Environmental Impact Assessment - Scoping Report Appendices

CampionWind Offshore Wind Farm Array Area

April 2025

CampionWind

Contents

Appendices

Appendix 1B Acronyms

Term	Abbreviation
AA	Appropriate Assessment
AIS	Automatic Identification System
ALARP	As Low As Reasonably Practicable
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BDMPS	Biologically Defined Minimum Population Scale
BEIS	Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
BGS	British Geological Survey
BSI	British Standards Institution
cSAC	Candidates Special Areas of Conservation
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
CBRA	Cable Burial Risk Assessment
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
CEF	Cumulative Effects Framework
CEFAS	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CES	Crown Estate Scotland
CFLO	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer
CIEEM	Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
CNP	Critical National Priority
COLREGS	International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea
COP	Conference of the Parties
COWRIE	Collaborative Offshore Wind Research into the Environment
CRM	Collision Risk Modelling
DAS	Digital Aerial Surveys
DDV	Drop-down video
DECC	Department of Energy & Climate Change

Defra	Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
DND	Detailed Network Design
DSLP	Development Specification and Layout Plan
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
EC	European Council
ECOMMAS	East Coast Marine Mammal Acoustic Study
EEA	European Environment Agency
EEA State(s)	European Economic Area Member State(s)
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMF	Electromagnetic Field
EMSA	European Maritime Safety Agency
EOWDC	European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
EPS	European Protected Species
EQS	Environmental Quality Standard
ESAS	European Seabirds At Sea
EU	European Union
EUNIS	European Nature Information System
FeAST	Feature Activity Sensitivity Tool
FEPA	Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985
FLO	Fisheries Liaison Officer
FLOWW	Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group
FPSO	Floating production storage and offloading
FSA	Formal Safety Assessment
GBP	Great British Pound
GES	Good Environmental Status
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GIS	Geographical Information System

GW	Gigawatt
HAT	Highest Astronomical Tide
HEPS	Historic Environment Policy Statement
HER	Historic Environment Record
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HMPA	Historic Marine Protected Area
HND FUE	Holistic Network Design Follow Up Exercise
HRA	Habitat Regulations Appraisal
IALA	International Association of Lighthouse Authorities
IAMMWG	Inter-Agency Marine Mammal Working Group
ICCI	In-combination Climate Change Impact
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
IMMA	Important Marine Mammal Area
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
IPR	Iterative Plan Review
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
ISQG	Interim Sediment Quality Guideline
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JNAPC	Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
km	Kilometres
LAT	Lowest Astronomical Tide
LMP	Lighting and Marking Plan
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
m	Metres
MAIB	Marine Accident Investigation Branch
MarLIN	Marine Life Information Network

MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MCA	Maritime Coastguard Agency
MCPC	Marine Pollution Contingency Plan
MDS	Marine Directorate Science
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate Licensing and Operations Team
MD-SEDD	Marine Directorate - Science, Evidence, Digital and Data
MGN	Marine Guidance Note
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MLS	Most-Likely Scenario
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
MMMP	Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MPCP	Marine Pollution Contingency Plan
MPS	Marine Policy Statement
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MSP	Mean Seasonal Peak
MU	Management Units
MV	Marine vessel
MW	Megawatt
NATS	National Air Traffic Services
NC MPA	Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NE	Natural England
NEEOG	North East and East Ornithology Group
NERL	NATS En Route
NESO	National Energy System Operator
nm	nautical miles
NMP	National Marine Plan

NMPi	National Marine Plan Interactive
NOx	Oxides of nitrogen
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
NPS	National Policy Statements
NRA	Navigational Risk Assessment
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
NSN	National Site Network
NSP	Navigational Safety Plan
OA	Option Agreement
OAA	Option Agreement Area
OLA	Option to Lease Agreement
OMR	Offshore Marine Region
OREI	Offshore Renewable Energy Installations
ORJIP	Offshore Renewables Joint Industry Programme
OSPAR	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
OTNR	Offshore Transmission Network Review
OWEAP	Offshore Wind Enabling Actions Programme
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
O&M	Operation and maintenance
PAD	Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries
PAN	Planning Advice Note
PEL	Probable Effect Level
PEMP	Project Environmental Management Programme
pSAC	Potential Special Area of Conservation
pSPA	Potential Special Protection Area
PMF	Priority Marine Feature
PSA	Particle Size Analysis
PTS	Permanent Threshold Shift
PVA	Population Viability Analysis
RBD	River Basin District

RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RCP	Representative Concentration Pathways
RED	Renewable Energy Directive
REM	Remote Electronic Monitoring
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
RNLI	Royal National Lifeboat Institution
RSPB	Royal Society for Protection of Birds
RSMP	Regional Seabed Monitoring Plan
RYA	Royal Yachting Association
s.36	Section 36
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAR	Swept area ratio
SCANS	Small Cetaceans In European Atlantic Waters And The North Sea
SCI	Sites of Community Importance
SCOS	Special Committee on Seals
SD	Standard deviation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEIA	Socio-Economic Impact Assessments
SEL_{cum}	Cumulative Sound Exposure Level
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SFF	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
SMA	Seal management areas
SMASS	Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme
SMP	Sectoral Marine Plan
SMRU	Sea Mammal Research Unit
SMU	Seal Management Unit
SVLIA	Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
SNCB	Statutory Nature Conservation Body
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SNMP	Scottish National Marine Plan

SOLAS	International Regulations for the Safety of Life at Sea
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPR	ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SWFPA	Scottish White Fish Producers Association Ltd
TCPA Scotland	Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
UK	United Kingdom
UKFEN	UK Fisheries Economic Network
UKHO	United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Law of the Sea
UNECE	United Economic Commission for Europe
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UWN	Underwater noise
UXO	Unexploded ordnance
VMP	Vessel Management Plan
VOR	Valued Ornithological Receptors
WCS	Worst-Case Scenario
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator
WWI	First World War
WWII	Second World War
ZOI	Zone of Influence

Appendix 1C Glossary

Term	Description / commentary
Air Quality Objectives	Air Quality Objectives are policy targets generally expressed as a maximum ambient concentration to be achieved, either without exception or with a permitted number of exceedances, within a specified timescale. The Air Quality Objectives are set out in the United Kingdom (UK) Government's Air Quality Strategy for the key air pollutants.
Air Quality Standards	Air Quality Standards are the concentrations of pollutants in the atmosphere that can broadly be taken to achieve a certain level of environmental quality. Air Quality Standards are based on an assessment of the effects of each pollutant on human health, including the effects on sensitive sub-groups.
Allision	Contact between a vessel and a stationary object.
Annex I (of the Habitats Directive)	Part of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC that identifies habitat types that require conservation through the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).
Annex II (of the Habitats Directive)	Part of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC that identifies species that require conservation through the designation of SACs.
Annex III (of the Habitats Directive)	Part of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC that identifies species that require conservation through the designation of SACs.
Annex IV (of the Habitats Directive)	Part of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC that identifies species that require conservation through the designation of SACs.
Anthropogenic	Man-made.
Appropriate Assessment (AA)	An assessment to determine the implications of a plan or project on relevant national site network sites in view of that site's conservation objectives. An AA forms part of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) and is required when a plan or project (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) is likely to have a significant effect on a national site network. Where there are adverse impacts, it also includes an assessment of the potential mitigation for those impacts.
Archaeology	The study of the material remains of the past.
Aspect	An individual environmental topic that is considered within Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
Audiogram	A graphical representation of the threshold of hearing of a subject as a function of frequency.
Automatic identification systems (AIS)	A system by which vessels automatically broadcast their identity, key statistics including location, destination, length, speed and current status. Most commercial vessels and European Union (EU) fishing vessels over 15 m in length are required to carry AIS.
Baseline	Existing conditions as represented by the latest available data, whether from literature or survey and used as a benchmark for making comparisons to assess the impact of a development or project.

Term	Description / commentary
Baseline conditions	The environment as it appears (or would appear) immediately prior to the implementation of a project, together with any known or foreseeable future changes that will take place before its completion.
Bathymetry	Topography of sea or estuary bed as measured from a fixed vertical datum.
Bedforms	Features on the seabed (e.g. sand waves or ripples) resulting from the movement and deposition of sediment.
Benthic ecology	The study of the organisms living in and on the sea floor, the interactions between them and their impacts on the surrounding environment.
Biotope	A region of habitat associated with a particular ecological community.
Cable armour	A flexible cable protection system that encloses the electrical cable to protect it from external forces and damage, provide thermal insulation and to prevent the prevent the escape of electrical fields.
Carbon	A chemical element with the symbol C and atomic number 6. 'Carbon' is used as short-hand to refer to the six greenhouse Greenhouse gases Gases (GHGs) recognised by the Kyoto Protocol. GHGs are converted to CO_2e based on their global warming potential per unit as compared to one unit of CO_2.
Climate Change	A long-term trend in the variation of the climate resulting from changes in the global atmospheric and ocean temperatures and affecting mean sea level, wave height, period and direction, wind speed and storm occurrence.
Climate Change Act	Legislation enacted in 2008 by the UK Parliament to establish a framework for the reduction of greenhouse gas, which includes a target for the year 2050 emissions, a system of carbon budgeting, establishing the Committee on Climate Change, carbon trading schemes and other provisions.
Climate change impact	An impact from a climate trend that affects the ability of the receptor or asset to maintain its function or purpose.
Collision	Contact between two or more moving vessels.
Construction effects	Used to describe both temporary effects that arise during the construction phases as well as permanent existence effects that arise from the physical existence of development (for example new infrastructure).
Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	A plan that sets out the standards and procedures to which developers and contractors must adhere when undertaking construction of major projects. This will assist with managing the environmental impacts and will identify the main responsibilities and requirements of developers and contractors.
Cumulative Effects	Additional changes caused by the Project in conjunction with other similar developments or as a combined effect of a set of developments, taken together.
Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA)	Assessment of effects as a result of the incremental changes caused by other past, present and reasonably foreseeable human activities and natural processes together with the Project.
Cumulative impact	Impacts resulting from incremental changes caused by other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions together with the Project.

Term	Description / commentary
Decommissioning	The period during which a development and its associated processes are removed from active operation.
Degree of change	A combination of the scale extent and duration of an effect also defined as 'magnitude'
Demersal trawl	A fishing net used by towing the trawl along or close to the seabed.
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)	The Government department responsible for UK energy security, protecting billpayers and reaching net zero.
Designed In Measures	Measures included in the design of a project that help to reduce the impact of the proposal.
Digital Aerial Surveys	Digital surveys carried out by aeroplane.
Direct effects	Those effects that result directly from the Project, i.e. effects that are made directly to a receptor. An example would habitat loss as a result of clearance activities during construction.
Discharge	Release of effluent waste into a watercourse or water body.
Drop Down Video (DDV)	A survey method in which imagery of habitat is collected, used predominantly to survey marine environment.
Echolocation	The location of objects by reflected sound.
Ecological / biological feature	Ecological/ biological feature is the term used to refer to biodiversity receptors. This term is taken directly from Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) guidance from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).
EIA Regulations	Terminology used in this Scoping Report to refer to two sets of regulations: The Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017; and The Marine Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.
Elasmobranchs	Cartilaginous fishes such as sharks, rays, and skates.
Electromagnetic field (EMF)	An electric and magnetic force field that surrounds a moving electrical charge.
Embedded environmental measures	Equate to 'primary environmental measures' as defined by Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2016). They are measures to avoid or reduce environmental effects that are directly incorporated into the preferred masterplan for the Project.
Embedded mitigation	Mitigation measures included in the Project design.
Enhancement	A measure that exceeds what is required to mitigate the adverse effects of a project.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	The process of evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed project or development over and above the existing circumstances (or 'baseline').

Term	Description / commentary
Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report)	The outcome of the EIA process is reported within a document called an EIA Report.
Environmental Measures	Measures that are proposed to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects (or to avoid, reduce and if possible, remedy identified effects).
Epibenthic	Flora or fauna that live on the seabed.
Epifaunal	Animals living on the seabed.
European Nature Information System (EUNIS) habitat classification	A pan-European system that facilitates the harmonised description and classification of all types of habitats, through the use of criteria for habitat identification.
European Commission (EC)	The EU's politically independent executive division. It is responsible for preparing proposals for new European legislation, and it implements the decisions of the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.
European Protected Species (EPS)	Species of plants and animals (other than birds) protected by law throughout the European Union.
European site	European sites are those that are designated through the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive (via national legislation as appropriate). Within Scotland, additional sites designated through international convention are given the same protection through policy – overall all of these are referred to as European sites. European sites in Scotland are considered to be Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), candidate SACs and Sites of Community Importance (SCI). Potential SPAs (pSPA), possible SACs (pSACs), Ramsar sites (designated under international convention) and proposed Ramsar sites.
EUSeaMap	Broadscale habitat maps produced by EMODnet for Europe.
Evidence Plan Process (EPP)	A voluntary consultation process with specialist stakeholders to agree the approach and the information required to support the EIA for certain aspects.
Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)	An area of coastal water and seabed out to a maximum of 200nm from a country's coastline, to which the country claims exclusive rights for fishing, resource extraction and other economic activities.
Feature	Ecological feature is the term used to refer to biodiversity/ecological receptors. This term is taken directly from Ecological Impact Assessment guidance from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.
First sales value	The value obtained for fish or shellfish when it is first sold (e.g. from producer to processor).
Fish larvae	The developmental stage of fish that have hatched from the egg and receive nutrients from the yolk sac until the yolk is completely absorbed.

