



MachairWind Offshore Windfarm

Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Appendix 7



MachairWind Offshore Windfarm

Pre-Application Overview Report



APRIL 2025

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Glossary of Acronyms

Term	Definition
GW	Gigawatt
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team
OfTDA	Offshore Transmission Development Area
OnTDA	Onshore Transmission Development Area
OSP	Offshore Substation Platform
PAC	Pre-Application Consultation
POA	Plan Option Area
UK	United Kingdom
WDA	Windfarm Development Area
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

1. MachairWind Limited is wholly owned by ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited and is developing the MachairWind Offshore Windfarm, located northwest of Islay and west of Colonsay. With a generating capacity of around 2 Gigawatts (GWQ), MachairWind Offshore Windfarm could produce enough clean, green electricity to power the equivalent of up to 2 million homes across the UK contributing to Scotland's and the UK's transition to Net Zero, and the UK's energy security, in line with Government policy.
2. The proposed works and licensable marine activities comprise the construction, operation and decommissioning of an offshore windfarm (a renewable energy structure) using fixed foundations within a defined Windfarm Development Area (WDA). The WDA extends to a maximum of 510km² in area and lies within Plan Option W1, as designated within the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan – Offshore Wind Energy (2020). MachairWind Offshore Windfarm is located within the 12 nautical miles boundary of the Scottish Marine Area defined under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, as shown in Figure 1.

