



Code: UKCAL-CWF-CON-EIA-RPT-00007-7002

Volume 7 Standalone Appendices

Appendix 4 Onshore Scoping Opinion

Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm Ltd

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

Volume 7 Appendix 4 Onshore Scoping Opinion

Code	UKCAL-CWF-CON-EIA-RPT-00007-7002
Revision	Issued
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1 Aberdeenshire Council Formal Scoping Opinion

Our Ref: ENQ/2022/1841

Your Ref:

Ask for: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Ocean Winds
Atria One
144 Morrisons Street
Edinburgh
EH3 8EX

1 February 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

**EIA Screening/Scoping Opinion for Installation of Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (OnTI) - Scoping Request at Caledonia Onshore Transmission Infrastructure, Land Along Moray/Aberdeenshire Coast
Grid Reference: 370957.853372**

I am now in receipt of all necessary consultation responses (other than Built Heritage which will be forwarded when available) and I can offer a formal Scoping Opinion under Regulation 17 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the Regulations).

Schedule 4 of the Regulations states the information which should be included in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). These guidelines offer the backbone to the structure of an EIAR and should be used as the basis for your submission.

In order to make an assessment of the above information, there are specific criteria and guidance set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations. In particular, these include characteristics of the development, an outline of any alternative options/sites and the main reasons for the options/sites chosen. Environmental issues are of obvious key importance such as those aspects of the environment that would be likely to be significantly affected. Detailed survey work would be required to inform the EIAR. Following analysis of the aspects of the environment which would be likely to be significantly affected, a detailed assessment of the effects themselves would be required along with mitigation measures proposed.

Examples of the types of issues that should be addressed include:

- Climate Change
- Local Economic Effect

- Landscape Resource
- Soils and Geology
- Visual Amenity
- Ecology
- Nature Conservation
- European Protected Species
- Hydrology and Water Supplies
- Forestry and Tree Felling
- Transport and Traffic, including road safety issues and impact on the local road network during and after construction work
- Noise
- Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
- Land Use
- Land Ownership
- Tourism and Recreation, including Footpaths
- Proposed Mitigation Measures

Please note that the above list is by no means exhaustive and that other issues might become obvious following public consultation or consultation with statutory consultees.

Comments on specific chapters, including those made from internal and external consultees are provided below. Please note, that given the extent of the scoping area in some instances consultees have not provided detailed advice. Once the site area has been refined, the Planning Service would recommend engaging with some of the Services to obtain more detailed advice.

Planning Policy

You may be aware that Aberdeenshire Council adopted a new Local Development Plan on 13 January 2023. Any application will be considered against this plan which now forms part of the statutory development plan and reference should be made to it in supporting documents.

The Scottish Government has confirmed its intention to adopt National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) on 13 February 2023. This will mean National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy will be superseded. Presently NPF4 is a significant material consideration in the assessment of planning applications. Once NPF4 has been adopted, all planning decisions made by Aberdeenshire Council will need to have direct regard to its policies and proposals as it will form part of the statutory development plan. Reference should therefore be made to the policies contained within NPF4 in the supporting documents.

Landscape and Visual Impact

Chapter 8 of the Onshore Scoping Report (OSR) outlines the proposed approach to address the landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development. Based on this information, the Planning Service can provide the following comment. The proposed 1km study area from the final cable corridor is accepted. The methodology proposed to assess the landscape impacts is acceptable.

Visualisations showing the baseline and built development should be included within the EIAR. The construction compound at the landfall site should be included within the visualisations and include any landscaping or mitigation as outlined at section 8.5.1.23 of the OSR. The visualisations should be based on a ZTV which the Council would be happy to consider, along with viewpoint selection as noted at section 8.11.1.1 of the OSR.

Visual impact should be considered by a range of receptors where possible and include various landscape character types and landscape designations as appropriate.

NatureScot noted that the landscape and visual impacts of the proposal will be local in nature and as such did not make comment on these.

Ecology

Chapter 7 of the OSR outlines the proposed approach in respect of Terrestrial Ecology and Biodiversity.

The Council's Natural Heritage Service considered the contents of Chapter 7 and were happy with the proposed range of ecological surveys noting that these are comprehensive and cover the features that are potentially present within the study area. The Service also notes that the proposed impacts for terrestrial ecology and biodiversity that have been scoped into the EIA, and the proposed approach to the assessment, are acceptable.

NatureScot agreed with the OSRs proposals in Chapter 7, namely habitats species, survey methodologies and embedded and potential secondary mitigation.

In respect of ornithology, NatureScot not that wintering bird surveys should include intertidal bird surveys.

The Planning Service is in agreement with all of the questions posed at section 7.12.1.2 of the OSR.

Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

Chapter 9 of the OSR outlines the proposed approach in dealing with both cultural heritage and terrestrial archaeology. It is noted at paragraph 9.5.1.3 that a site walkover study of the Onshore Cable Corridor, Landfall Site and Onshore Substation Site shall be undertaken. This approach is welcomed by the Planning Service.

The Council's Archaeology Service confirmed that it agreed with the proposed study areas outlined in paragraphs 9.3.1.3 – 9.3.1.5 of the OSR. In respect of buffer zones around Scheduled Monuments, the Service noted that this would be for Historic Environment Scotland to advise on. Finally, the Service confirmed that it agreed with the proposed approach to assessment as outlined in section 9.5 of the OSR.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) noted that because of the lack of detail at this stage regarding the precise location, scale and design of the proposed development, that it would not currently be able to provide detailed historic environment comments on the proposals. It did note that it would welcome further pre-application discussions to aid refinement of any cultural heritage assessment.

In respect of the questions posed within Chapter 9, HES notes concern about the proposed approach to the assessment of the effects of the proposed development.

Specifically, it notes that section 9.2 of the report does not include mention of the Historic Environment (Scotland) Act 2014 which defines the role of HES. The Historic Environment Policy for Scotland should also be included.

Further comment is provided on the proposed assessment methodology as outlined in Section 9.5. It notes that the OSR mentions the preparation of a desk-based assessment, but then includes under this a walk-over survey. As noted above, the Planning Service understands that a walk-over survey will be undertaken and welcomes this approach. HES also notes regarding the carrying out EIA for cultural heritage that consideration should also be given to the SNH/HES Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook as well as the Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting guidance, which are accepted in Scotland as guidance on standards for EIA for the historic environment. Links to these documents can be found in the response from HES which will be forwarded separately from this scoping opinion.