Term	Description / commentary
Fish stock	Any natural population of fish that is an isolated and self-perpetuating group of the same species.
Fishery	A group of vessel voyages that target the same species or use the same gear.
Fishing ground	An area of water or seabed targeted by fishing activity.
Fleet	A physical group of vessels sharing similar characteristics (e.g. nationality).
Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA)	Legislation to replace the Dumping at Sea Act 1974 with fresh provision for controlling the deposit of substances and articles in the sea; to make provision for the control of the deposit of substances and articles under the seabed.
Formal Safety Assessment (FSA)	A structured and systematic process for assessing the risks and costs (if applicable) associated with shipping activity as defined by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).
Front	Area separating two distinct water masses with different densities.
Future Baseline	Refers to the situation in future years without the Project.
Gear type	Methods or equipment used for fishing.
Geoarchaeology	A multi-disciplinary approach that uses the techniques and subject matter of geography, geology, geophysics and other earth sciences to examine and inform archaeological knowledge and thought.
Geodiversity	Defines the variety of rocks, minerals, fossils, landforms, sediments and soils, together with the natural processes that form and alter them.
Geographical Information System (GIS)	A system that captures, stores, analyses, manages and presents data linked to location. It links spatial information to a digital database.
Geomorphology	The physical shape and characteristics of the seabed.
Geophysical survey	Activities to obtain data on the distribution and nature of geophysical properties of the seabed (e.g. bathymetry, surficial sediment type and bedforms, sub surface geology). Geophysical survey outputs typically include multibeam bathymetry, side scan sonar and sub bottom profiler data.
GHG emissions	GHG emissions are determined by the Kyoto Protocol (1997) to include six categories of GHG: carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), F gases (comprised of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs)), sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6), and nitrogen trifluoride (NF_3). To provide consistent reporting of these gases, each is weighted by its global warming potential and converted to a carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e).
Gigawatt (GW)	A unit of electrical power equivalent to one billion Watts.
Grab sample	A technique used to sample benthic flora and fauna.
Grounded screen	A grounded metal layer over the conductor insulation of an electrical cable to protect the cable from electrical discharge and provide additional mechanical strength.

Term	Description / commentary
Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA)	The assessment of the impacts of implementing a plan or policy on a European Site, the purpose being to consider the impacts of a project against conservation objectives of the site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of the site.
Habitats Regulations	The Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/ECC) and the Wild Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) were transposed into Scottish Law by the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 ('Habitats Regulations') (up to 12 nm); by the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 ('Offshore Marine Regulations') (beyond 12 nm); the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (of relevance to consents under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989); the Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001; and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Habitats Regulations set out the stages of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) process required to assess the potential impacts of a proposed project on European Sites (SACs, SPAs, candidate SACs (pSAC) and candidate SPAs (pSAC) and Ramsar Sites).
Highest Astronomical Tide (HAT)	Defined as the elevation of the highest predicted astronomical tide expected to occur at a specific tide station over the time period of 40 years
Heritage Asset	An element of the historic environment that has value in policy.
Hydrodynamics	The study of liquids in motion but used in this Scoping Report to describe the motion of sea waves and tides, either alone or in combination.
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) statistical rectangles	The (ICES) standardises the division of sea areas to enable statistical analyses of data. Each ICES statistical rectangle is '30 min latitude by 1 degree longitude' in size (i.e. approximately 30 x 30 nautical miles). A number of rectangles are amalgamated to create ICES statistical areas.
Impact	The changes resulting from an action.
Impact pathway	A change descriptively assessed by one aspect, used by another aspect to inform a related assessment.
Important Ecological Feature	Ecologically important features that require further consideration within the EIA process.
Impulsive	A sound described as being impulsive will be characterised by a sudden onset rate of sound. In BS 4142:2014 the onset rate of a sound must exceed a slope gradient of 10dB per second on the positive slope for a sound to be characterised as impulsive. A penalty of up to 9dB can be applied to an impulsive sound dependant on impulse prominence.
In-combination Climate Change Impact (ICCI)	Results when a climate change impact increases or decreases the effect of the Project on an environmental receptor. For example, the biodiversity aspect may identify an effect on an environmental receptor (such as severance of semi-natural woodland) arising from the Project. In addition, the climate hazard (e.g. drought) will lead to a climate change impact (e.g. reduced vegetation growth). The ICCI is the exacerbation of the original effect identified by the environmental aspect. Any environmental measure in place to reduce the effect of the severance would therefore need to also consider the future climate conditions.

Term	Description / commentary
In-combination effects	Effects resulting from the combined impacts of the Project with other projects / plans on European Conservation Sites. These will be presented separately within HRA-related documentation.
Indirect effects and secondary effects	Those effects that are not caused immediately by the Project but arise as a consequence of it. An example would be where indirect employment is created as suppliers increase their activities and hire new workers to provide the additional goods and services required by the Project.
Infauna	Animals that live in the sediments occurring on the sea floor.
Interim Sediment Quality Guideline	Guideline values for maximum acceptable concentration of a contaminant in natural sediments.
International Regulations for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)	SOLAS is an international maritime treaty which sets out minimum safety standards in the construction, equipment and operation of merchant ships.
Inter-related effects	Effects resulting from two or more project impacts acting together, to result in a new or changed effect on a single receptor.
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	The public body that advises the UK Government and devolved administrations on UK-wide and international nature conservation.
Landings	Quantitative description of the amount of fish returned to port for sale, in terms of value or weight.
Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT)	Defined as the lowest tide level which can be predicted to occur under average meteorological conditions and under any combination of astronomical conditions.
Level of effect	Determined through the combination of sensitivity of the receptor and the proposed magnitude of change brought about by a development.
Likely Significant Effects	It is a requirement of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations to determine the likely significant effects of the Project on the environment which should relate to the level of an effect and the type of effect.
Long-term habitat loss	Substantive change to a habitat such that it loses the integrity of its defining features for a period of time that bears significance to the species supported by the habitat (i.e., this may vary between habitats depending on the lifecycle of the dependent species in question) and their ability to successfully recolonise.
Magnitude (of change)	A term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the extent of the area over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short term or long term in duration'. Also known as the 'degree' or 'nature' of change.
Marine Evidence Based Sensitivity Assessment (MarESA)	Sensitivity assessments, undertaken through the Marine Life Information Network (MarLIN), provide sensitivity assessments for a range of EUNIS and Britain and Ireland habitat classification biotopes, UK wide alongside their detail evidence bases.
Marine Licence	Licence required for certain activities in the marine environment and granted under either the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 or the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.

Term	Description / commentary
Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP)	A programme of measures to minimise the risk of injury (in the form of a permanent change in hearing referred to as a permanent threshold shift(PTS)) in marine mammals.
Marine Policy Statement (MPS)	The framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment in the UK.
Marine Protected Area (MPA)	Marine sites at the national level under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. In Scotland, MPAs are areas of sea defined so as to protect habitats, wildlife, geology, undersea landforms, historic shipwrecks and to demonstrate sustainable management of the sea.
MPA Assessment	A three-step process for determining whether there is a significant risk that a proposed development could hinder the achievement of the conservation objective(s) of an MPA.
Marine Scotland	Civil service directorate for Scotland, which is responsible for the integrated management of Scotland's seas.
Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT)	The regulator for determining marine licence applications on behalf of the Scottish Ministers in the Scottish inshore region (between 0 and 12 nautical miles) under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and in the Scottish offshore region (between 12 and 200 nautical miles) under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
Marine Strategic Framework Directive	The European Union Directive (2008/56/EC) seeking to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) in Europe's seas.
CampionWind Limited	A 50/50 Joint Venture company between Shell New Energies Holding Limited (Shell) and ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) UK Limited and. The Joint Venture is formalised by way of a Shareholder Agreement and has been created for the delivery of the CampionWind Offshore Wind Farm Array Area.
Mean (average)	The arithmetic average of a set of numbers, e.g. add up the numbers and divide by the number of numbers.
Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)	The average throughout a year of the heights of two successive high waters during those periods of 24 hours (approximately once a fortnight) when the tidal range is greatest.
Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS)	The average throughout a year of the heights of two successive low waters during those periods of 24-hours (approximately once a fortnight) when the tidal range is greatest.
Megawatts (MW)	Unit of electrical power equal to one million Watts.
Metocean	Relating to meteorology and oceanography.
Metre (m)	Unit of lateral measurement equivalent to 100 centimetres.
Marine Guidance Notes (MGN)	MGN released by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) for the purposes of providing advice relating to the improvement of the safety of shipping and of life at sea.
MRSea	Statistical modelling of Bird and Cetacea Distributions in Offshore Renewables Development Areas.

Term	Description / commentary
Multi-Agency Geographic information for the Countryside (MAGIC)	An online, map-based library of data sources maintained by the UK government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).
National Grid Electricity System Operator's Holistic Network Design (NGESO HND)	To provide a coordinated onshore and offshore design for a 2030 network to meet government objectives of connecting 40 Gigwatts (GW) of offshore wind in Great Britain by 2030, including 11GW in Scotland as well net zero by 2050 for GB and 2045 for Scotland. The HND aims to provide an economic, efficient, operable, sustainable and coordinated National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) including the onshore and offshore assets required to connect offshore wind and considering internal interconnectors.
National Policy Statement (NPS)	NPS are statutory documents published in accordance with the Planning Act 2008. They set out the UK government's policy on, and the national need for specific types of nationally significant infrastructure projects.
Natura 2000	A pan-European network of habitats identified and protected for the presence of rare and threatened habitats and/or species as designated by Annex I or Annex II (respectively) of the Habitats Directive.
NatureScot	Formerly known as SNH, NatureScot is a public body and government advisor responsible for Scotland's natural heritage, in particular for its natural, genetic and scenic diversity.
Nautical mile (nm)	A unit used in measuring distances at sea, equal to 1,852 metres.
North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC)	NESBReC collates, manages and provides biological information for the North East of Scotland.
NMPi	An interactive mapping system prepared for Marine Scotland to support Scotland’s National Marine Plan (NMP).
Noise	A term used to describe ‘unwanted sound’ or any sound that is undesired by the recipient.
Notable species	Species with a conservation designation (e.g. listed in a red data book, Birds of Conservation Concern etc.) but that receive no specific legal protection.
Nursery ground	An area that provides suitable habitat for young fish to live and grow.
Offshore	Pertaining to the seaward side of MLWS, and typically in reference to locations some distance from the coast.
Offshore Wind Farm	An offshore wind farm is a group of wind turbine generators in the same location (offshore) in the sea, which are used to produce electricity.
Option Agreement (OA)	An agreement between two parties (the Crown Estate Scotland and the offshore wind farm developer in this case) to facilitate a future possible transaction concerning an asset at an agree price and on an agreed date.
Option Area Agreement (OAA)	Term for the wind farm site upon the seabed at a location specified in the Option Agreement between the Crown Estate Scotland and a developer. It is the

Term	Description / commentary
	agreement that allows the developer the rights to undertake such tests, survey and site investigations that do not entail the temporary or permanent installation of any works or structures on the seabed.
OSPAR Convention	The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic.
Otter trawl	A net with large rectangular boards (otter boards) that are used to keep the mouth of the trawl net open. Otter boards are made of timber or steel and are positioned in such a way that the hydrodynamic forces, acting on them when the net is towed along the seabed, pushes them outwards and prevents the mouth of the net from closing.
Palaeoecology	The study of past environments.
Paleoenvironmental	Pertaining to past environments.
Pelagic	Of or relating to the open sea.
Plan Option	Term used for the seabed areas identified in the Sectoral Marine Plan for offshore wind development in the ScotWind leasing round.
Primary measures	These are modifications to the location or design of the development made during the pre-application phase that are an inherent part of the Project and do not require additional action to be taken. These are also referred to as 'design measures'.
Priority Marine Feature (PMF)	Habitats and species that are considered to be marine nature conservation priorities in Scotland.
Probability	The statistical likelihood of something happening.
Probable effect level (PEL)	The lowest concentration of a contaminant (in natural sediment in this case) at which adverse effects are likely.
Project	The Campion Offshore Wind Farm Array Area Project that is the subject of this Scoping Report, as described in Chapter 2: Project Description.
Project Description	Chapter 2 of the Scoping Report that describes key parameters of the CampionWind Project infrastructure, including materials and installation methods. It includes optionality in relation to some design parameters where the design evolution of the Project is ongoing.
Ramsar site	Areas listed by the UK Government under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention 1971).
Receptor	This term originates as defined in Regulation 5(2) of The EIA Regulations and include population and human health, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air, climate, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape that may be at risk from exposure to pollutants which could potentially arise as a result of the Project.
Regular Operator	A commercial operator associated with one or more vessels that transit an area on a regular basis.
Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)	An area of sea outside of the UK territorial sea over which the UK claims exclusive rights for production of energy from water and wind under section 84 of the Energy Act 2004 (as amended).

