



# MachairWind Offshore Windfarm

Tuathanas-Gaoithe Far Oirthir MachairWind

## Windfarm Development Area

## Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report

Raon-Leasachaidh Tuathanas-Gaoithe  
Ro-Cho-Chomhairle Iarrtais (PAC) – Aithisg

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report provides a description of the MachairWind WDA, an overview of the legislative requirements that PAC must comply with, a description of how consultation was undertaken, key issues raised and how they have been addressed. The full Project PAC Report Form can be found in **Appendix 1** as required by the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010: Section 24. The Applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of ScottishPower Renewables (SPR), part of the Iberdrola Group.

The report accompanies the WDA consent applications, including the WDA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report (EIAR) and associated documents submitted to Scottish Ministers in accordance with the requirements for Marine licences pursuant to the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. Consents, licenses and permissions will be sought separately for three development areas: the Windfarm Development Area (WDA), the Offshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) and the Onshore Transmission Development Area (OnTDA). This PAC Report therefore only relates to the WDA.

Two rounds of statutory consultation were undertaken, beyond the minimum requirements of the Marine Licensing (PAC) (Scotland) Regulations 2013. Across both rounds, the Applicant delivered twelve in-person consultation events across Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Ross of Mull and Iona, presented four webinars, and hosted a virtual consultation room in addition to interactive online materials to encourage participation from those unable to attend in person events.

Statutory Consultation Round One was live from 26 May up to 06 July 2025 (inclusive). It introduced Project proposals to the local communities and invited early feedback to support refinement of the WDA. Statutory Consultation Round Two took place from 20 October to 30 November 2025 (inclusive). This round presented updated proposals informed by stakeholder feedback and response to public consultation round one, including refinements to the WDA boundary and turbine parameters, and offering enhanced visual information, such as night-time photomontages.

All feedback received was logged, analysed and grouped by theme. Concerns, suggestions and requests informed several key refinements, including reducing the extent of the WDA, lowering maximum turbine height, improving visual materials and expanding explanations of environmental and socio-economic assessments.

The Project has undertaken proactive and transparent engagement with both statutory and non-statutory consultees to date, which is detailed within this report. The Applicant is committed to continuing engagement throughout the lifecycle of the Project.



## GEÀRR-CHUNNTAS GNÌOMHACH

Tha an Aithisg Ro-Cho-Chomhairle Iarrtais (PAC) seo a' toirt seachad tuairisgeul air am MachairWind WDA, sealladh farsaing air na riatanasan reachdail ris am feum PAC gèilleadh, tuairisgeul air mar a chaidh a' cho-chomhairle a dhèanamh, na prìomh chùisean a chaidh a thogail agus mar a chaidh dèiligeadh riutha. Gheibhear am Foirm Làn Aithisg PAC a' Phròiseict ann an Eàrr-ràdh 1 mar a tha riatach fo Achd na Mara (Alba) 2010: Earrann 24. Tha an Tagraiche na fho-chompanaidh fo làn shealbh ScottishPower Renewables (SPR), pàirt de Bhuidheann Iberdrola.

Tha an aithisg seo a' dol còmhla ri iarrtasan ceadachaidh WDA, a' gabhail a-steach Aithisg Measadh Buaidh Àrainneachdail WDA (EIAR) agus sgrìobhainnean co-cheangailte a chaidh a chur a-steach gu Ministearan na h-Alba a rèir riatanasan airson ceadan Mara fo Achd na Mara (Alba) 2010 agus cead fo Earrann 36 de Achd an Dealain 1989. Thèid ceadan, ceadan-oifigeil agus ceadan eile a shireadh air leth airson trì raointean leasachaidh: Raon Leasachaidh na Tuath-gaoithe (WDA), Coiridor Càbaill Às-mhalairt Far Chladaich (ECC) agus Raon Leasachaidh Tar-chuir Tir-mòr (OnTDA). Mar sin, tha an Aithisg PAC seo a' buntainn a-mhàin ris an WDA.

Chaidh dà chuairt de cho-chomhairle reachdail a dhèanamh, a' dol nas fhaide na na riatanasan as ìsle fo Riaghailtean Ceadachd Mara (Ro-Cho-Chomhairle Iarrtais) (Alba) 2013. Tron dà chuairt, libhrig an Tagraiche dusan tachartas co-chomhairle aghaidh-ri-aghaidh air feadh Ìle, Diùra, Colbhasa, Ros a' Mhuilinn agus Ì Chaluim Chille, thaisbean iad ceithir seiminear-lìn, agus chum iad seòmar co-chomhairle brìgheil a bharrachd air stuthan eadar-ghnìomhach air-loidhne gus com-pàirteachadh a bhrosnachadh bho dhaoine nach robh comasach air frithealadh gu pearsanta.

Bha a' chiad chuairt de cho-chomhairle reachdail fosgailte bho 26 Cèitean gu 06 Iuchar 2025. Thug i a-staigh molaidhean a' Phròiseict do na coimhearsnachdan ionadail agus dh'iarr i beachdan tràth gus taic a thoirt do leasachadh an WDA. Thachair an dàrna cuairt bho 20 Dàmhair gu 30 Samhain 2025. Rè na cuairte seo chaidh molaidhean ùraichte a thaisbeanadh, stèidhichte air fios-air-ais bho luchd-ùidh agus freagairtean don chiad chuairt phoblach, a' gabhail a-steach atharrachaidhean air crìochan an WDA agus paramadairean nan tùr-gaoithe, a bharrachd air fiosrachadh lèirsinneach nas fheàrr, leithid photomontagan oidhche.

Chaidh gach fios-air-ais a fhuair a chlàradh, a sgrùdadh agus a chur ann am buidhnean a rèir cuspair. Thug draghan, molaidhean agus iarrtasan buaidh air grunn atharrachaidhean cudromach, a' gabhail a-steach lùghdachadh ann an raon an WDA, ìsleachadh àirde as motha nan tùr-gaoithe, leasachadh air stuthan lèirsinneach agus leudachadh air mineachaidhean mu mheasaidhean àrainneachdail agus sòisio-eaconamach.

Tha am Pròiseact air conaltradh ro-ghnìomhach agus fosgailte a dhèanamh gu ruige seo le luchd-comhairle reachdail agus neo-reachdail, mar a tha air a mhìneachadh san aithisg seo. Tha an Tagraiche dealasach a thaobh leantainn air adhart leis a' cho-chonaltradh fad beatha a' Phròiseict.



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## Glossary of Acronyms

Term	Definition
ADLS	Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
CBF	Community Benefit Fund
CCDC	Colonsay Community Development Company
CMPP	Clyde Marine Planning Partnership
ECC	Offshore Export Cable Corridor
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
FID	Final Investment Decision
GW	Gigawatts
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
IAC	Inter-array cables
IET	Islay Energy Trust
INTOG	Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas
JDT	Jura Development Trust
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate Licencing Operations Team
MICT	Mull and Iona Community Trust
MW	Megawatt
NLB	Northern Lighthouse Board
NSA	National Scenic Area
OAA	Option Agreement Area
OnTDA	Onshore Transmission Development Area
OSP	Offshore Substation Platforms
PAC	Pre-Application Consultation
PAN	Planning Advice Note
PAS	Planning Aid Scotland's Scottish Planning
RYA	Royal Yachting Association
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SCSF	Supply Chain and Skills Fund
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SFF	Scottish Fishermen's Federation



Term	Definition
SID	South Islay Development
SMP-OWE	Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy
SP=EED	Successful Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery
SPR	ScottishPower Renewables
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths
SWMID	South West Mull and Iona Development
UK	United Kingdom
WDA	Windfarm Development Area
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator



## Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Cable protection	Protective measure to minimise the effects of scour and hazards along the offshore cables (e.g. to prevent cable exposure or snagging of vessel anchors or fishing gear), as well as for protecting these cables at infrastructure crossing points.
Creel	Creel is a Scottish term for a pot or trap typically deployed by an inshore vessel. These are generally rigid structures which fish or shellfish are guided or enticed into through funnels that make entry easy but escape difficult. There are many designs which are created to suit the behaviour of its target species.
Development Area	Application boundary for consenting purposes which, for the Project, consists of a Windfarm Development Area, Offshore Export Cable Corridor, and Offshore Transmission Development Area. Separate consent and marine licence applications will be submitted for each Development Area where applicable.
Embedded mitigation measure	Mitigation measures, including industry good practice measures, that are directly incorporated into the design for the MachairWind Windfarm Development Area to avoid or reduce environmental effects.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	The process of evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed development over and above the existing circumstances (or 'baseline').
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations	A collective term referring to The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.
Highest astronomical tide (HAT)	The highest level that can be expected to occur under average meteorological conditions and under any combination of astronomical conditions.
Inter-array cables (IACs)	Armoured cable containing electrical and fibre optic cores which link the wind turbine generators to each other and to the offshore substation platform(s).
Landfall	The area from Mean Low Water Springs to a transition bay(s), where the offshore export cable(s) come ashore.
Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT)	The lowest level that can be expected to occur under average meteorological conditions and under any combination of astronomical conditions.
MachairWind Offshore Windfarm	<p>An offshore windfarm capable of exporting around two GW of renewable energy to the National Electricity Transmission System. MachairWind Offshore Windfarm comprises three Development Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The WDA – located on the west coast of Scotland to the northwest of Islay and west of Colonsay;</li> <li>• The Offshore Export Cable Corridor – a preliminary boundary extending from the WDA to mean high water springs at a landfall location near Girvan, South Ayrshire; and</li> <li>• The Onshore Transmission Development Area – a preliminary boundary which extends landward from mean low water springs and includes the land required for the landfall of the offshore export cable(s) and their route up to but not including the proposed high voltage direct current switching station which will be developed and constructed by Transmission Owner, ScottishPower Transmission.</li> </ul> <p>Separate consent and licence applications will be submitted for each Development Area.</p>
National Electricity Transmission System	The high-voltage electricity power transmission network serving Great Britain which receives electricity from generators (such as offshore windfarms) and transmits that electricity to anywhere on the National Electricity Transmission System to satisfy demand.



