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Volume 7F Intertidal and Combined Assessment Appendices

Appendix 3-3 Climate Change Policy

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
ссс	Climate Change Committee
CCR	Climate Change Resilience
CCRA	Climate Change Risk Assessment
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GW	Gigawatt
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
LETI	Low Energy Transformation Initiative
NAP3	Third National Adaptation Programme
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
RICS	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
SCCAP	Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1 Introduction

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- 1.1.1.1 This appendix provides further details on the legislation, policies and guidance for both the climate assessments which support the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
- 1.1.1.2 This appendix should be read in conjunction with the following chapters:
 - Volume 6, Chapter 3: Climate Change Resilience; and
 - Volume 6, Chapter 4: Greenhouse Gases.

2 Legislation

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2.1.1.1 The following section presents the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and Climate Change Resilience (CCR) legislation applicable to the Proposed Development climate and carbon assessments.

2.2 International

- 2.2.1.1 The following international legislation is relevant to the assessments undertaken:
 - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (UNFCCC, 1992¹): The overarching objective is to limit global warming by holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and striving to limit it to 1.5°C. To achieve this, greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 and decline by 43% by 2030;
 - The Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC, 1997²): an international treaty which extends the UNFCCC and commits state parties to reduce GHG emissions;
 - The Paris Agreement (UNFCCC, 2015³): a legally binding treaty that pledges to limit the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C, and to aim for 1.5°C, above pre-industrial levels; and
 - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive (2014/52/EU) (European Union, 2014⁴): provides an update to the EIA directive to include climate change (both mitigation of GHGs and adaptation/vulnerability of projects) within assessment and decision-making processes.

2.3 National

- 2.3.1.1 The following national legislation is relevant to the assessments undertaken:
 - The Environment Act 2021⁵: includes consideration of greenhouse gases as pollutants within the resource efficiency scheduleⁱ and makes reference to the Climate Change Act 2008 and ensuring compliance with this;
 - The Climate Change Act 2008⁶: the UK legislative basis to address climate change. In relation to climate change mitigation, it commits the UK to GHG emissions reductions and reporting. On climate change adaptation it sets the requirement for a national adaptation programme and associated publication of a climate change risk assessment (CCRA) every five years;
 - The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019⁷: an update to the Climate Change Act 2008 above, stating the UK's net zero target by 2050;

ⁱ Parts of the Environment Act 2021 are specifically for England and Wales only. Other parts, including the resource efficiency schedule, apply to Scotland.

- The UK's Nationally Determined Contributions (UK Government, 2022⁸): In line with the Paris Agreement, the UK has committed to reducing economy wide GHG emissions by at least 68% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels;
- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009⁹: the Scottish legislative basis to address climate change. The act commits Scotland to GHG emissions reduction and reporting, creation of and update to a climate adaptation programme, and regular updates to both GHG and adaptation reporting;
- The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019¹⁰: it amends the Scottish Climate Change Act, in line with the objectives and targets of the Paris Agreement. It commits Scotland to a net zero target by 2045 in line with the recommendations of the Climate Change Committee (CCC);
- Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017¹¹: The regulations require the impact that the Proposed Development will have on climate change is assessed alongside an assessment of the project's vulnerability to climate change, in line with EIA Directive (2014/52/EU)⁴;
- The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended)¹²: Schedule 4 of these regulations require that future changes in the baseline (without implementation of the Proposed Development (Offshore) are described within the EIA and that any likely significant effects of the Proposed Development (Offshore) on climate and the vulnerability of the Proposed Development (Offshore) to climate change are described; and
- The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017¹³ and 2007¹⁴: Developments considered under these regulations include offshore wind farms and subsea cables, amongst others. An Environmental Impact Assessment is required to identify, describe, and assess receptors likely to be significantly affected by the development, including climate. The 2017 Regulations revoke, re-enact and update the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007¹⁴.

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3 Policy

3.1.1.1

The following section presents the GHG Emissions and Climate Resilience policy applicable to the Proposed Development.