Term	Description / commentary
Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP)	Future pathways based on emissions and concentrations of greenhouse gases. Each RCP provides only one of many possible scenarios that could lead to specific forcing mechanisms.
Rochdale Envelope Approach	The Rochdale Envelope Approach is a parameter-based approach to environmental assessment that aims to take account of the need for flexibility in the evolution of detailed design.
Safety Zone	An area around a structure associated with an Offshore Renewable Energy Installation where entry is prohibited under the Energy Act 2004.
Sand waves	Large scale asymmetric bedforms with heights of up to 1/3 water depth. Sand waves may be used to give an indication of the predominant direction of sediment transport. These features are sometimes known to migrate at speeds of several km/year.
Scallop dredge	A method to catch scallop using steel dredges with a leading bar fitted with a set of spring loaded, downward pointing teeth. Behind this toothed bar (sword), a matt of steel rings is fitted. A heavy net cover is laced to the frame, sides and after end of the mat to form a bag.
Scoping Boundary	The area within which the Project will be located.
Scoping Opinion	A Scoping Opinion is adopted by the Planning Authority and Scottish Ministers for a proposed project.
Scoping Report	A report that presents the findings of an initial stage in the Environmental Impact Assessment process.
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	A non-departmental public body of the Scottish Government, responsible for environmental regulation. This includes ensuring that the environment and human health are protected, and that Scotland's natural resources and services are used as sustainably as possible and contribute to sustainable economic growth.
Scottish Ministers	The devolved government of Scotland.
Scottish National Marine Plan (NMP)	Plan sets out strategic policies for the sustainable development of Scotland's marine resources out to 200 nm. It provides a framework for managing all development in or affecting Scotland's marine areas, both territorial (up to 12 nm) and offshore waters (12 - 200 nm). It is required to be compatible with the UK MPS and existing marine plans across the UK.
ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited (SPR)	Part of the Iberdrola group and 50% shareholder in the CampionWind Limited Joint Venture company between Shell New Energies Holding Limited (Shell) and ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) UK Limited.
Scour	A localised sediment erosion feature caused by local enhancement of flow speed and turbulence due to interaction with an obstacle.
SeaBORD	A tool to estimate the fate of birds displaced by offshore renewable power developments.
Seascape	Landscapes with views of the coast or seas, and coasts and adjacent marine environments with cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other.

Term	Description / commentary
Secondary measures	Actions that will require further activity in order to achieve the anticipated outcome. These may be imposed as part of the planning consent or through inclusion in the EIA Report. These are also referred to as 'additional measures'.
Section 36 Consent	Consent that can be granted under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for the construction or extension, and operation, of an electricity station.
Sediment deposition	Settlement of sediment in suspension back to the seabed, causing a localised accumulation.
Sediment transport	The movement of a mass of sedimentary material (e.g. silts, muds, sands and gravels) by the forces of currents and waves. Potential sediment transport is the full amount of sediment that could be expected to move under a given combination of waves and currents, i.e. not supply limited.
Sensitivity	A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value associated to that receptor.
Setting	Setting is the way the surrounding of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is understood, appreciated and experienced.
Shell New Energies Holding Limited (Shell)	A subsidiary company of the Shell Petroleum Company Limited and 50% shareholder in the CampionWind Limited Joint Venture company between Shell New Energies Holding Limited (Shell) and ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) UK Limited.
Significance	A measure of the importance of the environmental effect, defined by criteria specific to the environmental aspect.
Significant effects	It is a requirement of the EIA Regulations 2017 to determine the likely significant effects of the development on the environment, which should relate to the level of an effect and the type of effect. Where possible significant effects should be mitigated. The significance of an effect gives an indication as to the degree of importance (based on the magnitude of the effect and the sensitivity of the receptor) that should be attached to the impact described. Whether or not an effect should be considered significant is not absolute and requires the application of professional judgement. Significant – 'noteworthy, of considerable amount or effect or importance, not insignificant or negligible' (The Concise Oxford Dictionary). Those levels and types of landscape and visual effect likely to have a major or important / noteworthy or special effect of which a decision maker should take particular note.
Sitelink	An online, map-based library of data sources maintained by NatureScot.
Small cetaceans in European Atlantic Waters and the North Sea (SCANS)	The name of a scientific research endeavour that involved large-scale ship and aerial surveys of the distribution and abundance of cetaceans in European Atlantic waters. The survey was first undertaken in 1994, with similar surveys also conducted in 2005, 2007, 2016 and 2022.
Sound pressure level (SOL)	Sound pressure level is the RMS value of the Instantaneous Sound Pressures measured over a specified period of time, measured in decibels (dB) to a given reference pressure level.

Term	Description / commentary
Spatial scope	The area over which changes to the environment are predicted to occur as a consequence of a project.
Spawning	The release or deposition of eggs and sperm, usually into water, by aquatic animals.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	International designation implemented under the Habitats Regulations for the protection of habitats and (non-bird) species. Sites designated to protect habitats and species in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive and sufficient habitat to be conserved to maintain favourable conservation status of designated features.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	Sites classified under EU Directive (79/409/EEC) to protect habitats of migratory birds and certain threatened birds under the Birds Directive.
Stakeholder	Person or organisation with a specific interest (commercial, professional or personal) in a particular issue.
Study area	Area where potential impacts from the Project could occur, as defined for each aspect.
Subtidal	The region of shallow coastal waters that are below MLWS.
Suspended sediment concentration	The mass concentration (mass / volume) of sediment in suspension.
Sustainability	The principle that the environment should be protected in such a condition and to such a degree that ensures new development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Temporal Scope	The temporal scope refers to the time periods over which impacts and effects may be experienced by sensitive receptors.
Temporary or permanent effects	Effects may be considered as temporary or permanent within a timeframe of relevance to the aspect or receptor in question.
Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS)	Reversible and temporary hearing loss.
Tertiary measures	Actions that would occur with or without input from the EIA process. These include actions that will be taken to meet legislative requirements, or those considered to be standard practice and used to manage commonly occurring environmental effects. These are also referred to as 'good practice measures'.
The Crown Estate Scotland (CES)	The public corporation of the Scottish government that is responsible for the management of land and property in Scotland, as owned by the monarch "*in right of the Crown*".
The Project	CampionWind within the Offshore Wind Farm Array Area
Tidal excursion ellipse	The path followed by a water particle in one complete tidal cycle.
Transboundary effects	Assessment of changes to the environment caused by the combined effect of past, present and future human activities and natural processes on other European Economic Area Member States.

Term	Description / commentary
Transmission Infrastructure	Offshore export cable corridor and onshore infrastructure (i.e., landfall, cable corridor and substation
Type or Nature of effect	Whether an effect is direct or indirect, temporary, long-term or permanent, positive (beneficial), neutral or negative (adverse) or cumulative.
UKCP18	UK Climate Change Projections 2018. UK Climate Projections 2018 is the most up to date assessment of how the climate of the UK may change over the 21st century, recently updated in 2018. UK Climate Projections 2018 uses climate science to provide observations and climate change projections for the UK and globally until 2100.
Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)	Explosive weapons (e.g. bombs, shells, grenades, land mines, naval mines) that did not explode when they were employed or discarded and still pose a risk of detonation, potentially many decades later.
United Kingdom (UK)	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, comprising England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
United Nations (UN)	The UN is an international organisation founded in 1945 to maintain global peace and security.
Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)	A system used in commercial fishing to allow environmental and fisheries regulatory organisations to monitor, minimally, the position, time at a position, and course and speed of fishing vessels.
Vulnerability	The propensity or predisposition of a system or receptor to be adversely affected. This encompasses the sensitivity of the system or receptor and its capacity to cope and adapt.

Appendix 3A: Planning Policy Framework

1. Introduction

1.1.1 **Chapter 3: Legislative and Policy Context** provides an overview of the relevant legislative and policy context for the Project to inform the proposed scope of this EIA. This will allow the EIA to provide relevant assessment evidence to help demonstrate how the consenting applications for the Project comply with relevant policy tests and requirements. Building on the framework outlined in **Chapter 3**, this Appendix provides a detailed summary of individual national, marine and local planning policies of relevance to this EIA, which have informed the proposed scope of assessment.

1.1.2 This Appendix is structured as follows:

- **Table 1.1** provides a summary of national policies of relevance to the Project; and
- **Table 1.2** provides a summary of the marine policies of relevance to the Project.

Table 1.1 Relevant National policies to the Project

Plan	Theme and Policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
National Policy Statements (NPS) 2024	Following a review of the NPSs in response to the Energy White Paper, updated draft energy NPSs were published for consultation in 2021. The revised suite of NPSs were subsequently designated by Parliament in January 2024. Noting, whilst consenting applications will be determined by the Scottish Ministers, the UK NPS' remain relevant in terms of contributing to the energy policy context for the Project and informing the consideration through this EIA of some issues relating to reserved matters.		
NPS EN-1 2024	Energy transitions: Paragraph 3.2.1: Secretary of State decision making Paragraph 3.3.1: The need for new nationally significant electricity infrastructure Paragraph 3.3.9: Alternatives to new electricity infrastructure Paragraph 3.3.62: The need for electricity generating capacity Paragraph 3.3.64: The need for electricity generating capacity Paragraph 4.2.1: The critical national priority for low carbon infrastructure	Paragraph 3.2.1 highlights the *"Government's objectives for the energy system are to ensure our supply of energy always remains secure, reliable, affordable, and consistent with net zero emissions in 2050 for a wide range of future scenarios, including through delivery of our carbon budgets and Nationally Determined Contributions."* Paragraph 3.3.1 highlights that *"electricity meets a significant proportion of our overall energy needs and our reliance on it will increase as we transition our energy system to deliver our net zero target."* Paragraph 3.3.9 states *"reducing total demand for energy is a key element of the government's strategy for meeting its energy objectives and we expect that increased energy efficiency measures could lead to a reduction in final energy demand... However even with a reduction in final energy demand the share of electricity in the system is likely to increase, potentially more than doubling by 2050".* Paragraph 3.3.62 states the "*Government has concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure*." Paragraph 3.3.64 states "*the urgent need for CNP Infrastructure to achieving our energy objectives, together with the national security, economic, commercial, and net zero benefits, will in general outweigh any other residual impacts not capable of being addressed by application of the mitigation hierarchy*." Further noting that the "*Government strongly supports the delivery of CNP Infrastructure".* Paragraph 4.2.1 states the *"Government has committed to fully decarbonising the power system by 2035, subject to security of supply, to underpin its 2050 net zero ambitions. More than half of final energy demand in 2050 could be met by electricity, as transport and heating in particular shift from fossil fuel to electrical technology."*	Project description Socio-economics
NPS EN-3 2024	Paragraph 2.5.2: Consideration of good design for energy infrastructure	Paragraph 2.5.2 states "*proposals for renewable energy infrastructure and should demonstrate good design in respect of landscape and visual amenity, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology."*	Project description Underwater noise and vibration
	Climate Change: Paragraph 2.4.8 Climate change adaptation and resilience Paragraph 2.1.7: General Assessment and Technology Specific Information	Paragraph 2.4.8 states that offshore wind farms should particularly set out how the proposal would be resilient to storms. Paragraph 2.1.7 states in order to "*support the urgent need for new low carbon infrastructure, all onshore and offshore electricity generation covered in this NPS that does not involve fossil fuel combustion (that is, renewable generation, including anaerobic digestion and other plants that convert residual waste into energy, including combustion, provided they meet existing definitions of low carbon) are considered to be CNP infrastructure*."	Infrastructure and Other Marine Users Climate change
	Paragraph 2.8.1: Offshore Wind	Paragraph 2.8.1 states "*the Government expects that offshore wind (including floating wind) will play a significant role in meeting demand and decarbonising the energy system. The ambition is to deploy up to 50GW of offshore wind capacity (including up to 5GW floating wind) by 2030, with an expectation that there will be a need for substantially more installed offshore capacity beyond this to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050".*	Climate change
National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) 2023	*The Revised NPF4 was approved without modification by the Scottish Parliament on 13 February 2023.The Approved NPF4 therefore supersedes NPF3 (2014).* NPF4 provides the spatial strategy for Scotland to 2045 and takes account of the target of net zero emissions by 2045 set by the Scottish Government. It forms part of the statutory Development Plan for determination of planning applications made under the TCPA Scotland. NPF4 provides a strong framework for the deployment of renewable energy developments and identifies the need for strategic scale renewable energy developments, including offshore wind. The Project is classified as a National Development within NPF4 as "Strategic Renewable Electricity and Transmission Infrastructure". This recognises that the "additional electricity generation from renewables and electricity transmission is fundamental to achieving a net zero economy."		

