MachairWind Offshore Windfarm

Tuathanas-Gaoithe Far Oirthir MachairWind

Windfarm Development Area

Information Booklet: Autumn 2025

Raon-Leasachaidh Tuathanas-Gaoithe
Leabhar Fiosrachaidh: Am Foghar 2025

ScottishPower Renewables | MachairWind Offshore Windfarm

MachairWind Windfarm Development Area | Autumn 2025

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ScottishPower Renewables | MachairWind Offshore Windfarm

Welcome

The MachairWind team is delighted to be on the islands again to deliver our second round of public consultation, which runs from Monday 20th October to Sunday 30th November 2025. During this consultation, you will receive updates on the MachairWind Offshore Windfarm and find out how your feedback from the first round (held from May to July this year) has informed project decision making. You will also have the opportunity to share your views and continue taking part in the development of the windfarm.

TThis booklet provides you with comprehensive information on the project., with a particular focus on the array area's (the 'windfarm development area') infrastructure, impacts and opportunities. It also includes our response to feedback received during our first round of consultation.

MachairWind is a proposed offshore windfarm located northwest of Islay and west of Colonsay, with the potential to deliver around 2 Gigawatts of clean, green energy.

In 2022, ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) secured a seabed option agreement from Crown Estate Scotland, giving it exclusive rights to develop an offshore windfarm. More information on this leasing round and the site identification process can be found on page 14. Since then, numerous surveys have been undertaken to enhance our knowledge of the windfarm development area (WDA), including studies of seabed conditions, traffic vessel movement, marine life and birds, as well as wind and wave conditions.

Over the past three years, the project team have shared information publicly and sought expertise from our stakeholders across a range of sectors, such as heritage and environment, commercial fishing, renewable energy, infrastructure, and education. Importantly, we have been building relationships with our host communities - Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Ross of Mull and Iona - to better understand the distinct priorities within these communities, to ensure as many people as possible are aware of MachairWind, and to encourage communities to share their views to inform the project's development.

This second round of six-week public consultation is focused on the WDA. We hope you will find this booklet provides helpful and useful information. The other parts of the project (the export cable corridor and the onshore infrastructure) are being consented separately and consultation will follow on these at a later date.

Our aim is to ensure our communities and stakeholders can fully engage with the consultation process. Please see the 'Have Your Say' chapter, which outlines the numerous ways you can share your views on our WDA proposals.

Thank you for taking the time to find out about MachairWind and share your views.

Please respond to the public consultation by Sunday 30th November 2025.

Should you require this booklet and/or feedback form in an alternative format or if you have any questions, suggestions or requests, please get in touch:

Email us at:
machairwind@scottishpower.com

Write to us at: MachairWind Project Team, ScottishPower HQ, 320 St Vincent St, Glasgow, G2 5AD

Should you require a pre-paid envelope, please collect one at your local Service Point or email us your postal address at:
machairwind@scottishpower.com

Fàilte

Tha sgioba MachairWind air leth toilichte a bhith air na h-eileanan a-rithist gus an dàrna cuairt againn de cho-chomhairleachadh poblach a lìbhrigeadh, a bhios a' ruith bho Diluain 20 Dàmhair gu Didòmhnaich 30 Samhain 2025. Rè na co-chomhairleachaidh seo, gheibh sibh fiosrachadh ùraichte mu Thuathanas Gaoithe Mara MachairWind agus gheibh sibh a-mach mar a tha ur beachdan bhon chiad chuairt (a chaidh a chumail bhon Chèitean gus An Iuchar am-bliadhna) air buaidh a thoirt air co-dhùnaidhean a' phròiseict. Tha cothrom agaibh cuideachd ur beachdan a cho-roinn agus leantainn air adhart a' gabhail pàirt ann an leasachadh an tuathanais gaoithe.

Tha an leabhran seo a' toirt dhuibh fiosrachadh coileanta mun phròiseact, le fòcas sònraichte air bun-structar, buaidhean agus cothroman na sgìre leasachaidh (an 'sgìre leasachaidh tuathanas gaoithe'). Tha e cuideachd a' toirt a-steach ar freagairt do na beachdan a fhuair sinn rè a' chiad chuairt co-chomhairleachaidh againn.

'S e tuathanas-gaoithe far-oirthir a thathar a' moladh a th' ann am MachairWind a tha suidhichte san iar-thuath air Ìle agus san iar air Colbhasa, leis a' chomas timcheall air 2 Gigawatts de lùth glan, uaine a lìbhrigeadh.

Ann an 2022, fhuair ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) aonta roghainn grunnd na mara bho Crown Estate Scotland, a' toirt còraichean sònraichte dhaibh tuathanas gaoithe far a' chladaich a leasachadh. Gheibhear barrachd fiosrachaidh mun chuairt màl seo agus am pròiseas comharrachadh làraich air duilleag 14. Bhon àm sin, chaidh grunn sgrùdaidhean a dhèanamh gus ar n-eòlas air an làraich a leasachadh, a' gabhail a-staigh sgrùdaidhean air suidheachaidhean grunnd na mara, gluasad shoithichean, beatha mara agus gnèithean eòin, a bharrachd air suidheachaidhean gaoithe is tonn.

Thairis air na trì bliadhna a dh' fhalbh, tha sgioba a' phròiseict air fiosrachadh a roinn gu poblach agus air eòlas iarraidh bho ar luchd-ùidh thar raon de roinnean, leithid dualchas agus àrainneachd, iasgach malairteach, lùth ath-nuadhachail, bun-structar, agus foghlam. Gu sònraichte, tha sinn air a bhith dàimhean a thogail le muinntir nan coimhearsnachdan aoigheachd againn - Ìle, Diùra, Colbhasa, Ros Mhuile agus Ì Chaluim Chille- gus tuigse nas fheàrr fhaighinn air na prìomhachasan sònraichte taobh a-staigh nan coimhearsnachdan sin, gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil uimhir de dhaoine 's as urrainn mothachail air MachairWind, agus gus moladh mar as urrainn dhaibh na beachdan aca a cho-roinn.

Tha an dàrna cuairt seo de cho-chomhairleachadh phoblach sè seachdainean ag amas air raon leasachaidh an tuathanais-ghaoithe a-mhàin. Thèid na pàirtean eile den phròiseact (slighe a' chàball às-mhalairt agus am bun-structar air tìr) a cheadachadh air leth agus thèid co-chomhairle a chumail orra nas fhaide air adhart.

'S e ar n-amas dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil ar coimhearsnachdan agus ar luchd-ùidh comasach air làn-ghabhail pàirt anns a' phròiseas co-chomhairleachaidh. Tha sinn an dòchas gum faigh sibh fiosrachadh feumail mu MachairWind san bileag seo.

Feuch an leugh sibh an earrann 'Thoiribh ur beachd seachad', a tha a' mìneachadh nan iomadh dòigh anns an urrainn dhuibh ur beachdan a cho-roinn air na molaidhean againn airson raon leasachaidh an tuathanais-ghaoithe.

Mòran taing airson an ùine a ghabhail gus faighinn a-mach mu MachairWind agus ur beachdan a cho-roinn.

Feuch an freagair sibh a' cho-chomhairle phoblach ro Dhidòmhnaich 30 Samhain 2025.

Ma tha feum agaibh air an leabhran seo agus/no an fhoirm fios-air-ais ann an cruth eile no ma tha ceist, moladh no iarrtas sam bith agaibh, cuiribh fios thugainn:

Post-d:
machairwind@scottishpower.com

Cuiribh litir thugainn aig:
MachairWind Project Team, ScottishPower HQ, 320 Sràid Naomh Bhionnaidh, Glaschu, G2 5AD

Ma tha feum agaibh air cèis-phuist ro-phàighte, thigibh ga thogail aig ur ionad-seirbheis ionadail no cuiribh thugainn ur seòladh-puist gu:
machairwind@scottishpower.com

1. Developing MachairWind

1. A' leasachadh MachairWind

SPR is part of the wider ScottishPower group of companies. ScottishPower operates in the UK as part of the Iberdrola Group, one of the world's largest integrated utility companies, and is the first integrated energy company in the UK to generate 100% green electricity.

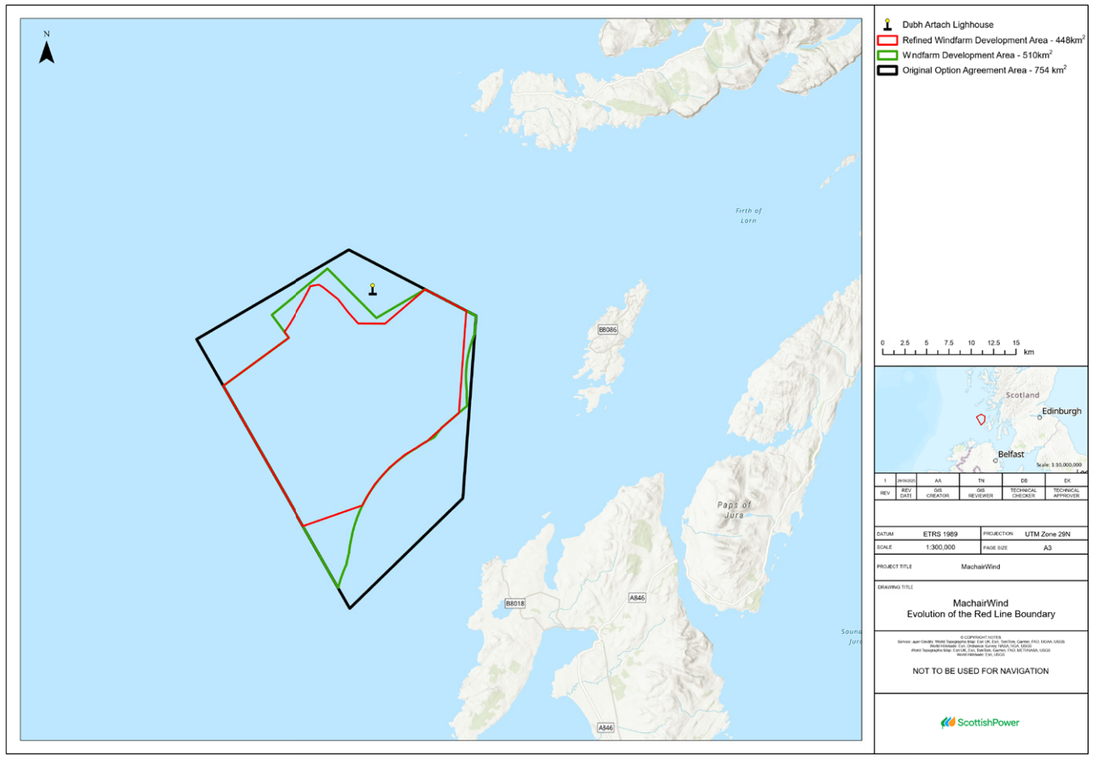
SPR has a long and proud history of developing and operating clean energy projects within Argyll; our onshore windfarms Beinn an Tuirc and Cruach Mhor have been operational for over two decades. SPR's commitment to delivering renewable energy and economic development across the region is outlined in our Concordat with Argyll and Bute Council, and through our longstanding relationships with regional and community stakeholders. To find out more about how SPR is committed to working with MachairWind's host communities—Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Ross of Mull and Iona—to create a positive legacy, please refer to the **'Community Benefits'** chapter.