HES notes that it does not agree with the characterisation of impacts on setting as ‘indirect.’ Impacts on the setting of a monument can have a direct effect on its cultural significance, and they are therefore direct impacts. The definition of direct and indirect impacts is discussed in the EIA Handbook at Appendix 1, Section 44. Finally, HES notes that Chapter 9 refers to ‘heritage significance’ as a measure of importance rather than the generally accepted ‘cultural significance.’

In respect of the questions posed in Chapter 9, HES notes that it is content with the 500m study area for the cable corridor. It does note though that given the early stage of the proposals, it cannot at this stage confirm whether the proposed study area for the onshore installations is appropriate but would welcome further discussion on this as information becomes available.

HES also agrees that a 100m buffer zone around scheduled monuments would normally be sufficient to avoid physical impacts on the monument, but it notes that it may be necessary to consider indirect physical impacts to the fabric of a scheduled monument or A-listed building from construction effects such as vibration or dewatering. It also highlights that such a buffer zone would not protect a designated historic environment asset from direct impacts on its setting.

Comments from the Council’s Built Heritage Service have not yet been received. Once these become available, they will be forwarded to you for consideration.

Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Soils

Chapters 10, 11 and 17 address contaminated land. The Council’s Contaminated Land Service was consulted and noted that those chapters are acceptable but made the following comment. Section 11.4.7 of the OSR mentions SEPA records of 2 not currently operational landfills, a former World War II airbase, and the possibility of contamination in urban and rural localities arising from land uses and activities. It should be noted that within the approximate boundary of the onshore scoping area, the Service records 1,048 potentially contaminated land. Of that number, 16 are closed landfills – including the 2 recorded by SEPA.

The Council's Flood Risk and Coastal Protection (FRCP) Service commented that section 10.6.3.3 refers to permanent watercourse diversions and noted that these should be avoided, and the works designed to avoid the need for any permanent diversions where possible. Culverting of watercourses should be kept to the minimum length required to provide access and not used for land gain. Watercourse methods should be designed in accordance with SEPA's publication 'Engineering in the water environment: good practice guide River Crossings.'

The FRCP Service confirmed that a Drainage Impact Assessment would be required at the planning application stage for the Onshore Substation and SuDS should be applied. Section 10.5.4.7 refers to consulting with SEPA on the scope of any Flood Risk Assessment required and the FRCP Service would request to be similarly consulted.

In respect of the questions posed at section 10.12, the Service agrees that receptors and potential impacts have been identified in respect of hydrology as far as related to the Service interests. The Service is unclear as to what has been scoped out of the EIAR in respect of hydrology. Finally, the Service is not familiar enough with the assessment method stated to comment on the proposed approach but notes that the wider approach seems appropriate.

SEPA noted that the following key issues should be addressed in a formal application:

- Minimising impacts on peat and peatland
- Avoiding good quality or rare GWDTE habitats and minimising impacts on other GWDTE habitats
- Avoiding impacts on watercourses and other water features by ensuring suitable buffers and using best practice design crossings
- Outlining the re-use of timber that is not considered merchantable.

SEPA's response provides detailed scoping requirements within Appendix 1 of its response, this has been forwarded to you separately for consideration.

The use of Horizontal Direction Drilling (HDD) in sensitive locations during construction of the cabling is welcomed. It is noted that small pockets of peat are located in the south of the study area within the Substation Scoping Area. Avoidance of this area should be the first principle, however if this area is to be developed, information should be provided on the management of peat, including mitigation measures within the EIAR.

The scoping in of private water supplies is welcomed. Avoidance of PWS should be the first principle, otherwise HDD may be a suitable mitigation tactic. The EIAR should be accompanied by a draft Construction Method Statement including an Environmental Management Plan (EMP), Water Management Plan and Surface Water Management Plan. A private water supply risk assessment and decommission plan should also be contained as an appendix to the EMP.

Roads

Chapter 14 of the OSR addresses traffic and transport. The Council's Roads Development Service noted that insufficient information has been provided to allow it to comment on the proposal. Further information is required for it to comment, including the extents of any

development and the traffic management plan identifying the types of vehicles proposed, any extra ordinary vehicles (length, width and weight) and the proposed routing of the delivery vehicles.

Transport Scotland noted that planning authorities are no longer required to consult with Scottish Ministers on EIA Development. It notes that the response relates only to the EIA consultation and that it would respond separately to any future planning application.

In respect of core paths, the Natural Heritage Service noted that there are a number of core paths and rights of way within the search area, including the coastal path, however this has been acknowledged within the transport and socio-economic chapters of the OSR and will be considered within the EIAR.

Air Quality

Chapter 12 of the OSR addresses air quality, it is noted that an outline construction environmental management plan will be produced which will subsequently be refined through the submission of more detailed planning applications. This approach is welcomed by the Planning Service.

The Council's Environmental Health Service noted that as the exact site locations are yet to be finalised, the Service has no prescriptive comments to make on the OSR in relation to air quality. It notes that once a site location is finalised, the air quality consultants should agree a detailed methodology with the Service.

The Planning Service acknowledges that the OSR identifies Air Quality as an item to scope out. The Planning Service would recommend engaging with the Environmental Health Service on this matter once the site location has been finalised.

Noise

Chapter 13 of the OSR addresses airborne noise and vibration. The proposed approach in undertaking a noise impact assessment following refinement of the landfall site, onshore cable corridor and onshore substation is welcomed. The Environmental Health Service noted that in the absence of exact site locations, it has no prescriptive comments to make on the proposed documents. It notes that once a clearer site location is finalised, any noise and vibration consultant should engage with the Service to agree a detailed methodology.

The Planning Service would not wish to comment on the questions posed at section 13.12.1.1 in the absence of more detailed input from the Environmental Health Service. Once the site selection has been refined it would be recommended that you engage with the Environmental Health Service to agree a methodology and address those questions.