Plan	Theme and Policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
	There is a preference for developments which meet the Scottish Government's aims for net zero emissions by 2045, and halting biodiversity loss by 2030 / restoring and regenerating biodiversity by 2045. Projects which evidence low and zero-carbon design and expansion of renewable energy generation will therefore be encouraged. NPF4 designates certain types of projects as National Developments on the basis that they are needed to implement the national spatial strategy. This establishes the needs case for such projects. All 50 Megawatt (MW)+ onshore and offshore renewable electricity generating projects and associated grid connections are designated as National Developments.		
	Climate Change: Policy 1: Tackling the climate and nature crises	Policy 1 states simply that "*when considering all development proposals significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises*". Local Development Plans (LDPs) must also address the global climate emergency and nature crisis by ensuring the spatial strategy will reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change by promoting nature recovery and restoration in the area.	All
	Energy transitions: National Spatial Strategy: North East Spatial Planning Priorities: North – Sustainable Places Spatial Planning Priorities: North – Productive Places National Developments: 3. Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure Policy 11: Energy	The National Spatial Strategy includes specific elements for the North and North East areas, including noting that parts of this coastline will be vulnerable to future climate impacts. It identifies that the North East area of Scotland will play a crucial role in achieving Just Transition to net zero. The National Spatial Strategy sets out relevant aims for the North East Area including the following: Plan infrastructure and investment to support the transition from oil and gas to net zero whilst protecting and enhancing blue and green infrastructure and decarbonising connectivity; and Support continued economic diversification and innovation.	Project description Socio Economics Shipping and Navigation Climate change
		To help implement the National Spatial Strategy, the North Sustainable Places Spatial Planning Priorities section notes that land and sea assets will play an internationally significant role in renewable energy generation and carbon sequestration. It further states that renewable energy development should capitalise on the area's significant natural energy resources, and there is potential to significantly increase offshore wind energy capacity.	Project description Socio Economics Climate change
		The North Productive Places Spatial Planning Priorities section recognises the Northern area of coastline, including that adjacent to the North East area, as providing "*significant opportunities for marine energy arising from Scotwind*".	Project description Socio Economics
		The Approved NPF4 identifies 18 National Developments as "*significant developments of national importance that will help to deliver our spatial strategy*". This firmly establishes the national need for such developments to help implement the national spatial strategy. Annex B of the Approved NPF4 sets out Statements of Need for each National Development and confirms that their "*designation means that the principle of the development does not need to be agreed in later consenting processes*". National Development 4 supports strategic scale offshore renewable electricity generation, repowering, and expansion of the electricity grid. It states that an increase in electricity generation from renewable sources will be essential for Scotland to meet its net zero emissions targets.	Project description Socio Economics Infrastructure and Other Marine Users
		Policy 11 seeks and provides strong support to encourage, promote and facilitate all forms of offshore renewable energy development of, and associated enabling works including grid infrastructure. "*Development proposals will only benefit from this strong policy support where they maximise net economic impact*". Proposals should also apply the mitigation hierarchy to demonstrate through design and mitigation how relevant impacts and issues, as listed in Policy 11, are addressed. Impacts should then be considered in the context of "*placing significant weight on the contribution of a proposal to renewable energy and greenhouse gas targets secured*". The policy further states that Grid capacity should not constrain renewable energy development.	Project description Socio Economics Climate change Project description Socio Economics Climate change
	Cities, regions and built environment: Policy 10: Coastal Development Policy 12: Zero Waste Policy 13: Sustainable Transport Policy 18: Infrastructure First Policy 23: Health and Safety Policy 20: Blue and Green Infrastructure Policy 25: Community Wealth Building Policy 26: Business and industry	Policy 10 seeks to protect coastal communities and assets and support resilience to the impacts of climate change. Where a design statement is submitted with any planning application that may impact on the coast it will take into account, as appropriate, long-term coastal vulnerability and resilience.	Project description Climate change
		Policy 12 encourages, promotes and facilitates development that is consistent with the waste hierarchy.	Project description
		Policy 18 encourages, promotes and facilitates an infrastructure first approach to land use planning, which puts infrastructure considerations at the heart of placemaking. The impacts of development proposals on infrastructure should be mitigated, and where infrastructure proposals are in line with that identified as necessary in LDPs they will be supported.	Infrastructure and other marine users
		Policy 20 seeks to protect and enhance blue and green infrastructure and their networks. Development proposals that include new or enhanced blue and/or green infrastructure are to provide effective management and maintenance plans covering the funding arrangements for their long-term delivery and upkeep, and the party or parties responsible for these.	Benthic, epibenthic, and intertidal ecology Socio-economics

Plan	Theme and Policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		Policy 23 seeks to protect health and wellbeing, including by setting out amenity related criteria to ensure air and noise pollution impacts are addressed and taken into account. The policy also provides relevant criteria to manage risks from hazardous forms of development.	Underwater noise and vibration
		Policy 25 seeks to encourage, promote and facilitate a new strategic approach to economic development that also provides a practical model for building a wellbeing economy at local, regional and national levels. Development proposals linked to community ownership and management of land will be supported.	Socio-economics
		Policy 26 seeks to encourage, promote and facilitate business and industry uses in appropriate locations.	Socio-economics
	Soils and Biodiversity: Policy 3: Biodiversity Policy 4: Natural Places	Policy 3 seeks to protect biodiversity, reverse biodiversity loss, deliver positive effects from development and strengthen nature networks. "*Development proposals for national or major development, or for development that requires an EIA will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity*". Development proposals are to leave biodiversity in a "*demonstrably better state than without intervention through the provision of significant biodiversity enhancements and consideration of both nature-based solutions and links with nature networks*". The Policy seeks that future management and monitoring arrangements are included in proposals.	Benthic, epibenthic and intertidal ecology Socio-economics
	Historic Environment and landscape: Policy 7: Historic assets and places	Policy 7 seeks to protect and enhance historic environment assets and places, and to enable positive change as a catalyst for the regeneration of places. "*Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places are to be accompanied by an assessment*". Where there is potential for non-designated archaeological remains to exist, "*developers are to provide an evaluation of the archaeological resource at an early stage*".	Marine archaeology Socio-economics

Table 1.2 Relevant marine planning policies to the Project

Plan	Policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
UK Marine Policy Statement 2011	Economic growth: Achieving a sustainable marine economy	Requirements for: infrastructure to be in place to support and promote safe, profitable and efficient marine businesses; the marine environment and its resources are used to maximise sustainable activity, prosperity and opportunities for all, now and in the future; marine businesses are to take long-term strategic decisions and manage risks effectively; and marine businesses act in a way which respects environmental limits and is socially responsible.	Commercial fisheries Shipping and navigation Infrastructure and other marine users Telecommunications Civil and military aviation Socio-economics
	Climate change: Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society	Requirements for: the use of the marine environment benefits society as a whole, contributing to resilient and cohesive communities that can adapt to coastal erosion and flood risk, as well as contributing to physical and mental wellbeing; the coast, seas, oceans and their resources are safe to use; the marine environment to play an important role in mitigating climate change; equitable access for those who want to use and enjoy the coast, seas and their wide range of resources and assets and recognition; and the use of the marine environment will recognise, and integrated with, defence priorities, including the strengthening of international peace and stability and the defence of the UK and its interests.	Marine geology, oceanography and physical processes Marine water and sediment quality Infrastructure and other marine users Socio-economics Civil and military aviation Climate change
	Agriculture and biodiversity: Living within environmental limits	Requirements for: biodiversity to be protected, conserved and where appropriate recovered and loss halted; healthy marine and coastal habitats can occur across their natural range and are able to support strong, biodiverse biological communities and the functioning of healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystems; and the oceans to have viable populations of representative, rare, vulnerable and valued species.	Benthic, epibenthic and intertidal ecology Marine mammals Offshore and intertidal ornithology Fish and shellfish ecology
	Historic environment and landscape: Promoting good governance	Requirements for: marine businesses to be subject to clear, timely, proportionate and, where appropriate, plan-led regulation; and the use of the marine environment is spatially planned where appropriate and based on an ecosystems approach that takes account of climate change and recognises the protection and management needs of marine cultural heritage according to its significance.	Legislative and Policy Context Marine archaeology and cultural heritage Climate change
Scottish National Marine Plan 2015	The Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2022-2023 (September 2022) confirmed plans to develop a replacement National Marine Plan 2. This is expected to play a key role in the consenting of ScotWind offshore wind projects over the coming years. The National Marine Plan 2 Planning Position Statement was published in November 2024 for consultation. The Draft National Marine Plan 2 is expected to be published in late 2025, with final adoption of National Marine Plan 2 being scheduled for Summer 2027.The following relevant policies from the Scottish National Marine Plan 2015 are listed below.		
	Economic growth: GEN 1 General planning principle GEN2 Economic benefit GEN 3 Social benefit GEN 4 Co-existence GEN 21 Cumulative impacts GEN 17 Fairness GEN 18 Engagement	Sustainable developments that provide economic benefit to Scottish communities and social benefits will be favoured Proposals should enable coexistence with other development sectors and activities, and require for cumulative impacts affect the ecosystem to be addressed. Requirement for all marine interest to be treated with fairness and in a transparent manner when decisions are being made in the marine environment. Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders.	Socio-economics Benthic, epibenthic, and intertidal ecology Fish and shellfish ecology
	Climate change: GEN 5 Climate change	Requirement to act in the way best calculated to mitigate and adapt to climate change.	Project description Climate change
	Historic environment and landscape: GEN 6 Historic Environment GEN 7 Landscape / seascape CABLES 1 CABLES 2	Requirement for development and use of the marine environment to protect, and, where appropriate, enhance heritage assets in a manner proportionate to their significance. Developments should take account of seascape, landscape and visual impacts. Requirement for cable and network owners to engage with decision makers and provide evidence that the development minimise impacts on the marine historical environment and assets.	Project description Marine archaeology and cultural heritage

Plan	Policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
	Physical environment: GEN 8 Coastal process and flooding GEN 12 Water quality and resources GEN 13 Noise GEN 14 Air quality	Requirement for developments and activities to be resilient to coast change and flooding, and not have unacceptable adverse impact on coastal processes or contribute to coastal flooding. Developments and activities should not result in a deterioration of the quality of waters to which the Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Direct or other related Directives apply. Requirement for development should avoid significant adverse effects of man-made noise and vibration, especially on species sensitive to such effects. Requirement for development to not result in the deterioration of air quality and should not breach any statutory air quality limits.	Marine geology, oceanography and physical processes Water resources and flood risk Marine water and sediment quality Underwater noise Fish and shellfish ecology Marine mammals
	Agriculture and biodiversity: GEN 9 Natural heritage GEN 10 Invasive non-native species WILD FISH 1 REC & TOURISM 6 CABLES 1 REC & TOURISM 5	Requirement for development to comply with legal requirements for protected areas and protected species; not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features; and protect (where appropriate) enhance the health of the marine area. Opportunities to reduce the introduction of invasive non-native species to a minimum or proactively improve the practice of existing activity should be taken when decisions are being made. Codes of practice for INNS should be complied with. Requirements to assess impact of development on diadromous fish species and where evidence of impacts on salmon and other diadromous species is inconclusive, it states that mitigation should be adopted where possible and information on the impact on diadromous species from monitoring should be used. Requirement for cable and network owners to provide evidence that the development and activity minimise impacts, where possible, on the environment and appropriate and proportionate environmental consideration and risk assessments should be provided, which may include cable protection measures and mitigation plans. Requirement to support enhancement to the aesthetic qualities, coastal character and wildlife experience.	Project description Marine geology, oceanography and physical processes Marine water and sediment quality Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) Benthic, epibenthic and intertidal ecology Marine mammals Offshore and intertidal ornithology Fish and shellfish ecology Commercial fisheries Shipping and navigation Marine archaeology and cultural heritage Infrastructure and other marine users Socio-economics
	Commercial fisheries: FISHERIES 1 FISHERIES 2 FISHERIES 3	Requirements to take account of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy, Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and MSFD. Developments and activities should take account of the potential impacts on: fish and shellfish stocks and resultant fishing opportunities; fishing grounds, commercially fished grounds; and displacement of fish stocks, the socio-economic costs to fishers and their communities and other marine users.	Fish and shellfish ecology Commercial fisheries Infrastructure and other marine users Socio-economics
	Energy transitions: RENWABLES 4 RENEWABLES 5 RENEWABLES 6 RENWABLES 7 RENEWABLES 8	Requirement for applications for marine licences and consents relating to offshore wind and marine renewable energy should be made in accordance with the Marine Scotland Guidance. Compliance with EIA and HRA requirements for the development. Requirement for decision makers to ensure infrastructure is fit for purpose now and in future. Consideration should be given to the potential for climate change impacts on coast vulnerable to erosion.	Project description EIA Process
	Shipping: TRANSPORT 1 TRANSPORT 2 TRANSPORT 4 TRANSPORT 6	Requirement for navigational safety in relevant areas used by shipping now and in the future will be protected, adhering to the rights of innocent passage and freedom of navigation contained in UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Requirement for marine development not to be permitted where it will restrict access to, or future expansion of, major commercial ports or existing or proposed ports and harbours, for example Peterhead. Requires maintenance, repair and sustainable development of port and harbour facilities in support of other sectors should be supported. Displacement of shipping to be avoided and where possible mitigate to avoid increased journey lengths.	Project description Marine water and sediment quality Fish and shellfish ecology Marine mammals Offshore and intertidal ornithology Shipping and navigation