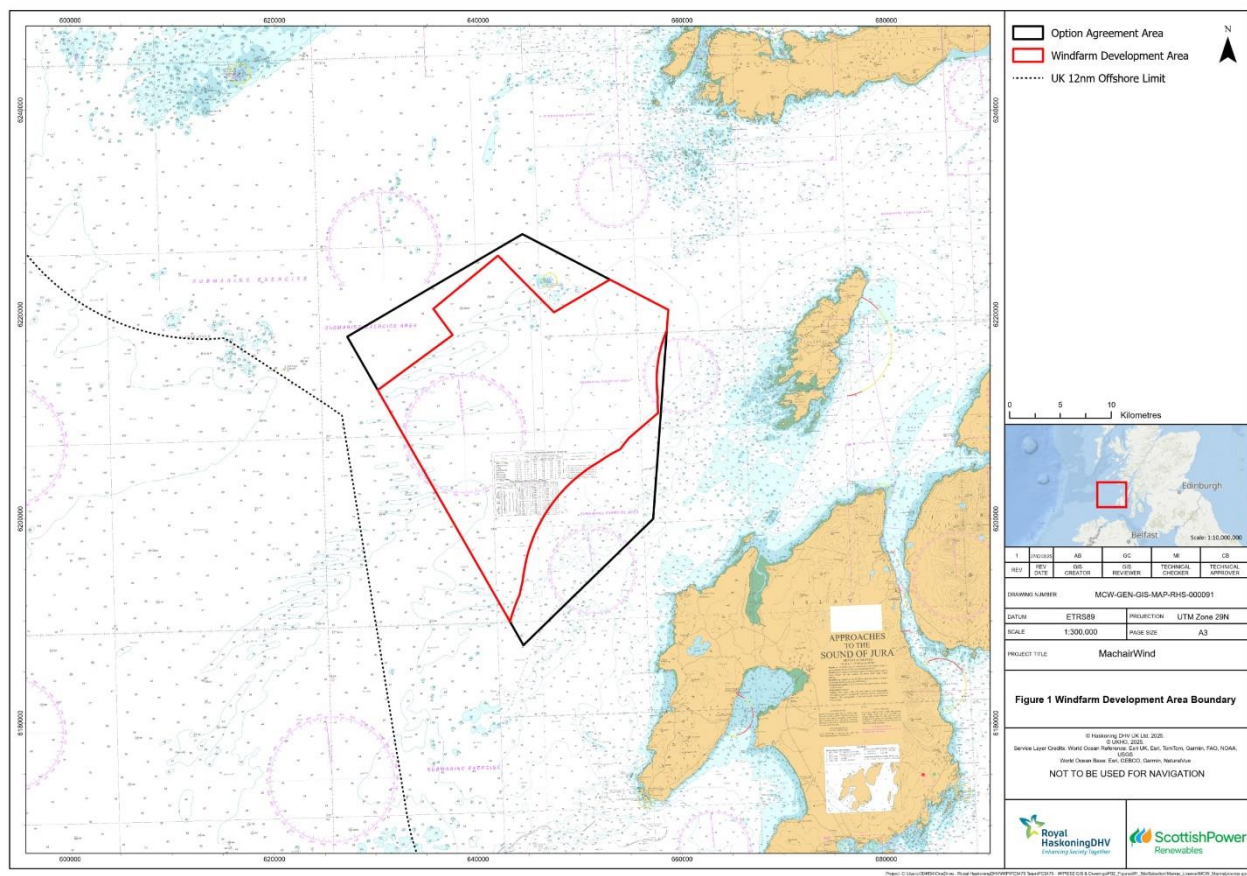


Figure 1 Windfarm Development Area Boundary

3. As detailed within the MachairWind Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report (September 2024), separate consents will be sought for three development areas: the WDA, the Offshore Transmission Development Area (OfTDA), and the Onshore Transmission Development Area (OnTDA). All works required outside of the WDA will be subject to separate consent and marine licence applications, as required, in due course.

4. The assessment of the WDA will consider an appraisal of the construction, O&M and decommissioning of the WDA activities, OfTDA activities, and OnTDA activities (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 and also recognises the interlinked nature of the three development areas.
5. To ensure the Project undertakes meaningful and transparent consultation, the export cable(s), offshore substation platform(s) (OSPs), and OSP link cables (if required), which fall within the OfTDA, will also be represented in the consultation materials and associated visual aids, given that this infrastructure is located within the WDA. At this stage, the size, location and number of OSP(s), OSP link cables, and number of export cable(s) are indicative, and this will be made clear within the materials provided. The Project will also undertake separate Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) events for the OfTDA and OnTDA at a later date.
6. MachairWind Limited is inviting all interested parties to share their views with us on the proposals. As such, this document provides an overview of the statutory PAC process that is being undertaken by MachairWind Limited.
7. Critical to the success of the Project is the building and maintaining of trusted relationships with MachairWind Limited stakeholders and communities. A key Project goal is to meaningfully consider all feedback received and demonstrate how feedback has been incorporated into the decision-making process. This interaction with stakeholders is crucial when refining the development proposals for the Project and undertaking related impact assessments.

2. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

8. The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 mandates that prospective applicants that are seeking a Marine Licence for certain 'prescribed classes' of activity (as defined in the Marine Licensing (PAC) (Scotland) Regulations 2013) must undertake PAC prior to the submission of a related application for a marine licence. These Regulations identify those marine licensable activities requiring PAC and, in conjunction with the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, delineate the specifics of the pre-application process.
9. In accordance with the Regulations, a notification letter was submitted to the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) on 31st March 2025, requesting a PAC statement in relation to the WDA infrastructure, which will be subject to an application for a Marine Licence under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. The PAC statement was granted by MD-LOT on 11th April 2025. This letter acknowledges that the proposed works and infrastructure within the MachairWind WDA fall within prescribed classes of activities, therefore PAC is required.
10. Together with the accompanying letter, this Pre-Application Overview Report constitutes the requisite notifications to statutory consultees of:
 - MachairWind Limited's intention to submit an application for a marine licence for proposed infrastructure and works within the WDA. A period in excess of 12 weeks will elapse prior to the submission of this application; and,
 - MachairWind Limited's first statutory consultation period, including PAC events. These events will be held no earlier than 6 weeks after this notification; the first event will take place on Tuesday 3rd June 2025.
11. For the purposes of the Marine Licensing (PAC) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, the statutory consultees are:
 - The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA);
 - The Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB);

- The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA);
 - NatureScot; and,
 - Any appointed delegate for the Argyll Marine Region.
12. In accordance with the statutory notification requirements, the remainder of this Pre-Application Overview Report provides:
- Section 3 – Project Description and Proposed Activities;
 - Section 4 – Pre-Application Consultation;
 - Section 5 – Project Contact Details;
 - Appendix A – Windfarm Development Area Location Plan; and
 - Appendix B – Copy of Public Notice.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