Term	Definition
Offshore cables	The collective term for all offshore cables i.e. IACs, offshore substation platform link cables, offshore export cable(s) and associated fibre optic cables.
Offshore ECC infrastructure	The offshore transmission infrastructure located within the boundary of the Offshore Export Cable Corridor, namely the offshore export cable(s).
Offshore export cable	Armoured cable containing electrical cores between the offshore substation platform(s) and landfall. Offshore export cable(s) will include bundled fibre optic cables. The offshore export cable(s) are subject to Marine Licence applications under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. The portion of the offshore export cable(s) located within the WDA is assessed as part of this MachairWind WDA EIA and a marine licence application to construct, alter or improve this portion has been submitted alongside the WDA application. A separate marine licence application will be submitted for the portion of the offshore export cable(s) from the WDA boundary to mean high water Mean High Water Springs.
Offshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC)	The preliminary boundary extending from the WDA to mean high water springs near Girvan, South Ayrshire and within which the offshore export cable(s) will be located. A separate marine licence application will be submitted for the offshore export cable(s) located within the Offshore ECC.
Offshore Substation Platform (OSP)	An offshore platform with a fixed foundation located within the WDA which houses electrical equipment such as transformers, switchgear, protection and control systems, and enables the windfarm's renewable electricity to be collected via inter-array cables and exported to the National Electricity Transmission System via offshore export cable(s).
Offshore Substation Platform (OSP) link cables	Electrical cables which link OSPs (if more than one OSP is required). These cables will include fibre optic cores or bundled fibre optic cables. OSP link cables will be wholly located within the WDA.
Onshore Transmission Development Area (OnTDA)	<p>The preliminary boundary which extends landward from mean low water springs and includes the land required for the landfall of the offshore export cable(s) and their route up to but not including the proposed high voltage direct current switching station which will be developed and constructed by Transmission Owner, ScottishPower Transmission. This Transmission Owner is responsible for consenting the high voltage direct current switching station. Onward connections to the National Electricity Transmission System will be consented by National Grid Electricity Transmission and ScottishPower Transmission. Where relevant, these are considered as part of cumulative effects assessment in the EIA.</p> <p>The Transmission Owner is responsible for consenting the high voltage direct current switching station and onwards connections to the National Electricity Transmission System. Where relevant, these re considered as part of cumulative effects assessment in the EIA.</p>
OnTDA infrastructure	The onshore transmission infrastructure, for which the Applicant is responsible, that is located primarily within the OnTDA, up to mean low water springs, and includes but is not limited to: landfall(s), onshore export cable(s), transition joint bays, telecom/SCADA infrastructure including vehicular access, joint bays, link boxes and temporary construction compounds. The OnTDA infrastructure will be subject to a planning application under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.
Pelagic	Of or relating to the open sea.
Safety zones	An area of water around or adjacent to a wind turbine generator or Offshore Substation Platform and associated substructure which is to be constructed, extended, operated or decommissioned, from which certain or all classes of vessels are excluded and within which activities can be regulated for the purpose of securing safety of the wind turbine



Term	Definition
	generator, substructure or vessels in that vicinity, and individuals on both the wind turbine generator, substructure or vessel, in line with Section 95 of the Energy Act 2004.
ScotWind	A Crown Estate Scotland seabed leasing round which enabled developers to propose offshore wind projects and apply for seabed rights to plan and build windfarms in Scottish waters.
Scour protection	Protective measures to avoid sediment being eroded away from the base of the wind turbine generator foundations as a result of the flow of water.
The Applicant	The legal entity submitting consent applications for the MachairWind Offshore Windfarm, namely MachairWind Limited.
The Lighthouse	The Dubh Artach lighthouse.
The Project	MachairWind Offshore Windfarm including all its Development Areas and associated infrastructure.
Windfarm Development Area (WDA)	The application boundary within the OAA where consent will be sought for the proposed WDA infrastructure. The WDA infrastructure is subject to Section 36 consent and marine licence applications (generation and transmission) which are being applied for separately from the Offshore ECC infrastructure and OnTDA infrastructure.
WDA infrastructure	The offshore generation and transmission infrastructure located within the WDA including but not limited to: WTGs, WTG fixed foundations (and associated scour protection), OSP(s), OSP fixed foundations (and associated scour protection), IACs, OSP link and offshore export cable(s) and their associated external cable protection (insofar as these are located within the WDA) and fibre optic cables.
Wind Turbine Generator (WTG)	A wind turbine generator which converts wind energy into electrical energy. Each wind turbine generator is a complex system composed of a high number of components. Typically, the main components include the rotor assembly (composed of three blades and a hub); the nacelle (containing a generator, shaft and gearbox, power electronic converter and transformer); and the tower (containing lifting equipment and the switchgear).



## 1 INTRODUCTION

1. This chapter outlines the purpose and structure of this PAC Report.

### 1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

2. MachairWind (or the Project), wholly owned by ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Ltd, is developing the MachairWind Offshore Windfarm, a major offshore wind project located northwest of Islay and west of Colonsay which will generate around two gigawatts (GW) of clean, renewable electricity. MachairWind secured the rights to develop the entire W1 Plan Option Area under an Option to Lease Agreement awarded by Crown Estate Scotland in 2022 through the ScotWind leasing round.

3. SPR's vision is for MachairWind to deliver an offshore windfarm in a responsible and collaborative way, respectful of local needs and focused on delivering long-term benefits to communities in the west of Scotland.

4. MachairWind is currently in the early development phase and targeting the submission of its consent application for the WDA in Q2 2026, with construction anticipated to begin in the late 2020s. Consultations and consent application submissions for the Offshore ECC and OnTDA will follow at a later stage.

### 1.2 PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THIS PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION REPORT

#### 1.2.1 Purpose

5. This report accompanies the application for the WDA consent, including the EIAR and related documentation, prepared in line with the requirements for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989.

6. The aim of this report is to provide a record of the PAC and engagement activities carried out with local communities and stakeholders prior to submitting the consent applications for the WDA. It outlines the consultation methods undertaken, provides a summary of the feedback received, and explains how this input has shaped and influenced the project's design and planning. It also demonstrates the steps taken by the applicant to address and incorporate the feedback into the decision-making process. In addition, the report sets out the wider pre-consultation engagement (i.e. non-statutory engagement) undertaken in the lead-up to the PAC events, providing important context for the consultation approach as a whole (see **Section 11**).

#### 1.2.2 Structure of this Pre-Application Consultation Report

7. After this introductory section, the remainder of the Report is structured as follows:

- **Project Background:** Provides an overview of the Project, including its purpose, location, key objectives, and the rationale for development.
- **Policy and Legislative Context:** Summarises the relevant legislation, planning policies, and regulatory requirements that guide the Project and its consultation process.
- **Engagement Process:** Summarises the approach taken to engage with communities and stakeholders, including the main methods used to share information and gather early input.
- **Pre-Application Consultation:** Outlines the statutory consultation activities undertaken prior to submitting the application, including the engagement approach and tools utilised, such as virtual consultation rooms.
- **Consultation Participation:** Provides an overview of who took part in the consultation activities and the ways in which stakeholders chose to engage.



- **First Round of Statutory Consultation:** Describes the first period of statutory consultation, including event details and key themes emerging from feedback.
- **Second Round of Statutory Consultation:** Summarises the second period of statutory consultation, highlighting how feedback from the first round informed both updates and opportunities available for sharing further feedback.
- **You said, we did:** Explains how stakeholders' and communities' feedback has influenced the Project decision making, providing clear examples of changes made in response to feedback.
- **Lessons Learnt:** Reflects on the consultation process, identifying what worked well, areas for improvement, and insights to inform future engagement.
- **Wider Engagement:** Details early public engagement activities before statutory consultation, including stakeholder outreach and key issues identified.
- **Conclusions and Next Steps:** Provides a summary of consultation outcomes, how feedback aligns with policy and regulatory requirements, and outlines the next stages in the Project's development.

8. This report is accompanied by 10 appendices that provide supporting information referenced throughout. These include detailed feedback summaries, consultation and promotional materials, and other relevant documentation. The appendices are outlined below:

- **Appendix 1 Pre-Application Consultation Report Form;**
- **Appendix 2 Pre-Application Consultation Statement Request;**
- **Appendix 3 Public Notices;**
- **Appendix 4 List of Stakeholders contacted notifying of Pre-Application Consultation Events;**
- **Appendix 5 Notification of intent to submit a Marine Licence;**
- **Appendix 6 Advertisement;**
- **Appendix 7 Pre-Application Consultation Overview Report;**
- **Appendix 8 Pre-Application Consultation Round One Materials;**
- **Appendix 9 Pre-Application Consultation Round Two Materials; and**
- **Appendix 10 Full analysis of Statutory Consultation Feedback.**



## 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

9. This chapter provides an overview of the project background, outlining the context, need for the Project, and other key details and considerations that have informed the development of the Project.

### 2.1 PROJECT CONTEXT

10. MachairWind Ltd was awarded an Option to Lease Agreement by Crown Estate Scotland in April 2022 for the W1 Plan Option Area, identified through the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy. This area, now referred to as the Option Agreement Area (OAA), lies northwest of Islay and west of Colonsay on Scotland's west coast.

11. The Project comprises three distinct Development Areas, all of which will require separate consent applications (**Plate 2.1**):

- WDA;
- Offshore ECC; and
- OnTDA.

12. Following delays related to National Grid's 2022 Holistic Network Design process, the grid connection location was confirmed in August 2025 to be near Girvan, South Ayrshire. As a result, separate consents will be sought for the Offshore ECC and OnTDA, with the WDA progressed first. For further detail refer to **Chapter 3 Project Description** of the WDA EIAR.

13. This report relates exclusively to the WDA, enabling clear engagement with communities and stakeholders on the offshore generation infrastructure proposed within this boundary.

14. This report details the PAC, which related to the WDA-alone infrastructure, including:

- Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) and associated fixed foundations and scour protection;
- Offshore Substation Platforms (OSP) and associated fixed foundations and scour protection;
- Inter-array cables (IACs) and associated cable protection;
- OSP link cables and associated cable protection; and
- The portion of the offshore export cable(s) located within the WDA, and associated cable protection.