Plan	Policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			Infrastructure and other marine users Socio-economics
	Cities, regions and built environment: CABLES 2 CABLES 4	Requirement for the following to be taken into account when reaching decision regarding cable development: cables should be suitably routed to provide sufficient requirements for installation and cable protection; new cables should implement methods to minimise impacts on the environment, seabed and other users; cables should be buried to maximise protection where there are safety or seabed stability risks and to reduce conflict with other marine users and to protect the assets and infrastructure; where burial is demonstrated not to be feasible, cables may be suitably protected; consideration of the need to reinstate the seabed, undertake post-lay surveys and monitoring and carry out remedial action where required. When selecting locations for landfall of power and telecommunications equipment and cabling, developers and decision makers should consider the policies pertaining to flooding and coastal protection.	Project description Marine geology, oceanography and physical processes Marine water and sediment quality Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) Benthic, epibenthic and intertidal ecology Marine mammals Offshore and intertidal ornithology Fish and shellfish ecology Commercial fisheries Shipping and navigation Marine archaeology and cultural heritage Infrastructure and other marine users
	Safety: DEFENCE 1 DEFENCE 3	Requirement to maintain operational effectiveness in Scottish waters used by the armed services, development and use will be managed in these areas: firing danger areas; and communications. Code of conduct for managing fishing and military activities in the documents ‘Fishing Vessels Operating in Submarine Exercise Areas’ and ‘Fishing Vessel Avoidance: The UK Code of Practice Fishing Vessel Avoidance’ will be adhered to.	Commercial fisheries Telecommunications and interference Civil and military aviation
Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind 2020	Vision	This plan seeks to contribute to the achievement of Scottish and UK energy and climate change policy objectives and targets, through provision of a spatial strategy to inform the seabed leasing process for commercial offshore wind energy in Scottish waters, which: minimises the potential adverse effect on other marine users, economic sectors and the environment resulting from further commercial-scale offshore wind development; and maximises opportunities for economic development, investment and employment in Scotland, by identifying new opportunities for commercial scale offshore wind development, including deeper water wind technologies. The Sectoral Marine Plan was published in line with the Offshore Wind Policy Statement 2020.	All
	E2 Plan Option	The CampionWind Offshore Wind Farm Project is located in Plan Option E2. As a result of multiple projects being awarded agreements for leases by CES within Plan Option E2, this Project has now been assigned Plan Option reference E2b. In relation to Plan Option E2, the sectoral plan notes that: The SEIA identifies minor socio-economic cost impacts arising from potential development in E2 to commercial shipping and fishing sectors. Consultation would be required with the MOD regarding potential radar interference from turbines in E2. The SEA and HRA identifies that E2 may be important as a foraging area for kittiwake and razorbill and therefore, due to the concerns regarding potential in-combination impacts, further regional survey effort and consultation would be required. There is potential for areas within E2 to be important fish spawning grounds, including for herring, cod, whiting, plaice and sandeel. Risks to spawning fish would need to be considered and mitigated at a project-level. It lists a range of potential negative impacts identified through plan-level SEA, HRA and Strategic EIA, which require further consideration through project level assessments, including: loss of/damage to marine and coastal habitats; effects from pollution releases on species and habitats; effects on subsea geology, sediments and coastal processes arising from changes in hydrodynamics and existing wave regimes;	Offshore and intertidal ornithology Commercial fisheries Socio-economics Civil and military aviation Telecommunications and interference Shipping and navigation

Plan	Policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		issues relating to navigational safety, aviation and collision risk; effects on marine and coastal recreation and access; effects on landscape and coastal characters and visual receptors; contribution to supporting a diverse and decarbonised energy sector; effects from the introduction and spread of Invasive Non Native Species; effects on residential amenity; loss of/damage to historic environment features and their settings; effects arising from noise, vibration, light, dust and shadow flicker; effects on water quality; and effects on ecological status.	

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Appendix 4A: Transboundary screening matrix

1. Introduction

1.1.1 This Appendix identifies the transboundary receptors of relevance to the Project and considers the potential likely significant effects from construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Project (as defined in **Chapter 2: Project Description**) on those transboundary receptors.

1.1.2 Transboundary effects arise when impacts from a development within Member States ('European Economic Area (EEA) States') affects the environment of another EEA State(s).

1.1.3 This transboundary screening matrix has been prepared in accordance with The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and The Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007. The primary purpose of this note is to provide a screening assessment of potential transboundary impact that have the potential to affect Member States.

1.1.4 A transboundary screening matrix has been completed for potential effects for the offshore physical, biological and human environments that could arise from the Project. The conclusions presented have been drawn from the assessment undertaken to date through the Scoping process. Any likely significant transboundary effects identified at this stage will be accounted for in the EIA Report and Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA).

2. Legislative context

2.1.1 The United Kingdom (UK) is a signatory to the United Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on EIA in a transboundary context. The convention was adopted in 1991 in the Finnish city of Espoo and is therefore known as the 'Espoo Convention'. It was established to enhance the cooperation between EEA States in assessing environmental effects in a transboundary context. Following the exit of the UK from the European Union (EU) in December 2020, the UK is no longer an EU Member State. However, for the purposes of assessing potential transboundary effects, the Espoo Convention remains the foundation of the approach followed for the Project.

2.1.2 The Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017; and The Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007 (as amended 2017), hereafter referred to as the 'EIA Regulations 2017' transpose the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2014/52/EU) (European Parliament, 2014) governing statutory notification and consultation in respect of transboundary impacts of development on other EEA States. **Table 2.1** sets out the Regulations of relevance to the assessment of transboundary effects.

Table 2.1 EIA Regulations relevant to transboundary effects

EIA Regulations	Relevance to transboundary
Regulation 5 of The Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017; and Regulation 6 of The Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007 (as amended 2017)	Require that an application for an 'EIA project' must be accompanied by an EIA Report. The EIA Report must include information stipulated by the Regulations 5 and 6.
Schedule 4 of The Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007 (as amended 2017)	Requires that description of likely significant effect should include those that are of transboundary nature.
Regulation 29 of The Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017	Establish the procedural duties necessary where the Scottish Ministers are of the view that an EIA project is likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State; or where another EEA state is of the view that its environment is likely to be affected by an EIA Project.
Regulation 19 of The Marine Works (EIA) Regulation 2007 (as amended 2017)	The appropriate authority must supply a copy of the environmental statement, and any additional information provided by the Applicant.

2.1.3 The screening for likely significant effects on the environment of another EEA State may take place at any time when new relevant information becomes available. Where a likely significant effect on the environment of any other EEA State(s) is identified, the role of the Scottish Ministers includes the identification of EEA State(s) to be notified, notification of the State(s) that an effect is likely, consultation with the EEA State(s), and notification to the EEA State(s) of the outcome of the application for the EIA project.

2.1.4 The EIA Regulations set out the procedures for consultation in association with an EIA project, where such a project may have significant transboundary impacts.

3. Screening considerations

Characteristics of the development

3.1.1 The Project comprises a new floating offshore wind project located in the E2b Plan Option from the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (Scottish Government, 2020), located between 93.2 – 132.9 kilometres (km) offshore (at its nearest and farthest points from shore respectively) east of the Aberdeenshire coastline. Full Project details can be found in **Chapter 2: Project Description** and the Scoping Boundary is illustrated in **Figure 1.1: Scoping Boundary, Appendix 1A**.

3.1.2 The Project's generating infrastructure will be located in the North Sea, within the 'Scottish Zone' (as defined in the Scotland Act 1998) of the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The Scoping Boundary is within the 12 – 200 nautical mile (nm) in the UK territorial sea. Given the nature of the Project, it has been considered that the Project may potentially have transboundary interactions with other EEA States. These, and their respective distances from the Project area, are outlined in **Figure 3.1** and **Table 3.1**.

Table 3.1 Distance from EEZ

EEZ	Distance from Scoping Boundary (km)
Norway	109 km
Denmark	212 km
Germany	228 km
Netherlands	240 km
Irish	453 km
Sweden	585 km

Screening tables

3.1.3 A transboundary screening matrix has been completed for potential effects for the offshore physical, biological and human environments that could arise from the Project (see **Table 3.2** and

3.1.4). The conclusions presented have been drawn from the assessment undertaken to date through the Scoping process. Any likely significant transboundary effects identified at this stage will be accounted for in the EIA Report and HRA.

Figure 3.1 Transboundary screening matrix Exclusive Economic Zones

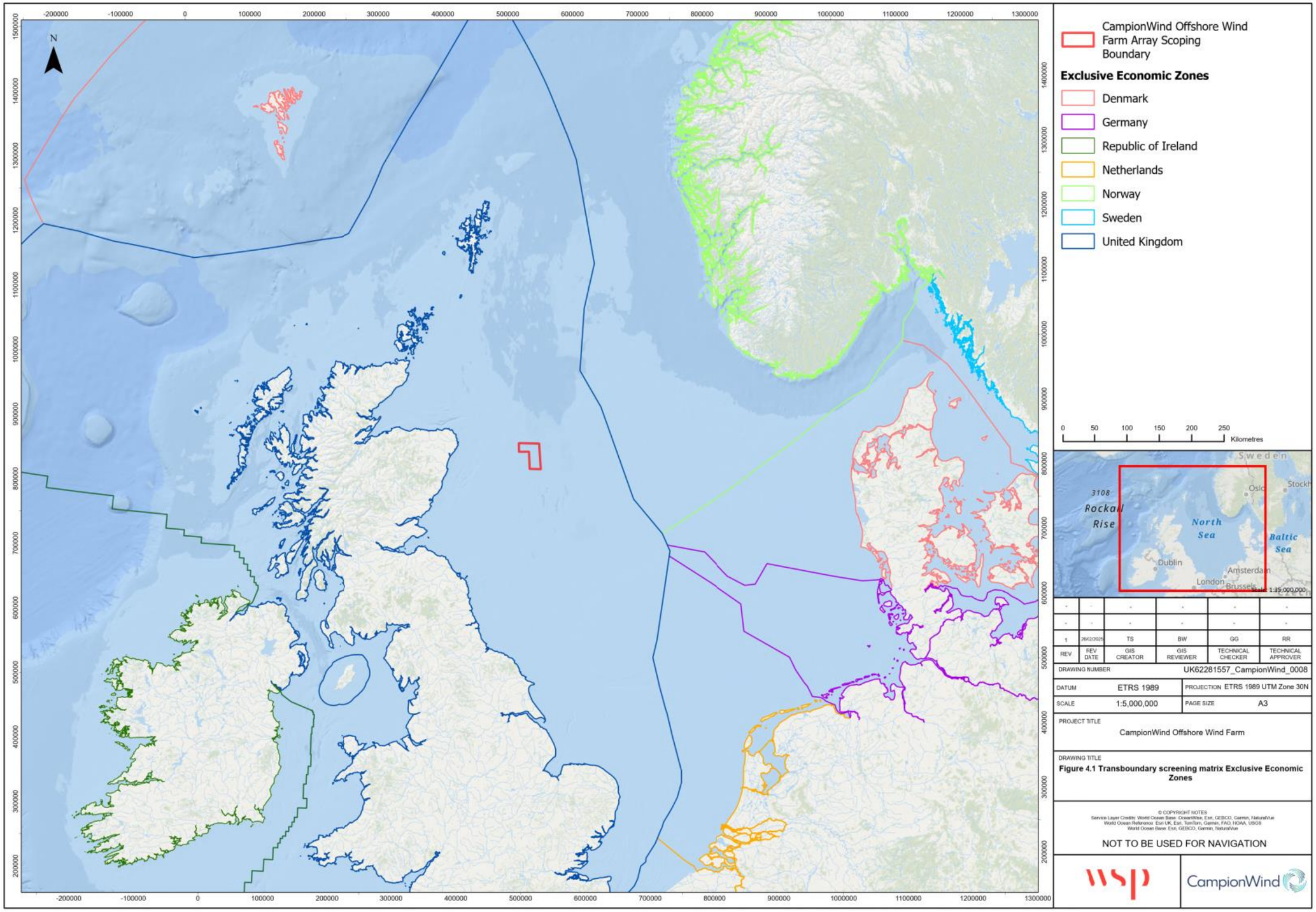

Table 3.2 Offshore transboundary screening matrix: physical and biological environment

