



Offshore Wind Power Limited

West of Orkney Windfarm Offshore EIA Report

Volume 1, Chapter 6 - Stakeholder Engagement

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33
public events



2,488
attendees



61,864
leaflets
delivered



579
questionnaires
completed

Posters

Posters promoting events and directing people to the key information were displayed at key local venues including shops and businesses



Community Panels

Community Panels provided liaison points and helped to share information with local communities



Local newspapers

Adverts promoting events were placed in: The Orcadian
Caithness Courier
John O'Groats Journal



Mail drop

Leaflets advertising our events and sharing contacts details for feedback were sent to all addresses within the consultation zone



Project website

The Project website which hosted updates, a document library, and links to other information was set up at the start of the consultation period



Virtual exhibition

A virtual exhibition replicated face-to-face events and was updated regularly during the consultation



Press releases

Regular press releases to relevant media outlets were issued promoting consultation activities and providing Project updates



Social media

Social media posts were issued and shared via the Project partners, Community Panels and other stakeholder groups



Email

Emails were sent inviting numerous stakeholder organisations and individuals to attend all consultation events





6 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

6.1 Introduction

Early and ongoing engagement with stakeholders is an important part of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) best practice and the development of any project. It allows the integration of public and stakeholder concerns, opinions and data to inform decisions about the Project. The Project is committed to significantly exceeding its statutory obligations as it sees to build effective and long-term working relationships with the Project's stakeholders, including local communities. To this end they pro-actively engaged with all key stakeholders and the public, and as such, have undertaken a significant volume of engagement since the early stages of the Project which has continued throughout the EIA.

The Scottish Government's Planning Advice Note PAN3 / 2010 Community Engagement provides advice to applicants on ways to effectively engage with communities on planning matters. It links directly to the Scottish Government's National Standards for Community Engagement and endorses the Successful Planning - Equals Effective Engagement and Delivery (SP=EED) Framework, which was developed by Planning Aid for Scotland (PAS). The PAS SP=EED Framework provides a practical guide to undertaking effective engagement and is the primary model for the Project's engagement strategy. It is based around eight criteria for effective engagement. More detail on the SP=EED Framework is detailed in the Project Community Engagement Plan (CEP) (OWPL, 2022).

This chapter describes the stakeholder engagement undertaken by Offshore Wind Power Limited (OWPL) to determine the scope of this Offshore EIA Report, as well as the public consultation undertaken to inform and to obtain feedback from the local community of the Project, and wider supply chain engagement. Further information on the public consultations can be found in the PAC Report accompanying the applications to Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT¹). An overview of the Project's consultation process is summarised in Figure 6-1.

¹ MD-LOT were previously Marine Scotland – Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT).



1. Identification of relevant groups / stakeholders

- Identify stakeholders, an initial list was developed which has & will continue to evolve as the stakeholder network expands.
- Create and manage a stakeholder database recording contact details and communications, e.g. emails, meeting minutes, and actions.

2. Seek input and comment

- Distributed a letter of introduction to all identified stakeholders to provide information on the Project, to invite identified stakeholders to provide early feedback on the proposal, & to inform stakeholders of the live Q&A session.
- Organised meetings / TWGs with statutory consultees to discuss the Project scope & survey / study methodologies.
- Prepared & distributed the EIA Scoping Report to consultees for feedback.
- Devised draft CEP-and circulated to community representatives for feedback.
- Obtained stakeholders views via a community questionnaire, which has been distributed via different means.
- Facilitated a public consultation event following the submission of the Scoping Report to inform the wider community & allow for any comments or questions.

3. Ongoing engagement

- Ongoing meetings throughout the EIA with relevant organisations / stakeholders. Topic specific consultation meetings held ahead of application submission to share survey and impact assessment results.
- TWG established for commercial fisheries and socio-economics to receive advice and exchange recent and relevant data sources with project specific specialists.
- Established three Community Panels for Caithness, Sutherland & Orkney to provide project updates, seek input on the proposed engagement approach & understand any concerns that have been raised by local communities.
- Virtual exhibition available on the Project website which has been active since March 2022 & provides information and updates on the Project and allows stakeholders to submit feedback and/or questions.
- A community questionnaire has been distributed via different channels & remains accessible on the website.
- Distributed formal PAC and Pre-Application Notification (PAN) notices to statutory and strategic stakeholders, regulatory bodies, & community councils / development trusts by email, letter, & newspaper notices.
- Attended & engaged with stakeholders at PAC events to provide project updates, answer any questions, and receive feedback.
- Communicated key milestones from the Project via public events, press releases, updates to the website & virtual exhibition, printed materials (e.g. leaflet), and conversations held at conferences and informal events, such as local summer events & shows.