SPR's vision is to deliver MachairWind Offshore Windfarm in a responsible and sensitive way, working with our host communities to harness the opportunities from renewable energy and encouraging the west of Scotland to maximise the socio-economic benefits.

Renewable energy will play a big role in meeting rising energy demand across Scotland and the rest of the UK in years to come. MachairWind's generating capacity, around 2 Gigawatts (GW), is equivalent to powering up to 2 million homes. Earlier this year, the Climate Change Committee acknowledged that, with the rapid expansion in heat pumps and electric vehicles, "electric technologies are now the clear low-carbon choice in many areas" (Climate Change Committee, 'Electric technologies will help Scotland decarbonise', 2025).

With a typical lifespan of 25 years, offshore wind turbines offer a remarkably fast carbon payback, quickly offsetting the emissions generated during the manufacture, transport, and installation process. MachairWind will make an important contribution to the achievement of the Scottish Government's legally binding target of achieving Net Zero by 2045, and to its proposed ambition of 40 GW of new offshore wind deployment by 2040.

Homegrown clean green energy supports the UK's drive for energy security and green energy independence. To meet its current needs, the UK currently imports over 40% of its energy requirements—mainly oil and gas—which leaves us exposed to global market shocks and supply risks. (Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, 2024). Expanding our own renewable capacity not only reduces this reliance but also supports a more stable, sustainable, and resilient energy future for everyone.



2. Project Overview

2. Sealladh Coitcheann air a' Phròiseact

2.1 Location of MachairWind

Located northwest of Islay and west of Colonsay, this development area for an offshore windfarm was identified within the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan – Offshore Wind (2020); at the time, it was known as the 'W1' Plan Option. In 2022, through Crown Estate Scotland's competitive ScotWind leasing round, SPR secured the rights to develop 'W1' and work then began on what is now the MachairWind project.

To be suitable for an offshore windfarm, an area of seabed needs to feature reasonable water depths (ideally no more than 60m for bottom fixed foundations, a tried and tested technology), good wind resource with a mostly constant and strong wind, and favourable seabed geology. A number of other factors, such as the avoidance of main shipping lanes and marine protected areas, need to be carefully considered to identify a suitable site for an offshore windfarm.

When developing the windfarm, we also consider a wide range of other factors including environmental sensitivities, such as those relating to seabed habitats, birds and marine life, and consider visual and socio-economic impacts of the development. To find out more about the site selection process and how the windfarm area has evolved so far, please read the **'What is ScotWind?'** chapter and **'Refining the Windfarm'** chapter.

2.2 Consenting MachairWind

The indicative programme below sets out the anticipated timeline for developing MachairWind, which we hope will begin generating electricity in the early to mid-2030s and have an operational life of around 35 years.

MachairWind comprises the Windfarm Development Area (WDA), the export cable corridor and the onshore infrastructure.

We intend to submit our WDA consent applications to Marine Directorate in 2026, who will determine whether to grant permission or not for the proposed infrastructure within the WDA. The assessment of the WDA will consider an appraisal of the construction, operations & maintenance (O&M) and decommissioning of the export cable corridor and the onshore infrastructure (commensurate with the level of detail that is available at the time of carrying out that appraisal). This approach will ensure a holistic view is undertaken of the entire project.

Indicative Project Timeline

- **2021 to 2023:** Progressed with technical and environmental surveys, feasibility studies and community stakeholder engagement.
- **2022:** MachairWind entered into its Option to Lease Agreement with Crown Estate Scotland.
- **2023-2024:** First site investigation campaign and one year metocean campaign completed.
- **Jan 2025:** Windfarm Development Area (WDA) Scoping Opinion received from Marine Directorate.
- **July 2025:** Second Site Investigation Survey of WDA completed.
- **May to July 2025:** First round of pre-application consultation for WDA completed.
- **Now - Oct to Nov 2025:** Second round of pre-application for WDA underway.
- **2026:** Consent applications due to be submitted for the WDA.
- **2027:** Consent decision for the WDA - whether accepted or rejected.
- **Late 2020s:** Construction to start.
- **Early to mid 2030s:** First export of power from the windfarm anticipated. Community Benefit Fund will be live.

2.3 Windfarm Development Area Consultation

MachairWind's proposed WDA comprises:

- Wind turbines installed on fixed bottom foundations
- Inter-array cables between the turbines
- Up to 2 offshore substation platforms
- Link cables between the platforms (if required)
- Up to 4 Export Cables
- Scour protection (if required)

It is important that we engage with existing marine users and neighbouring communities of the WDA, such as recreational sailing, commercial fishing, shipping lanes, and maritime and coastal search and rescue emergency response, and that their needs – past, present and future – are taken into account when refining and assessing the impact of the WDA, Following award of the WDA through the ScotWind leasing round, SPR has undertaken a design refinement process, informed by surveys, extensive stakeholder engagement and public consultation, to reduce the W1 Plan Option area by over 40% and increase the distance from shore and neighbouring coastal communities. For an overview of how and why the WDA has been updated following the first round of public consultation (May to July 2025), please read the **'Refining the Windfarm'** chapter.

To read how feedback from the first round of public consultation (26th May to 6th July 2025) helped inform project decision-making please read the 'Taking Your Feedback Forward' chapter.

3. Project Engagement

3. Com-pàirteachadh sa Phròiseact

3.1 Looking Back on Community Engagement

2022

- Islay and Jura drop-ins – opportunity to meet community members and introduce the project.
- Landowner, community councils, community groups and distilleries meetings. Unfortunately, due to weather, our visit to Colonsay was postponed to April 2023.

2023

- We welcomed our Community Engagement Manager, Debs. A resident of Jura for over 20 years, a local Development Trust director and former island community councillor.
- First Colonsay drop-in and met with community groups and local estate.
- Attended and sponsored Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show for the first time. A lovely sunny day - our MachairWind water bottles and sunglasses came in handy!
- Offshore Wind for Kids event on Bowmore beach, delivered in partnership with Fugro. The children put their learning to the test by building and deconstructing their own turbines!

2024

- Hosted a stand at the MAK STEM Fest in Machrihanish to showcase a range of renewable careers and routes, reaching over 140 pupils (S2 to S6).
- More Islay, Jura and Colonsay events - 4 drop-ins across all 3 islands and met with local community groups.
- Initial public drop-in events on the Ross of Mull and Iona.
- Fun, hands-on renewables sessions at schools across Islay and Jura, including VR demos and interactive lessons.
- A warm island welcome as we returned to the Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show for the second time.
- Rounded off the year at Islay and Jura's Senior Citizen Association's Tea & Talk, sharing project updates over tea, cake and great conversation.

2025

Returned to the Ross of Mull and Iona a second round of drop-ins and a fun wind turbine-building session with Iona Primary School.

- Sponsored and attended the Colonsay Book Festival for the first time — an uplifting and important event that kicks off the island's season.
- Sponsored and attended the Bunessan Show on the Ross of Mull, where the VR headsets were a hit, and we had enjoyable chats with the community.
- First round of statutory Public Consultation in June across five host islands: 6 in-person events and 2 webinars, gathering valuable feedback.
- Sponsored and attended the Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show for the third time—3 lucky winners took away some renewable energy kits and MachairWind goodies through our raffle.
- Launched the MachairWind Small Donations Fund. The £10,000 fund was created following community feedback on how the windfarm could support local people and groups during the early stages of the project's development and has received strong interest in the first round of applications. For more information on our fund, please scan the QR code below.

A huge thank you to everyone who has assisted and welcomed the MachairWind team throughout our community engagement process. Your feedback helps us to better understand what matters most to local communities and shape our approach and delivery of future project events.

3.2 Taking Your Feedback Forward

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the first round of public consultation. With 154 attendees across our 8 events and 143 feedback forms, we have been collating what you had to say over the last few months. The insights shared have helped us better understand local priorities, concerns, and expectations.

This section outlines how we have listened to, reflected on, and incorporated, where possible, the frequently asked questions, concerns and suggestions into the project's decision-making process. The public consultation feedback was analysed, coded and grouped by themes. These themes were drawn from both structured survey responses and open comments, allowing us to identify recurring topics; the quotes in this chapter have been selected as representations of the key themes.

Windfarm layout and area

[Would prefer] a much narrower spread - certainly not stretching across the skyline.

We have refined the windfarm layout and area and reduced the turbine heights. As detailed in the **'Refining the Windfarm'** chapter, the windfarm development area has been reduced by over 40% since award of the site in 2022; following the first round of public consultation, the area was reduced by 12.16%. As detailed in the **'Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact'** chapter, the windfarm boundary has been moved further away from coastal communities, with the closest distance to shore being 12.4km. The spread of turbines has also been reduced through the refinement of the north-south extent of the windfarm.

Windfarm location

Why was this site chosen? Where is there a list of other sites which were considered?

The W1 Plan Option (now known as 'MachairWind') was identified within the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan – Offshore Wind (2020) following advice from consultees, as well as statutory assessments and public consultation. This plan was approved by the Scottish Ministers and formed the basis of the ScotWind offshore wind leasing round. As a direct result of public consultation, in 2020 the original draft W1 Plan Option footprint was significantly reduced in extent and the distance from shore was increased to mitigate potential negative impacts. In 2022, SPR won the rights to develop an offshore windfarm within the plan area (W1). To find out more about the site selection process, please read the **'What is ScotWind?'** chapter.