Screening criteria	Marine geology, oceanography and physical processes	Marine water and sediment quality	Underwater noise and vibration	Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)	Benthic, epibenthic, intertidal and shellfish ecology	Marine mammals	Offshore ornithology	Fish ecology
Characteristics of the development	See Section 3.							
Geographical area	See Section 3.							
Location of development (including existing use)	See Section 3.							
Cumulative impacts	For potential cumulative effects see the 'Cumulative effects' subsection of each section.							
Potential impacts and carrier **Environmental importance** **Extent**	No significant transboundary impacts are predicted due to the localised and small-scale nature of the impacts on marine geology, oceanography and physical processes. Predicted impacts effects upon receptors are considered likely to be limited to the Project footprint for direct effects and one tidal excursion for indirect effects such as sediment transport and deposition.	No significant transboundary impacts are predicted due to the localised and small-scale nature of the expected impacts on marine water and sediment quality.	There is potential for transboundary effects on noise-sensitive receptors (such as marine mammals and fish) during the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Project.	No significant transboundary impacts in EMF are predicted due to the localised and small-scale nature of the impact.	No significant transboundary impacts are predicted as the extent of any predicted impacts upon benthic, intertidal and shellfish ecological receptors are likely to be limited in extent and localised in nature being limited to the Project footprint for direct effects and one tidal excursion for indirect effects such as sediment transport and deposition.	There is potential for transboundary effects upon marine mammals during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project. Although the Project is situated within Scottish waters, marine mammals are typically highly mobile, with large foraging ranges and / or may migrate over large distances for key life-history events (e.g. breeding and calving). In the UK, cetacean populations are managed using management units (MU; IAMMWG, 2023), which for some species are large geographic areas that cross into other territorial waters. An example of this is the North Sea MU, which is applicable to harbour porpoise and spans territorial waters of the UK, Norway, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France. Therefore, depending on the significance of the effects identified in the Project assessment (e.g. underwater noise modelling) and the Cumulative Effect Assessment (CEA), transboundary effects may require assessment.	The Project alone and CEA may affect offshore bird populations located outside UK territorial water, giving the potential for transboundary impacts. The area of search for Transboundary offshore wind farms will be screened for the North Sea. offshore wind farms for the potential to impact on the same bird populations that are present within the near vicinity of the Project. If transboundary sites are screened in, impacts will be assessed as per the other cumulative impacts.	The potential for transboundary effects upon fish during the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project is limited. Some fish can migrate over large geographic areas that cross into other territorial waters for key life stages.

Screening criteria	Marine geology, oceanography and physical processes	Marine water and sediment quality	Underwater noise and vibration	Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)	Benthic, epibenthic, intertidal and shellfish ecology	Marine mammals	Offshore ornithology	Fish ecology
Magnitude	For potential Transboundary impacts scoped in at this stage it is not yet possible to ascertain magnitude, this will however be determined in the EIA process.							
Probability **Duration** **Frequency** **Reversibility**	No significant transboundary impacts are predicted.	No significant transboundary impacts are predicted.	Depending on the findings of other impact assessments (e.g. on marine mammals and fish), transboundary effect may require assessment.	No significant transboundary impacts are predicted.	No significant transboundary impacts are predicted.	Depending on the significance of the effects identified in the Project assessment (e.g. underwater noise modelling) and the CEA, transboundary effects may require assessment.	Depending on the transboundary offshore wind farm screened for the potential to impact on the same bird populations that are present within the near vicinity of the Project. If transboundary sites are screened in, impacts will be assessed as per the other cumulative impacts.	Dependent on effects identified in the Project assessment (e.g. underwater noise modelling) and the CEA, which may require a transboundary effects assessment.
Screened in / out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened in	Screened out	Screened out	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in

Table 3.3 Offshore transboundary screening matrix: human environment

Screening criteria	Commercial fisheries	Shipping and navigation	Marine archaeology and cultural heritage
Characteristics of the development	See Section 3.		
Geographical area	See Section 3.		
Location of development (including existing use)	See Section 3.		
Cumulative impacts	For potential cumulative effects see the 'Cumulative effects' subsection of each section.		
Potential impacts and carrier **Environmental Importance** **Extent**	No significant transboundary impacts are predicted as any potential displacement of fishing activity into the Norwegian EEZ is expected to be highly unlikely based on data reviewed within this Scoping Report.	The potential for transboundary effects associated with vessels transiting to/from outside of the United Kingdom including transboundary ports has been identified.	No transboundary impacts have been identified due to the relatively localised nature of the potential effects.
Magnitude	For potential Transboundary impacts scoped in at this stage it is not yet possible to ascertain magnitude, this will however be determined in the EIA process.		
Probability **Frequency** **Reversibility**	No significant transboundary impacts are predicted	Transboundary impacts will be considered within the in-isolation assessment, and cumulatively with the presence of other offshore developments and activities within the CEA.	No significant transboundary impacts are predicted
Screened in / out	Screened out	Screened in	Screened out

4. Summary

4.1.1 On the basis of current information, there is the potential for significant effects arising from the Project on the interests of EEA States and as such transboundary effects may arise. Those impacts for which a transboundary effect may arise, and which are therefore screened into the EIA, are as follows:

- underwater noise and vibration;
- marine mammals;
- offshore ornithology;
- fish ecology; and
- shipping and navigation.

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Appendix 4B
Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area Assessment

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 This Scoping Report relates to the offshore aspects of CampionWind within the Offshore Wind Farm Array Area ('the Project') only. The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 introduced provisions to support the management of Nature Conservation (NC) Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Under section 126 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Marine Directorate Licensing and Operations Team (MD-LOT), as the competent authority, is required to consider whether a licensable activity is capable of affecting (other than insignificantly) a protected feature in a NC MPA or any ecological or geomorphological process on which the conservation of any protected feature in a NC MPA is dependent.

1.1.2 MD-LOT must not grant authorisation of an activity unless the person applying for the authorisation satisfies MD-LOT that there is no significant risk of the activity hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives for the NC MPA. If MD-LOT believes that there is or may be a significant risk of a proposal hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives, then they must notify the conservation bodies (NatureScot for MPAs within 12 nautical miles (nm) or the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) for MPAs outwith 12nm) of that fact.

1.1.3 If CampionWind Limited (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant') is not able to satisfy MD-LOT that there is no significant risk of the licensable activity hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives, then a licence will only be granted if:

- MD-LOT is satisfied that there is no other means of proceeding with the licensable activity that would create a substantially lower risk of hindering the achievement of those objectives (to include proceeding in another manner or at another location);
- MD-LOT is satisfied that the benefit to the public of proceeding with the licensable activity clearly outweighs the risk of damage to the environment that will be created by proceeding with it; and
- MD-LOT is satisfied that the Applicant will undertake, or make arrangements for the undertaking of, measures of environmental benefit equivalent to the damage that the activity will or is likely to have in or on the MPA concerned.

1.1.4 The purpose of this document is to outline the proposed approach for a NC MPA Assessment for the Project. This is submitted with the Scoping Report for the Project to enable a Scoping Opinion on the proposed approach to be provided by MD-LOT.

1.1.5 The necessary stages of a NC MPA Assessment are described in **Section 2**. This document presents the Stage 1 assessment/initial screening findings of designated MPAs, which are proposed to be carried forward for consideration in the MPA Assessment in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report.

2. The Marine Protected Area Assessment Process

2.1.1 This document has been prepared in line with relevant guidance published in 2013 "*Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas: Draft Management Handbook*" (Scottish Government, 2013).

2.1.2 Marine licences will be required to undertake prescribed marine licensable activities for the Project, including deposition of cables or other objects on or within the seabed, installation of any necessary cable protection, installation of station keeping systems consisting primarily of mooring lines and seabed anchors, and the installation of any wider infrastructure or substructures required.

2.1.3 The assessment has two sequential stages:

- Stage one: initial screening; and
- Stage two: main assessment.

2.2 Stage one: initial screening

2.2.1 An initial screening stage should be undertaken to focus on what can reasonably be predicted as a consequence of the proposed Project and whether it is '*capable of affecting other than insignificantly*', a protected feature of a NC MPA. The initial screening should use information that is currently available and consider aspects such as the scale, timing and duration of the proposed activities/development. These considerations should include proposals for developments or activities out-with the boundary of a NC MPA.

2.2.2 Firstly, consideration of 'capable of affecting' should result in removing from further consideration all proposals / functions that are not in any way connected to the protected feature(s). A capability that is both remote (in terms of likelihood of occurrence) and hypothetical should not be the basis of a conclusion that further assessment is required. This can be determined by considering whether the activity will exert pressures that the protected feature(s) are sensitive to.

2.2.3 Secondly, if it is concluded that the Project is 'capable of affecting', the focus should then be on considering whether the proposed development or activity will affect the protected features of a NC MPA, other than insignificantly. Consideration of the degree of pressure that could be exerted by the activity on a spatial basis should help to establish what level of effect might occur.

2.2.4 In circumstances where the conclusion is that the act or function is 'capable of affecting' (other than insignificantly) the protected features of a NC MPA, then the main assessment must be carried out considering the conservation objectives.

2.3 Stage two: main assessment

2.3.1 If required following the initial screening stage one, the stage two main assessment will focus on determining whether the exercise of a function will or may significantly hinder (section 125 Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009), or there is or may be a significant risk of the act hindering (section 126 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009), the achievement of the conservation objectives. The approach to this assessment is similar, therefore, to simplify the description this section only refers to 'significant risk of hindering'.

2.3.2 Consideration must be carried out on a case-by-case basis of whether there may be a 'significant risk of hindering' the achievement of the conservation objectives of the protected features of a NC MPA. In carrying out the main assessment, it may be that further data needs to be collated or collected to provide sufficient evidence.

2.3.3 As with the initial screening, aspects such as scale, timing and duration of the proposed activities or developments should all be considered. However, whilst the initial screening focuses on the protected features, the main assessment focuses on the potential impact on the achievement the conservation objectives of the protected features. Therefore, the main assessment stage will also include consideration of the scale of the potential impact. Consideration of cumulative effects with other activities and functions should also be undertaken in line with EIA requirements.

2.3.4 The assessment should build on the initial screening assessment described in **Section 2.2** that considers the pressures associated with the activity and the sensitivity of the protected features, and information on the likely spatial overlap. To determine whether there is a 'significant risk of hindering' the achievement of the conservation objectives of the protected features of a NC MPA aspects such as the intensity, frequency, and duration of any activities associated with the function or act should be considered.

2.3.5 The conservation objectives for MPA features are high-level criteria (Scottish Government, 2013) describing the desired condition of the MPA feature. There are two objectives for features within an MPA, which are that the protected features:

- so far as already favourable condition, remain in such condition; and
- so far as not already in favourable condition, be brought into such condition, and remain in such condition.

2.3.6 The MPA main assessment for the Project will therefore consider whether the Project could potentially affect these objectives for each of the MPAs screened into the assessment. An assessment will be made of whether the Project could potentially impact the site so that the feature(s) are no longer in favourable condition or prevent the feature(s) from recovering to a favourable condition.

2.4 Identification of relevant MPAs / study scope

2.4.1 A review of Project information was completed, including the identification of the potential zones of influence (ZOI) that may arise from the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project. The Applicant proposes that, in order to determine the ZOI of the activities associated with the Project, the same screening criteria is used for the MPA assessment as will be for the proposed Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) screening, which is currently under development and will be submitted separately to MD-LOT in 2025. These are as follows for the protected features of MPAs:

- Benthic habitats/species and geodiversity features: there is potential for indirect effects to sites designated for benthic features, as well as geodiversity, as a result of impacts associated with increased suspended sediment concentrations arising from construction activities and from changes to the hydrodynamic regime as a result of the presence of the offshore infrastructure associated with the Project. Physical processes modelling will be undertaken for the Project to inform the EIA Report, however this has not yet been carried out at the Scoping stage. Therefore, a buffer of one mean tidal excursion in the vicinity of the Project equates to approximately 5 km, as derived from the Atlas of UK Marine Renewable Energy Resources (ABPmer, 2018). For the purpose of MPA screening, a precautionary approach has been adopted and this buffer has been increased to 15 km. This buffer is considered to be sufficiently precautionary to capture

all sites likely to be in the ZOI from direct and indirect effects. This buffer has also been applied for geodiversity features of MPAs.

- Fish species: for the purposes of this MPA assessment a precautionary buffer of 50 km has been adopted to screen in MPA sites, on the basis that this is sufficiently precautionary to capture the ZOI from the Project from key impacts such as underwater noise. This will however be refined in the EIA Report on the basis of the outputs of the underwater noise assessment and physical processes modelling.
- Marine mammals: the HRA screening considers sites with cetaceans as qualifying interest features within a buffer that equates to the Marine Mammal Management Units, outlined by the Inter Agency Marine Mammal Working Group, as defined in Section 5.6: Marine mammals of the Scoping Report. For seals, all seals within the Moray Firth Seal Management Unit (SMU); East Scotland SMU; and North Coast and Orkney SMU have been considered. These buffers are considered to be sufficiently precautionary to capture all sites likely to be in the ZOI from indirect effects associated with construction activities but will be refined in the EIA Report on the basis of the outputs of the underwater noise assessment and physical processes modelling.
- Ornithology: the HRA screening considers sites with breeding seabirds as qualifying interest features within a buffer that equates to the offshore ornithological study area, as defined in Section 5.7: Offshore ornithology of the Scoping Report. For the non-breeding season, the ZOI will be the regional Biologically Defined Minimum Population Scale described in literature (Furness, 2015) where the Project is located, which is the UK North Sea. These buffers are considered to be sufficiently precautionary to capture all sites likely to be in the ZOI from indirect effects associated with construction and operational activities, but they will be refined in the EIA Report on the basis of the outputs of the collision risk, displacement and Population Viability Analysis assessments.