15. Based on the likely WTGs available at the time the Project enters construction, a project design envelope has been established which includes between 91 of the largest WTGs (335 m blade tip height) and 144 of the smallest WTGs (280 m blade tip height) WTGs. For more information see **Chapter 3 Project Description** of the WDA EIAR.

16. This PAC report relates exclusively to the WDA as the first consent applications to be progressed for the Project. While the overall development will also include the Offshore ECC and OnTDA, these elements are subject to separate consent and marine licence applications. At this stage, engagement activities have therefore focused on the WDA to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and to provide communities with clear, relevant information on the infrastructure specifically proposed within this area.



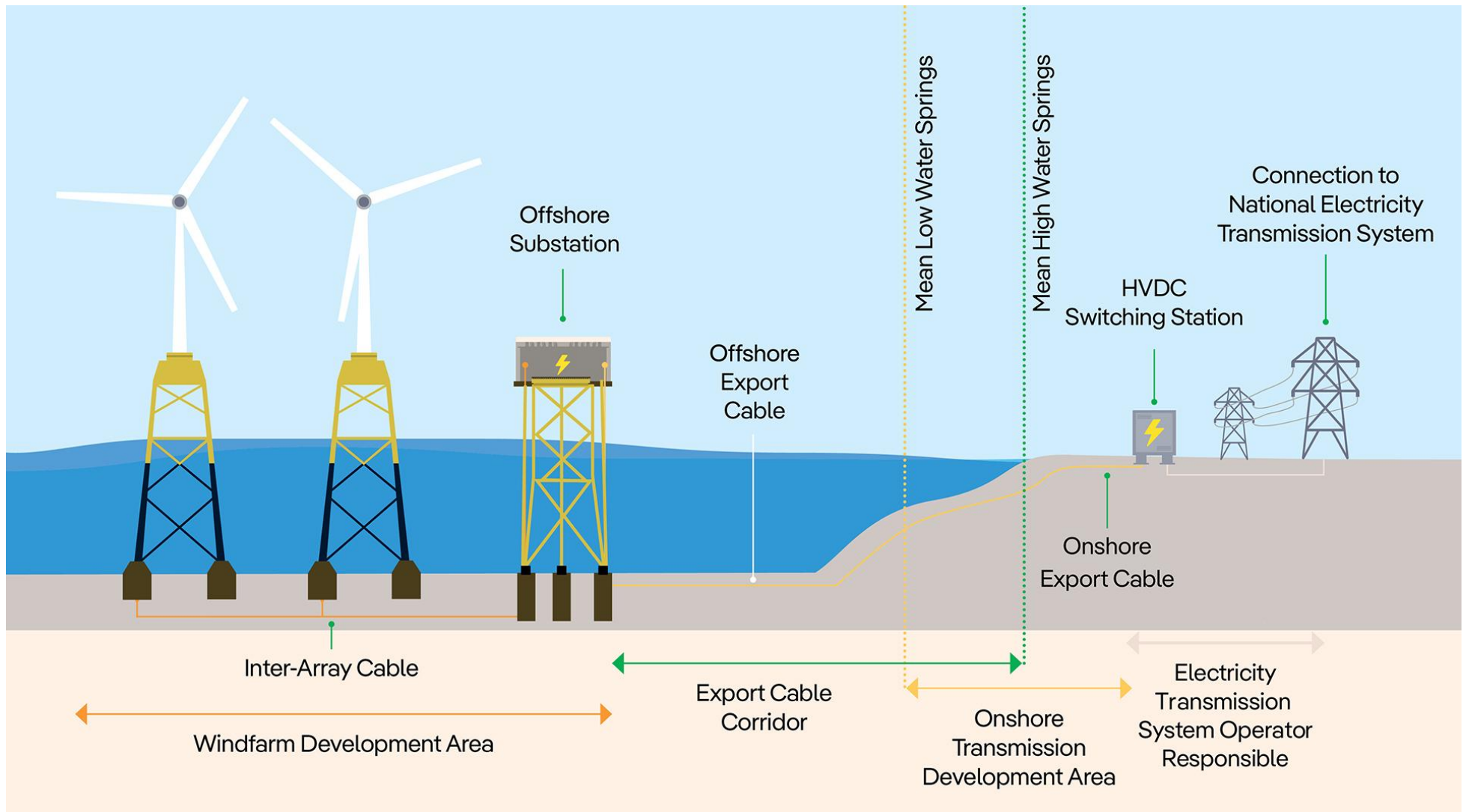


Plate 2.1 Overview of the MachairWind Development Areas



## 2.2 NEED FOR THE PROJECT

17. MachairWind has the potential to deliver approximately 2 GW of clean, green energy, which could power the equivalent of up to two million homes around the United Kingdom.
18. The renewable electricity generated by MachairWind will play a pivotal role in achieving Scottish and UK net zero targets for 2045 and 2050, while also supporting energy security and promoting energy innovation. This contribution aligns with the Scottish Government's updated ambition to deliver up to 40 GW of new offshore wind capacity by 2040 (Scottish Government 2025b).
19. Offshore wind also has a wider economic benefit, with each gigawatt of new offshore wind contributing approximately £2-3bn of Gross Value Added to the UK economy.
20. As more households move away from gas to electricity for heating their homes and driving their cars, the electrification of heat and transport, is set to increase annual demand for electricity significantly, requiring more clean electricity generation to be built to match increased demand.

## 2.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

21. The Project is a proposed offshore windfarm located off the northwest of Islay and west of Colonsay, with an expected generating capacity of around two GW. The Project has progressed significantly through its development phase, informed by environmental assessments, engineering constraints and stakeholder engagement.
22. Throughout the development process, MachairWind Ltd has undertaken extensive non-statutory and statutory consultation to gather feedback from stakeholders and communities. This feedback has played an important role in shaping the Project proposals and will continue to inform the Project as it moves toward consent and potential construction and operation.

### 2.3.1 WDA Infrastructure

23. The key WDA infrastructure includes but is not limited to WTGs and their fixed foundations (with associated scour protection), OSP(s) and their fixed foundations (with associated scour protection), IACs, OSP link and offshore export cable(s) and their associated external cable protection and fibre optics. The specific WTG model will be selected in the post-consent period, as the generating capacity and size specifications will depend on the commercially available WTG models at the time.
24. An OSP will be required to collect the electricity generated by the WTGs and convert it for transmission to shore through offshore export cable(s). These will accommodate electrical infrastructure such as substation equipment, controls and operational systems. There could be up to two OSPs within the WDA.
25. IACs will transmit the electricity generated by the WTGs to the OSPs.
26. From the OSPs, one or more offshore export cable(s) will transmit the generated electricity to landfall with onshore export cable(s) connecting to the onshore grid connection location. The current expectation is that the Project will connect to a new HVDC switching station to be built by the Transmission System Operator in South Ayrshire. Due to the novel HVDC technology that will be used to transmit power generated from the Project to the grid network, the configuration and design of this infrastructure is in the early stages of development and will require refinement informed by discussions with the relevant Transmission System Operators.

### 2.3.2 Feedback Informing Design

27. Key project design decisions that have been informed by PAC feedback include:



- Reducing the total maximum number of turbines and lowering the maximum blade tip height, helping to lessen the overall visual impact across the horizon;
- Increasing the minimum air-gap beneath the turbines to reduce the risk of seabird collisions while still allowing for the challenging sea and weather conditions in the area;
- Removing gravity-base structures as a foundation option so the Project has a lesser ecological impact on the seabed and benthic habitats; and
- Refining the Project's boundary, particularly along the southern, eastern and northern edges, to respond to engineering needs as well as feedback from communities and stakeholders.

## 2.4 CONSENTS

28. 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 Marine Directorate Licencing Operations Team (MD-LOT), which is responsible for administering applications on behalf of the Scottish Ministers.
29. 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
  - Two Marine Licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.
    - Marine Licence Application (Generation) (WTGs, IACs, OSP link cables)
    - Marine Licence Application (Transmission) (OSPs and OSP link cables, WDA offshore export cable(s))
30. As outlined in **Section 2.1**, the Offshore ECC and the OnTDA will each require their own separate consents and licences, and each will go through its own environmental impact assessments and consultation processes in line with the relevant laws and regulations.
31. The Applicant will submit a separate Marine Licence application for the Offshore ECC infrastructure following further refinement and EIA scoping of the Offshore ECC. Similarly, a separate planning application for the OnTDA under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 will be submitted once the arrangements for the onshore infrastructure and connection to the National Electricity Transmission System have been defined.
32. Although this PAC Report focuses only on the WDA, it is important to note that planning permission will also be required for both the Offshore ECC and the OnTDA. The Offshore ECC will need to follow the statutory marine pre-application consultation process required by the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations. The OnTDA, which is classed as a "national development" under NPF4, will also require formal pre-application consultation at the time its planning application is submitted.



### 2.4.1 Project Timeline

33. **Plate 2.2** provides an indicative project timeline, highlighting the key milestones for the WDA specifically and wider project.



*Plate 2.2 Indicative Project Timeline*



### 3 POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

34. This chapter explains the PAC requirements under the relevant Scottish consenting regimes and legislation that applies to the Project.
35. The Project is committed to going beyond the minimum statutory obligations, complying with relevant guidance and best practice as it relates to stakeholder engagement, and building effective and long-term working relationships with the Project's stakeholders, including local communities. This is of particular importance to communities in the Argyll and Bute region, where the Project is being developed, as the Applicant is cognisant that the region currently has no operational offshore windfarms and large developments are not typical in and around some of the Project's host communities.

#### 3.1 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

36. As detailed in **Section 2.4**, MachairWind is required to obtain the following consents and licences:
- Marine Licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010; and
  - Section 36 Consent under the Electricity Act 1989.
37. As the WDA falls within 12 nautical miles of the coast, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 applies to the Marine Licence applications. In accordance with the Marine Licensing (PAC) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, the Project is required to undertake statutory PAC. MachairWind received a PAC Statement from MD-LOT on 11 April 2025, confirming that the Applicant had provided proposed activities fall within the scope of the Regulations. The PAC process has incorporated a combination of public engagement and targeted consultation with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, informing both the development of the Project and the wider consenting approach.