Mitigations

The Planning Service welcomes the inclusion of a schedule of mitigation as part of the EIAR as set out in Table 20.1 of the OSR.

Conclusion

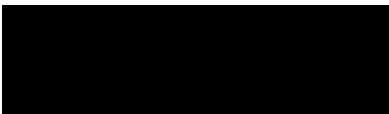
The Planning Service acknowledges that in some instances, consultee input has been limited due to the extent of the scoping area. The Planning Service would strongly recommend further engagement with consultees as the area reduces and a more exact site location can be provided, in particular Environmental Health and Roads Development. Contact details for these consultees can be provided on request.

I hope the above information is of assistance as a formal scoping opinion in respect of the relevant EIAR. Continued engagement with the Council is encouraged to discuss progress or any issues encountered. The advice given is based upon the information included within the OSR. During the processing of any associated planning application, other issues may become obvious following public consultation and consultations with statutory consultees.

All consultation responses have been fed into this response and shall be forwarded to you separately for information. Your attention is drawn to them as they contain additional technical guidance.

This opinion will be held for public inspection for a two year period, or until a planning application is submitted at which time the opinion will be transferred to the planning register with the application.

Yours faithfully



Head of Planning and Economy

Environment Consultation Response

Planning Reference No:	BB/ENQ/2022/1841
Environment Planner:	[REDACTED]
Date of Response:	29 March 2023

- Acceptable
- Objection
- Acceptable Subject to Following Action
- No Comments
- Further Information Required

1.	Issue:	
	Actions:	
	a)	
	b)	
	c)	

	<p>Supporting Statement</p> <p>The proposed methodology set down in Chapter 9 of the EIA Scoping Report for assessing the potential impact on assets considered to be of cultural and historic significance would be deemed acceptable to the Built Heritage Team.</p> <p>The suggested methodology should hopefully facilitate identification of the likely impact on listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes within the study area during and after the construction stage.</p> <p>An exercise that aligns with the need to determine the effect of potential development and whether mitigation measures may need to be put in place to avoid it undermining the value and significance of any nationally designated cultural asset</p>
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2 Aberdeenshire Council Consultation Responses

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Contaminated Land
Sent: 12 December 2022 15:14
To: Planning Online
Subject: RE: Consultation for Ref No ENQ/2022/1841

ENQ/2022/1841; EIA Screening/Scoping Opinion for Installation of Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (OnTI) - Scoping Request at Caledonia Onshore Transmission Infrastructure, Land Along Moray/Aberdeenshire Coast

Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part IIA Contaminated Land

Thank you for consulting us on this EIA screening/scoping opinion.

I have reviewed the relevant parts of the submitted Onshore Scoping Report, namely; Chapter 10 Hydrology and Hydrogeology, Chapter 11 Geology, Soils and Contaminated Land, and Chapter 17 Human Health (where relevant to contaminated land).

Bar the following comment, in respect of contaminated land those chapters are acceptable.

Section 11.4.7 Contaminated Land mentions SEPA records of two not currently operational landfills, a former World War II airbase, and the possibility of contamination in urban and rural localities arising from land uses and activities.

The applicant and consultants should note that within the approximate boundary of the onshore scoping area this Service records 1048 areas of potentially contaminated land. Of that number, 16 are closed landfills – including the two recorded by SEPA.

I have no further comment to make on this EIA screening/scoping opinion.

Regards,

[REDACTED].

[REDACTED]
Assistant Scientific Officer

Aberdeenshire Council,
Environment and Infrastructure Services,
Environmental Health,
Gordon House,
Blackhall Road,
Inverurie, AB51 3WA

Tel: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 December 2022 14:18
To: Contaminated Land [REDACTED]
Subject: Consultation for Ref No ENQ/2022/1841

Please find attached important correspondence from Aberdeenshire Council, Planning and Economy Service.

Three further separate emails will be sent with the relevant attachments.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 December 2022 14:54
To: Planning Online
Subject: Consultation for Ref No ENQ/2022/1841 - Archaeology response

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
ENQ/2022/1841 EIA Screening/Scoping Opinion for Installation of Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (OnTI) - Scoping Request at Caledonia Onshore Transmission Infrastructure, Land Along Moray/Aberdeenshire Coast
Grid Reference: 370957.853372

Thank you for consulting us on the above EIA Screening/ Scoping Opinion. In respect of Archaeology / Historic Environment issues, please see below response to the specific questions listed in Chapter 9 of the Scoping Report:

- Do you agree with the proposed study areas for the purposes of the proposed HEDBA?
I can confirm that I agree with the proposed study areas outlined in paragraphs 9.3.1.3 – 9.3.1.5
- Do you agree with the extent of buffer zones applied to the Scheduled Monuments to avoid direct physical impacts?
The matter of buffer zones around Scheduled Monuments to minimise direct impact would be for Historic Environment Scotland to advise on.
- Do you agree with the proposed approach to assessment?
I can confirm that I agree with the proposed approach to assessment as outlined in section 9.5

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MA(Hons) MA MCifA

Archaeologist

Archaeology Service, Planning and Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Services
Aberdeenshire Council

T: [REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]

W: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/leisure-sport-and-culture/archaeology>

Search the Historic Environment Record: <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub>

Archaeology Service for Aberdeenshire, Moray, Angus & Aberdeen City Councils

Your feedback is important to us and helps us to improve our service – we value your [comments](#).