- Climate Change Committee (CCC) Progress in reducing emissions (CCC, 2020¹⁵) and Progress in adapting to climate change (CCC, 2023¹⁶) Progress Reports to Parliament and CCC Net Zero and the UK's contribution to stopping global warming (CCC, 2023a¹⁷). The most recent publications from the CCC, recommend priority actions and policies for the UK Government, including the recommendation to identify and address key supply-chain bottlenecks for delivering offshore wind by 2030;
- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) (Scottish Government, 2023¹⁸): sets out the long-term plan for Scotland for 2045. It was adopted in 2023 and includes how to tackle and adapt to climate change, and how to make progress towards the target of net zero emissions, including the importance of offshore renewables in transitioning to net zero. Policy 1 gives significant weight to the global climate emergency in order to ensure that it is recognised as a priority in all plans and decisions;
- Scotland's Climate Change Plan (Scottish Government, 2020¹⁹): builds on the commitments of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to provide the vision for 2045, a road map for climate priorities to 2032 and requirements for monitoring and reporting progress;
- Update to the Climate Change Plan 2018 2032 (Scottish Government, 2020¹⁹): Securing a Green Recovery on a Path to Net Zero 2020. An update to the Scottish Government's legislative commitment to reach net-zero by 2045. This document includes policy updates to ensure continued growth of renewable energy generation in the country;
- The Scottish Government's Programme for Scotland 2020-2021 'Protecting Scotland, Renewing Scotland' (Scottish Government, 2020b²⁰): focuses on achieving a green recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic and sets the commitment to address climate change;
- The Scottish Government's Offshore Wind Policy Statement 2020 (Scottish Government, 2020c²¹): aims to improve the planning and consenting processes in order to achieve the possible 11-Gigawatt (GW) capacity of offshore wind in Scottish waters by 2030;
- Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy 2020 (Scottish Government, 2020d²²): aims to identify the most sustainable options for future development of commercial-scale offshore wind energy in Scotland;
- Scotland's National Marine Plan (Scottish Government, 2015²³): sets out policies and objectives requiring marine planners and decision-makers to consider the potential impacts of developments on the marine environment. It provides useful direction as to how to identify some of the key concerns and issues that should be addressed in any impact

assessment. Policies relevant to this Proposed Development in the context of climate change resilience and GHG Emissions include:

- GEN 5 'Marine planners and decision makers must act in the way best calculated to mitigate, and adapt to, climate change.' – and
- RENEWABLES 7 'Marine planners and decision makers should ensure infrastructure is fit for purpose now and in future. Consideration should be given to the potential for climate change impacts on coasts vulnerable to erosion.'
- Blue Economy Vision for Scotland (Scottish Government, 2022²⁴): sets out the long-term vision for Scotland's Blue Economy (the marine, coastal and the inter-linked freshwater environment) and identifies six outcomes up to 2045 to deliver on the aspirations for the marine environment. The outcome of relevance to climate change is "Scotland's blue economy is resilient to climate change, contributing to climate mitigation and adaptation, with marine sectors decarbonised, resource efficient and supporting Scotland's Net Zero and Nature Positive commitments.";
- Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023 (Aberdeenshire Council, 2023²⁵): Aligning with the National Planning Framework¹⁸ and Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2020: addresses the challenges of sustainable development, climate change resilience and GHG emission reduction within the council area; and
- Aberdeenshire Council's Environmental and Climate Change Policy (Aberdeenshire Council, 2017²⁶): commits the council to reduce GHG emissions in line with their published carbon budgets for the council entity and improve resilience to future climate change by identifying the risks and producing appropriate actions to limit the negative impacts.

3.2 GHG Emissions

- 3.2.1.1 The following section presents specific GHG Emissions policy applicable to the Proposed Development.
 - Construction 2025 (UK Government, 2013²⁷): sets out how efficiency improvements will be created in construction covering sustainability and carbon and including a target to reduce emissions by 50%. In terms of achieving Project and emissions reductions, an appropriate carbon reduction target should be considered when developing specific mitigation measures;
 - The Energy White Paper Powering our Net Zero Future (UK Government, 2020²⁸): outlines the main route to achieving the target of 40GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030, including 1GW of floating offshore wind capacity;
 - British Energy Security Strategy (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), 2022²⁹): outlines plans to make the UK energy independent; reduce reliance on foreign sources of energy; and work

towards their net zero target by 2050. It includes plans to deliver 50GW of energy generation via offshore wind by 2030;