Tourism and visual impact

The views are an important element [for] visitors and local employment and experience of life on the island.

We fully understand that MachairWind is situated amongst a unique setting of scenic landscapes, with distinctive coastlines that are highly valued for their tranquillity and wildness. Following the first round of public consultation, we have reduced the windfarm area, horizontal spread of the turbines and the proximity of the windfarm to coastal communities. Please view our updated interactive map on our website and/or attend one of our drop-in events to see the refined photomontages. We have also been working in collaboration with NatureScot to agree design objectives for the project, with a particular focus on protecting the special qualities of relevant National Scenic Areas (NSAs). These objectives will guide the detailed design of the windfarm, which will follow if MachairWind is consented. You can read more in the **'Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact'** chapter.

Responding to feedback, tourism will form part of the socio-economic impact assessment, which is being carried out by BiGGAR Economics. When delivered sensitively and collaboratively, we believe that offshore wind development can coexist with tourism. Find out more in the **'Socio-economic opportunities'** chapter.

Environmental and Wildlife Protection

The West Coast of Scotland has some of the last wild places in Europe and the seas are important sources of Scotland's biodiversity.

We recognise that MachairWind is located near several important seabird colonies, and migratory seabirds and marine mammals move through the region.

We have undertaken extensive Digital Aerial Surveys to identify seabirds, marine mammals and basking sharks in addition to securing third-party survey data. We have also been working with statutory and non-statutory consultees, such as NatureScot and RSPB Scotland, in addition to collaborating with stakeholders to fill data gaps, such as commissioning a National Trust for Scotland study to track Manx shearwaters on the island of Lunga (Treshnish Isles). MachairWind has one of the most extensive bird datasets of any UK offshore windfarm project. MachairWind is committed to not only reducing its environmental impact, but to actively improving nature in the area. That's why we're developing a Nature Positive Plan for the project. Find out more in the **'Marine Life and Birds'** chapter.

Sustainability

The alternative, oil and gas, would have such a negative impact on everything...I am very enthusiastic about clean renewable energy being pursued instead.

Offshore windfarms are far less carbon-intensive than fossil fuel-based energy sources, particularly over their full lifecycle. Manufacturing and installation accounts for almost 80% of the lifecycle carbon emissions of an offshore windfarm (Crown Estate Scotland, 'Offshore Wind Report', 2021). We are exploring low-emission materials to this minimise impact. Any turbine blades used will be fully reused or recycled, with no landfill, supported by advancing technologies and driven by ScottishPower's 2030 zero blade landfill commitment. The Iberdrola Group and ScottishPower have a number of ambitious sustainability targets and MachairWind is being developed with sustainability embedded throughout its lifecycle, guided by emissions reduction, circularity, and nature-positive principles. The project is supported by the offshore sustainability team and has governance mechanisms to coordinate, agree and deliver sustainability action across the project lifecycle. For further detail, please see the *'Responsible Development'* chapter.

Community Benefit Funds

How much will be on the community benefit fund?

We recognise Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Ross of Mull and Iona as host communities of this nationally significant project and strongly believe that sharing the benefits—social and economic—is key to being a good neighbour.

If MachairWind is consented, community benefit funding will be operational when the windfarm is. We do not know the specific value of the funds just yet, which is very typical for projects in the pre-consent stage owing to the investment decisions on the project which are yet to come. Local people are best placed to determine how money is spent to best service the needs of their local area, reflecting their genuine needs and wants. By 2024, communities in Argyll and Bute hosting our onshore windfarms received community benefit funding in excess of £3.8million. Find out more by reading the **'Community Benefits'** chapter.

4. Responsible Development

4. Leasachadh Cunntachail

Sustainability is embedded throughout the MachairWind project lifecycle. Our approach reflects ScottishPower's ambitious sustainability targets and policies, and is guided by three key priority areas:

Clean Energy

Emissions Reduction:
We are committed to minimising, monitoring and measuring our greenhouse gas emissions where feasible.

Climate Action

Embedding Circularity:
We aim to design for reuse and recycling, making the most of materials and minimising waste across the project lifecycle.

Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Nature-Positive Development:
We are committed to avoiding and mitigating negative effects on biodiversity—and delivering a net positive impact.

This commitment is further strengthened by ScottishPower's Sustainable Action Strategy: Action 2030, which underpins all aspects of our development. The strategy is informed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring that our actions contribute to global sustainability objectives while delivering meaningful benefits for people, communities, and the environment. To read more about Action 2030, scan the QR code or visit scottishpower.com/pages/sustainability

4.1 Sustainability Across the Offshore Wind Lifecycle

MachairWind is expected to operate for approximately 35 years, contributing significantly to the UK's renewable energy transition. Offshore windfarms are far less carbon-intensive than fossil fuel-based energy sources, particularly over their full lifecycle. The main sources of emissions typically stem from the production of materials such as steel, concrete, and composites.

To address this, we are using carbon calculation tools to inform design decisions, helping to cut embedded emissions and optimise long-term performance. From construction to decommissioning, we are carefully planning to keep emissions as low as possible at every stage.

As the design evolves, we are actively exploring the use of lower-emission and recyclable materials.

Offshore windfarms are far less carbon-intensive than fossil fuel-based energy sources, particularly over their full lifecycle.

410-650g CO_2

8-35g CO_2

The amount emitted for every kWh of electricity produced by natural gas and offshore wind, respectively. MachairWind is expected to stay at the lower end of this range.

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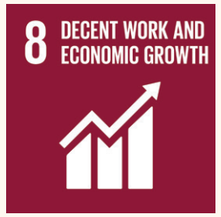
Circular Economy

Turbine Blade Recycling
Turbine blade recycling is a rapidly evolving area, with several suppliers now offering end-of-life solutions such as:

- Mechanical recycling
- Co-processing in cement kilns
- Emerging chemical recycling technologies

ScottishPower has committed to zero blade landfill by 2030. By the time MachairWind reaches decommissioning, we expect to have robust reuse and recycling pathways in place to ensure full circularity of turbine blades.



Our Communities

Fair Work
SPR is committed to delivering MachairWind in line Scottish Government's Fair Work principles. We are a Real Living Wage employer and expect the same from our supply chain. Our approach is built on respect, equality and opportunity for all, with safe, flexible and inclusive working environments. We apply, fair, open and transparent procurement processes to ensure opportunities are accessible to a wide range of businesses, with a strong focus on local and Scottish suppliers. You can find more detail on how we will support local suppliers to benefit from Scotland's offshore wind opportunities in the **'Socio-economic Opportunities'** chapter.

Work and Skills

Inclusive Growth
As part of our commitment to inclusive growth, ScottishPower actively supports educational partnerships that promote STEM learning and green skills development. Through collaborations with schools, charities and organisations, we provide hands-on experiences and mentoring that inspire young people to explore careers in science, technology, engineering, and maths—essential fields for building a sustainable future.

5. What is ScotWind?

5. Dè th' ann an ScotWind?

Future offshore wind development areas are selected by the Scottish Government through a process called 'sectoral planning'.

Offshore Wind Sectoral Marine Plan
The W1 Plan Option (now known as 'MachairWind') was identified within the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan – Offshore Wind (2020) following advice from consultees including NatureScot, Argyll & Bute Council, Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF), and RSPB Scotland as well as statutory assessments and public consultation. This plan assessed W1 as having a realistic development capacity of 2 Gigawatts (GW). It was approved by the Scottish Ministers and formed the basis of the ScotWind offshore wind leasing round.

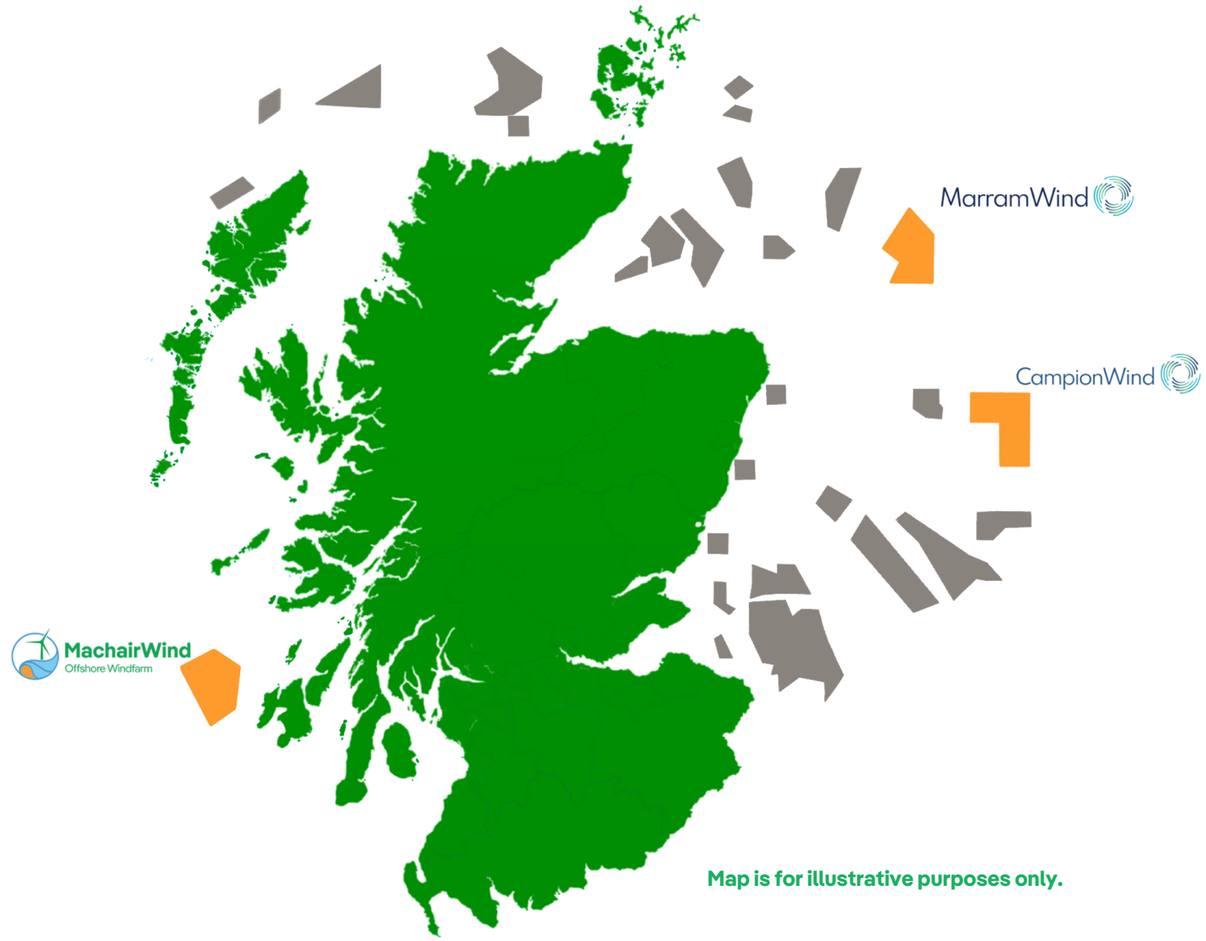
As a direct result of full public consultation, in 2020 the original draft W1 Plan Option footprint was significantly reduced in extent and the distance from shore was increased to mitigate potential negative impacts.