Please note office working hours: Monday - Friday, 9.00am – 5.00pm

Explore the historic environment - find and follow the Archaeology Service on social media:

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/abshire_archaeology

Twitter: https://twitter.com/AbshireArch_CH/

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI3fCWk-cwaN2Nj1G0BkHPg>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 December 2022 11:33
To: Planning Online
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: ENQ/2022/1841

To: Planning

F.A.O. [REDACTED]

Ref: ENQ/2022/1841

Proposal: Installation of Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (OnTI) - Scoping Request
Address: Caledonia Onshore Transmission Infrastructure Land Along Moray/Aberdeenshire Coast

We refer to your email dated 7/12/2022 concerning the above. Having reviewed the submission, we have the following comments:-

1. Section 10.6.3.3 refers to permanent watercourse diversions, these should be avoided and the works designed to avoid the need for any permanent diversions where possible.
2. Culverting of watercourses should be kept to the minimum length required to provide access and not used for land gain.
3. Watercourse service crossings should be designed in accordance with SEPA's publication 'Engineering in the water environment : good practice guide River Crossings', apologies if this already referenced in the submission. We note that it is stated that trenchless methods may be used for watercourse crossings.
4. At Planning Application stage a Drainage Impact Assessment will be required for the Onshore Substation and SuDS should be applied.
5. Section 10.5.4.7 refers to consulting with SEPA on the scope of any FRAs required, we would request to be similarly consulted.
6. Regarding the questions to consultees in section 10.12;
 - a) Do you agree that receptors and potential impacts that have been identified for hydrology? Yes as far as related to our specific interests.
 - b) Do you agree with the potential impacts that have been scoped out of the EIA for hydrology. It is unclear what impacts if any have been scoped out in regard to hydrology, can you please clarify what has been scoped out?
 - c) Do you agree with the proposed approach to the assessment? We are not familiar enough with the assessment method stated to comment on that, but the wider approach seems appropriate.

Regards

[REDACTED] CEng MICE
Engineer
Flood Risk and Coast Protection
Aberdeenshire Council
Viewmount, Arduthie Road
Stonehaven
AB39 2DQ
Tel: [REDACTED]

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Tweeting from mountain to sea: <http://twitter.com/Aberdeenshire>

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/aberdeenshire

Watch our videos on YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/aberdeenshirecouncil

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 January 2023 10:34
To: Planning Online
Subject: ENQ/2022/1841

Good Morning,

Sorry I can't see who the case officer for this is so I've sent the Environmental Health (EH) response to the planning inbox. My comments are as follows; as the exact site locations are yet to be finalised EH has no prescriptive comments to make on the proposed documents in relation to air quality and noise & vibration. Once a clearer site location is finalised the air quality and noise and vibration consultants should agree a detailed methodology with EH.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Environmental Health Officer
Team 1
Aberdeenshire Council
Buchan House
St Peter Street
Peterhead
AB42 1QF

Tel - [REDACTED]



REHIS
Chartered Environmental Health Officer
2022

ENVIRONMENT RESPONSE TO DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT CONSULTATION

Planning Reference No:	ENQ/2022/1841
Proposal:	EIA Screening/Scoping Opinion for Installation of Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (OnTI) - Scoping Request
Address:	Caledonia Onshore Transmission Infrastructure, Land Along Moray/Aberdeenshire Coast
D.M. Officer:	
Environment Officer:	(Natural Heritage)
Date of Response:	6 th January 2023

- Acceptable**
 Not Acceptable
 Acceptable Subject To Following Action
 No Comments
 Further Information Required

1.	Issue:	Terrestrial Ecology & Biodiversity
	Actions:	
	a)	n/a – proposals within scoping report are acceptable.
	Policy Justification:	
		ALDP 2017 - E1 Natural Heritage - PR1 Protecting resources
	Discussion:	
		The proposed range of ecological surveys is comprehensive and covers the features that are potentially present within the study area. The project impacts for terrestrial ecology and biodiversity that have been scoped into the EIA and the proposed approach to the assessment are acceptable.

2.	Issue:	Access / Recreation
	Actions:	
	a)	n/a – will be considered within EIA
	Policy Justification:	
		ALDP2017 - P2 Open space and access in new development (access)

Planning Reference Number: ENQ/2022/1841

Continued from Page 1:

	Discussion:
	There are a number of core paths and rights of way within the search area, including the coastal path, however this has been acknowledged within the transport and socio-economic chapters of the scoping report and will be considered within the EIA.



Technical Consultation No 1 for Planning Application Ref: ENQ/2022/1841

Application type: **ENQ (Pre-Application Enquiry)**

Proposal: **Eia Screening/Scoping Opinion For Installation Of Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (Onti) - Scoping Request At Caledonia Onshore Transmission Infrastructure**

Location: **Land Along Moray/Aberdeenshire Coast**

Date consultation request received: **07/12/2022**

Planning Officer: 
Roads Officer: 

1. Visibility Requirements

Speed Limit at site: **mph**

Design speed: **mph () for ()**

Based on the minimum visibility requirements within Aberdeenshire Council's current standards and on the design speed a visibility of metres by metres will be required

Does current application provide this? Yes No

2. Parking Requirements:

From Aberdeenshire Council's Parking Standards the required parking provision is
Spaces made up of: Operational and Non-Operational.

Is shown provision of spaces acceptable Yes No

Note:

3. Road Layout:

Is a Traffic Assessment required?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access onto Public Road Network?	Direct	<input type="checkbox"/>	Indirect	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will the Shown Layout Require RCC?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the Shown Layout Appear to Comply with RCC?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Other Comments:

There has not been enough information provided to allow us to provide comments on this enquiry. We will require more information including the extents of any development and the traffic management plan identifying the types of vehicle proposed, any extra ordinary vehicles (length, height and weight) and the proposed routing of the delivery vehicles.

5. Recommendations:



This Service objects to this application for the following reasons:-

Transportation Planning
(See Section 4)

Road Safety
(See Section 4)

Insufficient Visibility

Insufficient Parking Provision



Insufficient information has been submitted to comment on this application. Please treat this response as a holding objection until the required information has been submitted. (See Section 4)

This Service has no further comments to make on this application .

This Service does not object to this application subject to the following conditions and advisories being applied should planning permission be granted:-

Initialed by:



Date:

12/01/2023

3 SEPA Consultation Response

[REDACTED]
Planning Department
Aberdeenshire Council

Our Ref: 7664
Your Ref: ENQ/2022/1841

SEPA Email Contact:
[REDACTED]

By email only to: [REDACTED]

16 December 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Acts
ENQ/2022/1841
Scoping Request at Caledonia Onshore Transmission Infrastructure
Land Along Moray/Aberdeenshire Coast

Thank you for your consultation which was received by SEPA on 8 December 2022 in relation to the above application seeking scoping advice in relation to the above proposal.