4. Provide feedback

- Meetings & presentations before EIA submission to feedback on consultation and EIA process.
- Develop a final consultation (PAC) report detailing consultations undertaken and key outcomes.

5. Statutory consultation

- Statutory public consultation period after submission of Scoping Report & EIA Reports.
- Address issues raised during public and wider consultation with the Regulator & their advisors.

6. Commitments and ongoing consultation

- Develop & maintain commitments register (throughout Project) and include commitments made in EIA Reports & consent conditions.
- Incorporate recommendations from the EIA Reports & consent conditions within an Environmental Management Plan to ensure carried through to implementation.
- Ongoing consultation post project consent as required.

Figure 6-1 Stakeholder consultation process



Consultations with technical stakeholders on the EIA have occurred on a topic-specific basis, and advice has been sought from statutory consultees, such as NatureScot, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), and other relevant stakeholders on how to address potential impacts on site-specific receptors. OWPL have held topic-specific consultation meetings to discuss survey methods, interim results, assessment methods and EIA outputs for specific topic areas. Consultation responses for each receptor topic are presented and discussed in the relevant topic-specific chapters within this Offshore EIA Report (chapters 8 to 20). Broader engagement on the offshore Project has also occurred via quarterly update meetings with MS-LOT (now MD-LOT). In addition to consultation meetings, written requests for advice were submitted to MS-LOT (now MD-LOT) and other key consultees in order to clarify specific aspects of the EIA scope and as requested in the Scoping Opinion (see below). Where consultations were required with a larger group of stakeholders, Technical Working Groups (TWGs) were established.

With regards to community engagement with the public and local communities, this focussed on providing general information and key updates about the Project, to ensure the local community were kept updated on key Project information, such as timeframes, design and how the Project may look, and how the Project may impact and benefit local communities. As well as providing information, OWPL have also sought feedback from stakeholders during consultation. Consultation with the public and local communities has focused on the Project's presence at informal community events and the establishment of Community Panels.

6.2 Consultation on the EIA

eBase

A record of all stakeholder engagement has been maintained in a Project specific database, known as eBase. Using eBase, OWPL have created a stakeholder library of over 300 stakeholders ranging from members of the public to government bodies. To date, there are over 700 communications logged into the system, including meetings, emails, and phone calls. Meeting minutes were captured during the stakeholder meetings and consultee feedback and take away actions were recorded and input in to eBase. The meeting minutes were finalised after being reviewed internally and then by consultees. eBase is reviewed regularly to ensure that communications are up to date and actions being closed out.

6.2.1 Pre-application advice

OWPL began engaging with various stakeholders, including MS-LOT, Orkney Islands Council (OIC) and the Highland Council (THC), in late 2020. The objective of this early-stage engagement was to inform stakeholders of OWPL's application to the ScotWind leasing round, and also to receive early indications of key stakeholders' views on the Project.

THC provide a Pre-application advice service ahead of formally submitting consent / planning applications, and OWPL made a request for advice in December 2020. This information was formally provided to OWPL through a Pre-application advice pack from THC on 10th February 2021. Comments provided by THC were used to inform the subsequent application to ScotWind and the EIA Scoping Report (see below). Contact has been maintained with THC throughout the offshore and onshore EIAs, via a Project Case Officer.



OIC do not operate a Pre-application advice service, however, the CEP (OWPL, 2022) was also circulated for comment on our engagement process pre-application. Throughout the EIA, OIC has been approached as appropriate for specific consultations, e.g. with regards to the agreement of viewpoints to inform the visual impact assessment.

6.2.2 EIA Scoping

The scope of the Offshore EIA Report has been informed by the formal Scoping exercise. Scoping is a key phase of the EIA which provides the developer and decision-maker with an opportunity to identify potentially significant environmental effects that should be considered for further assessment in an EIA Report, ensuring that the assessment is proportionate to the project proposed.

