface water and groundwater monitoring plan will be developed for any works that could affect quality or quantity of surface waters, groundwater aquifers or groundwater dependent waterbodies or habitats. This will be agreed with SEPA and be implemented pre, during, and post construction.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-47	Design of culverts will adhere to guidance outlined in the SEPA position statement on culverting of watercourses (WAT-PS-06-02).	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-50	Works will be carried out in accordance with permitting requirements, including the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended).	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-51	The location of the Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) pond for the Onshore Substations has been designed to be located outside of the floodplain (flood zone 2 and 3)	Design Principles and mitigation proposals outlined within the EIAR supporting the PPP application.
M-52	Trenchless techniques, such as HDD, will be the preferential crossing methodology for all WFD watercourses and salmonid watercourses.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-53	The existing watercourse crossing for the Onshore Substations used by the residential receptor to the west of the Onshore Substation will be retained and reused, and if upgraded will not increase or reduce the size of the culvert. If changes to the culvert size are required, a FRA will be completed on the proposed design.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-55	The selection of the Onshore Substation Site was influenced by prioritising avoidance of potential peatland, wells, watercourses and potential GWDTE.	The OnTI RLB within the PPP and accordance with mitigation measures identified within the EIAR submitted with the PPP.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
M-56	The Onshore Substations are set back at least 10m from the Burn of Asleid to minimise any impact on the watercourse.	The OnTI RLB within the PPP and accordance with mitigation measures identified within the EIAR submitted with the PPP.
M-57	Onshore Substations drainage will be designed to discharge at greenfield rates or better to avoid any increase in flood risk to third party land.	Outlined within the Outline Drainage Impact Assessment (Application Document 6) and secured by condition attached to the PPP for a detailed Drainage Strategy.
M-58	SEPA Future Flood Maps will be used in the development of design, and to determine placement of construction compounds outside the flood risk areas.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-59	Climate change projections on precipitation will be taken into consideration through the drainage design strategy.	Outlined within the Outline Drainage Impact Assessment (Application Document 6) and secured by condition attached to the PPP for a detailed Drainage Strategy.
M-60	The ONEC and Onshore Substation Site will aim to avoid known/confirmed positions of Private Water Supply (PWS) source points and infrastructure by 250m, and where this is not achievable a protection plan will be implemented	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-61	The drainage design for the Onshore Substation Site will consult a suitably qualified hydromorphologist if any outfalls are required into a WFD classified watercourse. Outfalls will be set back from the watercourse banks and an open channel used to connect the outfalls to the watercourse. This will allow for any natural migration of the river channel and limit damage to and from outfalls.	Outlined within the Outline Drainage Impact Assessment (Application Document 6) and secured by condition attached to the PPP for a detailed Drainage Strategy.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
Secondary Mitigation		
No secondary mitigation has been proposed or is practicable with respect to the hydrology and hydrogeology effects.		

7 Geology, Soils and Contaminated Land

7.1.1.1 Table 7-1 lists the mitigation measures identified within Volume 5, Chapter 7: Geology, Soils and Contaminated Land.