Advice for the planning authority

We consider that the following key issues must be addressed in the formal application:

- Minimising impacts on peat and peatland.
- Avoiding good quality or rare GWDTE habitats and minimising impacts on other GWDTE c. habitats.
- Avoiding impacts on watercourses and other water features by ensuring suitable buffers and using best practice design crossings.
- Outlining the re-use of timber that is not considered merchantable. Please refer to Section h) in the Appendix below.

Please see the **attached appendix** for some generic advice on scoping for this type of development; it should be ensured that each aspect is covered in the submission.

Advice for the applicant

Regulatory advice

Proposed engineering works within the water environment will require authorisation under The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended). Management of surplus peat or soils may require an exemption under The Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011. Proposed crushing or screening will require a permit under The Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012.



Chairman
[REDACTED]

CEO
[REDACTED]


Angus Smith Building
6 Parklands Avenue
Eurocentral
Holytown,
North Lanarkshire, ML1 4WQ

Tel: [REDACTED]
www.sepa.org.uk

Details of regulatory requirements and good practice advice, for example in relation to private drainage, can be found on the [regulations section](#) of our website. If you are unable to find the advice you need for a specific regulatory matter, please contact a member of the local compliance team at: gs@sepa.org.uk

If you have queries relating to this letter, please contact us at the email above including our reference number in the email subject.

Yours sincerely


Senior Planning Officer
Planning Service

Disclaimer: This advice is given without prejudice to any decision made on elements of the proposal regulated by us, as such a decision may take into account factors not considered at this time. We prefer all the technical information required for any SEPA consents to be submitted at the same time as the planning or similar application. However, we consider it to be at the applicant's commercial risk if any significant changes required during the regulatory stage necessitate a further planning application or similar application and/or neighbour notification or advertising. We have relied on the accuracy and completeness of the information supplied to us in providing the above advice and can take no responsibility for incorrect data or interpretation, or omissions, in such information. If we have not referred to a particular issue in our response, it should not be assumed that there is no impact associated with that issue. For planning applications, if you did not specifically request advice on flood risk, then advice will not have been provided on this issue. Further information on our consultation arrangements generally can be found on our [website planning pages - www.sepa.org.uk/environment/land/planning/](http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/land/planning/).

Appendix 1: Detailed scoping requirements

This appendix sets out our scoping information requirements. There may be opportunities to scope out some of the issues below depending on the site. Evidence must be provided in the submission to support why an issue is not relevant for this site in order **to avoid delay and potential objection**.

1. Site layout

1.1 All maps must be based on an adequate scale with which to assess the information. This could range from OS 1: 10,000 to a more detailed scale in more sensitive locations. Each of the maps below must detail all proposed upgraded, temporary and permanent site infrastructure. This includes all tracks, excavations, buildings, borrow pits, pipelines, cabling, site compounds, laydown areas, storage areas and any other built elements. Existing built infrastructure must be re-used or upgraded wherever possible. The layout should be designed to minimise the extent of new works on previously undisturbed ground. For example, a layout which makes use of lots of spurs or loops is unlikely to be acceptable. Cabling must be laid in ground already disturbed such as verges. A comparison of the environmental effects of alternative locations of infrastructure elements, such as tracks, may be required.

a) **Engineering activities which may have adverse effects on the water environment**

- a. The site layout must be designed to avoid impacts upon the water environment. Where activities such as watercourse crossings, watercourse diversions or other engineering activities in or impacting on the water environment cannot be avoided then the submission must include justification of this and a map showing:
 - b) All proposed temporary or permanent infrastructure overlain with all lochs and watercourses.
 - c) A minimum buffer of 50m around each loch or watercourse. If this minimum buffer cannot be achieved each breach must be numbered on a plan with an associated photograph of the location, dimensions of the loch or watercourse and drawings of what is proposed in terms of engineering works.
 - d) Detailed layout of all proposed mitigation including all cut off drains, location, number and size of settlement ponds.
- a. If water abstractions or dewatering are proposed, a table of volumes and timings of groundwater abstractions and related mitigation measures must be provided.
- b. Further advice and our best practice guidance are available within the water [engineering](#) section of our website. Guidance on the design of water crossings can be found in our [Construction of River Crossings Good Practice Guide](#).
- c. Refer to Appendix 2 of our [Standing Advice](#) for advice on flood risk. Watercourse crossings must be designed to accommodate the 0.5% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flows, or information provided to justify smaller structures. If it is thought that the development could result in an increased risk of flooding to a nearby receptor then a Flood Risk Assessment must be submitted in support of the planning application. Our [Technical flood risk guidance for stakeholders](#) outlines the information we require to be submitted as part of a Flood Risk

Assessment. Please also refer to [Controlled Activities Regulations \(CAR\) Flood Risk Standing Advice for Engineering, Discharge and Impoundment Activities.](#)

- e) **Disturbance and re-use of excavated peat and other carbon rich soils**
- a. Scottish Planning Policy states (Paragraph 205) that "Where peat and other carbon rich soils are present, applicants must assess the likely effects of development on carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. Where peatland is drained or otherwise disturbed, there is liable to be a release of CO₂ to the atmosphere. Developments must aim to minimise this release."
- b. The planning submission must a) demonstrate how the layout has been designed to minimise disturbance of peat and consequential release of CO₂ and b) outline the preventative/mitigation measures to avoid significant drying or oxidation of peat through, for example, the construction of access tracks, drainage channels, cable trenches, or the storage and re-use of excavated peat. There is often less environmental impact from localised temporary storage and reuse rather than movement to large central peat storage areas.
- c. The submission must include:
- a) A detailed map of peat depths (this must be to full depth and follow the survey requirement of the Scottish Government's [Guidance on Developments on Peatland - Peatland Survey \(2017\)](#)) with all the built elements (including peat storage areas) overlain to demonstrate how the development avoids areas of deep peat and other sensitive receptors such as Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems.
- b) A table which details the quantities of acrotelmic, catotelmic and amorphous peat which will be excavated for each element and where it will be re-used during reinstatement. Details of the proposed widths and depths of peat to be re-used and how it will be kept wet permanently must be included.
- d. To avoid delay and potential objection proposals must be in accordance with [Guidance on the Assessment of Peat Volumes, Reuse of Excavated Peat and Minimisation of Waste](#) and our [Developments on Peat and Off-Site uses of Waste Peat](#).
- e. Dependent upon the volumes of peat likely to be encountered and the scale of the development, applicants must consider whether a full Peat Management Plan (as detailed in the above guidance) is required or whether the above information would be best submitted as part of the schedule of mitigation.
- f. Please note we do not validate carbon balance assessments except where requested to by Scottish Government in exceptional circumstances. Our advice on the minimisation of peat disturbance and peatland restoration may need to be taken into account when you consider such assessments.
- f) **Disruption to Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE)**
- a. GWDTE are protected under the Water Framework Directive and therefore the layout and design of the development must avoid impact on such areas. The following information must be included in the submission:
- a) A map demonstrating that all GWDTE are outwith a 100m radius of all excavations shallower than 1m and outwith 250m of all excavations deeper than 1m and proposed