2.4.2 The MPAs within the search area are presented in **Section 3**. It is proposed that 'insignificance' will be determined for the Project through the assessments made in the EIA Report chapters.

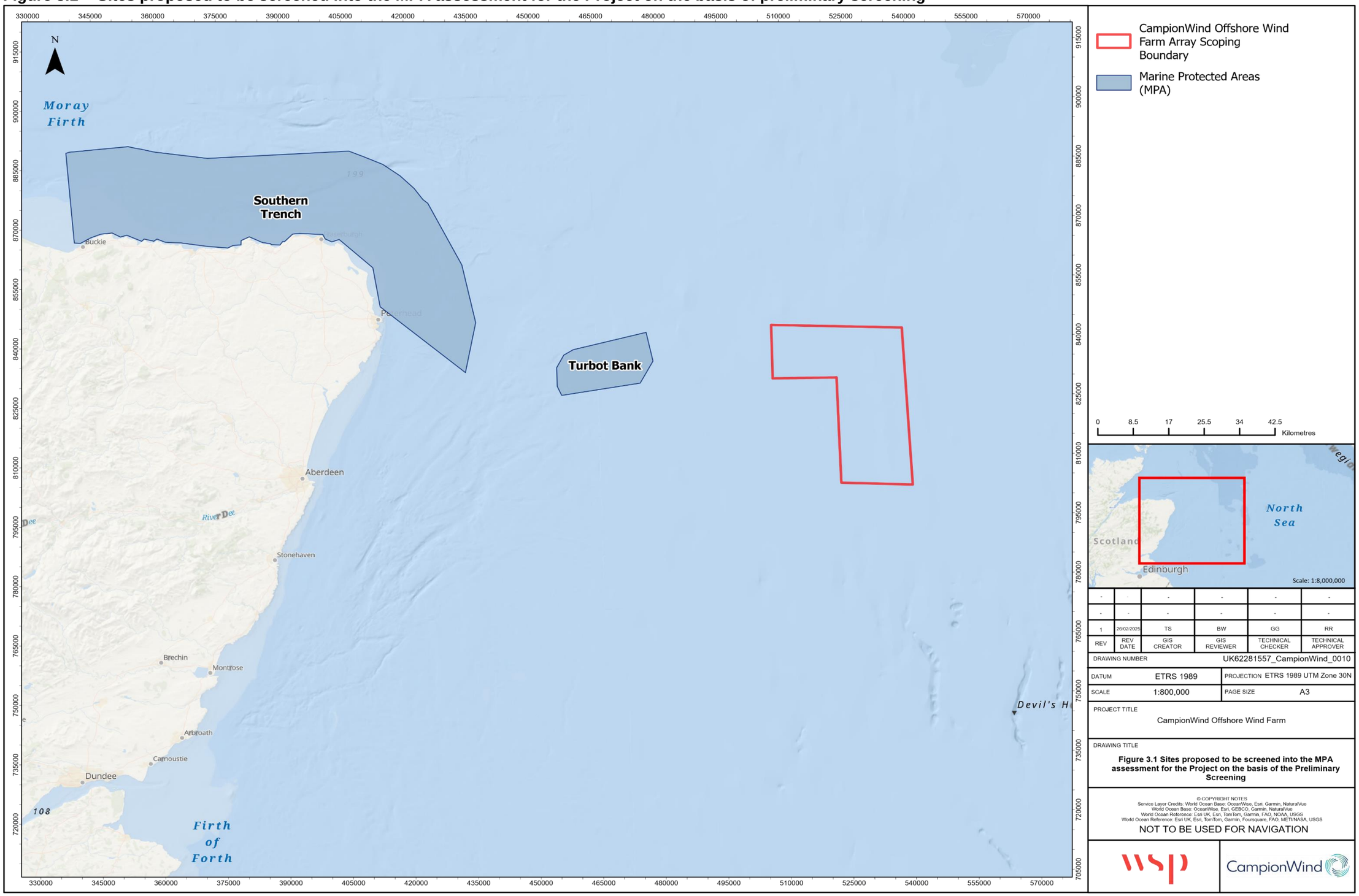
3. Initial Screening for the Project

3.1.1 As outlined in **Section 2**, the Applicant has undertaken an initial MPA screening exercise for the purposes of Scoping. This will be revisited once the results of the EIA assessment are available, for example marine geology, oceanography and physical processes, and underwater noise and vibration. The following MPAs have been identified for initial inclusion and illustrated in **Figure 3.1**:

- Southern Trench NC MPA (approximately 71km north west of the Scoping Boundary); and
- Turbot Bank NC MPA (approximately 29km west of the Scoping Boundary).

3.1.2 The following subsections present a summary of each MPA included within this initial screening process, the features for which they have been designated, and the general management approaches being implemented. The MPAs are presented in order of increasing distance from the Scoping Boundary (**Figure 1.1: Scoping Boundary** of **Appendix 1A**). Information for each MPA has been obtained from the MPA's individual site summary, with full details provided in **Section 4**.

Figure 3.1 Sites proposed to be screened into the MPA assessment for the Project on the basis of preliminary screening



3.2 Southern Trench NC MPA

3.2.1 Southern Trench NC MPA is located off the Aberdeenshire coast and is designated to protect burrowed mud habitats, fronts and shelf deeps, as well as marine mammals (minke whales - *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*).

3.2.2 The Southern Trench NC MPA takes its name from the 58 km long, 9 km wide and 250 m deep trench running parallel to the coast that was carved out by glaciers. This important geodiversity feature also contains rock features thought to be over 250 million years old. The trench functions as a nursery ground for juvenile fish and the thick, soft mud covering the trench floor is home to an assortment of mud-loving animals. These include the Norway lobster and crabs that build their burrows in the mud, elegant seapens and tube anemones which rise out of the mud to filter food from passing water and squat lobsters on the mud's surface looking for food.

3.2.3 The conservation objectives of the site for burrowed mud include: "*Conserve the diversity, abundance and distribution of typical species associated within the burrowed mud* (*including Nephrops norvegicus, Pennatula phosphorea, Virgularia mirabilis, Goneplax rhomboides, Munida spp., Calacaris macandreae, and Callianassa subterranean)*" (NatureScot, 2020).

3.2.4 The deep trench environment of the Southern Trench NC MPA creates a dynamic mixing zone of warm and cold waters that attracts shoals of herring, mackerel and cod to the area, with the soft sands providing abundant habitat for sandeels (NatureScot, 2020). The presence of these key prey species attracts predator species such as minke whale to the area.

3.2.5 The relevant features for consideration (following the approach outline in **Section 2**) for which the Southern Trench NC MPA is designated for, the overarching conservation objective, and the feature conditions[1] is presented in **Table 3.1**.

Table 3.1 Relevant designated features of the Southern Trench NC MPA (NatureScot, 2020)

Protected feature(s)	Type of feature	Conservation objectives	Feature condition
Minke whale	Mobile species	Maintain in favourable condition. Minke whale in the Southern Trench MPA are not at significant risk from injury or killing; conserve the access to resources (e.g. for feeding) provided by the MPA for various stages of the minke whale life cycle; conserve the distribution of minke whale within the site by avoiding significant disturbance; conserve the extend and distribution of any supporting feature upon which minke whale is dependent; and conserve the structure and function of supporting features, including processes to ensure minke whale are healthy and not deteriorating.	Favourable (NatureScot, 2020)

[1] '*Feature condition refers to the condition of the protected feature assessed at a site level*' (NatureScot, 2020).

3.3 Turbot Bank NC MPA

3.3.1 Turbot Bank NC MPA is located to the southwest of the Fladen Ground in the northern North Sea, 44km east of Peterhead off the east coast of Scotland. The MPA lies within an area of sandy sediment and includes the shelf bank and mound feature known as 'Turbot Bank'. The site covers an area of 251km^2 and was designated by Marine Scotland as a NC MPA in 2014. The designated features of the Turbot Bank NC MPA; their overarching objectives; and the feature conditions are outline in **Table 3.2**.

3.3.2 Turbot Bank is important for sandeels, particularly Raitt's sandeel *Ammodytes marinus*, which is closely associated with sand habitats, living buried in the sand for months at a time. The site contains the type of sandy sediment with low silt and clay components that sandeels prefer. The sandeel species present within Turbot Bank are an important component of the larger sandeel population in the northern North Sea.

Table 3.2 Designated features of the Turbot Bank NC MPA (JNCC, 2020)

Protected feature(s)	Type of feature	Conservation objectives	Feature condition
Sandeels	Mobile feature	Maintain in favourable condition. The quality and quantity of its habitats and the composition of its population are such that they ensure that the population is maintained in numbers which enable it to thrive. Any temporary reduction of numbers is to be disregarded if the population of Sandeels is thriving and sufficiently resilient to enable its recovery from such reduction. Any alteration to that feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.	Favourable (JNCC, 2020)

4. Summary

4.1.1 The NC MPA initial screening has identified the following NC MPAs for the Project:

- Southern Trench NC MPA; and
- Turbot Bank NC MPA.

4.1.2 These NC MPA sites and designated features are proposed to be taken forward to the "*main assessment stage which focuses on determining whether the exercise of a function would or might significantly hinder the achievement of the conservation objectives*" (Scottish Government, 2013).

4.1.3 The periodic review and monitoring of NC MPAs is undertaken by Marine Scotland. Any revisions to the designated feature definitions and/or conservation objectives for NC MPAs will be monitored by the Project. The timing and content of any revisions will be the subject of stakeholder engagement during the pre-application phase to ensure that the EIA is informed by the most up to date information regarding these sites.

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Appendix 5.4A
Key sources of EMF data

1. Introduction

1.1.1 This Appendix identifies literature to highlight the key data sources and current industry understanding relevant for the Project's electromagnetic fields (EMF) assessment. A list of desk-based courses is provided in **Table 1.1** below.

Table 1.1 Key sources of EMF data

Source	Date	Summary	Coverage of study area
Offshore wind - diadromous fish: review - January 2024 (ScotMER, 2024)	Accessed 2025	Report which identifies evidence gaps relating to the potential impacts of offshore wind development on diadromous fish at a strategic level.	The report reviews current knowledge and highlights further strategic research opportunities and areas for consideration. The report provides a review of the species specific related research undertaken that will be considered in the relevant aspect assessments noted in paragraph 5.4.4.
Hutchison et al., 2020	Accessed 2025	Study looking at the EMF effects on the behaviour of bottom-dwelling marine species.	Receptor specific response to EMF.
Hutchison et al., 2021	Accessed 2025	Study that modelled the influence of cable properties of a HVDC transmission cable.	Effects of EMF on a range of receptors.
Harsanyi et al., 2022	Accessed 2025	Study looking at the effects of EMF to lobster and crab. The Effects of Anthropogenic EMF on the Early Development of Two Commercially Important Crustaceans, European lobster, Homarus gammarus (L.) and edible crab, Cancer pagurus (L.).	Receptor specific response to EMF.
Gill and Taylor, 2001	Accessed 2025	The potential effects of EMFs generated by cabling between offshore wind turbine generators (WTGs) upon elasmobranch fishes.	Potential effects of EMF to elasmobranchs.
Fisher and Slater, 2010	Accessed 2025	Effects of EMPs on Marine Species: A Literature Review	Effects of EMF on a range of receptors.
Gill et al., 2009	Accessed 2025	COWRIE 2.0 EMF Phase 2: EMF-Sensitive Fish Response to EM Emissions from Subsea Electricity Cables of the type Used by the Offshore Renewable Energy Industry. Commissioned by COWRIE Ltd.	Effects of EMF on a range of receptors.