- UK Clean Growth Strategy (UK Government, 2017a³⁰): aims to achieve economic growth while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This strategy looks to reduce the UK's national emissions using two main objectives: meeting domestic commitments at lowest net cost for consumers and to maximise the social and economic benefits for the UK;
- Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), 2022³¹): sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the economy to meet the net zero target by 2050;
- Powering Up Britain: Net Zero Growth Plan (DESNZ, 2023³²): provides additional detail on the Just Transition of the main sectors of the UK economy and delivering the UK Government's commitments to net zero by 2050, as set out in the Carbon Budget Delivery Plan;
- Carbon Budget Delivery Plan (DESNZ, 2023a³³): outlines a comprehensive set of proposals and policies aimed at ensuring that the UK carbon budgets are achieved;
- Reducing Emissions in Scotland Progress Report to the Scottish Parliament (CCC, 2020a³⁴): provides a progress update from CCC on achieving Scottish Government targets, and recommends the actions required to achieve the net zero target by 2045;
- Scottish Energy Strategy (Scottish Government, 2017c³⁵): sets out the Scottish Government's ambition to capitalise on the potential that offshore wind development can bring to Scotland and the role this technology could play in meeting the Scottish national commitment to reach net zero by 2045;
- Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (Scottish Government, 2023b³⁶): sets out how Scottish Government will deliver maximum benefit to Scotland from the renewable energy resources available. The draft strategy sets out ambitions for more than 20GW of additional low-cost renewable electricity generation by 2030, and identifies ongoing consultation for the appropriate level of ambition for offshore wind;
- Aberdeenshire Council's carbon budget guidance for 2024/25 (Aberdeenshire Council, 2024³⁷): provides the Aberdeenshire Council published annual carbon budgets to keep the council entity on track for their net zero commitment by 2045, and to reduce emissions by 75% by 2030; and
- The Route Map to 2030 and Beyond (Aberdeenshire Council, 2022³⁸): provides recommendations and actions with timelines to support the progress of Aberdeenshire Council targets of 75% reduction by 2030 and net zero by 2045.

3.3 Climate Resilience

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3.3.1.1 The following section presents specific Climate Resilience policy applicable to the Proposed Development.

- Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP)⁴⁰: responds to the UK climate resilience risks published in the Climate Change Risk Assessment (UK Government, 2017³⁹) to ensure Scotland is adaptable to future changes in climate. The adaptation programme is a requirement of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009⁹; and
- Climate Ready Scotland: Second Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024 (Scottish Government, 2019a⁴⁰): outlines how Scotland is preparing for the impacts of climate change over the period to 2024. This report, as required under the five-yearly update programme as per the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009⁹.

4 Guidance

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4.1 GHG Emissions

- 4.1.1.1 The following section presents the full list of GHG Emissions guidance applicable to the Proposed Development. At time of assessment there is no sector specific guidance for assessing GHG Emissions associated with offshore wind developments, all guidance in this section has been followed where appropriate.
 - Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) Guide to: Assessing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Evaluating their Significance (IEMA, 2022⁴¹): This guidance provides a framework for assessing greenhouse gas emissions in EIA;
 - IEMA GHG Management Hierarchy (IEMA, 2020⁴²) provides a framework for carbon and GHG emissions management and supports net zero approaches in EIA mitigation and planning documents;
 - PAS 2080:2023 Carbon Management in Infrastructure (British Standards Institute, 2023⁴³): aims to reduce carbon emissions and costs through intelligent design, construction, and use. The specification requires consistent and transparent quantification of carbon at key points in infrastructure delivery, promoting data sharing along the value chain;
 - Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Whole Life Carbon Assessment for the built environment (2nd edition) (RICS, 2023⁴⁴): This standard is used to support consistent and accurate measure carbon emissions in the built environment. This includes guidance for the production of consistent whole life carbon assessments;
 - Low Energy Transformation Initiative (LETI) Embodied Carbon Primer (LETI, 2020⁴⁵) provides best practice guidance for reducing embodied carbon in buildings. It also provides case study examples on reduction strategies for decarbonisation in building design; and
 - BS EN 17472:2022 Sustainability of construction works sustainability assessment of civil engineering works – calculation method⁴⁶ provides the lifecycle assessment methodology of infrastructure projects through preconstruction, construction, use and end of life stages.

4.2 Climate Resilience

- 4.2.1.1 The following section presents the full list of Climate Resilience guidance applicable to the Proposed Development.
 - Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation (IEMA, 2020⁴⁷): This guidance provides a methodology to consider the vulnerability of projects to climate change (i.e. climate change resilience) and the in-combination climate change impacts of the project upon other environmental disciplines;

- UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 3 (Climate Change Committee, 2021⁴⁸): highlights likely climate change risks for the UK and the need for infrastructure to be resilient to climate change and severe weather events. It also recognises that more action is needed to encourage information sharing between infrastructure operators to improve overall risk management. CCRAs are required to be updated every five years as per the Climate Change Act⁶;
- The Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (2023 2028) (UK Government, 2023⁴⁹): The National Adaptation Programme (NAP) sets the actions that government and others will take to adapt to the challenges of climate change in the UK. It sets out key actions for the next 5 years. This document provides wider context and background details of how the UK intends to adapt to climate change and current priorities; and
- UK Adaptation Reporting Power (Climate Change Committee, 2022⁵⁰): outlines the requirements of organisations when producing progress reports on actions to adapt to climate change.

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