groundwater abstractions. If micro-siting is to be considered as a mitigation measure the distance of survey needs to be extended by the proposed maximum extent of micro-siting. The survey needs to extend beyond the site boundary where the distances require it.

- b) If the minimum buffers above cannot be achieved, a detailed site specific qualitative and/or quantitative risk assessment will be required. We are likely to seek conditions securing appropriate mitigation for all GWDTE affected.

- b. Please refer to [Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems](#) for further advice and the minimum information we require to be submitted.

g) **Existing groundwater abstractions**

- a. Excavations and other construction works can disrupt groundwater flow and impact on existing groundwater abstractions. The submission must include:

- a) A map demonstrating that all existing groundwater abstractions are outwith a 100m radius of all excavations shallower than 1m and outwith 250m of all excavations deeper than 1m and proposed groundwater abstractions. If micro-siting is to be considered as a mitigation measure the distance of survey needs to be extended by the proposed maximum extent of micro-siting. The survey needs to extend beyond the site boundary where the distances require it.
- b) If the minimum buffers above cannot be achieved, a detailed site specific qualitative and/or quantitative risk assessment will be required. We are likely to seek conditions securing appropriate mitigation for all existing groundwater abstractions affected.

- b. Please refer to [Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems](#) for further advice on the minimum information we require to be submitted.

h) **Forest removal and forest waste**

- 1.2 Large scale felling can result in large amounts of waste material and in a peak release of nutrients which can affect local water quality. The supporting information should refer to the current Forest Plan if one exists and measures should comply with the Plan where possible.

- 1.3 Clear felling may be acceptable only in cases where planting took place on deep peat and it is proposed through a Habitat Management Plan to reinstate peat-forming habitats. The submission must include:

- a) A map demarcating the areas to be subject to different felling techniques.
- b) Photography of general timber condition in each of these areas.
- c) A table of approximate volumes of timber which will be removed from site and volumes, sizes of chips or brash and depths that will be re-used on site.
- d) A plan showing how and where any timber residues will be re-used for ecological benefit within that area, supported by a Habitat Management Plan. Further guidance on this can be found in [Use of Trees Cleared to Facilitate Development on Afforested Land – Joint](#)

[Guidance from SEPA, SNH and FCS.](#)

i) **Borrow pits**

- a. Scottish Planning Policy states (Paragraph 243) that “Borrow pits should only be permitted if there are significant environmental or economic benefits compared to obtaining material from local quarries, they are time-limited; tied to a particular project and appropriate reclamation measures are in place.” The submission must provide sufficient information to address this policy statement.
- b. In accordance with Paragraphs 52 to 57 of Planning Advice Note 50 [Controlling the Environmental Effects of Surface Mineral Workings](#) (PAN 50) a Site Management Plan should be submitted in support of any application. The following information should also be submitted for each borrow pit:
- a) A map showing the location, size, depths and dimensions.
 - b) A map showing any stocks of rock, overburden, soils and temporary and permanent infrastructure including tracks, buildings, oil storage, pipes and drainage, overlain with all lochs and watercourses to a distance of 250 metres. You need to demonstrate that a site specific proportionate buffer can be achieved. On this map, a site-specific buffer must be drawn around each loch or watercourse proportionate to the depth of excavations and at least 10m from access tracks. If this minimum buffer cannot be achieved each breach must be numbered on a plan with an associated photograph of the location, dimensions of the loch or watercourse, drawings of what is proposed in terms of engineering works.
 - c) You need to provide a justification for the proposed location of borrow pits and evidence of the suitability of the material to be excavated for the proposed use, including any risk of pollution caused by degradation of the rock.
 - d) A ground investigation report giving existing seasonally highest water table including sections showing the maximum area, depth and profile of working in relation to the water table.
 - e) A site map showing cut-off drains, silt management devices and settlement lagoons to manage surface water and dewatering discharge. Cut-off drains must be installed to maximise diversion of water from entering quarry works.
 - f) A site map showing proposed water abstractions with details of the volumes and timings of abstractions.
 - g) A site map showing the location of pollution prevention measures such as spill kits, oil interceptors, drainage associated with welfare facilities, recycling and bin storage and vehicle washing areas. The drawing notes should include a commitment to check these daily.
 - h) A site map showing where soils and overburden will be stored including details of the heights and dimensions of each store, how long the material will be stored for and how soils will be kept fit for restoration purposes. Where the development will result in the disturbance of peat or other carbon rich soils then the submission must also include a detailed map of peat depths (this must be to full depth and follow the survey requirement of the Scottish Government’s [Guidance on Developments on Peatland - Peatland](#)

[Survey \(2017\)](#)) with all the built elements and excavation areas overlain so it can clearly be seen how the development minimises disturbance of peat and the consequential release of CO₂.