Table 7-1: Mitigation Measures for Geology, Soils and Contaminated Land

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
Embedded Mitigation		
M-39	An Outline CEMP has been produced and included alongside the EIAR to support the PPP (Volume 7, Appendix 10: Outline Construction Environment Management Plan). The Outline CEMP includes measures on pollution prevention, noise control, biosecurity, and waste management. The Outline CEMP will then be developed further through the final design process and this will result in a detailed CEMP being submitted for discharge. The CEMP will be implemented to avoid, minimise or mitigate effects on the environment during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development (Onshore).	Detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-46	A surface water and groundwater monitoring plan will be developed for any works that could affect quality or quantity of surface waters, groundwater aquifers or groundwater dependent waterbodies or habitats. This will be agreed with SEPA and be implemented pre, during, and post construction.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-54	The ONEC has been designed to avoid areas of Class 1 and 2 peatland (as mapped by Scotland's Soils) where possible. Where areas of mapped Class 1 and 2 peatland are within the ONEC, they have been ground truthed by survey and proven to not constitute priority peatland.	Route design / Design Principles Outlined within the Outline Peat Management Plan (Application Document 7) produced for the PPP and secured through a condition attached to the PPP for a Peat Management Plan.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
M-55	The selection of the Onshore Substation Site was influenced by prioritising avoidance of potential peatland, wells, watercourses and potential GWDTE.	The OnTI RLB within the PPP and accordance with mitigation measures identified within the EIAR submitted with the PPP.
M-60	The ONEC and Onshore Substation Site will aim to avoid known/confirmed positions of PWS source points and infrastructure by 250m, and where this is not achievable a protection plan will be implemented	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-62	The presence and nature of contaminated land and the potential risks to human health, surface and groundwater will be assessed and managed in accordance with Scottish Government regulations such as Part IIA and associated statutory guidance, to ensure that land does not meet the statutory definition of contaminated land and guidance for the assessment of risks from contaminated land for new developments, such as Land Contamination: Risk Management. Geoenvironmental Quantitative Risk Assessments will be undertaken to inform remedial and mitigation measures.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-63	A MMP will be required to be prepared where soils are required for re-use within the Proposed Development (Onshore)	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-86	HDD will be utilised for the Landfall Site at the coastline to ensure avoidance of coastal cliffs and all habitats associated with the Cullen to Stake Ness Coast SSSI.	Condition attached to the PPP.
M-94	Where peat or carbon-rich soils cannot be avoided, the Onshore Export Cable Route will be designed such that the effect on the peat hydrology and carbon losses are minimised, for example through the implementation of a Peat Management Plan.	Outlined within the Outline Peat Management Plan (Application Document 7) produced for the PPP and secured through a condition attached to the PPP for a Peat Management Plan.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
M-95	An Unexploded ordnance (UXO) Desk Study will be carried out prior to construction of the Onshore Export Cable Route, covering the area close to RAF Banff airfield, to ensure that the risks posed by UXO are adequately controlled during construction.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
Secondary Mitigation		
No secondary mitigation has been proposed or is practicable with respect to Geology, Soils and Contaminated Land effects.		

8 Airborne Noise and Vibration

8.1.1.1 Table 8-1: lists the mitigation measures identified within Volume 5, Chapter 8: Airborne Noise and Vibration.

Table 8-1: Mitigation Measures for Airborne Noise and Vibration

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
Embedded Mitigation		
M-39	An Outline CEMP has been produced and included alongside the EIAR to support the PPP (Volume 7, Appendix 10: Outline Construction Environment Management Plan). The Outline CEMP includes measures on pollution prevention, noise control, biosecurity, and waste management. The Outline CEMP will then be developed further through the final design process and this will result in a detailed CEMP being submitted for discharge. The CEMP will be implemented to avoid, minimise or mitigate effects on the environment during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development (Onshore).	Detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-71	The Applicant is committed to meeting appropriate noise limits (NR criteria and the proposed rating level limit, based on the BS4142 approach) at all Noise Sensitive Receptors (NSRs). The requirement for specific mitigation measures will be identified at the detailed design stage. The below stages will be considered during the specification of the Onshore Substation Site: ▪ Updated operational noise predictions, incorporating a review of proposed plant items and identification of sound power levels for each item through consultation with suppliers; ▪ Movement of noisy items of plant within the Onshore Substation Site to locations away from NSRs; ▪ Use of buildings and other plant items within the Onshore Substation Site to provide screening to noisy plant items;	Requirement for the Onshore Substation Site to meet noise limits to be secured through condition to the PPP. Sound power level of proposed plant to be confirmed and layout optimised to minimise noise at neighbouring NSRs at detailed design stage.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
	▪ Specification of attenuation at source, such as quieter plant items, or by enclosure; and ▪ Iterative modelling of detailed layouts to determine requirement for further mitigation until noise limits are met.	
M-97	HDD sites will be attenuated by selection of silenced plant where required to meet appropriate noise limits at the closest receptors. The drilling contractor will be required to provide the source level of their plant items, with particular attention paid to the drilling mud recycling unit. Where practicable, plant will be attenuated at source by installation of silencers. Temporary noise barriers will be installed around the work site and temporary buildings, such as site cabins and stores, will be used to provide further screening. Pulling cables through the completed ducts will be similarly attenuated. Considering this mitigation for HDD and cable pulling works, such as placing screening close to the noisiest items of plant, noise levels at receptor locations can be reduced by up to 15 decibels (dB), when compared with unattenuated work sites.	Specification within the CEMP. The detailed CEMP will be secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
Secondary Mitigation		
SM-11	The CTMP will set out the principles of traffic management such that road traffic impacts at NSRs are minimised. Where practicable, deliveries to construction compounds will be scheduled to avoid the most sensitive times.	Condition for a detailed CTMP attached to the PPP.
SM-12	The proposed Onshore Substations design will be reviewed during the detailed design stage, such that the adopted noise criteria are met at neighbouring NSRs. During detailed design, mitigation will be specified in order of the partial level (the relative contribution to overall noise levels) that individual plant items have at NSRs. Where mitigation at source is not possible (i.e. specification of quieter plant, or installation of acoustic attenuation to proposed items), plant will be enclosed.	Design review undertaken at detailed design stage and secured through condition to the PPP.