3.1. CONTEXT AND LOCATION

13. In April 2022, as part of the ScotWind leasing round, MachairWind Limited entered into an Option to Lease Agreement with Crown Estate Scotland for the entire W1 Plan Option Area (POA). Following comprehensive review and consultation, W1 is one of 15 POAs that the Scottish Government identified in its Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (Scottish Government, 2020). W1 is located northwest of Islay and west of Colonsay.
14. Informed by site-specific data and the analysis of it, MachairWind Limited has refined the development area down from the W1 Plan Option Area and at this stage is consulting on proposed infrastructure and works within the WDA, which is shown in Figure 1 and Appendix A. The MachairWind WDA is located approximately 12 km from Colonsay and 15 km from Islay at its closest points. Taking account of recent design refinements, the WDA extends to an area of approximately 510 km².

3.2. DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

15. The Project has a generating capacity of around 2 Gigawatts (GW). Given the relatively early stage of the development process, the following description of proposed works and infrastructure within the WDA is indicative, with the envelope of WDA design parameters currently being defined to inform the completion of environmental assessments. Through statutory and non-statutory consultation and engagement, MachairWind Limited will gather feedback which will be considered as the WDA design development progresses.
16. MachairWind Limited has identified that proposed works and licensable marine activities within the WDA relating to the construction of a renewable energy structure exceeding 10,000 square metres in extent comprise:
- Up to 147 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) on fixed foundations;
 - Inter-Array Cables linking the WTGs together;
 - Scour protection for foundation structures supporting the WTGs (if required); and
 - External cable protection for inter-array cables (if required).
17. The key WDA infrastructure includes WTGs and inter-array cables. The specific WTG model will be selected in the post-consent period, with the final generating capacity and size specifications being dependent on the chosen WTG model. It is anticipated that the WDA will have up to 147 WTGs. The indicative maximum

blade tip height is anticipated to be 340 m above lowest astronomical tide. Each WTG will be installed on foundations which are fixed to the seabed.

18. Inter-array cables will transmit electricity generated by the WTGs to one or more OSPs within the WDA. OSPs will be necessary to collect and convert the electricity before transmitting it to shore through subsea offshore export cables. These will accommodate electrical infrastructure such as substation equipment, controls and operating systems.
19. To enable meaningful consideration of all proposed infrastructure within the WDA and of any potential cumulative impacts, indicative locations and parameters for the OfTDA and OnTDA will be included in this PAC. This approach will ensure a holistic view is undertaken of the entire Project, recognising the interlinked nature of the three development areas. The Project will also undertake separate Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) events for the OfTDA and OnTDA at a later date.

3.3. CONSENTS

20. The entirety of the WDA is located within the Scottish marine area, which extends to 12 nautical miles from shore. All consents and licences associated with the WDA will therefore be submitted to the Scottish Ministers through MD-LOT, which is responsible for administering applications on behalf of the Scottish Ministers.
21. The following consents and licences will be required to authorise the proposed works and licensable activities within the WDA:
 - Section 36 consent under the Electricity Act 1989; and
 - Marine Licence(s) under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.
22. This notification of intention to apply for a Marine Licence, and related PAC events, will only consider proposed infrastructure and works within the MachairWind WDA. The Project will submit separate consent and marine licence applications for the OfTDA, as required.
23. The expectation is that the Project will connect to a new HVDC switching station to be built by the Transmission System Operator in South Ayrshire. However, this remains to be confirmed and will therefore be considered as part of separate consent applications covering the OnTDA.

4. PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

4.1. APPROACH

24. Early and ongoing engagement with communities and stakeholders is a critical part of the MachairWind development process. MachairWind Limited is committed to building on our working relationships with the Project's stakeholders and communities throughout the lifetime of the Project.
25. MachairWind Limited intends to undertake a programme of PAC during 2025 covering proposed infrastructure and works within the WDA to inform the submission of related consent applications, including an application for Marine Licence(s) under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. This will include multiple opportunities for stakeholders and communities to provide views regarding the proposed WDA infrastructure works and components, as well as for MachairWind Limited to feedback regarding how the views expressed have been considered.
26. MachairWind Limited intends to hold two rounds of public consultation:



1. A first round of consultation including six in-person public exhibitions across Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Mull and Iona alongside online meetings and virtual consultation room over a six-week period from 26th May to 6th July 2025; and
2. A second round of consultation, including six in-person public exhibitions across Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Mull and Iona alongside online meetings and virtual exhibition rooms over a six-week period from September to October 2025. The dates for the second round of consultation will be confirmed in due course.

This approach complies with, and indeed exceeds, the minimum statutory requirements for PAC events.

27. These events will provide timely opportunities for statutory consultees, wider industry stakeholders and members of the public to view MachairWind Limited's WDA development proposals and provide feedback to inform the subsequent submission of an application for Marine Licence(s) for proposed works and infrastructure within the WDA. The second consultation period will also enable feedback to be provided by MachairWind Limited regarding how comments made during the first consultation period have been considered, prior to the subsequent submission of consenting applications.
28. Any comments made during the statutory consultation periods, including at the events, will be reviewed by MachairWind Limited to inform Project development rather than being considered by MD-LOT at this stage, and do not comprise formal representations. There will be a subsequent opportunity for formal representations to be made to MD-LOT following the submission of the WDA consenting applications.

4.2. CONSULTATION EVENTS

4.2.1. In Person Events

29. The consultation period will be open for stakeholder feedback from 26th May to 6th July, with the PAC events being held on:
 - Tuesday 3rd June, from 3pm to 7.30pm, Port Mor, Port Charlotte, Islay
 - Wednesday 4th June, from 3pm to 7.30pm, Colonsay Village Hall, Scalasaig, Colonsay
 - Wednesday 11th June, from 3pm to 7.30pm, Gaelic College, Bowmore, Islay
 - Thursday 12th June, from 3pm to 7.30pm, Jura Village Hall, Craighouse, Jura
 - Tuesday 17th June, from 3pm to 7.30pm, Creich Hall, Fionnphort, Mull
 - Wednesday 18th June, from 3pm to 7.30pm, Iona Village Hall, Iona

4.2.2. Online Events

30. MachairWind Limited will hold two online presentations, providing people who are unable to attend the in-person consultation events with the opportunity to learn more about the WDA and ask the Project team questions and find out how they can share their views. These will be held on Microsoft Teams on:
 - Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 6.30pm to 7.30pm; and
 - Monday 23rd June at 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

Anyone wishing to participate in these online events can email machairwind@scottishpower.com to register their details and receive joining instructions.

4.2.3. Stakeholder Meetings

31. Stakeholders are invited to meet with the Project team during the six-week consultation period (26th May to 6th July), to discuss the Project in more detail. Anyone wishing to meet with the team can request a meeting via email machairwind@scottishpower.com



4.3. CONSULTATION MATERIALS

4.3.1. Virtual Consultation Room

32. A virtual consultation room will display all information available at the in person PAC events, such as the consultation booklet, banners, maps, and feedback form.
33. The virtual consultation room can be accessed from 26th May 2025, which is the first day of the consultation launching, from the Project website: www.machairwind.com
34. The virtual consultation room will be available throughout the first and second round of PAC. The virtual consultation room exceeds statutory requirements and offers several benefits to stakeholders: allows participation in the consultation process from any location; feedback can be submitted whilst viewing consultation materials; and the virtual consultation room will be available at any time of day, increasing inclusivity and engagement.

4.3.2. Consultation Booklet

35. A consultation booklet will be developed that presents information on the Project and the WDA. Stakeholders and members of the public may provide feedback and comments on the licensable marine activity, which will be considered by MachairWind Limited when refining the proposals ahead of submitting an application to MD-LOT for the relevant marine licence(s).
36. The consultation booklet will present information in non-technical language and will use maps, diagrams and photos to ensure all stakeholders, regardless of technical capability, can understand what is being proposed and therefore provide informed and meaningful feedback.
37. Copies of the consultation booklet will be available at the in-person PAC events on the islands of Islay, Colonsay, Jura, Mull and Iona, available view online in the virtual consultation room, and available to download from the MachairWind website. The consultation booklet will also be available to collect from local Service Points and Development Trust buildings throughout the duration of the consultation periods.
38. Individuals can also contact MachairWind Limited by emailing machairwind@scottishpower.com to request that a copy be posted to them along with a feedback form.
39. The executive summary will be translated in full into Gaelic, and each chapter heading in the booklet will be translated into Gaelic.