##### 3.1.1 Statutory Pre-Application Consultation Requirements

38. The Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 set out a number of requirements that must be fulfilled before a Marine Licence application is submitted. These include:
- Notification to the public and stakeholders - The applicant must notify the public, relevant stakeholders and statutory bodies that a marine licence application is proposed. This must include publication of a notice in a local newspaper and direct notification to prescribed consultees;
  - Holding at least one public consultation event - The applicant must organise and hold a public event to present information on the proposed activity, allowing communities and stakeholders the opportunity to comment. This event must be held at least six weeks before the licence application is submitted and not more than one year in advance;
  - Making project information available - Sufficient details of the proposed activity must be shared at the event and made accessible to allow informed comment. This includes nature of the works, location, scale, and potential impacts;
  - Recording and responding to feedback - All comments received during the PAC must be logged, summarised, and considered by the applicant; and
  - Preparation of a PAC Report - After the PAC is completed, the applicant must submit a Pre-Application Consultation Report alongside the marine licence application. This report must:
    - Describe the consultation undertaken;
    - Provide copies or summaries of representations received; and
    - Explain how the applicant has taken comments into account and whether any changes were made as a result.



### 3.1.2 Compliance with the Regulations

39. On 21 April 2025, a formal notification (included in **Appendix 3**) was submitted to the Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB), Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), NatureScot, Clyde Marine Planning Partnership (CMPP) and other key stakeholders, including but not limited to Scottish Fishermen’s Federation (SFF), Argyll and Bute Council, UK Chamber of Shipping, Royal Yachting Association Scotland (RYAS). The notice contained:
- A summary of the Project and its key infrastructure, including the proposed licensable marine activity;
  - Confirmation of the Applicant’s intention to submit a marine licence application;
  - Details of the consultation approach, including event dates and contact information; and
  - A PAC Overview Report, detailing the Project background, consultation process and map showing the WDA boundary located within the 12 nm boundary (**Appendix 7**).
40. For the full list of consultees that were issued the Public Notice, please refer to **Appendix 3**.
41. A key objective of the PAC process was to ensure that engagement was inclusive, accessible, and representative of the diverse communities and interest groups potentially interested in and affected by the Project. To achieve this, the Project delivered an extensive programme of statutory consultation activities across the two periods of PAC, including:
- 12 in-person public consultation events across the Projects’ host islands;
  - Two virtual consultation rooms;
  - Two online interactive maps; and
  - Four webinar events.
42. Further details of these consultation events are provided in **Sections 7** and **8** of this report. For full details of how the Project meets each statutory PAC requirements, refer to **Table 3.2**.

### 3.2 GUIDANCE AND BEST PRACTICE

43. The Applicant recognises that early engagement with stakeholders, including local communities, is essential to the successful delivery of the Project and building strong, stable and trusted relationships. It ensures that the design of the proposal is informed, where appropriate, by stakeholder and local community views and, where possible, the Applicant and communities work together. This approach aligns with national policy, notably Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010: Community Engagement, which emphasises the important role communities play in the planning system and decision-making process, and with National Standards for Community Engagement (Scottish Community Development Centre, 2024), which recognises the iterative and dynamic nature of consultation, ensuring feedback is continually captured, reflected upon, and considered within the decision-making process.
44. In developing and delivering the PAC for the WDA, the Applicant has aligned their engagement strategy with recognised guidance and best practice. Specifically, the strategy has been shaped by Planning Aid Scotland’s SP=EED framework (Successful Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery, 2025), which provides a benchmark for inclusive, transparent, and effective engagement reflective of the evolved planning and engagement landscape.
45. The SP=EED framework is recognised as best practice as a means of achieving meaningful engagement with stakeholders. The framework sets out eight overarching criteria for effective engagement. These criteria are summarised in **Table 3.1**, alongside an explanation of how each criterion has been addressed through the WDA PAC process.



**Table 3.1 Application of the SP=EED criteria to the MachairWind WDA PAC process**

SP=EED Criteria	Addressed via the PAC Process (Yes/No)	Summary of How Addressed
Transparency and integrity	Yes	The Applicant delivered a clear and transparent PAC process for the Project, providing early notice of both consultation rounds, publishing statutory notices, and making all consultation materials easily accessible at in-person events, via the virtual consultation room, online interactive map, and on the project website. Feedback received at events, webinars, and via online and postal forms was recorded systematically and is reported transparently within this PAC Report.
Co-ordination	Yes	The PAC approach was co-ordinated with the wider consenting process for the Project, ensuring alignment with the EIA process and consistency across engagement materials. Consultation dates were planned to provide sufficient notice to statutory consultees and the public, with both rounds structured to meet and go beyond the minimum the Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations. The first round of Statutory Consultation was deliberately timed to coincide with a stage when the Project was still being refined to allow early feedback from stakeholders and communities to meaningfully shape the development and support informed decision-making. These refinements formed a key part the second round of Statutory Consultation, ensuring transparency, demonstrating responsiveness, and showing how engagement directly influenced the evolving design. Consultation dates were also chosen to avoid recognised holiday periods, and the timing and locations of events were carefully planned to maximise participation, ensuring that people such as shift workers and those living across the geographically dispersed host islands were able to attend and contribute their views.
Information	Yes	Clear, accessible and proportionate information about the Project, including the project design envelope, Project parameters (such as turbine height and quantity), environmental baseline data and visualisations, was provided at all consultation events and via the virtual consultation room. Materials were prepared in plain non-technical language and supported by visual aids such as printed maps of the WDA refinement, engineering constraints and viewpoints relative to one another.
Appropriateness	Yes	Engagement methods were carefully tailored for the island communities of Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Ross of Mull and Iona, with a strong emphasis on ensuring that all consultation materials were clear, accessible, and suitable for all audiences. Information was presented in plain language and supported by visuals and to help residents easily understand the Project and provide informed feedback. Events were held in accessible local venues at varied times of day and were supplemented by webinars and a virtual consultation room to support broad participation.
Responsiveness	Yes	Clear feedback mechanisms, including online and hard-copy forms, webinars, email, and direct conversations at events, enabled stakeholders to share views easily. Feedback was reviewed, analysed and directly reflected in project refinements, including the 12.16% reduction of the WDA, maximum turbine height reduction, removal of gravity-base foundations, and boundary adjustments to address concerns raised during Statutory Consultation Round One. In addition, lessons learned during Statutory Consultation Round One were actively incorporated into the approach for Statutory Consultation Round Two. This included returning to Port Mòr as an in-person event venue, following strong community preference for this location over Bowmore, and increasing social-media activity in the weeks leading up to Statutory Consultation Round Two to improve visibility and reach across island communities. These changes were made directly



SP=EED Criteria	Addressed via the PAC Process (Yes/No)	Summary of How Addressed
		in response to stakeholder feedback, ensuring that the consultation process remained responsive, accessible, and closely aligned with community needs and expectations.
Inclusiveness	Yes	The PAC process was designed to be inclusive across all five host islands, with a wide range of in-person and online engagement opportunities. Promotion through local newspapers such as The Ilead, Jura Jottings and Round & About Mull, social media, community posters, and a home and business mail drop (6,865 postcards) across all host island communities, ensured widespread awareness. The virtual consultation rooms enabled participation from those unable or unwilling to travel or living further afield, recognising that many residences on the islands are second homes for those staying primarily on the mainland. Cover pages and key headings in consultation materials were provided in Gaelic and information booklets and feedback forms clearly stated that alternative languages/formats were available on request.
Monitoring and evaluating	Yes	Engagement activities and feedback across both rounds were logged, coded and analysed to identify key themes and inform project refinement. Attendance figures, consultation responses, and qualitative comments were reviewed throughout the PAC period to evaluate engagement effectiveness and identify improvements for subsequent consultation rounds. Both Statutory Consultation Round One and Round Two feedback forms included an explicit question, kept identical across both rounds, to allow the Project Team to consistently measure attendees' views on the consultation process itself and track changes in satisfaction, clarity, and understanding over time. This consistency ensured the Project could robustly evaluate how well the consultation approach was working and whether adjustments made between rounds were having the intended impact.
Learning and sharing	Yes	Lessons learned from Round One were embedded into Round Two, for example, updated visual materials, revised event locations, clearer information booklet and banners, and enhanced explanation of project refinements.

46. The Project is committed to going beyond the minimum statutory obligations, complying with relevant guidance and best practice as it relates to stakeholder engagement, and building effective and long-term working relationships with the project's stakeholders, including local communities. Other guides were drawn upon, including:

- Planning Circular 3/2022: Development management procedures - Pre-Application Phase;
- Planning Aid Scotland's Scottish Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery (SP=EED) framework (PAS, 2011);
- Marine Scotland Consenting and Licensing Guidance (2018);
- Argyll and Bute Council Consultation Toolkit (Argyll and Bute Council, 2024);
- National Standards for Community Engagement (Scottish Community Development Centre, 2020);
- National Standards for Community Engagement (Scottish Community Development Centre, 2024); and
- Scottish Government Consultation Good Practice Guidance (2019).

47. These guides provide a variety of local lessons learnt from previous consultations, clear step-by-step advice and national standards for community engagement. By following these principles, the Applicant is ensuring its consultation is fair, effective and of a high quality.



### 3.3 UPDATES TO POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

48. The Applicant has played an active role in shaping the future of offshore wind policy and legislation in Scotland. Through direct engagement with Scottish Government consultations, including the draft updated Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (SMP-OWE) and the draft updated to the Offshore Wind Ambition, the applicant has contributed informed responses on the existing regulatory landscape. In doing so, the Applicant hopes to influence the integration of environmental, social, and economic considerations into strategic planning, and support the Scottish Government's ambition to expand offshore wind capacity in alignment with net zero targets. These are discussed further below.

#### 3.3.1 Update to the Sectoral Marine Plan

49. The draft updated SMP-OWE has been developed to ensure consistency with the objectives and principles set out within relevant plans and programmes. It brings together the assessment of environmental, social and economic impacts into one Sustainability Appraisal (SA) that assesses the potential impacts and benefits of the ScotWind and Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas (INTOG) Plan Options and the Test and Demonstration (T&D) projects capacity in an integrated way. It has been developed in line with the Scottish Government's established process for developing sectoral offshore energy plans.