9 Traffic and Transport

9.1.1.1 Table 9-1 lists the mitigation measures identified within Volume 5, Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport.

Table 9-1: Mitigation measures for Traffic and Transport

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
Embedded Mitigation		
M-64	Production of the Outline CTMP, as presented in Volume 7E, Appendix 9-2: Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan. The Outline CTMP will then be developed further with submission of a detailed planning application and supporting CTMP at a later date. The Outline CTMP sets out a basic framework and series of vehicle management actions or principles that will help facilitate the safe operation of construction vehicles to, from and within the limits of the construction boundary. This Outline CTMP is based upon the information available at the time of writing, including but not limited to, an estimation on the location and number of construction compounds (derived from a provisional construction programme). The contents of the Outline CTMP are based upon a 'worst case' scenario whereby the greatest volume of construction traffic has been identified and then routed through the surrounding local road network.	The CTMP will be secured through a condition attached to the PPP
M-39	An Outline CEMP has been produced and included alongside the EIAR to support the PPP (Volume 7, Appendix 10: Outline Construction Environment Management Plan). The Outline CEMP includes measures on pollution prevention, noise control, biosecurity, and waste management. The Outline CEMP will then be developed further through the final design process and this will result in a detailed CEMP being submitted for discharge. The CEMP will be implemented to avoid, minimise or mitigate effects on the environment during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development (Onshore).	Detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
Secondary Mitigation		
No secondary mitigation has been proposed or is practicable with respect to the Transport and Transportation effects.		

10 Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation

10.1.1.1 Table 10-1 lists the mitigation measures identified within Volume 6, Chapter 2: Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation.

Table 10-1: Mitigation measures for Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
Embedded Mitigation		
M-39	An Outline CEMP has been produced and included alongside the EIAR to support the PPP (Volume 7, Appendix 10: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan). The Outline CEMP includes measures on pollution prevention, noise control, biosecurity, and waste management. The Outline CEMP will then be developed further through the final design process and this will result in a detailed CEMP being submitted for discharge. The CEMP will be implemented to avoid, minimise or mitigate effects on the environment during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development (Onshore).	Detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-64	Production of the Outline CTMP, as presented in Volume 7E, Appendix 9-2: Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan. The Outline CTMP will then be developed further with submission of a detailed planning application and supporting CTMP at a later date. The Outline CTMP sets out a basic framework and series of vehicle management actions or principles that will help facilitate the safe operation of construction vehicles to, from and within the limits of the construction boundary. This Outline CTMP is based upon the information available at the time of writing, including but not limited to, an estimation on the location and number of construction compounds (derived from a provisional construction programme). The contents of the Outline CTMP are based upon a 'worst case' scenario whereby the greatest volume of construction traffic has been identified and then routed through the surrounding local road network.	The CTMP will be secured through a condition attached to the PPP

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
Secondary Mitigation		
No secondary mitigation has been proposed or is practicable with respect to the Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation effects.		