The Scoping Report, which covered the onshore and offshore Project was submitted to Scottish Ministers (via MS-LOT) and THC on 1st March 2022. MS-LOT circulated the Scoping Report to consultees relevant to the offshore Project and a Scoping Opinion was received on 29th June 2022. The Scoping Opinion detailed a summary of the key points raised by Scottish Ministers and consultees on the proposed scope of the Offshore EIA Report. A list of bodies that were consulted on the offshore elements of the Project is presented in Table 6-1.

For transparency, a copy of the Scoping Report is available on the Project website (<https://www.westoforkney.com/>). This can be accessed by all stakeholders including those that were not identified at the time that the Scoping Report was originally issued. Consultation with stakeholders listed in Table 6-1, and others that have been identified as the EIA has progressed, is continuing as appropriate, throughout the Project.

Table 6-1 List of bodies consulted on the Scoping Report

ORGANISATION	
Aberdeen International Airport	Orkney Fisheries Association
Aquatera (as contact for Brimms Tidal Project)	Orkney Fishermen's Society
Bettyhill, Strathnaver and Altnaharra Community Council	Orkney Harbours
Birsay Community Council	Orkney Inshore Fisheries
British Telecommunications (BT) (Radio Network Protection Team)	Orkney Islands Council
Caithness Chamber of Commerce	Orkney Marine Mammal Research Initiative
Caithness West Community Council	Orkney Sustainable Fisheries
Civil Aviation Authority	Outer Hebrides Regional Inshore Fishery Group
Cooke Aquaculture	Royal Yachting Association
Crown Estate Scotland	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland
Defence Infrastructure Organisation- Ministry of Defence	Scottish & Southern Electricity
Develop Durness Group	Scottish Canoe Association
Dounreay Site Restoration Limited	Scottish Creel Fishermen's Association
Dounreay Stakeholder Group	Scottish Environment Protection Agency



ORGANISATION

Dunnet and Canisbay Community Council	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Fisheries Management Scotland	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
Highlands and Islands Airport Limited	Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	Scottish Surfing Federation
Historic Environment Scotland	Scottish Water
Joint Radio Company	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Long Distance Advisory Council	Scottish White Fish Producers Association
Marine Planning and Policy	Scrabster Harbour Authority
Marine Scotland – Compliance (Kirkwall Fishery Office)	Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation
Marine Scotland – Compliance (Scrabster Fishery Office)	SIMEC Atlantis Energy (on behalf of MeyGen Tidal Energy Project)
MCA	Space Hub Sutherland
Melvich Community Council	Sports Scotland
National Air Traffic Service	Strathy and Armadale Community Council
National Trust for Scotland	Stromness Community Council
NatureScot	Surfers Against Sewage
North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group	The Highland Council
North Shore Surf Club	Tongue Community Council
Northern Lighthouse Board	Transport Scotland Ports and Harbours
Northlink Ferries	UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	UK Chamber of Shipping (UKCos)
Oil and Gas United Kingdom (UK)	Visit Scotland
Orkney Ferries	Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society

A total of 24 responses were received from the above list. Advice was also provided by Marine Scotland Science and Marine Scotland - Marine Analytical Unit. Additionally, advice was provided from the Northern District Salmon Fishery Board (DSFB) in May 2022. OWPL will continue to engage with relevant consultees throughout the determination and post-consent stages as required.

The Scoping process is further detailed in chapter 7: EIA methodology and the comments that have been received and are applicable to specific receptors are detailed in the relevant topic-specific chapters within this Offshore EIA Report (chapters 8 to 20).