50. The consultation analysis report, published on 13 November 2025, gathered 304 responses over a 12-week period and identified key themes ranging from support for T&D capacity to questions about regional impacts (such as concerns raised by island communities about Option Area N4, citing issues related to fisheries, tourism, visibility, and perceived under-consultation). This feedback has been carefully considered in revising the draft Plan, leading to refinements in Option Area boundaries, strengthened mitigation strategies, clearer governance structures, and enhanced monitoring mechanisms. These consultation insights, together with the findings from the SA, will directly shape the final updated SMP-OWE (Scottish Government, 2025a).

#### 3.3.2 Update to the 2020 Offshore Wind Policy Statement: Scotland's Offshore Wind Ambition

51. The Offshore Wind Policy Statement originally set out the Scottish Government's intention for offshore wind to play a central role in meeting Scotland's decarbonisation and net-zero commitments, identifying that the 2 GW of operational and under-construction capacity at the time could increase to between 8 GW and 11 GW by 2030 (Scottish Government, 2025b).

52. However, the context has evolved significantly since the publication of the original Policy Statement, particularly due to the scale of opportunity emerging from the ScotWind and INTOG leasing rounds. Reflecting this, the Scottish Government formally updated its national offshore wind ambition in the Updated Offshore Wind Policy Statement, published on 28 January 2026, setting a new target of up to 40 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2040. This updated ambition replaces the earlier proposed target consulted on during 2025 and provides a clear, strategic policy direction for Scotland's offshore wind sector (Scottish Government, 2026).

53. Prior to publication of the updated Policy Statement, the Applicant submitted a response to the Scottish Government's consultation, offering views on the proposed ambition and suggesting additional actions for the Scottish Government, UK Government and relevant agencies to support the realisation of Scotland's offshore wind potential.



### 3.4 FULL STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

54. **Table 3.2** outlines the statutory requirements for PAC under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine Licensing (PAC) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, along with details of how compliance has been achieved for this project.

*Table 3.2 PAC requirements and compliance*

Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
<b>Marine (Scotland) Act 2010</b>			
Section 23 (1)	A prospective applicant must give notice that an application for a marine licence is to be submitted	<p>The Applicant requested a PAC Statement from MD-LOT on 31 March 2025 and was issued with the Statement on 11 April 2025, confirming that the Project is subject to statutory PAC under the 2013 Regulations.</p> <p>Notifications were issued to statutory consultees on 21 April 2025 to provide a summary of the Project and its key infrastructure, including the proposed licensable marine activity, and confirm the Applicant's intention to submit a marine licence application. Details of the first round of consultation, including event dates and contact information were provided via email and within an accompanying PAC Overview Report.</p> <p>Notifications were issued to all statutory consultees on 04 September 2025 to provide details of the second round of consultation, including event dates and contact information.</p> <p>Notifications were issued to NLB, MCA, SEPA, NatureScot, and CMPP. Non-statutory stakeholders were also issued formal notifications, including but not limited to Argyll and Bute Council, Cruising Association, UK Chamber of Shipping, SFF, CFA, SWCRIFG, MIFA, RSPB Scotland, Sports Scotland, NTS, HIE, and SE.</p>	<b>Appendix 2 and 3</b>
Section 23 (2)	A period of at least 12 weeks must elapse between giving the notice and the submission of the application	The first notice was submitted on 21 April 2025 and the second notice was issued on 04 September 2025. The submission of the application was in June 2026.	<b>Appendix 3</b>

Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
Section 23 (3) (a) – (d)	<p>The notice must contain:-</p> <p>a. A description in general terms of the activity to be carried out;</p> <p>b. A plan or chart showing the outline of the location at which the activity is to be carried out, which is sufficient to identify the location;</p> <p>c. Details as to how the prospective applicant is to be contacted;</p> <p>d. Such other information as may be prescribed by Scottish Ministers</p>	<p>All elements required under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 have been included in the notice. These cover:</p> <p>(a) Description of general terms of activity</p> <p>The Project's intended offshore generating infrastructure is proposed to be located within the WDA, northwest of Islay and west of Colonsay, and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction, operation, and decommissioning of an offshore windfarm using fixed-bottom foundations within a defined WDA.</li> <li>• Associated infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p>Separate consent applications for related electricity transmission infrastructure will be progressed at a later date and do not form part of the current proposals.</p> <p>(b) Plan or chart of activity</p> <p>A chart showing the indicative location of the WDA was included in the PAC request statement. The map of the WDA was issued as part of the formal notifications to stakeholders. A map of the WDA was also present in the virtual consultation room and in person materials.</p> <p>(c) Details of how applicant is to be contacted</p> <p>The project's dedicated email address was provided <a href="mailto:machairwind@scottishpower.com">machairwind@scottishpower.com</a></p> <p>The project's dedicated website was provided: <a href="http://www.machairwind.co.uk">www.machairwind.co.uk</a>.</p> <p>(d) The further requirements prescribed in Regulations by Scottish Ministers are considered below.</p> <p>No further information was requested for inclusion by Scottish Ministers or MD-LOT.</p>	<b>Appendix 3</b>

Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
Section 24 (1) and (2)	A pre-application consultation report must be prepared prior to submitting the application and be in the prescribed format.	This document constitutes the PAC Report, which has been prepared prior to submitting the application and is presented in the prescribed format.	<b>Sections 5.1.1 and 5.1.2, Appendix 8 and 9</b>
<b>Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013</b>			
Regulation 5 (1)	A prospective applicant for a marine licence may notify the Scottish Ministers requiring a pre-application consultation statement from them.	The Applicant requested a PAC Statement from Scottish Ministers on 31 March 2025, in accordance with Regulation 5(1), which was issued by MD-LOT on 11 April 2025.	<b>Appendix 2</b>
Regulation 6 (2)	<p>The prospective applicant for a marine licence must give notification that an application for a marine licence is to be submitted to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses;</li> <li>b. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency;</li> <li>c. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency;</li> <li>d. Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot); and</li> <li>e. Any delegate for a marine region where the application for a marine licence is for an activity which is to be carried out wholly or partly in that region.</li> </ul>	<p>Notifications were issued to NLB, MCA, SEPA, NatureScot, and CMPP on 21 April 2025 to provide a summary of the Project and its key infrastructure, including the proposed licensable marine activity, and confirm the Applicant's intention to submit a marine licence application. Details of the first round of consultation, including event dates and contact information were provided via email and within an accompanying PAC Overview Report.</p> <p>Notifications were issued to NLB, MCA, SEPA, NatureScot, and CMPP on 04 September 2025 to provide details of the second round of consultation, including event dates and contact information.</p> <p>Non-statutory stakeholders were also issued formal notifications, including but not limited to Argyll and Bute Council, Cruising Association, UK Chamber of Shipping, SFF, CFA, SWCRIFG, MIFA, RSPB Scotland, Sports Scotland, NTS, HIE, and SE.</p> <p>Further details on the formal notifications issued to statutory and non-statutory consultees can be found in <b>Appendix 4</b>.</p>	<b>Appendix 5</b>
Regulation 7 (1) (a)	The prospective applicant for a marine licence must hold at least one pre-application consultation event at which persons identified in Regulation 6(2) and members of the public may	<p>Two formal rounds of statutory PAC have been held for the MachairWind Offshore Windfarm.</p> <p>The first round of consultation was launched on 26 May 2025 and ran until 6 July 2025 (inclusive). This round included six in-person</p>	<b>Appendix 5</b>

Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
	provide comments to the prospective applicant as regards the licensable marine activity	<p>public exhibitions across the five host islands, two webinars, and a virtual consultation room.</p> <p>The second round of consultation was launched on 20 October 2025 and ran until 30 November 2025 (inclusive). This round presented updated proposals and was delivered through six in-person events, two webinars, and an updated virtual consultation room.</p> <p>All parties listed under Regulation 6 were invited to each round of public consultation via email notification. Copies of these notifications are provided in <b>Appendix 5</b> of this report.</p>	
Regulation 7(1)(b)	<p>The prospective applicant must publish in a local newspaper containing:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. A description, including the location, of the licensable marine activity for which the marine licence is to be sought;</li> <li>ii. Details as to where further information may be obtained;</li> <li>iii. The date and place of the pre-application event</li> <li>iv. A statement that comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and that there will be an opportunity for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers</li> </ul>	<p>Public Notices were published for both rounds of Statutory Consultation in the Oban Times on 24 April 2025 and 04 September 2025, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. A description, including the location, of the licensable marine activity for which the marine licence is to be sought;</li> <li>ii. Details as to where further information may be obtained;</li> <li>iii. The date and place of the pre-application event; and</li> <li>iv. A statement that comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and that there will be an opportunity for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers.</li> </ul>	<b>Appendix 3</b>
Regulation 7 (2)(b)	A pre-application consultation event must be held no earlier than six weeks after the later of:		



Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
	<p>(a) the date on which notification of the event is published in a local newspaper (as required under Regulation 7(1)(b)), and</p> <p>(b) the date on which notification that a marine licence application is to be submitted is given to statutory consultees (as required under Regulation 6(2))</p>		
<p>Regulation 7 (2)</p> <p>In accordance with the Marine Works and Marine Licensing (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, this regulation was amended, pursuant to Regulation 7A, to refer to an online pre-application consultation event.</p>	<p>A pre-application consultation event must be held no earlier than six weeks after the later of:</p> <p>a. The date on which the notification of the event is given; and b. The date of notification that an application for a marine licence is to be submitted</p>	<p>Notifications were issued to NLB, MCA, SEPA, NatureScot, and CMPP on 21 April 2025 to confirm the Applicant's intention to submit a marine licence application. Notifications were issued to NLB, MCA, SEPA, NatureScot, and CMPP on 04 September 2025 to confirm the Applicant's intention to submit a marine licence application.</p> <p>Public Notices were published for both rounds of Statutory Consultation in the Oban Times on 24 April 2025 and 04 September 2025.</p>	<p><b>Appendix 3</b></p>
<p>Regulation 8</p> <p>This regulation was amended, pursuant to Regulation 8A, to refer to the form included in the Schedule of the Marine Works and Marine Licensing</p>	<p>A Pre-Application Report must be in the form prescribed as in Schedule 1, and must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A description of the consultation event;</li> <li>• A description of the proposed information provided by the prospective applicant at the event;</li> <li>• Comments received by the prospective applicant;</li> <li>• A description of the amendments to be made to the marine licence application, where applicable;</li> <li>• An explanation of the approach taken, where, despite the prospective applicant receiving</li> </ul>	<p>This document constitutes a PAC Report.</p> <p>The form prescribed in Schedule 1 has been completed and is included as in <b>Appendix 1</b>.</p> <p>This document acts as further supporting evidence as requested in this form and includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sections 7 and 8</b> - 'a description of the consultation event';</li> <li>• <b>Sections 7 and 8</b> - 'a description of the proposed information provided by the prospective applicant at the event'; and</li> <li>• <b>Sections 7, 8 and 9</b> - 'Comments received by the prospective applicant'.</li> </ul> <p>The Applicant considered wider feedback and concerns from a range of stakeholders regarding potential impacts such as SLVIA, ornithology, and marine mammals. This feedback included</p>	<p><b>Appendix 1, Sections 7 and 8</b></p>

Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
	<p>relevant comments and objections, no relevant alterations are proposed to be made.</p>	<p>representations contained within the Scoping Opinion issued by MD-LOT, as well as input gathered through the non-statutory engagement activities.</p> <p>In response to these concerns and following progression of detailed assessment work for the EIAR and HRA, the WDA was refined significantly. Since the original OAA of 754 km<sup>2</sup>, the site has been reduced by over 40%, with a further reduction of 12.16% following the first statutory consultation, bringing the WDA from 510 km<sup>2</sup> to 448 km<sup>2</sup>. These refinements aimed to minimise potential environmental and navigational impacts while maintaining project viability.</p> <p>Further information on this decision can be found in <b>Section 9</b> of this report and within <b>Chapter 4 Site selection and Alternatives</b> of the EIAR.</p>	



## 4 ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

### 4.1 COMMITMENT TO ENGAGEMENT

55. Engaging with communities and stakeholders is a key component of the planning and consenting process in Scotland. The Scottish legislation and government guidance is designed to ensure opportunities are provided to consultees to share their views throughout the lifecycle of projects.
56. The Project is dedicated to engaging with statutory regulators and non-statutory advisors, marine / onshore stakeholders, and local communities. Engagement with the public and local communities has focused on sharing clear, transparent and accessible information with regular updates about the Project. This includes details on timelines, design, visual appearance, and various potential impacts and benefits for local areas and communities, ensuring that engagement activities are structured to promote effective participation and deliver outcomes that reflect the interests and concerns of all parties.
57. The Applicant places strong emphasis on understanding and minimising the impact of their activities on both the local environment and communities. This approach prioritises inclusive dialogue with a broad spectrum of stakeholders and the Applicant is committed to listening and responding to the concerns raised by those affected. The Project team initiated community engagement early in the development of the Project and intends to maintain open communication throughout the construction phase, should consent be granted. The Applicant's goal is to foster transparent and constructive engagement at every stage of the Project.

### 4.2 ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

58. As outlined in **Section 3.2**, early and meaningful engagement with stakeholders and communities is a vital part of successful infrastructure development. Engaging early helps identify potential issues and opportunities, builds trust, promotes transparency, and can reduce the risk of conflict or delays later in the process. The Statutory Consultation process has been designed in accordance with statutory offshore requirements as set out in the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.
59. The strategy has been developed to comply with and go beyond the minimum legislative requirements on consultation and engagement best practice guidance. This process is illustrated in **Plate 4.1** and the activity undertaken within each phase of the process is detailed in **Plate 4.2**.





Plate 4.1 Engagement Process

<b>01 Identifying consultation objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Building and maintaining constructive relationships with communities and stakeholders.</li> <li>➤ Ensuring stakeholders' issues are heard and proactively addressed, with strong awareness of emerging and evolving issues.</li> <li>➤ Delivering accessible, accurate and regular communication and consistency of key messages.</li> <li>➤ Actively listening and responding to community and stakeholder concerns, suggestions, and requests in a timely manner.</li> <li>➤ Embedding inclusive engagement tools to support meaningful participation.</li> <li>➤ Demonstrating how feedback has informed project decision-making.</li> <li>➤ Capturing lessons learned to support best-practice engagement.</li> </ul>
<b>02 Stakeholder identification and mapping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ An initial list of stakeholders was created and has developed through growth of networks and undertaking of project activities.</li> <li>➤ Updating stakeholder database continuously to record and respond to communications.</li> </ul>
<b>03 Updating consultation methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Tracking participation levels (attendance, questions asked, requests).</li> <li>➤ Identifying underrepresented groups and areas in the engagement process.</li> <li>➤ Seeking stakeholder feedback in relation to consultation experience and communication preferences.</li> <li>➤ Reviewing engagement methods and adapt using participation data and sentiment analysis.</li> <li>➤ Highlighting how feedback influenced changes in approach.</li> <li>➤ Updating the Engagement Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>04 Engagement / consultation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Utilising well-known and well-used communication channels, such as press releases, local newspapers, social media, and email distribution lists.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Updating materials based on stakeholder questions and areas of interest, such as Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and consultation booklets.</li> <li>➤ Regularly sharing project updates, milestones reached, and consultation opportunities.</li> <li>➤ Supporting and attending community events to reach wider audiences, such as music and book festivals.</li> <li>➤ Delivering educational engagement to reach children and young people, ensuring activities are age and stage appropriate.</li> <li>➤ Informing stakeholders and community organisations (such as councils/development trusts) about how, when and why to participate in upcoming consultations.</li> <li>➤ Engaging directly with stakeholders and communities to share updates, answer questions, and collect feedback to better understand local priorities, concerns and expectations.</li> <li>➤ Exceeding statutory requirements related to PAC, offering multiple opportunities for in-person and online consultation.</li> </ul>
<b>05 Seek feedback</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Inviting early feedback through non-statutory consultation events and activities.</li> <li>➤ Designing inclusive engagement approaches, such as residential leaflet drops, for those unable to attend project events.</li> <li>➤ Creating partnership working opportunities to share knowledge and ideas, such as Expert Topic Group meetings.</li> <li>➤ Sharing interim EIA findings and supporting documents for stakeholder review, ensuring transparency and inviting constructive input.</li> <li>➤ Capturing feedback in relation to project proposals through feedback forms, attending community events, and hosting information days.</li> </ul>
<b>06 Analysing responses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Undertaking thematic analysis coding for ascertaining the common themes, patterns and ideas derived from all qualitative feedback received.</li> <li>➤ Undertaking statistical analysis for quantitative data, such as closed-ended questions.</li> </ul>
<b>07 Reporting back 'you asked, we did'</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sharing feedback with Project team to ensure clear understanding of perceptions, expectations and any concerns in relation to project proposals.</li> <li>➤ Updating consultation materials and, where appropriate, to demonstrate how feedback has been incorporated into decision making.</li> </ul>
<b>08 Evaluating success of engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Collecting information related to stakeholders' experience of consultation (such as direct feedback, event participation), informing continuous improvement.</li> <li>➤ Seeking informal feedback through fostering open and transparent communication between the Project, communities and stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<b>09 Ongoing engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Focusing on sharing clear, accessible information, tailored to the needs and interests of stakeholders.</li> <li>➤ Providing regular updates with communities, including timelines, design details, and potential impacts and benefits.</li> <li>➤ Regular updating through stakeholders' and communities' preferred communication channels (such as social media, press releases, newspapers).</li> <li>➤ Reminding communities of Applicant's commitment to continue engagement, with local Community Engagement Manager remaining first point of contact for communities' questions and notifying about future engagement opportunities.</li> </ul>

*Plate 4.2 Phases of Engagement Process*

60. Early and sustained engagement with communities and stakeholders is a fundamental part of offshore windfarm projects. It ensures that those potentially affected by the Project are informed from the outset and have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making process.



61. The consultation strategy for the Project demonstrates a commitment to fostering trusted and enduring relationships with stakeholders. It builds on established connections and integrates insights gained from previous developments. SPR recognises that cultivating long-term, positive relationships is fundamental to the success of both current and future projects. To this end, the Project Stakeholder Manager leads engagement with statutory bodies and industry stakeholders, supported by the Community Engagement Manager. The appointment of the Community Engagement Manager ensures that local perspectives and concerns are meaningfully reflected in the Project's design. This role also provides a direct point of contact with a consistent local presence, maintaining existing relationships and reinforcing the Project's dedication to ensuring that communities' voices are heard, respected, and incorporated into the Project.
62. A core principle of the consultation strategy is the establishment of a structured and transparent feedback process. This approach ensures that stakeholder comments are consistently recorded, reviewed, and responded to, creating an effective feedback loop (**Section 4.2**). This feedback loop is essential for demonstrating accountability. It allows stakeholders to see how their input has been considered and, where appropriate, how it has influenced the design and assessment of the WDA.
63. The consultation strategy has also been designed to be proportionate to the scale and potential impacts of the WDA, while ensuring that opportunities for input are accessible, inclusive, and meaningful.

#### 4.3 KEY PROJECT MESSAGES

64. The key messages that underpin the Project's approach to statutory consultation, and which the Applicant seeks to clearly communicate throughout the process, are as follows:
- MachairWind is a nationally significant renewable energy project that will contribute to Scotland's climate and energy security objectives through the development of up to 2 GW of offshore wind generation within a refined WDA. The Project has been carefully sited and designed to balance energy ambitions with environmental, cultural and community considerations;
  - Local communities are central to the development of MachairWind. The Project recognises the unique context of island communities and is committed to ensuring that local knowledge, values and priorities meaningfully influence the design. A locally-based Community Engagement Manager provides a long-term, on-the-ground presence to support this commitment;
  - The Project seeks to deliver lasting social and economic benefits across its host communities and the wider region. This includes opportunities associated with the local supply chain, skills, jobs, STEM outreach and long-term community benefit initiatives, ensuring that islands have a meaningful role in and gain from Scotland's transition to renewable energy;
  - Transparency and accountability are at the core of the Project's engagement approach. Information provided to stakeholders will be clear, accessible and timely, accompanied by a structured feedback process that demonstrates how comments have been considered and, where appropriate, how they have influenced design and assessment outcomes; and
  - The Applicant is committed to responsible development, prioritising the prevention, reduction and mitigation of environmental impacts while maintaining constructive, solutions-focused dialogue with stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of the Project.