11 Climate Change Resilience

11.1.1.1 Table 11-1 lists the mitigation measures identified within Volume 6, Chapter 3: Climate Change Resilience.

Table 11-1: Mitigation measures for Climate Change Resilience

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
Embedded Mitigation		
M-3	Development of and adherence to a CMS. The CMS will confirm construction methods and the roles and responsibilities of parties engaged in construction. It will detail any construction-related mitigation measures.	The CMS will be secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-39	An Outline CEMP has been produced and included alongside the EIAR to support the PPP (Volume 7, Appendix 10: Outline Construction Environment Management Plan). The Outline CEMP includes measures on pollution prevention, noise control, biosecurity, and waste management. The Outline CEMP will then be developed further through the final design process and this will result in a detailed CEMP being submitted for discharge. The CEMP will be implemented to avoid, minimise or mitigate effects on the environment during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development (Onshore).	Detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-59	Climate change projections on precipitation will be taken into consideration through the drainage design strategy.	Outlined within the Outline Drainage Impact Assessment (Application Document 6) and secured by condition attached to the PPP for a detailed Drainage Strategy.
M-82	Drainage and associated infrastructure to be designed to withstand a heavy precipitation - 1 in 100 yrs + allowances for future climate change.	Outlined within the Outline Drainage Impact Assessment (Application Document 6) and secured by condition attached to the PPP for a detailed Drainage Strategy.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
M-83	In times of heavy precipitation or storms trenching, groundwork and drainage activities will be halted when necessary.	Outlined within the Outline CEMP and secured by condition attached to the PPP.
M-84	The Proposed Development will be designed to be resilient to impacts arising from weather events and climatic conditions in accordance with current planning, design and engineering practice, standards, and codes.	Design review undertaken at detailed design stage and secured through condition to the PPP.
Secondary Mitigation		
No secondary mitigation has been proposed or is practicable with respect to the Climate Change Resilience effects.		

12 Greenhouse Gases

12.1.1.1 Table 12-1 lists the mitigation measures identified within Volume 6, Chapter 4: Greenhouse Gases.

Table 12-1: Mitigation measures for Greenhouse Gases

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
Embedded Mitigation		
M-3	Development of and adherence to a CMS. The CMS will confirm construction methods and the roles and responsibilities of parties engaged in construction. It will detail any construction-related mitigation measures.	The CMS will be secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
M-39	An Outline CEMP has been produced and included alongside the EIAR to support the PPP (Volume 7, Appendix 10: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan). The Outline CEMP includes measures on pollution prevention, noise control, biosecurity, and waste management. The Outline CEMP will then be developed further through the final design process and this will result in a detailed CEMP being submitted for discharge. The CEMP will be implemented to avoid, minimise or mitigate effects on the environment during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development (Onshore).	Detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.
Secondary Mitigation		
SM-13	The Proposed Development (Onshore) construction process will be designed to minimise Greenhouse Gas emissions through measures such as: ▪ Maximising the potential for re-using and/or refurbishment of existing assets to reduce the extent of new construction required, and/or exploring lower carbon alternatives to deliver project objectives (i.e. shorter route alternatives with smaller construction footprints).	Detailed CEMP secured through a condition attached to the PPP.

Code	Mitigation Measure	Securing Mechanism
	▪ Careful construction management to avoid over-ordering of materials, to reduce transportation emissions. ▪ The sustainable reuse of soil and aggregate materials won from excavation.	

13 References

[1] NatureScot (2024) 'Water Vole'. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/licensing/species-licensing-z-guide/water-voles-and-licensing (Accessed 01/10/2024).

[2] Gelling M., Harrington A.L., Dean M., Haddy E.C., Marshall C.E. & Macdonald D.W. (2018) 'The effect of using 'displacement' to encourage the movement of water voles Arvicola amphibius in lowland England'. Conservation Evidence, 15, 20-25.

Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm
5th Floor, Atria One
144 Morrison Street
Edinburgh
EH3 8EX

www.caledoniaoffshorewind.com

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