6.2.3 Consultation with statutory and non-statutory consultees

Legislation and Scottish Government guidance aim to ensure that statutory and non-statutory consultees have opportunities to have their views considered throughout the development process. OWPL is committed to fulfilling the requirements to ensure meaningful consultation throughout all stages of the Project. Consultation meetings have



been arranged throughout the EIA. Meetings have been held with statutory and non-statutory consultees invited to discuss a range of offshore topics including, but not limited to, offshore ornithology, marine mammals, shipping and navigation, fish and shellfish ecology, and seascape, landscape and visual assessment. As previously indicated two TWGs were established to facilitate consultation with large groups of stakeholders:

- A Fisheries Working Group was established with several local and national associations, federations and independent fisheries groups attending as members. It was set up to provide key milestones and share datasets and allowed an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on the Project and input to the commercial fisheries assessment.
- A Socio-Economics Working Group was established which comprised a range of organisations; Highlands and Islands Enterprise, THC, OIC, Caithness Chamber of Commerce, Focus North, VisitScotland and Dounreay Site Restoration Limited (DSRL). It provided a forum for these key stakeholders to share relevant information and input the socio-economics impact assessment.

Additionally, OWPL also hosted a Hazard Identification workshop for the Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA) (see Supporting Study (SS) 14: Navigational risk assessment), as required by MCA guidance. The objective of the Hazard Workshop is to identify and review potential hazards associated with the development of the Project.

The full programme of topic meetings, invitees and attendees and the specific input provided is detailed in the PAC Report (OWPL, 2023) and all consultation details relevant to topic-specific assessment are provided in chapters 8 to 20 of this Offshore EIA Report. In addition to topic-specific meetings, quarterly update meetings were set-up with MS-LOT (now MD-LOT) and NatureScot to provide Project updates, receive advice or feedback, and to highlight outstanding actions.

Project website

OWPL have designed and maintained a project website which continues to provide, up to date information on the progress of the Project along with details on how the public can contact the Project team. The website includes a comprehensive document library as well as access to the Project's virtual exhibition. In addition to hosting the first virtual public event, the exhibition features information provided at face-to-face events in a virtual setting for those who were unable to attend in person events.

6.2.4 Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

Section 7 of the Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 requires at least one PAC event is carried out to allow stakeholders and members of the public to provide comments to an applicant on a proposed licensable marine activity. Applicants must publish in a local newspaper a notice containing a description of the activity, detail where further information may be obtained, the date and place of the event and how and when comments should be submitted to the applicant. PAC is not considered to be a direct representation to the Scottish Ministers, but rather provides a mechanism for the Project to receive feedback from the public that can then be addressed in the application and supporting EIA Report. Sections 22 to 24 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 require PAC to be undertaken for developments in Scottish territorial waters that are of a certain scale or involve particular works with the potential for significant impact on the environment and local communities.



Details of the events held by OWPL to meet these requirements are summarised in Table 6-2, and full details on the PAC events, compliance with the PAC regulations, and feedback received are provided within the PAC Report (OWPL, 2023).

Table 6-2 Summary of the Project Pre-Application Consultation events

DATE	DESCRIPTION
<p>May 2023</p>	<p>The Project hosted the first onshore and offshore PAC events in seven venues over a two-week period in May 2023. There were four venues located in Orkney, two in Caithness and one in Sutherland. Responding to feedback received from the previous public consultation in November 2022, different venues were chosen to cover a wider geographical range. The events provided informal drop-in sessions, where stakeholders had an opportunity to view materials displayed about the Project, engage with members of the Project team, and view the 3D model, which allowed people to view the Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) and onshore infrastructure at different viewpoints. Attendees were also encouraged to provide feedback on the proposals by completing the community questionnaire. Another questionnaire was available to complete at the Caithness and Sutherland venues, which specifically related to the onshore elements of the Project, including the cable route and the onshore substation.</p>

6.3 Public and community engagement

Seeking to build long-term and effective working relationships with all of the stakeholders, the Project fully recognise the need for openness and transparency during engagement. Therefore, as indicated above, the public and local communities have been engaged with from an early stage in the Project’s evolution. They have been consulted through a wide variety of traditional and innovative stakeholder activities, including virtual exhibitions, live webinars, mobile exhibitions, village hall events, an information session at a festival, presentations at conferences and supply chain seminars. The tools we have used for the ongoing community and stakeholder engagement are illustrated in Figure 6-2. Ahead of the consent applications, public and community engagement has been achieved through public consultation events (including the PAC events – see above), Project presence at informal public events and through the Community Panels.