- i) Sections and plans detailing how restoration will be progressed including the phasing, profiles, depths and types of material to be used.
- j) Details of how the rock will be processed in order to produce a grade of rock that will not cause siltation problems during its end use on tracks, trenches and other hardstanding.

j) **Pollution prevention and environmental management**

- a. One of our key interests in relation to developments is pollution prevention measures during the periods of construction, operation, maintenance, demolition and restoration. A schedule of mitigation supported by the above site specific maps and plans must be submitted. These must include reference to best practice pollution prevention and construction techniques (for example, limiting the maximum area to be stripped of soils at any one time) and regulatory requirements. They should set out the daily responsibilities of ECOWs, how site inspections will be recorded and acted upon and proposals for a planning monitoring enforcement officer. Please refer to [Guidance for Pollution Prevention \(GPPs\)](#).

k) **Life extension, repowering and decommissioning**

- 1.4 Proposals for life extension, repowering and/or decommissioning must demonstrate accordance with [SEPA Guidance on the life extension and decommissioning of onshore wind farms](#). Table 1 of the guidance provides a hierarchical framework of environmental impact based upon the principles of sustainable resource use, effective mitigation of environmental risk (including climate change) and optimisation of long term ecological restoration. The submission must demonstrate how the hierarchy of environmental impact has been applied, within the context of latest knowledge and best practice, including justification for not selecting lower impact options when life extension is not proposed.
- a. The submission needs to demonstrate that there will be no discarding of materials that are likely to be classified as waste as any such proposals would be unacceptable under waste management licensing. Further guidance on this may be found in the document [Is it waste - Understanding the definition of waste](#).

4 NatureScot Consultation Response

██████████
Planner - Strategic Development Delivery Team
Planning and Economy
Environment and Infrastructure Services
Aberdeenshire Council

Date: 23rd December 2022
Our ref: CEA169281

Sent by e-mail only

Dear ██████████

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 EIA screening/scoping opinion for installation of onshore transmission infrastructure - scoping request at Caledonia onshore transmission infrastructure, land along Moray/Aberdeenshire coast

I refer to your e-mail dated 7th December 2022 requesting comments from NatureScot on the scoping report produced for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be undertaken for the above proposal. Thank you for agreeing to an extension of the response deadline.

Proposal

The applicant proposes to develop an offshore wind farm (OWF) located in the Moray Firth, named Caledonia OWF. This scoping report covers the onshore infrastructure for the proposed wind farm, above Mean High Water Springs (MHWS), as does our advice.

The applicant has prepared a separate scoping report for the offshore infrastructure below Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) and will submit separate applications for relevant consents, licences and permissions for the offshore elements.

The onshore scoping report relates to the onshore transmission infrastructure (OnTI), consisting of:

- Offshore export cables above MWHS
- Landfall site and transition joint bays
- Cable route between the landfall site and onshore substation
- New onshore substation around New Deer
- Cable route between the onshore substation and the grid connection point
- Associated infrastructure such as access roads, compound and laydown areas

We note that the project is currently at an early stage and thus the scoping report is at a high level. The applicant has taken the approach of adopting a design envelope which identifies a range of parameters that give rise to the greatest potential impact on receptors. The report makes use of an onshore scoping area with buffers of different widths, depending on the interest being considered. A more detailed project design envelope will continue to develop through the EIA process.

We have the following comments relating to areas of interest relevant to the remit of NatureScot.

Protected areas

Protected areas - namely Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) – are considered in the following chapters, depending on the specific interests of the sites:

- Chapter 7 – terrestrial ecology and biodiversity
- Chapter 10 – hydrology and hydrogeology
- Chapter 11 – geology, soils and contaminated land

We agree with the scoping report’s proposed approach to assessment in relation to the interests of the protected areas identified.

We recommend that the EIA report (EIAR) uses consistent terminology and presentation in respect of protected areas in all relevant chapters. For example, the scoping report refers to sites designated nationally and internationally for natural heritage interests as “designated sites” in chapter 7, “protected sites” in chapter 10 and “geologically designated sites” in chapter 11.

Chapter 10 makes clear which protected areas area being discussed:

10.4.2.1 Several designated sites are within the study area. Further detailed information for the respective designations is provided within Chapter 7: Terrestrial Ecology and Biodiversity and Chapter 11: Geology, Soils and Contaminated Land. This Chapter of the Onshore Scoping Report considers only those designated sites with a hydrological or hydrogeological relevance (shown in Figure 10.1).

This is very useful and should be replicated in all relevant chapters in the EIAR to aid clarity.

Similarly, a table showing the protected areas and their interests relevant to the chapter should be included in the EIAR – the scoping report has this for chapter 7 (table 7.1) but not chapters 10 or 11.

For table 7.2:

- The interests listed for Cullen to Stake Ness Coast SSSI are incorrect and should be:
 - Dalradian Supergroup metamorphic rocks
 - Lowland dry heath
 - Quaternary of Scotland
 - Saltmarsh
 - Shingle
 - Springs (including flushes)
- Turclossie Moss SSSI should be added (noting that this is listed in table 7.1 as SAC)
- Whitehills to Melrose Coast SSSI and Windy Hills SSSI should be discussed in chapter 11 geology as their interests are Dalradian Supergroup metamorphic rocks and Quaternary of Scotland respectively

Protected species and biodiversity

We agree with the scoping report's proposals in chapter seven terrestrial ecology and biodiversity, namely target habitats, species, survey methodologies and embedded and potential secondary mitigation. While not explicitly stated, we expect that the wintering bird surveys will include intertidal bird surveys.

Landscape and visual

We consider that the landscape and visual impacts of the proposal will be local in nature and as such we do not intend to comment further.

Other comments

During the course of developing the EIAR it may be that positive actions are identified which could help tackle the two crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, over and above those required for mitigation or compensation. We encourage the applicant and Aberdeenshire Council to explore such opportunities.

Please let me know if you need any further advice.

Yours sincerely

██████████

Operations Officer - North

Tel. ██████████

E-mail ████████████████████

5 Historic Environment Scotland Consultation Response



By email to:
planning@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Aberdeenshire Council

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: [REDACTED]
HMConsultations@hes.scot

Our case ID: 300062508
Your ref: ENQ/2022/1841
13 January 2023

Dear Aberdeenshire Council

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
Land Along Moray/Aberdeenshire Coast, Caledonia Onshore Transmission Infrastructure – Installation of Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (OnTI)
Scoping Report

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 07 December 2022 about the above scoping report. We have reviewed the details in terms of our historic environment interests. This covers world heritage sites, scheduled monuments and their settings, category A-listed buildings and their settings, inventory gardens and designed landscapes, inventory battlefields and historic marine protected areas (HMPAs).