4.3.3. Banners

40. Banners summarising key content from the consultation booklet will also be developed for the statutory consultation events. These will present the same information as in the consultation booklet and will also be in non-technical, easy-to-understand language. The same banners will be available in the virtual exhibition space and at the statutory consultation events.
41. Each banner title will be translated into Gaelic.

4.3.4. Feedback Form

42. A feedback form will be available to collect at the in-person PAC events and to download from the Project website throughout the duration of the consultation periods. The feedback form will seek to capture respondents' views on renewable energy, offshore windfarms and the MachairWind windfarm development area proposals.
43. The front page of the feedback form, which details the purpose of the form, will be translated into Gaelic.



44. Individuals can also contact MachairWind Limited by emailing machairwind@scottishpower.com to request that a printed copy be posted to them.
45. The form will stipulate, '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 Limited, subsequently makes an application for a marine license, there will be a subsequent opportunity for formal representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers via Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) upon application submission.'

4.3.5. Adjusted Materials

46. MachairWind Limited will consider, upon request, whether to provide the consultation booklet in an alternative format, such as other languages, braille or large font.

4.3.6. Analysis of Feedback

47. The Project has allowed sufficient time between the PAC events and the submission of the WDA consent application to consider and process comments received from stakeholders and members of the public.
48. Stakeholders can provide feedback to MachairWind Limited for consideration during the consultation periods. The deadline for the first round of PAC is 6th July 2025.
49. All feedback received by this date relating to the development of the WDA will be collated, processed and considered when refining proposals to inform the application for the WDA infrastructure, which MachairWind Limited intends to submit to MD-LOT in Q1 2026.
50. Feedback on the proposal can be shared via:
- Discussion at the in person and the online events;
 - Completion of the printed and online feedback form; and
 - Submission in writing to machairwind@scottishpower.com
51. A second round of statutory consultation events is planned to take place between September and October 2025. The purpose of these PAC events is to provide an update on how MachairWind Limited has considered all feedback received from the first round of PAC events and to give stakeholders and community members more of an understanding about what the final WDA consent application will look like.

4.3.7. PAC Report

52. Following completion of both statutory consultation periods and the events to be held within these, MachairWind Limited will prepare and submit a PAC report detailing the process and outcomes from PAC. The PAC Report will be prepared in line with Regulation 8 of The Marine Licensing (PAC) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, by virtue of section 24(1) of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.

4.4. ADVERTISEMENT

53. MachairWind Limited will be undertaking multiple rounds of advertising for the PAC events, including publishing of a notice in local newspapers. The notice will include details about the location of the marine activity for which the marine licence(s) will be sought, information on where to obtain further information about the proposed marine activity and details about the statutory consultation events including dates and venues.
54. The notice will provide guidance on how interested parties can comment on the proposed marine activity and will give the date by which this must be done. Importantly, the notice will clarify that comments directed

to MachairWind Limited does not constitute representations to the Scottish Ministers and that if MachairWind Limited makes an application for marine licence(s) that there will be an opportunity for formal representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers at that time. A copy of the Notice can be found in Appendix B.

55. MachairWind also intends to issue further newspaper advertisements and related publicity materials closer to the date of the first consultation to provide a reminder for interested stakeholders and members of the public.
56. An advert will appear in local and regional newspapers for the PAC events. Advertisements will include information on the event dates and feedback methods. The following local and regional newspapers have been identified:
- The Oban Times – Regional newspaper;
 - The Campbeltown Courier – Regional newspaper;
 - The Ileach – Community newspaper for Islay/Jura – fortnightly;
 - Round & About Mull – Community newspaper in Mull/Iona – monthly; and
 - Jura Jottings – Community newsletter – monthly.