Figure 6-2 Engagement tools

6.3.1 Public events

In addition to the PAC events, OWPL organised additional public consultation events and were present at informal public events through Caithness, Sutherland and Orkney. These are summarised in Table 6-3. Various other methods of communication were used to engage with the wider community and to advertise upcoming events, such as leaflet drops, newspaper adverts, newsletters, posters in local venues, press releases, and radio segments.

Table 6-3 Summary of public events (additional to PAC events)

EVENT	DATE	DESCRIPTION
Virtual public consultation event 1	March 2022	OWPL held a virtual public information event in March 2022, following site award, to present the Project, and the partners and explain how people can engage with the Project team and the planning process. This event consisted of an online exhibition which could be accessed via the Project website (https://www.westoforkney.com) and provided early-stage details on the Project, including details on the onshore and offshore proposals, the survey schedule and indicative project timescales. The exhibition invited attendees to provide feedback on the initial information presented via feedback forms available on the website. It also provided an opportunity for companies and individuals with an interest in contracting and employment opportunities to register for supply chain events.



EVENT	DATE	DESCRIPTION
Informal community events	July and August 2022	<p>Following discussions with the community panels, the West of Orkney Windfarm Project team attended four summer community events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durness Highland Gathering, Sutherland – 29th July; • Halkirk Highland Games, Caithness – 30th July; • Dounby Agricultural Show, Orkney – 11th August; and • Orkney County Agricultural Show – 13th August. <p>Over 1,100 people visited the stand where they were able to read information boards about the Project, ask questions, and provide feedback through the community questionnaire.</p>
Community Climate Café	September 2022	<p>As part of the Orkney Climate Festival, Stromness Community Development Trust organised a Community Climate Café, which offered an informal opportunity for the community to network and engage with each other to discuss climate change action. The West of Orkney Windfarm Project team attended, displayed information on the Project and engaged with attendees.</p>
Public consultation event 2	November 2022	<p>Seven public events were held across Caithness, Sutherland, and Orkney, where the Project team provided local communities and other stakeholders with a Project update on the onshore and offshore including cable route refinement, survey results, update on consultee meetings and community engagement, responses from the questionnaire, and a lookahead to the next steps. A 3D model was available for visitors to watch a fly-through of the windfarm and allowed them to view the windfarm at different viewpoint locations.</p>
Informal community events	July and August 2023	<p>After a successful turnout at the summer community events in 2022 and further discussions with the community panels, the West of Orkney Windfarm Project team attended the informal community events again in 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durness Highland Gathering, Sutherland – 28th July; • Halkirk Highland Games, Caithness – 29th July; • Dounby Agricultural Show, Orkney – 10th August; and • Orkney County Agricultural Show – 12th August. <p>A total of 881 people visited the stand where they were able to read information boards about the Project, ask questions, and provide feedback through the community questionnaire.</p>

During public events, which were attended by local communities, participants were informed that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final offshore Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence applications once they are submitted to Scottish Ministers. Notice of the applications will be provided as required by the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and publicised in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations in local and national publications.



6.3.2 Community Panels

Community Councils and local Development Trusts play a key part in ensuring the effectiveness of the engagement programme and identifying opportunities for enhancing the benefits the Project can deliver. They will also be critical in developing a robust and meaningful community benefit fund which can achieve genuine and lasting benefits for local communities. A significant amount of time and energy has been invested in setting up and maintaining three Community Panels in Caithness, Sutherland and Orkney through emails, virtual panel meetings and one-to-one discussions. This engagement has proved invaluable in shaping consultation activities and planning future approaches to the Project's community benefit fund.

The Community Panels offered a further scope to enhance inclusivity on who was consulted throughout the pre-application stage and the panels were consulted at each stage of the engagement to understand what would work best in their local communities. Three Community Panels were established that represented Caithness, Sutherland and Orkney, to provide a long-term and consistent community engagement platform. The invitation was extended to the Community Councils and Development Trusts listed below:

- Caithness:
 - Bower Community Council;
 - Caithness West Community Council;
 - Castletown Community Council;
 - Dunnet and Canisbay Community Council;
 - Halkirk Community Council;
 - Thurso Community Council;
 - Thurso Development Trust; and
 - Watten Community Council.
- Sutherland:
 - Bettyhill, Strathnaver, and Altnaharra Community Council;
 - Durness Community Council;
 - Kinlochbervie Community Council;
 - Melvich Community Council;
 - Scourie Community Council;
 - Scourie Community Development Trust;
 - Strathy and Armadale Community Council; and
 - Tongue Community Council.
- Orkney:
 - Birsay Community Council;
 - Evie and Rendall Community Council;
 - Firth and Stenness Community Council;
 - Flotta Community Council;
 - Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council;
 - Harray and Sandwick Community Council;
 - Holm Community Council;
 - Kirkwall and St. Ola Community Council;
 - Orphir Community Council;
 - Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council;
 - Rousay, Egilsay, and Wyre Development Trust;
 - Stromness Community Council;
 - Stromness Development Trust;
 - The Island of Hoy Development Trust;
 - Westray Community Council; and
 - Westray Development Trust.

The listed Community Councils and Development Trusts were invited to attend the Community Panel meetings, contacted with regular Project updates, invited to provide feedback on the engagement process and the approaches being used, to ensure the engagement processes were suitable and effective for the local communities. The



discussions were thought provoking and insightful, and the input provided has been incorporated into the Community Engagement Plan (OWPL, 2022). A broad range of discussions were had during the Community Panel meetings. Table 6-4 summarises the main topics discussed, and points raised.

Table 6-4 Summary of discussions during the Community Panels

MEETING	DATE	ATTENDEES	TOPICS DISCUSSED
Caithness			
1	29 th June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurso Community Development Trust; and • Highlands and Islands Enterprise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project introduction and overview; and • How the Project should engage with seldom heard groups.
2	24 th January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local residents; • Caithness West Community Council; and • Highlands and Islands Enterprise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project construction work; • Local job opportunities; and • Community benefit fund.
Sutherland			
1	29 th June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melvich Community Council; • Tongue Community Council; and • Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project introduction and overview; • Local job opportunities; and • Community benefit fund.
2	30 th January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melvich Community Council; • Scourie Community Development Company; • Tongue Community Council; and • HIE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a Community Action Plan for community benefits; and • Community ownership.
Orkney			
1	29 th June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIE; • Kirkwall and St. Ola Community Council; • Island of Hoy Development Trust; • Stromness Community Trust; • Graemsay, Hoy, and Walls Community Council; and • Stromness Community Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project introduction and overview; and • Discussion on potential community events to attend.



MEETING	DATE	ATTENDEES	TOPICS DISCUSSED
2	23 rd January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westray Development Trust; • Holm Community Council; • Stromness Community Council; • Graemsay, Hoy, and Walls Community Council; • Hoy Development Trust; • Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre, and Gairsay Community Council; • Rousay, Egilsay, and Wyre Development Trust; • Orkney Island Council; and • Stromness Community Development Trust. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community benefit • Construction works (potential light and noise pollution, impacts on roads and ferries); and • Interaction with Scapa Deep Water Quay.

6.4 Additional consultation methods

6.4.1 Engagement with academia

The Project is committed to engaging with stakeholders across the education sector, to help develop the young workforce across Caithness, Sutherland and Orkney. The Project team have worked closely with the University of Highlands and Islands (UHI), along with three other ScotWind developers, to fund a significant expansion to UHI's Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) outreach programme. The investment will allow the employment of eight part-time and two full-time STEM coordinators working in early years settings and primary schools to support teachers in delivering STEM topics in an engaging way.

6.4.2 Conferences

OWPL have been present at various conferences in Scotland. Table 6-5 presents a summary of the events that have been attended by OWPL.

Table 6-5 Summary of conference attendance ahead of consent application

EVENT	DATE	DESCRIPTION
All Energy Conference	May 2022	Members of the West of Orkney Windfarm Project team attended the two-day All Energy conference in Glasgow with its own exhibition stand within the 'Orkney energy' section. Team members were available to discuss aspects of the Project with stakeholders and had a PowerPoint slide show available. Being present at the conference allowed for networking to take place with an option for stakeholders to register their businesses and interests with the supply chain register.