#### 4.4 ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

65. The purpose of engagement, both statutory and non-statutory, is to build relationships and identify emerging and growing concerns and priorities.
66. Throughout the statutory consultation process, the Applicant has sought to gather feedback from statutory bodies, communities and other stakeholders who are interested in and/or impacted by the Project. Specifically, the statutory consultation objectives were to:



- Seek the views and concerns of all interested and impacted parties so that these may be considered and, if necessary, addressed in Project planning;
- Provide all members of the communities local to the Project with access to the developer and provide the opportunity to enter dialogue and record their views on the proposed development;
- Enable dialogue with stakeholders impacted by the proposed Project;
- Initiate relationships with community organisations and other local stakeholders with a geographic interest in the proposed works;
- Undertake consultation to assist refinement of the WDA;
- Ensure the Applicant initiates an appropriate level of engagement with all interested and impacted parties;
- Identify suitable mitigation measures in collaboration with stakeholders; and
- Comply with relevant regulations.

#### 4.5 CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT PERIODS

67. The Applicant is dedicated to fostering transparent and meaningful engagement with the Project's host communities and stakeholders throughout the development of the Project.
68. In line with Planning Aid Scotland's SP=EED (Successful Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery) principles, which provides a practical guide to undertaking meaningful engagement, the Applicant engaged early with the public and its host communities. The Applicant recognises Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Ross of Mull and Iona as host communities of this Project. Pre-consultation engagement began on Islay, Jura and Colonsay in 2022 and later expanded to the Ross of Mull and Iona in 2024. The Project's Community Engagement Manager, based on Jura, has supported local relationship building since their appointment in April 2023. The Project's non-statutory public engagement undertaken from 2022 to the time of writing this PAC Report is detailed in full in **Section 11**.
69. Beyond minimum statutory obligations, the Applicant undertook a comprehensive programme of PAC activities across the five island host communities and online. The PAC comprised two rounds of six-week statutory consultation periods, totaling 16 events, 272 attendees and 168 respondents. Activities were designed to accommodate varying levels of accessibility, geographic reach, and stakeholder communication preferences. The events provided opportunities for attendees to learn about the Project, ask questions, and share feedback directly with members of the Project team.
70. The statutory consultation is detailed in full in **Section 5**.

#### 4.6 WHO WE CONSULTED

71. A wide range of stakeholders with a potential interest in the Project were identified early in the development process through detailed stakeholder mapping. Engagement with local communities and relevant stakeholders was carried out at various stages throughout the lifecycle of the Project to ensure that views and concerns were considered in shaping the evolution of the Project.
72. Statutory and non-statutory stakeholders have been organised into ten broad categories to enable focused engagement and ensures representation across stakeholder groups; if underrepresentation of specific interests is identified early, this allows the Applicant to adjust the engagement approach as needed. The stakeholder categories used for engagement are illustrated in the graphic below (**Plate 4.3**).
73. It is important to note that the consultees invited to participate in PAC are distinct from the wider group of stakeholders engaged to inform the EIA, as EIA engagement follows a separate, parallel process with its own statutory requirements and stakeholder scope (**Appendix 4**).



74. Efforts were made to reach a broad demographic, including Community Councils, community groups, elected members, fishers, local businesses and estates and those often underrepresented in the planning process. The Applicant engaged with seldom heard groups, such as senior citizens, in recognition that they may face barriers – such as digital, mobility or social - to accessing Project information. During this engagement, the Applicant sought feedback in relation to preferred methods of communication and accessible and suitable venues for the forthcoming consultations; this feedback was incorporated where possible, such as the use of Port Mor (Islay) for both consultations.

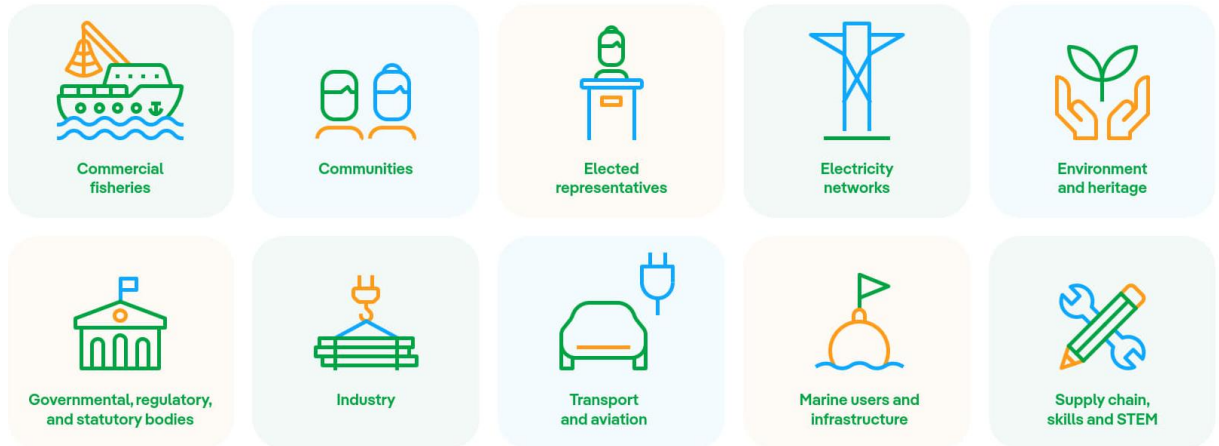


Plate 4.3 Stakeholder Categories



## 5 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

- 75. This chapter explains the purpose of the PAC, its timing, the parties involved, and the methods used to deliver it. It also summarises how early engagement shaped the consultation approach.
- 76. Two rounds of statutory consultation were delivered, with the first round in May to July 2025 and second round in October to November 2025, featuring 12 in-person drop-in sessions across the five host island communities, four webinars, a virtual consultation room and interactive online map. The combination of in-person and online events and printed and digital materials allowed attendees to access key Project information to share informed feedback at their convenience and see how their input shaped the Project.

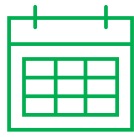


*Plate 5.1 Statutory Consultation Round One Events – Iona Village Hall (left) and Jura Hall (right)*

- 77. **Plate 5.2** below illustrates the communication tools employed, the outreach achieved and the feedback response across both rounds of consultations.



Plate 5.2 PAC Overview – communication tools, outreach and response



16

Events across five host communities



272

Attendees



6,865

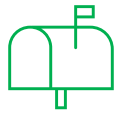





Postcards delivered (houses and businesses)



168

Feedback forms completed

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 <p><b>Posters</b></p> <p>Promoting events and directing people to key information. Posters were displayed across each island, such as notice boards, event venues, surgeries and ferry terminals.</p>	 <p><b>Mail Drops</b></p> <p>Postcards advertising events and sharing project contact details were sent to residences and businesses within the Project's host communities.</p>	 <p><b>Public Notices and Adverts</b></p> <p>Public notices were placed in Oban Times and adverts were published in The Ileach (Islay), Round and About Mull, and Jura Jottings.</p>
 <p><b>Emails</b></p> <p>Emails were sent inviting stakeholders, and community groups to attend consultation events and/or meet one-to-one.</p>	 <p><b>Project Website</b></p> <p>Project website updated regularly and hosted consultation materials, including virtual consultation room and interactive photomontage map.</p>	 <p><b>Social Media</b></p> <p>Social media posts were issued and shared via community councils and community trusts where available.</p>



**5.1 TIMING OF CONSULTATION PERIODS**

**5.1.1 The First Statutory Consultation**

78. 26 May to 06 July 2025 (6 weeks)

**5.1.2 The Second Statutory Consultation**

79. 20 October to 30 November 2025 (6 weeks)

**5.1.3 Statutory Consultation Events**

80. A breakdown of dates, times and locations of all in-person and online events is provided in **Table 5.1**.

*Table 5.1 Breakdown of statutory consultation events*

Date	Time	Event	Location	Attendees
<b>Statutory Consultation: 1<sup>st</sup> Round (26 May to 06 July 2025)</b>				
03 June 2025	3pm – 7.30pm	Public drop-in session	Port Mor, Port Charlotte, Islay	26
04 June 2025	3pm – 7.30pm	Public drop-in session	Colonsay Village Hall, Scalasaig, Colonsay	31
10 June 2025	6.30pm – 7.30pm	Webinar	Online via Microsoft Teams	2
11 June 2025	3pm – 7.30pm	Public drop-in session	Gaelic Centre, Bowmore, Islay	13
12 June 2025	3pm – 7.30pm	Public drop-in session	Jura Hall, Craighouse, Jura	33
17 June 2025	3pm – 7.30pm	Public drop-in session	Creich Hall, Fionnphort, Mull	23
18 June 2025	3pm – 7.30pm	Public drop-in session	Iona Village Hall, Iona	22
23 June 2025	6.30 – 7.30pm	Webinar	Online via Microsoft Teams	4
<b>Statutory Consultation: 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (20 October to 30 November 2025)</b>				
21 October 2025	10.30am – 2pm	Public drop-in session	Port Mor, Port Charlotte, Islay	22
21 October 2025	4pm – 7.30pm	Public drop-in session	Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen, Islay	5
22 October 2025	3pm – 7pm	Public drop-in session	Jura Hall, Craighouse, Jura	8
23 October 2025	3pm – 7pm	Public drop-in session	Colonsay Village Hall, Colonsay	30
28 October 2025	4pm – 7.30pm	Public drop-in session	Iona Village Hall, Iona	14
29 October 2025	3pm – 7pm	Public drop-in session	Bunessan Village Hall, Mull	26



Date	Time	Event	Location	Attendees
6 November 2025	6.30pm – 7.30pm	Webinar	Online via Microsoft Teams	3
18 November 2025	6.30pm – 7.30pm	Webinar	Online via Microsoft Teams	11

## 5.2 CONSULTATION METHODS AND APPROACHES

81. A variety of communication and engagement methods were implemented to ensure that all stakeholders were informed, able to understand the process, and had opportunities to participate actively.
82. **Table 5.2** summarises the communication approaches used throughout the PAC process. The checkboxes indicate whether each method fulfilled the minimum statutory requirements or went beyond those requirements.