Achieving Net Zero by 2045

40 GW
of new offshore wind deployment

MachairWind will make an important contribution to the achievement of the Scottish Government's legally binding target of achieving Net Zero by 2045, and to its proposed ambition of 40 GW of new offshore wind deployment by 2040.

MachairWind Windfarm Development Area | Autumn 2025

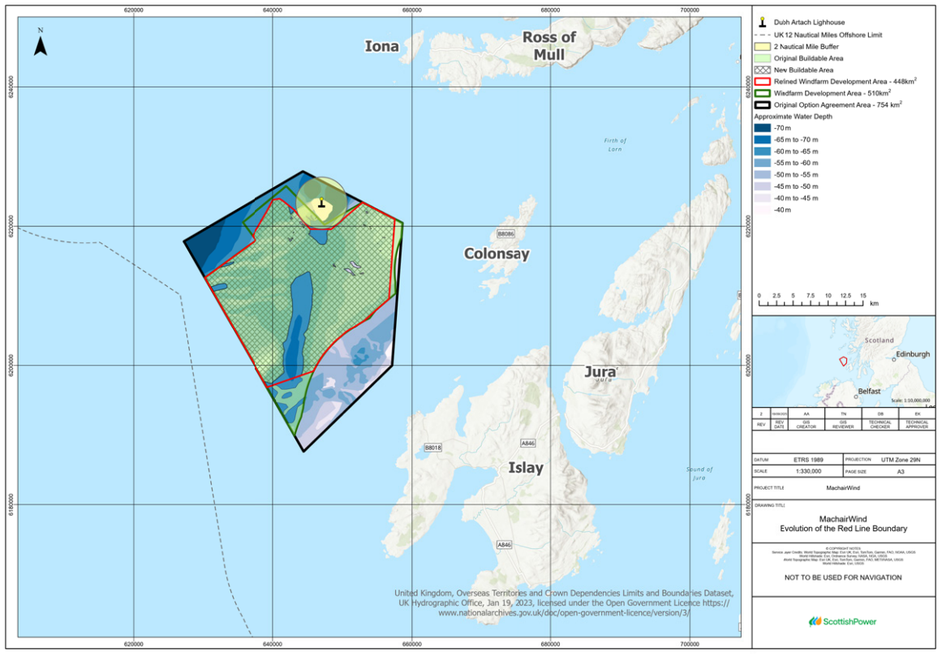


Map is for illustrative purposes only.

ScotWind
The Crown Estate Scotland launched a competitive leasing round, 'ScotWind', in 2020 for commercial scale offshore wind energy projects in Scottish waters. This was the first leasing round for offshore wind in Scotland in a decade. It resulted in 20 projects securing seabed option agreements, providing the rights to develop offshore windfarms.

Through the ScotWind process, SPR won the rights to develop the 'W1' Plan Option (MachairWind) located northwest of Islay and west of Colonsay. In joint venture partnership with Shell, SPR also secured the rights to develop the NE7 Plan Option (MarramWind) and an E2 Plan Option (CampionWind), located off the northeast and east coasts of Scotland, as indicated in the map above. (which is for illustrative purposes only).

SPR has the breadth and depth of experience in clean energy generation to access the necessary financial, engineering and supply chain capabilities to deliver strategic-scale and highly capital-intensive offshore wind developments, whilst ensuring that projects centre our good neighbour principles – building and maintaining meaningful long-term relationships across our host communities to establish positive legacies.



6. Refining the Windfarm

6. Ag ùrachadh an tuathanas-gaoithe

Windfarm Boundary Refinements

Since our first round of public consultation (May to July 2025), we have refined the MachairWind Windfarm Development Area (WDA) boundary from 510 km² to 448 km² as shown on the map above. This represents a 12.16% reduction in our windfarm footprint. The key factors that have driven this refinement are engineering considerations as well as feedback from local communities and other key project stakeholders. Since securing the rights to develop this project from Crown Estate Scotland in 2022, we have reduced the windfarm area by over 40%.

Refinements we have made include changes to the project's northern, eastern and southern boundaries:

- The northern boundary has been refined to avoid areas of water deeper water (>60 m), which are less suitable for development. We have also increased the buffer around Dubh Artach lighthouse to allow 360° access for vessels and helicopters undertaking scheduled maintenance, reduce the horizontal spread and visual impact of the windfarm, and to reduce impacts on the setting of Dubh Artach (a Category A Listed Building).
- The eastern-most boundary has been pulled in to reduce visual impacts of the windfarm from neighbouring islands and to increase the space available to sea users between MachairWind and the shallows near Colonsay.
- The southern tip of the WDA has been refined to reduce the horizontal spread of the windfarm and visual impact of the project in key views, whilst avoiding pockets of shallow bedrock and removing isolated turbines that could be of concern for shipping and navigation users, as identified during hazard workshops and engagement with relevant stakeholders.

The windfarm boundary has also been straightened to help achieve a more compact layout which helps to reduce visual impacts and is beneficial for navigational safety reasons.

	Project Characteristics – First round of public consultation (May to July 2025)	Project Characteristics – Second round of public consultation (October to November 2025)
Turbine range	14 MW to 25 MW	15 MW to 24 MW
Number of turbines	88 to 147	91 to 144
Rotor Diameter	236 to 316 m	236 to 290 m
Minimum blade clearance or 'air gap' above Highest Astronomical Tide (HAT)	22.45 m HAT in line with navigation regulations	28.40 m HAT
Maximum blade tip height above Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT)	260 to 340 m LAT	280 to 335 m LAT
Turbine foundation type	Monopile, Jacket on pin piles Jacket on suction buckets Gravity-based foundations	Monopile, Jacket on pin piles Jacket on suction buckets

Revised Project Characteristics

The characteristics of MachairWind have evolved since our last consultation event in Summer 2025. Key updates are presented in the table above.

If consented, the project will install between 91 and 144 turbines, depending on the generating capacity of the wind turbine we select, which are expected to be between 15 MW and 24 MW. This evolution aligns with our latest discussions with the supply chain and aims to limit the visual impact of the larger turbines. The weather conditions on site will, however, require us to install the turbines at a greater height above the sea surface than the minimum required under navigation safety regulations. All factors considered; the maximum blade tip height will now be 335m above Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT), down from 340m LAT.

MachairWind's proposed WDA comprises:

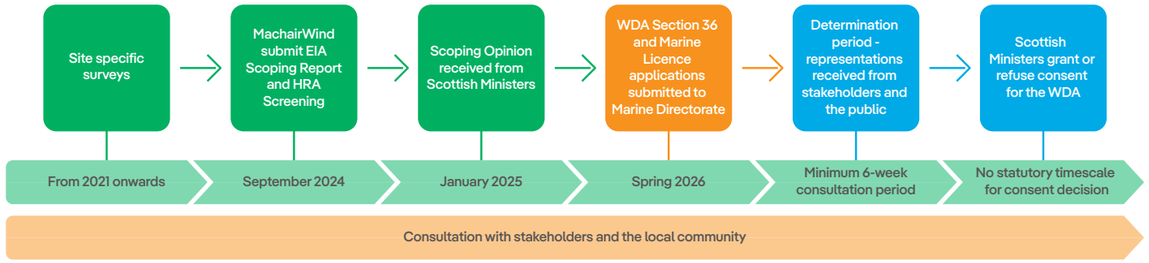
- Wind turbines installed on fixed bottom foundations
- Inter-array cables between the turbines
- Up to 2 offshore substation platforms
- Link cables between the platforms (if required)
- Up to 4 Export Cables
- Scour protection (if required)

Geotechnical and other essential engineering surveys and studies will be undertaken, if MachairWind is consented which, together with further stakeholder engagement, will help to inform the windfarm's final design.

7. Assessing Impacts

7. Measadh nam Buaidhean

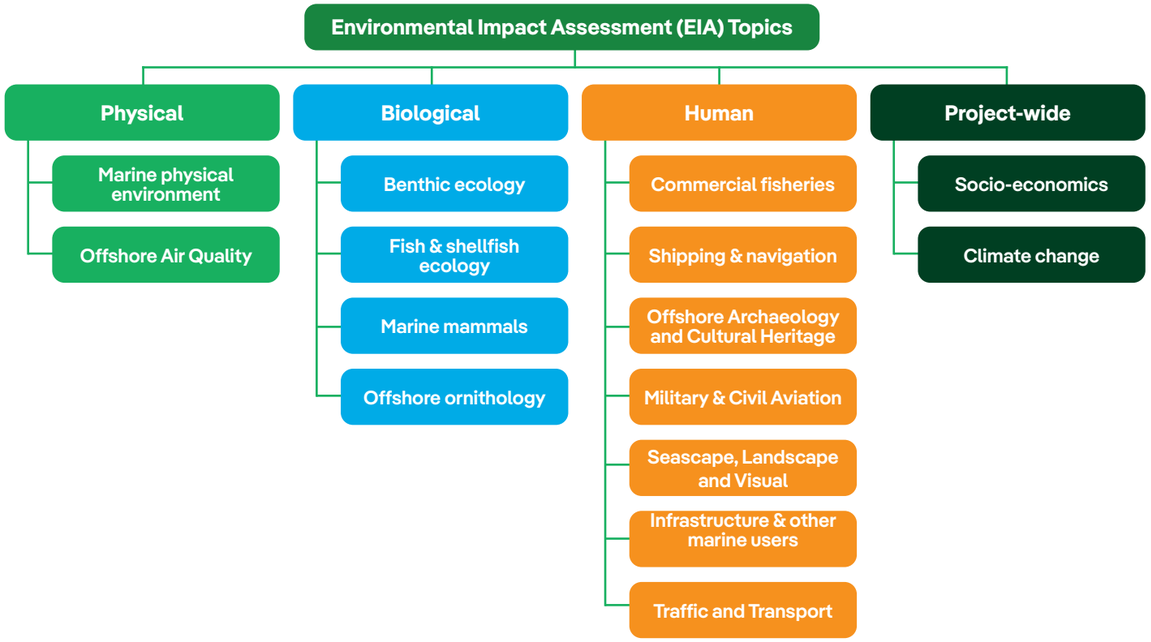
7.1 What's Involved?



Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)
Our consultants are currently undertaking assessments and consultation to inform the Windfarm Development Area (WDA) consent applications. The key milestones associated with the WDA consent applications are outlined in the infographic above, with the green indicating what has already been achieved, the orange indicating where we are now, and the blue indicating what is to come.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report will form the bulk of the consent application and will assess the potential impacts from construction, operation and maintenance (O&M) and decommissioning of the WDA for each of the topics identified in the figure below. These topics have been agreed with stakeholders. The aim is to ensure impacts are correctly quantified and appropriate mitigations are incorporated where possible to reduce impacts.

The EIA is an iterative process which begins by defining the project scope and collecting baseline data. Mitigations measures are included from scoping and stakeholder consultation. The EIA will assess likely significant effects of the project on each topic by evaluating sensitive receptors against the relevant impacts of the windfarm. If effects are identified to be significant, further mitigation or design changes are considered to reduce significance where possible and residual effects are evaluated.



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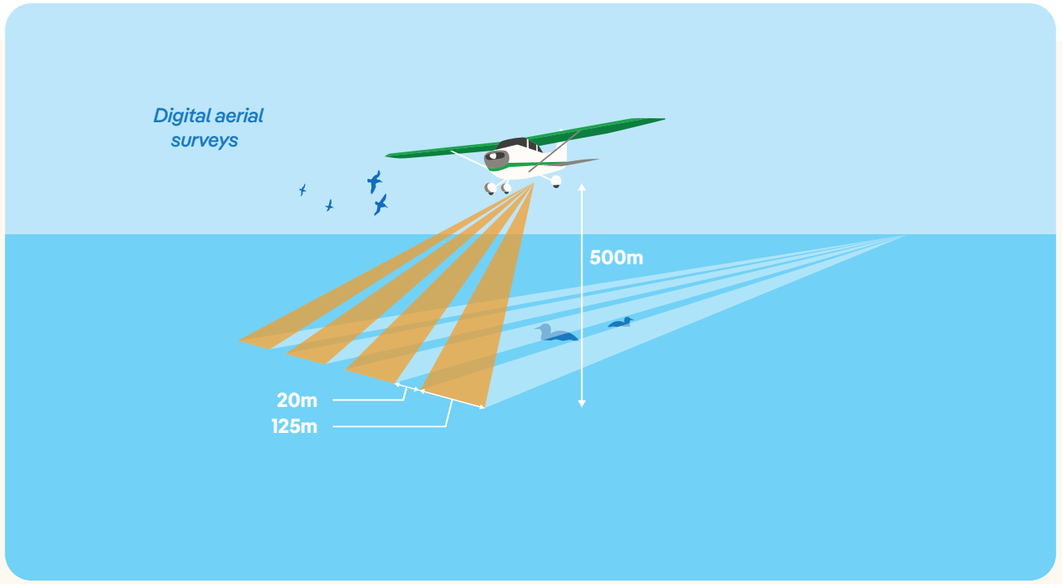
To inform our EIA Report, we have undertaken surveys and obtained key datasets to further our understanding of the current environmental conditions within and in the vicinity of the WDA, including:

- 12 months of weather buoy surveys to characterise the wind, wave and tidal environment;
- Two geophysical surveys to better understand seabed topography, which informs potential impacts on the marine physical environment;
- Sediment samples and drop-down video to characterise seabed ecology and analyse for sediment contaminants;
- 30 months of digital aerial surveys to predict densities of birds, marine mammals and marine megafauna; and
- Environmental DNA samples to detect trace signatures and help identify the presence of other marine species.

Throughout the process we have been engaging with key stakeholders, including statutory nature conservation bodies, the local planning authority, non-statutory stakeholders and non-governmental organisations. The purpose of the engagement is to present the survey data collected to date on key topics, agree assessment methodologies, discuss preliminary results, and incorporate advice and feedback.



Habitats Regulations Appraisal
Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) is a legal requirement under UK and EU law to determine whether a plan or project—such as an offshore windfarm—would have an adverse effect on protected habitats or species within the following designated sites:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), these may include specific habitats, combinations of habitats, species or assemblages of species, or combinations of these.
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs), these may include bird species that are migratory, rare, vulnerable, in danger of extinction, or requiring protection due to their habitat needs.
- Ramsar Sites, these are typically wetland habitats that support important communities of birds.

We will submit a report to Inform Appropriate Assessment which will provide an assessment of the potential effects from the WDA on designated sites. The Scottish Ministers will then undertake their own Appropriate Assessment to determine whether there is an 'adverse effect on integrity' of any of the qualifying species/habitats.

7.2 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact

MachairWind is situated amongst a unique setting of scenic landscapes, with distinctive coastlines that are highly valued for their tranquillity and wildness. A key aim for the project is to design a windfarm layout that reduces any impact on seascapes and views. Since securing the rights to develop this project in 2022, we have reduced the windfarm area by over 40%. Following our first round of public consultation (May to July 2025), we have reduced the windfarm area from 510 km2 to 448 km2 (a reduction of 12.16%).

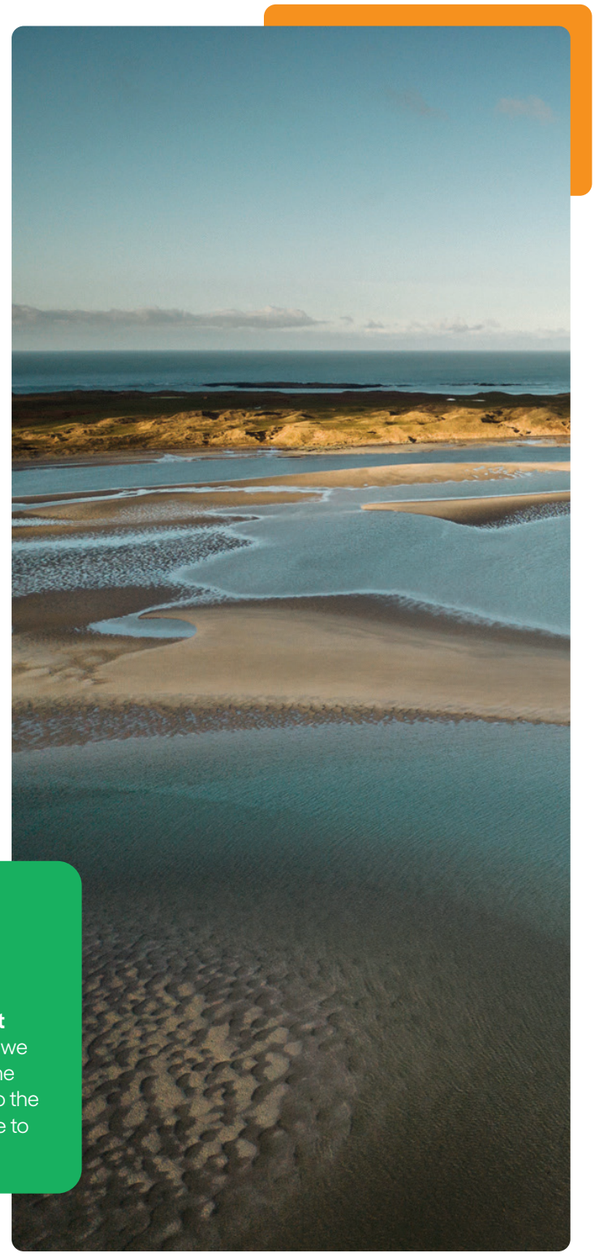
This refinement includes:

- Moving the boundary from coastal communities to a minimum distance of 12.4 km
- Reducing the north-south extent of the windfarm, which will reduce the spread of turbines on the horizons

The MachairWind team has been working in collaboration with NatureScot, the statutory nature conservation body, to agree design objectives for the project, with a particular focus on protecting the special qualities of relevant National Scenic Areas (NSAs). These objectives will guide the detailed design of the windfarm, which will follow if MachairWind is consented.

The objectives will cover four themes:

- **Project scale and location –** including the proximity of the turbines to the coastline
- **Project extent and orientation –** for example reducing the horizontal extent of the windfarm
- **Turbine layout –** addressing the image of the windfarm and reducing 'clutter'
- **Location specific objectives –** considering the appearance of the windfarm in key views

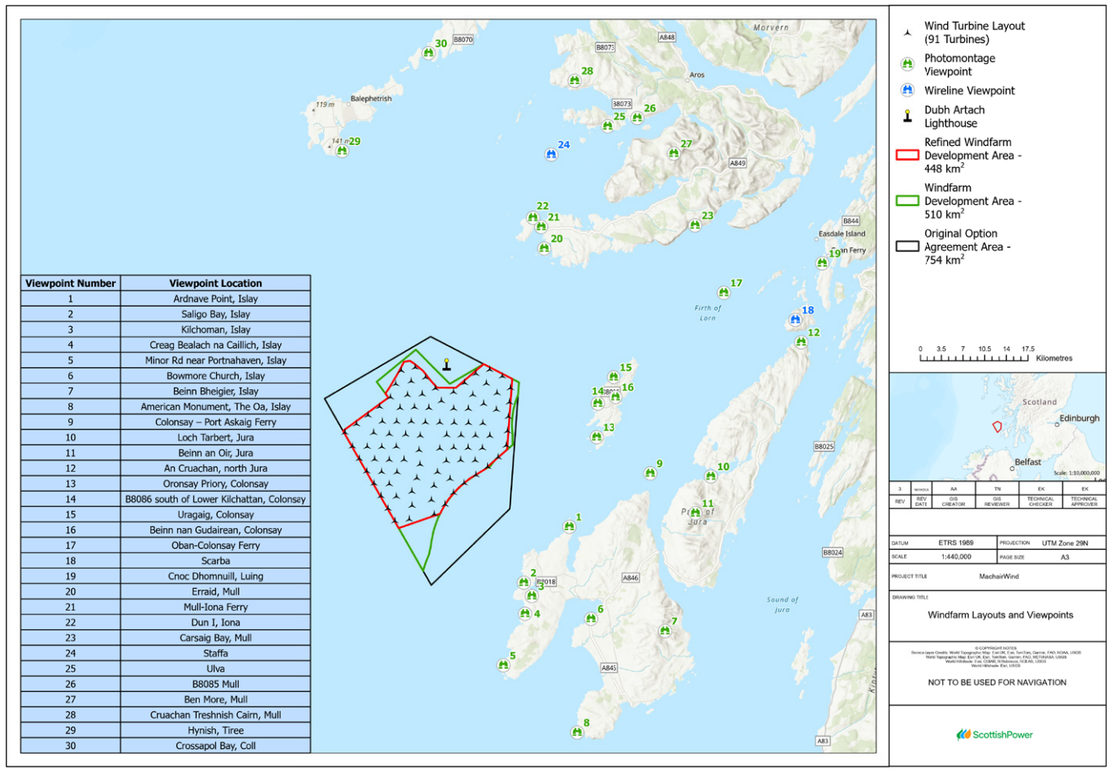


Maximum blade tip height of:

335m

The proposal being shown at this consultation is our **'worst case'**. We need to ensure that in seeking planning consent we consider the maximum or worst level of potential impact. The photomontages therefore show the tallest turbines, close to the coast. However, it remains the project's intention to continue to refine the design while the assessments are ongoing.

MachairWind Windfarm Development Area | Autumn 2025



Viewpoint Number	Viewpoint Location
1	Ardnave Point, Islay
2	Saligo Bay, Islay
3	Kilchoman, Islay
4	Creag Bealach na Caillich, Islay
5	Minor Rd near Portnahaven, Islay
6	Bowmore Church, Islay
7	Beinn Bheigier, Islay
8	American Monument, The Oa, Islay
9	Colonsay – Port Askaig Ferry
10	Loch Tarbert, Jura
11	Beinn an Oir, Jura
12	An Cruachan, north Jura
13	Oronsay Priory, Colonsay
14	B8086 south of Lower Kilchattan, Colonsay
15	Uragaig, Colonsay
16	Beinn nan Gudairean, Colonsay
17	Oban-Colonsay Ferry
18	Scarba
19	Cnoc Dhomnuill, Luing
20	Erraid, Mull
21	Mull-Iona Ferry
22	Dun I, Iona
23	Carsaig Bay, Mull
24	Staffa
25	Ulva
26	B8085 Mull
27	Ben More, Mull
28	Cruachan Treshnish Cairn, Mull
29	Hynish, Tiree
30	Crossapol Bay, Coll

The photomontages in this consultation show 91 turbines, with a maximum blade tip height of 335m, and two offshore substation platforms. The dusk photomontages show the aviation and navigation lighting fitted to the outer-most turbines of the windfarm. The visualisations show lights on 35 turbines, although safety regulations will determine the brightness of the lights and number of turbines that will be lit for the final design.

A total of thirty viewpoints have now been agreed with NatureScot and Argyll and Bute Council, with input from communities, as shown in the map above. These viewpoints represent a wide range of views from across the islands. Over the past months we have been visiting the islands to take photography from each of these places. The viewpoint locations are shown on the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) map, which also indicates where the windfarm could be seen. You can view on the ZTV by visiting our virtual consultation room or by attending one of our drop-in events.

For access to the virtual consultation room, please visit our website www.machairwind.com.

The assessment of seascape, landscape and visual effects will be based on a 'worst case' scenario which assumes that there will be clear weather conditions. The photomontages, therefore, have been undertaken in line with guidance from the Landscape Institute, which states that photography should be undertaken in good, clear weather conditions wherever possible. The actual visibility of MachairWind will vary greatly with atmospheric conditions and weather across the seasons.

The project team continues to develop the Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA), which will set out the effects of MachairWind on the coastal landscapes and views in the area. We are also holding further workshops with NatureScot and Argyll and Bute Council to inform our approach.

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7.3 Commercial Fisheries

Building relationships

MachairWind continues to engage with the fishing industry to assess the potential impacts from the project on commercial fisheries.

A dedicated Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO), Brown & May Marine, has been involved since the project's inception. This continuity, we believe, has helped build trust with the fishing community and ensured that feedback is meaningfully incorporated. For example, fishers' feedback following the site investigation campaign undertaken in 2023 directly influenced the planning and execution of the second survey campaign undertaken this year.

A local Fishing Industry Representative has been appointed to ensure clear communication, provide a continued point of contact for the fishing community, support effective information dissemination, and ensure that the industry's voice is consistently and clearly represented. Where possible, we have used local vessels to support our survey work, such as using a Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA) vessel for scouting support on most recent geophysical campaign.

For the past few years of development, adjustments have been made to adapt our survey timeline and methodology following fishers' feedback to minimise impact on local fisheries. This will continue through pre-construction surveys and subsequent project phases.

Windfarm construction

If MachairWind is consented, during the construction phase, most disruption is likely to be due to the presence of construction vessels, the establishment of temporary safety zones, and the physical installation of infrastructure, which may limit access to the windfarm development area (WDA). Information on where and when construction will take place will be shared in advance, giving fishers sufficient notice to plan their operations and minimise impacts where possible.

MachairWind's turbines will be fixed to the seabed with a minimum spacing of 944 m between turbines. This allows for local fishing activity to continue, except in areas where physical infrastructure is present or during periods when temporary safety zones are required, such as during major maintenance activities.

Mitigation, Monitoring and Communicating

We acknowledge the concerns, especially among small-scale and inshore fishers, around reduced access or displacement. To address these concerns, we are developing a Fisheries Mitigation, Monitoring and Communication Plan (FMMCP). This plan is being shaped through ongoing consultation and will detail how the project will minimise impacts, monitor changes, and maintain open lines of communication throughout the project lifetime.

The project is also assessing its potential impacts on fish and shellfish ecology and stocks, including commercially important species. To better understand these interactions, the project team is reviewing case studies from other windfarms and taking an evidence-led approach to assessment.

The project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is grounded in a robust, evidence-led methodology.

Key data sources include:

- Landing statistics
- Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and Automatic Identification System (AIS) data
- Fisheries intensity mapping
- Species stock assessments

In addition, the project is drawing on survey data and input from fishermen's associations and inshore fisheries groups to ensure that the assessment reflects local inshore fishing activity and concerns.

Stakeholder engagement has been central to the project's approach from the outset. A comprehensive list of stakeholders has been developed, and ongoing engagement activities have included one-on-one meetings with fishers, group workshops, public consultations, and a dedicated navigational hazard workshop with local fishers, ensuring their voices are heard and their knowledge is incorporated into the EIA process.

MachairWind has engaged with the fishing industry since the project's inception through a dedicated Fisheries Liaison Officer, helping build trust and ensure fishers' feedback shapes the project.

7.4 Marine Life and Birds

Identifying seabirds

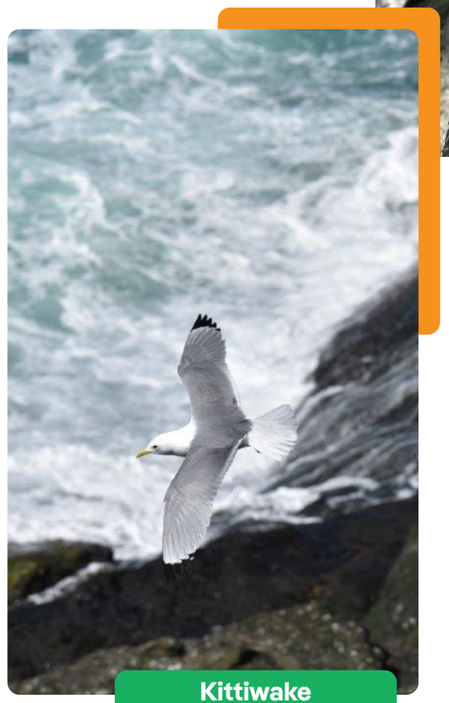
MachairWind is located near several important seabird colonies, including those on Colonsay, Rathlin Island, Rum, Copeland Island, the Treshnish Isles, and Ailsa Craig in the Firth of Clyde. Migratory ducks, geese, swans and shorebirds move through the region as they travel between their breeding locations in Iceland, Greenland and Canada and their wintering areas in Scotland and elsewhere in the UK.

To understand how the windfarm might affect these birds, MachairWind carried out 30 months of Digital Aerial Surveys between 2021 and 2023. The surveys used planes equipped with ultra-high-definition cameras to quantify the seasonal abundance and distribution of birds. An additional 16 months of aerial survey data collected by a third-party organisation between 2020 and 2022 has also been included.

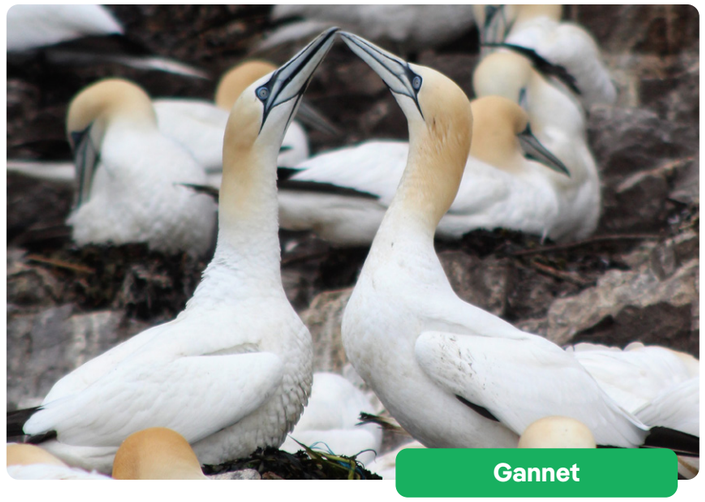
Several seabird species were identified in the area:

- Common guillemot;
- Black-legged kittiwake;
- Razorbill;
- Northern gannet;
- Puffin;
- Manx shearwater; and
- European storm petrel.

Guillemot



Kittiwake



Gannet

MachairWind has one of the most extensive bird datasets of any UK offshore windfarm project.