Your archaeological and cultural heritage advisors will also be able to offer advice on the scope of the cultural heritage assessment. This may include heritage assets not covered by our interests, such as unscheduled archaeology, and category B- and C-listed buildings,

Proposed Development

We understand that the proposed onshore development comprises:

- Up to six offshore export cables, with a nominal voltage of up to 275kV, (between MLWS and the transition joint bays only) with the remainder comprising the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure (OfTI) (subject to a separate Offshore Scoping Report (Ocean Winds, 2022) 2;
- A landfall Site, with up to six transition joint bays inland of MHWS (the interface between the offshore export cables and onshore cable circuits);
- Up to six onshore cable circuits with a nominal voltage of up to 275kV between the Landfall Site and Onshore Substation; an Onshore Substation; and
- Up to six onshore cable circuits with a nominal voltage of up to 400kV (from the Onshore Substation to the Grid Connection Point), as outlined in para. 3.4.1.3 of the scoping document.



No specific location or design has been provided for these elements and the current scoping consultation proposes a design envelope approach which will be further refined in the environmental impact assessment report.

Scope of assessment

Please note that because of the lack of detail at this stage of the consultation for the location, scale and design of the development, we are not currently able to provide detailed historic environment comments on the proposals. We would welcome further pre-application discussions with the developer and their cultural heritage consultants to help them progress and refine their cultural heritage assessment.

In response to the applicant's questions (para. 9.12.1.1):

Do you agree with the proposed approach to assessment?

We have concerns about the proposed approach to the assessment of the effects of the proposed development on the historic environment. Specifically, we note that:

Legislative and Policy Context (section 9.2) – this section does not include mention of [The Historic Environment \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#), which defines the role of HES and amends earlier acts. The [Historic Environment Policy for Scotland](#) should also be included.

Assessment Methodology (section 9.5) – this section (para. 9.5.1.1) mentions specifically the preparation of a desk-based assessment, but then includes under this a walk-over survey.

In the discussion of guidance for carrying out environmental impact assessment for cultural heritage (para. 9.5.2.1) the applicant should also consider the [SNH/HES Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook](#) and the [Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting](#) guidance, which are accepted in Scotland as guidance on standards for EIA for the historic environment.

In paragraph 9.5.2.5, we do not agree with the characterisation of impacts on setting as 'indirect'. Impacts on the setting of a monument can have a direct effect on its cultural significance, and they are therefore direct impacts. The definition of direct and indirect impacts is discussed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook at appendix 1, section 44, to which we would refer the applicants.

Throughout this section, the text refers to 'heritage significance' as a measure of importance rather than the generally accepted 'cultural significance' (this is particularly evident in table 9.1).

We are not able at this stage to comment on impacts on specific historic environment assets, because of the early stage of the proposals. However, we would like to make it clear that impacts on the settings of designated historic environment assets, as well as physical impacts, should be assessed within an area up to 5km from the development footprint. Initially, this assessment should be carried out using a ZTV to assess visibility between the asset and the development. Where there would not be direct visibility



between the two, consideration should be given to the possibility of the development being visible in views towards the asset. Where an impact on the setting of asset is identified, we would expect that wireframes should be prepared in order to inform the assessment of the magnitude of impact. Where an impact is judged to be moderate or more severe, i.e. significant in EIA terms, we would expect that photomontages should be prepared.

Do you agree with the proposed study areas for the purposes of the proposed HEDBA?
We are content with the 500m study area for the cable corridor. However, given the early stage of the proposals, we cannot at this stage confirm whether the proposed study area for the other onshore installations is appropriate. We would be very happy to discuss this further with the applicants as more information becomes available.

Do you agree with the extent of buffer zones applied to the Scheduled Monuments to avoid direct physical impacts?

We agree that a 100m buffer zone around scheduled monuments would normally be sufficient to avoid physical impacts to the monument, but we would note that it may be necessary to consider indirect physical impacts to the fabric of a scheduled monument or A-listed building from construction effects such as vibration or dewatering. We would also note that such a buffer zone would not protect a designated historic environment asset from direct impacts on its setting.

We would be very happy to discuss an updated methodology with the applicant, and to provide more detailed comments as the design of the proposals is updated and refined.

Further information

Guidance about national policy can be found in our 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment' series available online [Legislation and Guidance | Historic Environment Scotland | HES](#). Technical advice is available on our Technical Conservation website at <https://conservation.historic-scotland.gov.uk>.

We hope this is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is [REDACTED] and they can be contacted by phone on [REDACTED] or by email on [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

Historic Environment Scotland

6 Transport Scotland Consultation Response

Banff & Buchan Team
Aberdeenshire Council Planning
Woodhill House
Westburn Road
Aberdeen
AB16 5GB

Your ref:
ENQ/2022/1841

Our ref:
GB01T19K05

Date:
19/12/2022

[REDACTED]

Dear Sirs,

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017**

**EIA SCREENING/SCOPING OPINION FOR INSTALLATION OF ONSHORE TRANSMISSION
INFRASTRUCTURE (ONTI) - SCOPING REQUEST AT CALEDONIA ONSHORE
TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND ALONG MORAY/ABERDEENSHIRE COAST**

With reference to your recent correspondence on the above development, I wish to inform you that from 1st October 2015, planning authorities are no longer required to consult with Scottish Ministers on EIA development.

Historic Scotland has merged with Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) to form Historic Environment Scotland (HES). HES is named as both a statutory consultee in the planning system and as a consultation body for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) purposes. Planning authorities are required to make their own arrangements for consulting HES directly on EIA development. Further information on these wider changes can be found in Historic Environment Circular 1.

In light of the above changes, the Scottish Government has taken the opportunity to streamline EIA consultation arrangements such that Transport Scotland will no longer respond to EIA consultations in a statutory capacity. Planning Authorities must, however, continue to consult Transport Scotland on applications where required by Regulation 25 and Schedule 5 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013. These consultations should be sent to Transport Scotland's Development Management Team.

It should be stressed that this response relates only to the EIA consultation and Transport Scotland will respond separately to the planning application for this development by means of a TRNPA2 if formally consulted.

I trust that the above is satisfactory and should you wish to discuss any issues raised in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact myself on [REDACTED].

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Transport Scotland
Roads Directorate**

cc [REDACTED] – SYSTRA Ltd.

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