Source	Date	Summary	Coverage of study area
Gill and Desender, 2020	Accessed 2025	Setting the Context for Offshore Wind Development Effects on Fish and Fisheries.	EMF emissions from an offshore wind farm and effects on fish.
Meißner, Schabelon, Bellebaum, and Sordyl, 2006	Accessed 2025	Impacts of submarine cables on the marine environment: a literature review.	Designated site-specific data.
National Grid and Energinet, 2017	Accessed 2025	Cable Heating Effects – Marine Ecological Report, Viking Link.	Effects of heat emissions from cables.
Normandeau Exponent Inc. et al., 2011	Accessed 2025	Effects of EMFs from Undersea Power Cables on Elasmobranchs and Other Marine Species.	Information on EMF emissions from cables.
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), 2020	Accessed 2025	EMF from Offshore Wind Facilities.	Information on EMF emissions from cables.
Green Volt Offshore Wind Farm (Green Volt Offshore Wind Ltd, 2023)	Accessed 2025	Green Volt wind farm will have similar impacts to this Project and will be a valuable source of information for assessing the impacts from EMF.	Information on EMF emissions from cables.
Ossian Offshore Wind Farm (Ossian Offshore Wind Farm Ltd, 2024)	Accessed 2025	Ossian offshore wind farm will have similar impacts to this Project and will be a valuable source of information for assessing the impacts from EMF.	Information on EMF emissions from cables.
Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm (Hyland Wind Ltd, 2022)	Accessed 2025	Pentland floating offshore wind farm will have similar impacts to this Project and will be a valuable source of information for assessing the impacts from EMF.	Information on EMF emissions from cables.
Erebus ES Volume 3. Technical Appendix: 7.2 EMF Assessment, 2021 (MarineSpace Ltd., 2021)	Accessed 2025	Erebus floating offshore windfarm will have similar impacts to this Project and will be a valuable source of information for assessing the impacts from EMF.	Information on EMF emissions from cables.
Moray Offshore Renewables Ltd, 2019	Accessed 2025	Wind Farms and Associated Transmission Infrastructure Environmental Statement. Technical Appendix 4.3 D- electromagnetic Field Modelling.	Information on EMF emissions from cables.

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Appendix 5.5A
Benthic, epibenthic and shellfish ecology policy context

1. Introduction

1.1.1 **Chapter 5.5: Benthic, epibenthic and shellfish** considers the potential likely significant effects on benthic ecology that may arise from the construction, operation and maintenance (O&M) and decommissioning of the Offshore Wind Farm Array Area (the 'Project') as described in **Chapter 2: Project Description**. Benthic ecology encompasses infauna and epifauna (including shellfish) features. This Appendix provides a detailed summary of individual national, marine and local planning policies of relevance to Chapter 5.5, which have informed the proposed scope of the benthic, epibenthic and shellfish assessment.

1.1.2 **Table 1.1** below presents a summary of legislation and policies relevant for benthic ecology assessment. This table does not quote the policies in full but rather states the relevance to this Section.

Table 1.1 Relevant legislation and policy

Relevant legislation and policy	Relevance to the assessment
Legislation	
International: Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive)	Establishes a legal framework for the protection of habitats and species of European importance. It requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and contributes to the Natura 2000 network.
National: Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994 (as amended) (Habitat Regulations); **National: Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended);** **National: Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment (Scotland) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019; and** **National: Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017**	Together these pieces of legislation transpose the requirements of the EC Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) into UK legislation. The legislation aims to conserve natural habitats and wild flora and fauna by protecting sites that are internationally important for threatened habitats and species (European sites) and provides a legal framework for species requiring strict protection, known as European Protected Species (EPS). The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 ensures the protection of marine habitats and species in the UK's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and on the UK continental shelf. It establishes Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and provides rules for assessing and mitigating impacts from offshore developments.
International: Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971 (the Ramsar Convention)	Sets out protective provisions for wetland sites of international importance (known as Ramsar sites). The assessment has been informed by the presence of Ramsar sites (as designated by the Convention) through the review of existing data. The Convention has been applied in Ramsar site selection and when reviewing existing data for the assessment.
National: Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011	The Act enabled Scotland to adopt a Code of Practice on Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS), which includes: Adopting a precautionary approach and not carrying out operations which might lead to the spread of INNS until there is a clear understanding of the situation; Carrying out risk assessments to understand the risk of spreading an INNS; Seeking advice and following good practice; and Reporting the presence of INNS.
International: Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) (2008/56/EC) **National: Marine Strategy Regulations 2010** **National: Marine Environment (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018**	Paragraph 3.8.8 in Chapter 3: Legislative and Policy context sets outs the legislative framework for MSFD. The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 translated the requirements of the EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive into UK legislation and required the UK to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) in the marine environment by 2030. Eleven qualitative descriptors are detailed, which describe the environment when GES is achieved. Descriptors relevant to this technical assessment include: Descriptor 1 – Biological diversity Descriptor 2 – Non-indigenous species; Descriptor 4 – Elements of marine food web; Descriptor 6 – Sea floor integrity; Descriptor 7 – Alteration of hydrographical conditions; Descriptor 8 – Contaminants; and Descriptor 10 – Marine litter. The targets used to assess progress for benthic habitats are: The physical loss of each seabed habitat type caused by human activities is minimised, and where possible reversed; Habitat loss of sensitive, fragile, or important habitats caused by human activities is prevented, and where feasible reversed; The extent of habitat types adversely affected by physical disturbance caused by human activity should be minimised; and The extent of adverse effects cause by human activities on condition, function and ecosystem processes of habitats is minimised. GES for benthic habitats is currently 'Not Achieved'. The achievement of GES is uncertain for intertidal and soft sediment habitats. Sublittoral rock and biogenic habitats have not yet achieved GES.

Relevant legislation and policy	Relevance to the assessment
National: Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	Relevant marine plan(s) and MPA(s) will be considered in the benthic ecology assessment. In conjunction with the EIA and MPA assessment would be completed.
International: Convention on Biological Diversity 1992	Identifies a compiled list of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species and habitats, in which subsequent action plans sought to ensure that priority species or habitats are conserved or enhanced.
International: The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework commits 196 countries to halting and reversing nature loss by 2030. The agreement's 23 targets include a global target to conserve at least 30% of the world's ocean by 2030 ("30x30").
International: The Regulation on Nature Restoration (Nature Restoration Law)	The EU adopted a new "Nature Restoration Law" on 18th August 2024. Member States will put in place restoration measures in at least 20% of the EU's sea areas by 2030. The regulation sets binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, particularly those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters. Full implementation of the law is crucial to restore the EU's biodiversity and stop further biodiversity loss, to reach climate neutrality by 2060, adapt to climate change, and to enhance food security for EU citizens. It is also a key instrument to help the EU and its Member States meet international biodiversity commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. As an overall target to be reached at the EU level, Member States will put in place restoration measures in at least 20% of the EU's land areas and 20% of its sea areas by 2030. By 2050, such measures should be in place for all ecosystems that need restoration.
National: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland Act 2012); and Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004)	These acts collectively provide protection for wildlife, countryside and natural habitats and address specific conservation needs and priorities in Scotland. The Act makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, take possession of, sell, disturb or harass species listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
International: Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) 1992	The OSPAR Convention will be implemented through OSPAR's North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030. Contained within the OSPAR Convention are a series of annexes relevant to the benthic ecology assessment: Annex I: Prevention and elimination of pollution from land-based sources; Annex II: Prevention and elimination of pollution from dumping or incineration; Annex III: Prevention and elimination of pollution from offshore sources; Annex IV: Assessment of the quality of the marine environment; and Annex V: On the protection and conservation of the ecosystems and biological diversity of the maritime area. The OSPAR Strategy for the Protection and Conservation for Ecosystems and Biological Diversity foresees that the OSPAR Commission will identify species and habitats in need of protection. The OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining species and habitats has been developed to meet this commitment. Some of the relevant strategic objectives (SO) from OSPAR's North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030, include: SO 5: To protect and conserve marine biodiversity, ecosystems and their services to achieve good status of species and habitats, thereby maintaining and strengthening ecosystem resilience. These targets include: S5.04: By 2025, take appropriate actions to prevent or reduce pressures to enable the recovery of marine species and benthic and pelagic habitats in order to reach and maintain good environmental status as reflected in relevant OSPAR status assessments; S5.05: By 2025, to implement all agreed measures to enable the recovery of OSPAR Listed threatened and/or declining species and habitats and will take additional measures as needed; SO 6: Restore degraded benthic habitats when practicable to safeguard their ecosystem function and resilience to climate change and ocean acidification. These targets include: S6.01: By 2023, identify habitats suitable for restoration, and develop a common knowledge base on the most appropriate and effective methods for restoration of degraded habitats; S6.02: By 2025, develop a regional approach, including relevant qualitative and/or quantitative targets for restoration of degraded habitats suitable for restoration, and to implement actions to achieve the targets as appropriate; SO 9: Safeguard the structure and functions of the seabed/marine ecosystems by preventing significant habitat loss and physical disturbance due to human activities.
National: Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy (Scottish Government, 2020a)	Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy sets out an ambition for Scotland to be Nature Positive by 2030 with regenerated biodiversity across the country by 2045. Developing management of sustainable fishing will form a crucial part of protecting and restoring biodiversity in marine waters to help achieve those goals. As part of this, the Scottish government has also committed to introduce a Natural Environment Bill to put in place key legislative changes that will restore and protect nature, including, but not restricted to, targets for nature restoration and an effective statutory, target-setting monitoring, enforcing and reporting framework. The Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) is a comprehensive inventory of species and habitats identified by Scottish Ministers as being of principal importance for biodiversity and conservation in Scotland and support Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy. This list serves as a critical tool for public bodies to fulfil their biodiversity duty and is a valuable resource for anyone involved in nature conservation. It includes a variety of animals, plants and habitats that are prioritised for conservation efforts. The list is aligned with Annex I of the Habitats Directive, which includes habitats of which SACs may be designated.
National Policy	

Relevant legislation and policy	Relevance to the assessment
Approved National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) 2023	A full review of the relevance of the Approved NPF4 2024 for this EIA is provided in Appendix 3A: Planning Policy Framework. Revised draft policies of relevance to this area of technical assessment are: Policy 1: Tackling the Climate and Nature Crisis; Policy 3: Biodiversity; and Policy 20: Blue and Green Infrastructure.
Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 2014) **Paragraph 169: Development Management;** **Paragraph 195: Delivery;** **Paragraph 199: Development Plans; and** **Paragraph 214: Protected Species**	Discusses how proposals for energy infrastructure and development should take account of spatial frameworks for wind farms and heat maps where relevant. The Policy looks at how planning authorities have a duty under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 to make sure they further the conservation of biodiversity. The Policy also talks about how plans should make sure they address the potential effects of development on the natural environment. The Policy identified that the presence of legally protected species is important in the consideration of planning decisions. If there is evidence to suggest that a protect species is present on site, protection should be factored into the planning and design of the development.
Marine Policy	
UK Marine Policy Statement (2011)	The UK Marine Policy Statement (2011) details the following: Sets out requirements for biodiversity to be protected, conserved and where appropriate recovered and loss haltered. Requirements for healthy marine and coastal habitats can occur across their natural range and are able to support strong biodiverse biological communities and the functioning of healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystems. Requirements for the oceans to have viable populations of representative, rare, vulnerable and valued species.
Scottish National Marine Plan (2015)	GEN 5 requires a reduction in human pressure and the safeguarding of ecosystem services such as natural coastal protection and natural carbon sinks (e.g. seagrass beds, kelp beds and saltmarsh). In some cases, compensatory habitat creation or enhancement may be possible and should be considered as a last resort if significant harm cannot be avoided. Appropriate proactive opportunities for enhancing natural carbon sinks and allowing natural coastal change where possible should also be considered; GEN 9 requires developments to comply with legal requirements for protected areas and protected species; not to result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features (PMFs); and protect, and, where appropriate, enhance the health of the marine area; GEN 10 supports opportunities to reduce the introduction on INNS to a minimum or proactively improve the practice of existing activity should be taken when decisions are being made. Codes of practice for INNS should be complied with; GEN 13 states that development should avoid significant adverse effects of man-made noise and vibration, especially on species sensitive to such effects; GEN 21 requires for cumulative impacts affect the ecosystem to be addressed; CABLES 2 requires the following to be considered when reaching a decision regarding cable development: Cables should be suitably routed to provide sufficient requirements for installation and cable protection; New cables should implement methods to minimise impacts on the environment, seabed and other users; Where burial is demonstrated not to be feasible, cables may be suitably protected; and Consideration of the need to reinstate the seabed, undertake post-lay surveys and monitoring and carry out remedial action where required. FISHERIES 1, FISHERIES 2 and FISHERIES 3 include a requirement to take account for the EU's Common Fisheries Policy, Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and MSFD. Development and activities should take account of the potential impacts on: Shellfish stocks and resultant fishing opportunities; Fish grounds, commercially fished grounds; and Displacement of fish stocks, the socio-economic costs to fishers and their communities and other marine users.
Sectoral Marine Plan – Offshore Wind (2020)	The Scottish Government (2020b) Confirms Plan Options for ScotWind leasing (including E2) and provides a spatial strategy for offshore wind development. Highlights the need for this strategy to minimise the potential adverse effect on other marine users, economic sectors and the environment. Section 4.1 lists a range of potential negative impacts identified through plan-level SEA, HRA and SEIA which require further consideration through project level assessments, including: "*Loss of/damage to marine and coastal habitats;* *Effects from pollution releases on species and habitats;* *Effects from the introduction and spread of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS); and* *Effects on ecological status*".

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