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Bottlenose Dolphin

To better understand and reduce the risks to birds, MachairWind has also taken the following steps:

- Held workshops (Expert Topic Group meetings) with ornithology experts, including NatureScot and RSPB Scotland, to agree on how to assess the potential impacts;
- Collaborated with the National Trust for Scotland to track Manx shearwaters on the island of Lunga (Treshnish Isles), to learn more about their foraging habits and movements near the site; and
- Carried out a detailed study on the risk of collisions for Greenland white-fronted geese, especially those that winter on Islay, in consultation with local RSPB representatives.

MachairWind will use these surveys and additional studies to assess the potential impacts to birds, following the latest guidance from NatureScot. The assessment will consider the collision risk and displacement where birds may be disturbed or pushed away from their usual habitats.

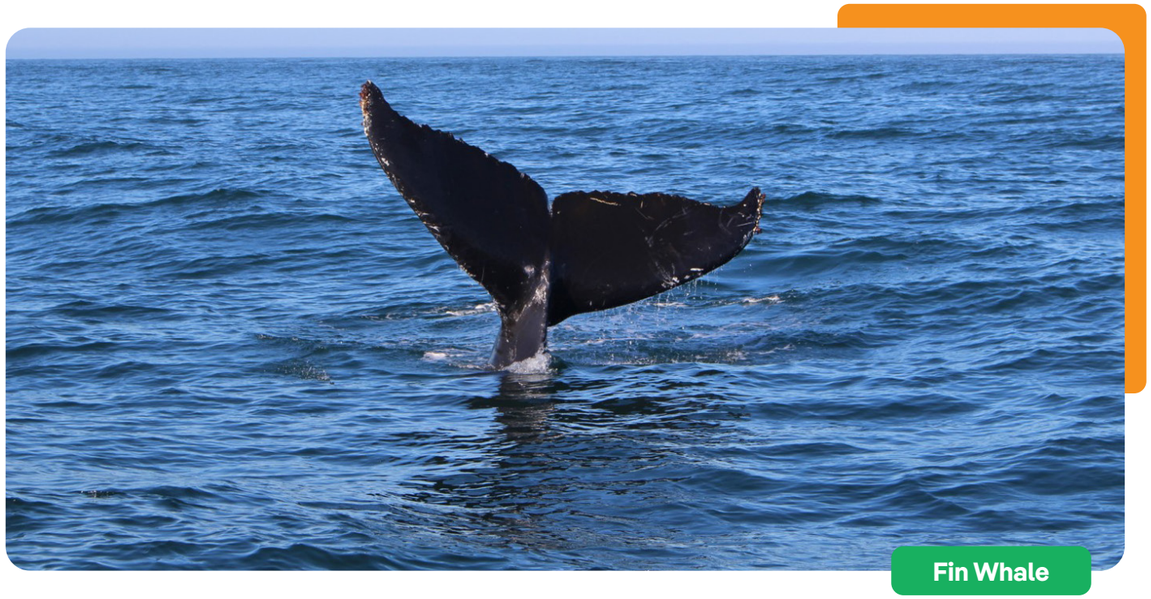
Marine Mammals and Basking Sharks

A variety of key species of marine mammals have been identified during our surveys:

- Harbour porpoise;
- Bottlenose dolphin;
- Risso's dolphin;
- Long-finned pilot whale;
- Killer whale;
- Minke whale;
- Fin whale;
- Grey seal; and
- Harbour seal.

Harbour Seal

Grey Seal and Pup



Fin Whale

These were sighted during the digital aerial surveys and during other geophysical and environmental surveys using trained marine mammal observers and underwater noise detection equipment (passive acoustic monitoring or PAM).

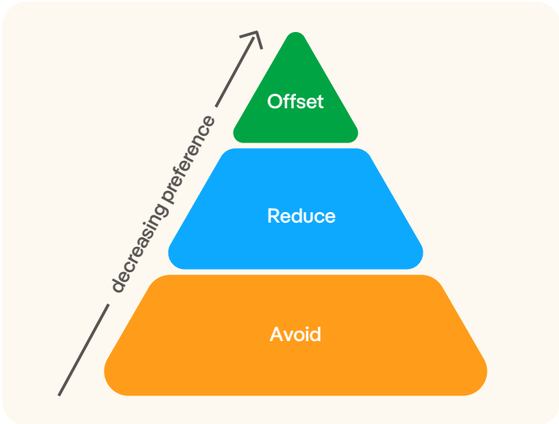
MachairWind will use these surveys and carry out additional studies, including collaborating with Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) and Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust (HWDT), to better understand the marine mammal populations in the area.

A Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP) will be prepared for piling and unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance. These will set out the mitigation measures needed to minimise the risk of physical or permanent auditory injury to marine mammals from underwater noise. Although only a few basking sharks were recorded in the MachairWind area during the Digital Aerial Surveys, they are known to travel through it on their way to feeding grounds further north in the Sea of the Hebrides MPA(NC). To protect them, all project activities will follow a Basking Shark Mitigation Protocol to avoid disturbing or harming them.

Nearby designated sites, such as the Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC and Sea of the Hebrides Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (MPA(NC)) are home to species such as harbour porpoise, basking shark, and minke whale. MachairWind will assess any potential impacts on these areas and apply appropriate protection measures, which will be set out in EIA/HRA.

While whales are present in the area, studies show that their main migration routes do not pass through the WDA. This means construction and operation of the windfarm are not expected to affect their movements.

On East Anglia THREE, a **'state-of-the-art'** radar-camera monitoring system is being installed to track the movements of seabirds in part of the offshore windfarm in order to better understand avoidance behaviour and collision risk.



Mitigating Impacts

To help protect birds and marine mammals, we will implement a hierarchy to mitigate possible impacts – this is a step-by-step approach. First, we try to avoid any impact; then we reduce or prevent impact; and finally, if needed, we find ways to offset impact.

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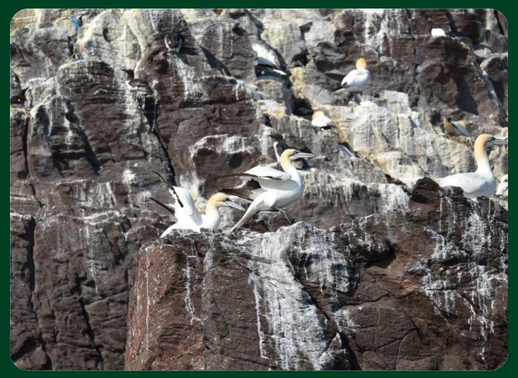
An example of mitigation in practice is the height of the turbine blades above sea level. The statutory minimum is 22 metres above mean high water springs (MHWS), but MachairWind is proposing to raise this to approximately 29 metres. This extra height is a recognised way to reduce collision risk for birds. For key species like northern gannets and black-legged kittiwakes, this change could lower the risk of collisions by more than 30%.



Lower the collision risk by more than

30%

After taking steps to avoid or reduce impacts, if there is still a residual risk to the integrity of any nationally protected site, MachairWind will work closely with NatureScot to develop appropriate compensation measures. These measures are designed to ensure that the 'coherence', the overall health and connectivity, of the UK's national protected site network is maintained. SPR has experience in delivering these kinds of compensation projects to support wildlife, such as:

Kittiwake Hotels at East Anglia ONE North & East Anglia TWO
ScottishPower Renewables, in partnership with Vattenfall, built artificial nesting structures - **"kittiwake hotels"** - in Lowestoft to support the declining black-legged kittiwake population.

Designed with **expert input**, these structures replicate ideal nesting conditions and include predator protection. The initiative compensates for offshore wind impacts and reflects SPR's commitment to responsible development.

MachairWind is committed to not only reducing its environmental impact, but to actively improving nature in the area. That's why we're developing a Nature Positive Plan for the project. This means we will be exploring nature inclusive design opportunities and nature enhancement actions to support local wildlife and habitats. These nature-positive features will be built into the project from the start and maintained throughout its lifetime—and possibly even beyond. You may be interested to know that wind turbine foundations can sometimes create a **"reef effect,"** where the hard structures provide new habitats for marine life. This can enhance local biodiversity by attracting species such as fish, crustaceans, and molluscs, which use the foundations as shelter and feeding grounds

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7.5 Socio-economic Opportunities

Maximising socio-economic benefits
We have commissioned BiGGAR Economics to develop a Socio-economic Action Plan, a document comprising practical actions to address the priorities and opportunities of offshore wind for our host communities, Argyll and Bute, and the wider West of Scotland region.

The Plan has been informed by our engagement with local communities, businesses and other key stakeholders and draws on expert insights from the MachairWind Development Economic and Social Scenarios: Opportunities and Impacts report (BiGGAR Economics, 2023). This report is available to view on the project website.

At this early stage of the project, our actions will mainly focus on preparing local businesses and communities to take advantage of future opportunities and keeping stakeholders in the know regarding developments, **such as:**

- Hosting **'Meet the Buyer'** events in Argyll and Bute to help raise awareness of future contract opportunities arising from MachairWind; and
- Ringfencing a proportion of the project's **£25 million** Offshore Wind Stimulus Fund (OWSF) to support skills, innovation, and supplier development activities in the Argyll and Bute region.

MachairWind's Socio-economic Action Plan will be published alongside our windfarm development area consent applications early next year and will be available to view from our website. As community priorities evolve and the MachairWind opportunities will crystalise over time, we will be seeking to update the Plan through further engagement with our host communities.

Minimising socio-economic Impacts
We recognise that the opportunities of offshore wind should not be delivered at a cost to other industries and businesses. We are acutely aware of the unique setting of MachairWind—an area renowned for its natural beauty—and its importance from a tourism and recreation perspective.

When delivered sensitively and collaboratively, we believe that offshore wind development can coexist with tourism. Infrastructure improvements, community benefit initiatives, and increased economic activity can support local services and amenities, contributing positively to the visitor experience. In August 2025, Scottish Renewables – an organisation that speaks for Scotland's renewable energy industry- published an evidence-based review on the impact of offshore windfarms on tourism and angling, which stated "There is no consistent evidence that demonstrates that tourism is adversely impacted by offshore wind farms. Consensus of evidence, particularly recent evidence studying constructed wind farms, demonstrates no correlation". The paper ('Draft Updated Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy: An Evidence-Based Review of Tourism and Angling Impact Methodologies Within the Scottish Draft Updated Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy ') is available to view on the Scottish Renewables website.