EVENT	DATE	DESCRIPTION
Scottish Renewables Offshore Wind Conference	January 2023	The Project team were present at a West of Orkney Windfarm stand at the conference. This allowed for a discussion regarding the Project, networking with potential contractors and suppliers, and stakeholders could sign up to the join supply chain register.
Offshore Energies Share Fair	February 2023 UK	The event focuses on giving supply chain companies and technology innovators access to market intelligence and provides opportunities to have an idea of upcoming projects. It aims to encourage early focused engagement between suppliers and potential clients to work collaboratively on future energy projects.
Focus Conference	February 2023 North	The West of Orkney Windfarm Project team were invited to attend the Focus North conference, an interactive event that which aimed to explore the potential economic opportunities in the north of mainland Scotland.
All Conference	May 2023 Energy	Members of the West of Orkney Windfarm Project team attended the two-day All Energy conference in Glasgow with its own exhibition stand. Team members were available to discuss aspects of the Project with stakeholders as well as allowing more in-depth conversations on supply chain and grid connection.

6.4.3 Supply chain

Engaging with the local supply chain is also a key aspect of maximising the long-term economic and social benefits the Project will bring. To date there have been various supply chain events and workshops, including Meet the Developer activities and delivering presentations at a range of conference (see above).

A Supply Chain Development Statement (SCDS) was prepared for the Project and submitted to Crown Estate Scotland in July 2021 as part of the ScotWind leasing application process. The SCDS sets out the commitment by OWPL to a £105 million investment in developing supply chain capacity within the UK. This includes over £9 million expected to be invested in upgrading ports and harbours in Caithness and Orkney. OWPL has set a target of 40% Project content sourced from Scotland, with a further 20% elsewhere in the UK. The SCDS focuses on five key areas:

- Investment in port and harbour infrastructure;
- Collaborative supplier design and supply studies;
- Exclusive European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) innovation & demonstration partnership;
- Skills development programme; and
- Supply chain infrastructure investment fund.

A series of Supply Chain Engagement events are to take place in line with the launch of the collaborative supplier design and supply studies programme to increase awareness of the support available from the Project for local companies. In addition, there are a number of business cases / proposals that are being looked at for investments in port and harbour infrastructure and supply chain and infrastructure investment fund, which apply to larger fabrication



/ marshalling yard projects that require a significant investment from multiple developers to potentially bring international suppliers to Scotland / UK.

The Project is part of the DeepWind Cluster, the main purpose of which is to help members achieve greater benefits from the current and future development of offshore wind in the UK and internationally. The Project is also involved in the Scottish Government Collaborative Framework Charter, which includes all Developers from ScotWind projects. This cluster allows the developers to collaborate with one another to share expertise and best practice and consult in a wider sense, as well as engage in the ScotWind process.

Ongoing discussions with Orkney Harbour Trust and Scrabster Harbour will enable technical and commercial collaboration on the development of new facilities to support construction and operation. The Project is also funding a bespoke programme with the EMEC to support innovation and cost reduction, which will cover areas such as hydrogen technology.

A supply chain register has been set-up on the Project website which allows stakeholders to register enquiries regarding contracting or employment opportunities. A supply chain mailbox has also been established to allow for further queries to be raised and answered. Attendance at conferences, allows different organisations and individuals to network with the Project team and register their business to the supply chain register.



6.5 References

Offshore Wind Power Limited (OWPL) (2022). West of Orkney Windfarm Community Engagement Plan (CEP). June 2022. Document: 100-WOW-CON-K-GA-0002-01.

OWPL (2023). Pre-Application Consultation Report. July 2023. Document: WO1-WOW-CON-EV-LI-0001.



6.6 Abbreviations

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
BT	British Telecommunications
CEP	Community Engagement Plan
DSFB	District Salmon Fisheries Board
DSRL	Dounreay Site Restoration Limited
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMEC	European Marine Energy Centre
HIE	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team
MS-LOT	Marine Scotland – Licensing Operations Team
NRA	Navigational Risk Assessment
OIC	Orkney Islands Council
OWPL	Offshore Wind Power Limited
PAC	Pre-Application Consultation
PAN	Pre-Application Notification
PAS	Planning Aid for Scotland
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths
SCDS	Supply Chain Development Statement



ACRONYM	DEFINITION
SP=EED	Successful Planning= Effective Engagement and Delivery
THC	The Highland Council
TWG	Technical Working Group
UHI	University of Highlands and Islands
UK	United Kingdom
UKCoS	United Kingdom Chamber of Shipping