4.5. PROMOTION

57. Approximately 3,500 postcards will be distributed to all residential properties and business units across Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Ross of Mull and Iona in the weeks leading up to the consultation. The postcards will include information on the PAC events and will detail the ways feedback can be shared, and the Project can be contacted.
58. Posters (print copies) will be displayed in local venues such as schools, shops, ferry terminals, doctor surgeries and community halls. A digital version of the poster will be distributed to key stakeholders, directly affected Community Councils, councillors, Members of Scottish Parliament and the local Member of Parliament to promote the statutory consultation events via their social media and community channels.
59. The promotional materials will be easy to understand, jargon free, accessible and relevant. Where possible, they will be made available in appropriate formats and provided in good time to enable people to take part and discuss their views.
60. The statutory consultation events will also be promoted via the ScottishPower Renewable's social media channels and local social media channels.
61. Should interested parties request further information or details about the information displayed at statutory consultation events, the Project's Stakeholder Manager can be contacted to provide this (details provided below).

5. PROJECT CONTACT DETAILS

62. All queries in relation to this submitted notification, the Project's PAC arrangements or the wider Project should be directed to the Stakeholder Manager:

Ellen Kane
ScottishPower Renewables,
320 St. Vincent Street
Glasgow, G2 5AD



Email: machairwind@scottishpower.com



APPENDIX A: WINDFARM DEVELOPMENT AREA LOCATION PLAN

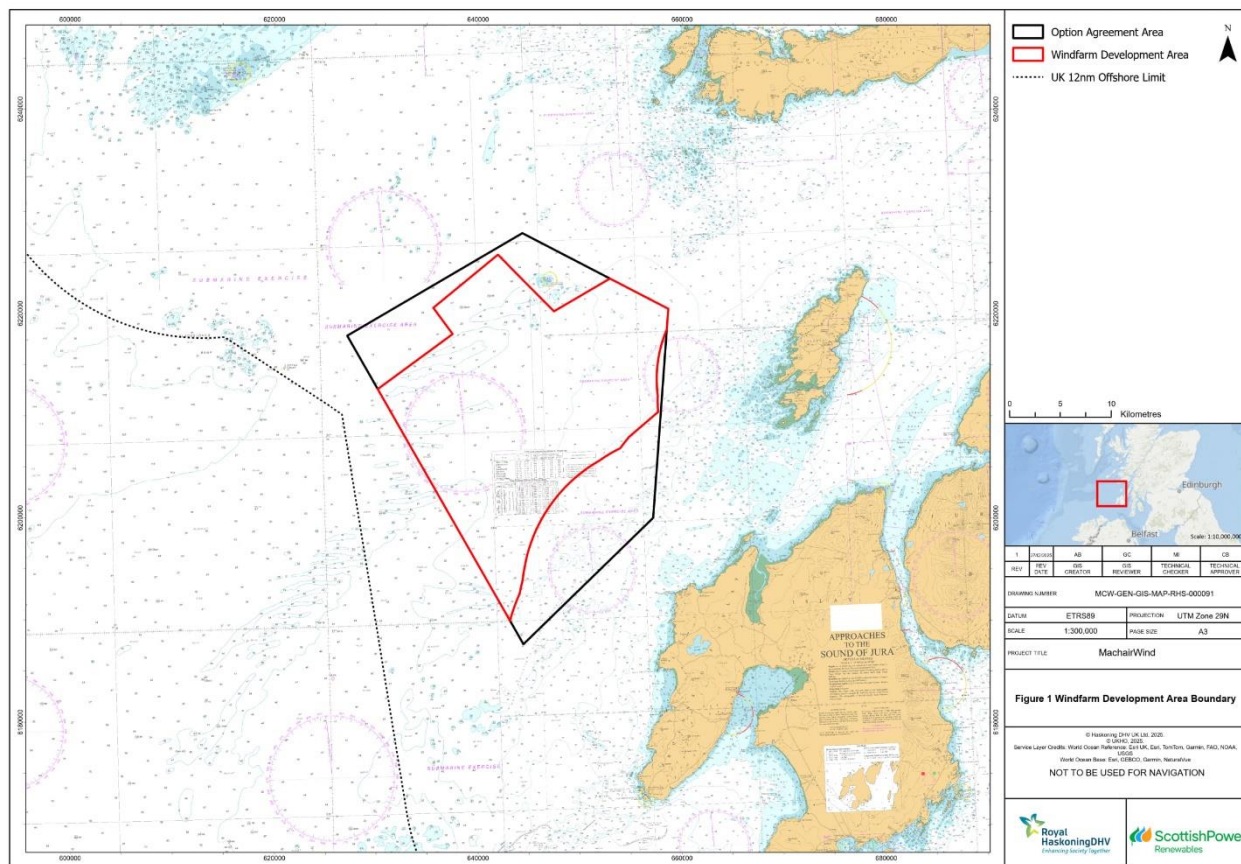


Figure 2: Windfarm Development Area Boundary

APPENDIX B: COPY OF PUBLIC NOTICE

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 THE MARINE LICENSING (PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

MachairWind Limited, wholly owned by ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited, is developing the MachairWind Offshore Windfarm, located northwest of Islay and west of Colonsay. With a generating capacity of around 2 Gigawatts, MachairWind could produce enough clean, green electricity to power the equivalent of up to 2 million homes across the UK. Notice is hereby given of forthcoming statutory pre-application consultation by MachairWind Limited relating to the proposed development of offshore works and licensable marine activities associated with MachairWind Offshore Windfarm.

The proposed works and licensable marine activities comprise the construction, operation and decommissioning of an offshore wind farm (a renewable energy structure) using fixed foundations within a defined Windfarm Development Area (WDA). The WDA extends to a maximum of 510km² in area and lies within Plan Option W1, as designated within the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan – Offshore Wind Energy (2020). MachairWind Offshore Windfarm is located within the 12 nautical miles boundary of the Scottish Marine Area defined under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.