Responding to feedback, tourism will form part of the socio-economic impact assessment, which is being carried out by BiGGAR Economics; this assessment will identify and evaluate the potential socio-economic and cultural impacts of MachairWind.

Learning through experience
As a Scottish-based company with over 30 years' experience of renewable energy development across 38 sites producing over 2 GW, we will be drawing on our experience from projects across the UK to ensure MachairWind delivers long term value.

In East Anglia, the benefits generated from our windfarm projects (collectively known as 'East Anglia Hub'), include significant local and regional economic growth, such as:

Local:
£91m
Spent with Companies operating locally and 44 local companies awarded work

Regional:
£30m
Invested in the regeneration of Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth Ports to date – further £15M of investment planned

Future Generations:
£500k
Over £500k spent on supporting education and training in the East Anglia Region

8. Community Benefits

8. Buannachdan don Choimhearsnachd

MachairWind will deliver a range of benefits for communities throughout the lifetime of the project across our host islands, Argyll & Bute, West of Scotland and Scotland more broadly. The benefits will come in many forms, from investing in the existing workforce and port facilities, to delivering educational engagement in local schools and establishing Community Benefit Funding. Creating lasting legacies has been at the heart of what we do since we first started operating windfarms in 1994.

Supply Chain Benefits

To help small and medium-sized enterprises to enter and grow in the expanding offshore wind sector, MachairWind has sponsored a fully funded 12-to-18-month business excellence programme, 'Fit 4 Offshore Renewables – Islands and Coastal Communities'. Four out of the 12 businesses taking part this year are based across the Argyll & Bute region. Since the programme first launched in 2019, on average, businesses have experienced an increase in turnover of 28% as a result of securing new contracts and many have gone on to become market-leading suppliers to the offshore wind sector.

This is the first of many initiatives that will come out of MachairWind's £25million Supply Chain Stimulus Fund, which is focused on building the necessary capabilities and skills within Scotland's supply chain.

Mairi Coleman, Construction Director at Macleod Construction Ltd, said:
"Macleod Construction Ltd are delighted to be taking part in the F4OR programme. We are looking forward to exploring what this programme will bring for our organisation and for the communities across Argyll."

Community Benefit Funding

Although Community Benefit Funding is not a material consideration in the planning process, we understand that it matters. We recognise Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Ross of Mull and Iona as host communities of this nationally significant project and strongly believe that sharing the benefits—social and economic—is key to being a good neighbour.

If MachairWind is consented, Community Benefit Funding will be operational when the windfarm is. We do not know the specific value of the funding just yet, which is very typical for

projects in the pre-consent stage, owing to the investment decisions on the project which are yet to come.

In recent months, there have been consultations led by the Scottish Government and the UK Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero— we await their recommendations. We have a proud history of delivering community benefits from our renewable energy projects, which span over two decades, and MachairWind is fully committed to delivering community benefit funding in partnership with our host communities.

Working Together

We are—and always have been—an advocate for a community-led approach to Community Benefit Funding. Local people are best placed to determine how money is spent to best service the needs of their local area, reflecting their genuine needs and wants.

Our community benefit funding will be developed with and for our host communities and, over the coming years, we will be seeking their input into how we design and administer funds and supporting those communities' current and future priorities.

2024 Community Benefits Overview

To date, we have contributed over **£72 million** to communities across the UK—contributing over 10% of this (£7.6m) last year alone. In 2024, communities across the UK receiving community benefit funding from SPR projects chose to spend the money on a range of initiatives.

By 2024, communities in Argyll and Bute hosting our onshore windfarms had received community benefit funding in excess of **£3.8million:**

Beinn an Tuirc I, II Windfarms
(for the benefit of East Kintyre and West Kintyre)
£1,879,782

Beinn an Tuirc III Windfarm
(for the benefit of East Kintyre, West Kintyre and Campbeltown)
£1,073,555

Clachan Flats Windfarm
(for the benefit of Cairndow Community Council and Inverary Community Council)
£211,193

Cruach Mhor Windfarm
(for the benefit of Colintraive and Glendaruel communities.)
£653,182

Case Study

Arran Mountain Rescue

£9,000 awarded by Arran Community Council to Arran Mountain Rescue who play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of communities and visitors across the island.

The Mountain Rescue team is made up of 32 experienced and skilled local volunteers, who are on call 365 days a year to provide search and rescue assistance to those in need.

Specialist equipment is required to be able to provide emergency aid across multiple types of terrain and in challenging conditions. The team had seen an increase in call outs for fast water rescues and put the funds towards the purchase of equipment and specialist training to ensure volunteers were prepared and able to support in these potentially life-threatening situations.

"This valuable funding will help equip eight team members with the specialised equipment required to protect our volunteers carrying out swift water rescues allowing us to always have sufficient members to work in or near water."
~ Robert Waine, Secretary and Treasurer of Arran Mountain Rescue

Donations and Sponsorships

Recognising the early stage of the project and simultaneously wanting to give back to our host communities, MachairWind has sponsored numerous community initiatives and events of importance in our host communities, including but not limited to Islay Agricultural Show (2023, 2024, 2025), Colonsay Book Festival (2025), Bunessan Show (2025) — with more to come next year!

In response to feedback and funding queries we hear when out and about visiting the islands, this summer we launched a new **£10,000 MachairWind Small Donations Fund**—for communities across Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Ross of Mull and Iona—offering funding of up to **£500** for local island initiatives that focus on education, training and research; social initiatives; art and culture; and biodiversity and climate change. The first round of funding is open to applicants until 7th November 2025 and applicants will be notified of their success by 21st November. Apply now by completing our short form on our 'Small Donations Fund' page on our website: **www.machairwind.com**

9. Have Your Say

9. Thoiribh ur beachd seachad

This consultation, and the events we are hosting within the consultation period, relate to all of the proposed infrastructure within the MachairWind Windfarm Development Area (WDA) and therefore also support the future application for Section 36 consent under the Electricity Act 1989. We are committed to ensuring stakeholders understand our proposals and can influence how we approach the project's design, construction and operation.

As we have shown from our first round of consultation, one of our main objectives is to meaningfully consider all feedback received and demonstrate how your feedback has been incorporated into the decision-making process. This feedback is important to us as it helps us continue to refine the development proposals for the project and understand what is important to you.

In Person Events

We will be holding six public consultation events during this second round of consultation, as we did with the first consultation in the summer, and we welcome members of the local community and other stakeholders to attend and offer feedback. Members of our project team are available to provide more information and answer any questions you may have.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 21st October	Anytime from 10.30am to 2pm	Port Mor, Port Charlotte, Islay
Tuesday 21st October	Anytime from 4pm to 7.30pm	Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen, Islay
Wednesday 22nd October	Anytime from 3pm to 7pm	Jura Village Hall, Craighouse, Jura
Thursday 23rd October	Anytime from 3pm to 7pm	Colonsay Village Hall, Colonsay
Tuesday 28th October	Anytime from 4pm to 7.30pm	Iona Village Hall, Iona
Wednesday 29th October	Anytime from 3pm to 7pm	Bunessan Village Hall, Mull

Online Events

We recognise that not everyone is able to attend in-person events therefore we are offering a range of online options too. Come along to one of our online webinar events to find out about the project and ask the team questions about MachairWind. We will be holding two online webinars:

1. **Thu 6th Nov at 6:30pm to 7:30pm; or**
2. **Tue 18th Nov at 6:30pm to 7:30pm**

To register your interest, and to receive joining instructions, please email: machairwind@scottishpower.com

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Virtual Consultation Room

Our virtual consultation room will display all of the information available at the in-person events, such as the consultation booklet, banners, photomontages, refined WDA maps, and feedback form. We hope this consultation room will prove useful for those unable to attend our in-person events.

You can access the virtual consultation room from the Public Consultation webpage on our website: www.achairwind.com or by scanning the QR code on this page.

Providing Your Feedback

Thank you for taking the time to read through our proposals. Now that you have more information on the proposed MachairWind Offshore Windfarm, we would like you to share your feedback with us.

Your feedback is very important to us, as it will help to inform decisions that we make relating to the project's design, before we submit our WDA planning application in 2026.

Feedback Form

- Completing the feedback form online on our website: www.machairwind.com; or
- Complete a feedback form at one of our events and return to a member of staff; or
- Collect a feedback form at your local Service Point (if you have one) or Trust office and return using the pre-paid envelope enclosed in the form (no stamp required).

Writing

- Email us your comments at: machairwind@scottishpower.com
- Write to us at MachairWind Project Team, ScottishPower HQ, 320 St Vincent St, Glasgow, G2 5AD.

Should you require a pre-paid envelope, please collect one at your local Service Point if you have one or email us your postal address at: machairwind@scottishpower.com

This consultation will run for 6 weeks, from Monday 20th October to Sunday 30th November 2025. Feedback received after the deadline may not be considered. All feedback received within this period will be considered, however, we are unable to respond to every response individually.

Any comments made to the prospective applicant during this pre-application consultation are not representations to the Scottish Ministers or any other consenting body. If the prospective applicant, MachairWind Ltd, proceeds in submitting an application for a marine license, there will be an opportunity for formal representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers via Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) upon application submission.

10. Next Steps

10. Na h-Ath Cheumannan

All feedback received at both rounds of consultation will be analysed and we will provide information on how that feedback has been considered in a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report. This will be published as part of our windfarm development area (WDA) planning application in 2026.

When we submit our WDA application in Spring 2026, the Marine Directorate (on behalf of Scottish Ministers) will determine whether to grant permission for the WDA. During the representation period of the determination, you will have further opportunity to comment on our proposals.

Staying in Touch
The team will be available throughout the development of the project, and you can reach out to us at any time by contacting us at machairwind@scottishpower.com

Our Community Engagement Manager will also be on hand if you wish to speak directly to the project. We will also be out and about around local communities as part of the ongoing development of the project and will continue to support local on island events and attend where we can. Please stay tuned to the project's website and social media feeds for further information.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information booklet, we hope you found it helpful.

Should you have any questions, suggestions or requests, please get in touch:

Get in Touch

Email us at:
machairwind@scottishpower.com

Write to us at MachairWind Project Team, ScottishPower HQ, 320 St Vincent St, Glasgow, G2 5AD

Should you require a pre-paid envelope, please collect one at your local Service Point or email us your postal address.

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please reach out to us at:

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ScottishPower
320 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5AD
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2025

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