MachairWind intends to apply to the Scottish Ministers for a marine license and related consents, including consent to construct and operate an electricity generating station under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, for the proposed works and licensable activities within the MachairWind WDA. Separate consent applications for related electricity transmission infrastructure will be progressed at a later date and do not form part of the current proposals.

As part of the pre-application consultation process for the proposed works and licensable activities within the WDA, MachairWind intends to hold two periods of pre-application consultation during 2025. The first consultation period will take place over 6 weeks, from Monday 26th May to Sunday 6th July 2025; during this period, six public consultation events will take place:

- Tuesday 3rd June, from 3pm to 7.30pm, Port Mor, Port Charlotte, Islay
- Wednesday 4th June, from 3pm to 7.30pm, Colonsay Village Hall, Scalasaig, Colonsay
- Wednesday 11th June, from 3pm to 7.30pm, Gaelic College, Bowmore, Islay
- Thursday 12th June, from 3pm to 7.30pm, Jura Village Hall, Craighouse, Jura
- Tuesday 17th June, from 3pm to 7.30pm, Creich Hall, Fionnphort, Mull
- Wednesday 18th June, from 3pm to 7.30pm, Iona Village Hall, Iona

MachairWind will offer a virtual consultation room, available from on the project website from 26th May, and will hold two online webinars on Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 6.30pm to 7.30pm, and Monday 23rd June at 6.30pm to 7.30pm. You do not need the Microsoft Teams application to attend this meeting. To register for the online events and receive joining instructions, please email: machairwind@scottishpower.com

Details of the WDA proposals will be available at the public consultation events and the MachairWind project team will be available to answer questions. An information booklet and feedback form will be available at all the public events and online on the project website. There will be further opportunity to feedback on the proposals in writing by emailing machairwind@scottishpower.com

All feedback from this consultation period must be received by Sunday 6th July 2025 to be considered by the project. Details of a second consultation period will be publicised later in 2025.

Information on the WDA proposals will be available on the project website once the consultation launches on Monday 26th May 2025 at: www.machairwind.co.uk

Please note 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 Limited, subsequently makes an application for a marine license, there will be a subsequent opportunity for formal representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers via Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) upon application submission.