*Table 5.2 Statutory status of consultation activities*

Activity	Minimum Statutory PAC	Exceeded Statutory PAC
Project website		✓
Information booklets		✓
Online and hard copy feedback forms		✓
Maps (such as viewpoint map and engineering constraints map)		✓
Virtual consultation rooms		✓
Public Notice	✓	
Advertisements		✓
Posters		✓
Postcards		✓
Freepost address for consultation feedback		✓
In-person events		✓
Webinars		✓

## 5.3 CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

83. A range of communication methods were made available to ensure consultees could easily access information about the Project and engage directly with the project team. These channels included a Project website, email address and document deposit location. Details on how consultees were able to review Project information and submit their feedback are provided in **Appendix 8 and 9**.



#### 5.4 MATERIALS SENT TO CONSULTEES

84. As part of the statutory consultation process, a variety of materials were distributed to consultees to advertise and support meaningful participation and feedback for the consultation events. These materials were designed to provide clear, accessible information about the Project and its potential impacts. Full copies of these materials are included in **Appendix 8 to 9**.
85. A suite of consultation materials was made available in both physical and digital formats. Hard copies were provided at all in-person drop-in events, while digital versions were accessible through the Project's virtual consultation rooms. Consultees could also request alternative formats, although no such requests were received. Materials have been summarised in **Table 5.2**.

#### 5.5 PROMOTION OF THE CONSULTATION

86. A range of promotional approaches were used throughout the Statutory Consultations to share information about the proposals and encourage participation from communities across the host islands. These methods helped raise awareness of the consultation periods, highlight the opportunities for engagement, and directed people to the materials and events where they could learn more or request further information about the Project. Promotion of the consultation included the use of:
- Postcards for houses and businesses;
  - Posters within public venues, ferry terminals and community noticeboards;
  - Emails to stakeholders, including community councils and local organisations;
  - Adverts and public notices in local and regional newspapers; and
  - Social media posts.
87. All promotional materials used during both rounds of the MachairWind Statutory Consultation are provided in **Appendix 8 and 9**.

#### 5.6 CONSULTATION EVENTS

88. Public drop-in events were held during both rounds of the Statutory Consultation, as outlined in **Table 5.1**. Venues across the host islands were selected for their accessibility, local relevance, and ease of travel. Drop-in time duration was also considered for those working shift patterns and across the islands.
89. Representatives from the Applicant, Brown & May and the Project's lead EIA consultant, Haskoning, attended events to provide detailed information and answer questions about the proposals. The Applicant was also present, with team members including specialists in project development, community engagement and engineering. This ensured that attendees could speak directly with technical experts on topics such as seabirds and marine mammals, fisheries, and socio-economics.
90. The first round of Statutory Consultation saw strong engagement from residents across the five host islands, with 148 attendees using the events to ask questions, view consultation materials, and learn how their feedback could inform project refinement and decision making. The second consultation events received similar levels of participation, with 105 attendees; many of whom were returning attendees seeking updates on how their feedback had influenced the Project to date.
91. A selection of photographs from some of the PAC events are provided in **Plate 5.3 - Plate 5.8**.





Plate 5.3 Statutory Consultation Round One, Port Mor, Islay (03 June 2025)



Plate 5.4 Statutory Consultation Round One, Colonsay Village Hall (04 June 2025)



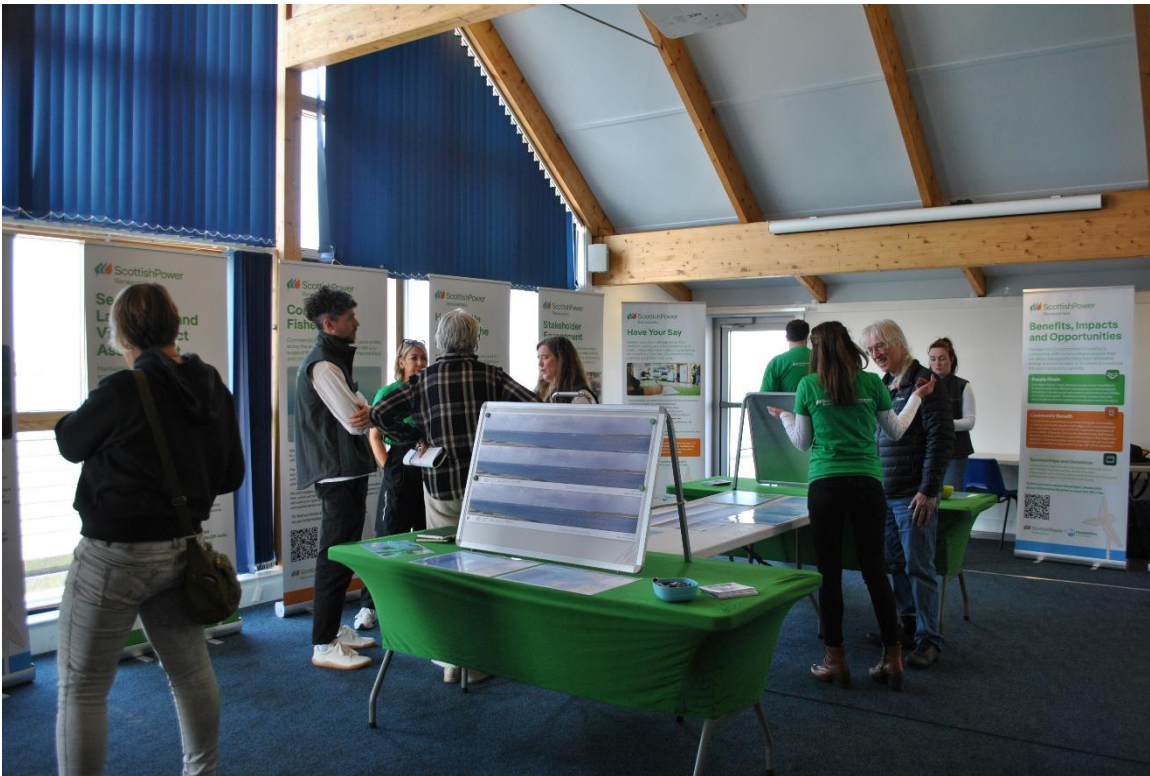


Plate 5.5 Statutory Consultation Round One, Gaelic Centre, Islay (11 June 2025)



Plate 5.6 Statutory Consultation Round Two, Jura Hall (22 October 2025)





Plate 5.7 Statutory Consultation Round Two, Colonsay Village Hall (23 October 2025)



Plate 5.8 Statutory Consultation Round Two, Buessan Hall, Mull (29 October 2025)



## 6 CONSULTATION PARTICIPATION

92. This chapter details how feedback was received and analysed.

### 6.1 HOW CONSULTEES COULD RESPOND

93. Receiving feedback throughout the various stages of consultation has been a vital part of the Project's development. Input from stakeholders and the public has helped inform key decisions relating to the design of the WDA prior to submission.

94. To ensure that providing feedback was simple and accessible, a dedicated contact point was established ahead of the initial round of consultation. This allowed members of the public and key stakeholders to easily reach the Project team. The contact address was as follows:

MachairWind Project Team  
ScottishPower HQ  
320 St Vincent St  
Glasgow  
G2 5AD

95. A Project-specific email inbox, machairwind@scottishpower.com, was monitored by the Stakeholder Engagement Manager and Community Engagement Manager to ensure all correspondence was processed and responded to in a timely manner. Additional feedback channels included:

- Verbal feedback (webinars and face to face events);
- Printed feedback form (and FREEPOST envelope);
- Online feedback form; and
- Postal letter.

#### 6.1.1 Number of Responses Received

96. A total of 168 responses were received across the two Statutory Consultation periods: 143 during the first round and 23 during the second round.

97. Of those that responded to the feedback form, the largest proportion of respondents (84%) completed the feedback form online, with 25 responses (15%) received via the FREEPOST printed feedback form. In total, one letter and one email submission were also received.

98. The variation in consultation responses between the two statutory consultation rounds may be attributed, in part, to a seasonal reduction in the island's population during the autumn. However, with attendee numbers broadly similar at the events for both consultation rounds, the reduced participation during the second round may be a reflection of residents indicating that they are content with the level of information provided during the first round of consultation. Exemplifying this, of the 83 people that responded to the following feedback form question, "Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement: This consultation has enhanced my knowledge of the MachairWind project", 57% agreed, with 21% of respondents selecting Neither Agree nor Disagree, 12% selecting disagree and 9% selecting strongly disagree.

### 6.2 APPROACH TO ANALYSIS

99. The following steps ensured robust analysis and reporting of insights captured through stakeholder feedback.



### **6.2.1 Analysis of Consultation Feedback**

100. This section provides detail on how the feedback gathered during the Statutory Consultations was analysed.
101. The analysis approach was designed to produce clear, accessible outputs that reflect and incorporate all feedback received during the consultation process.
102. The Applicant reviewed all comments provided and identified key themes through sentiment analysis, to ensure no outliers were missed. This approach allowed for the quick categorisation of consultees' main concerns and identified areas for the Project team to focus on between consultation rounds.

### **6.2.2 Sentiment Analysis**

103. Open-text responses on the survey required additional review to understand perceptions, attitudes and opinions. A sentiment analysis approach was applied to identify patterns in support. Responses were examined to group similar sentiments and recurring themes, creating a framework that categorised feedback into positive, neutral, and negative perspectives, along with key topics raised.

### **6.2.3 Quality Assurance**

104. At the collation and analysis stage, several quality assurance measures were implemented. For each consultation round, the Stakeholder Engagement Manager oversaw the process to ensure that the agreed methodology was applied consistently and accurately throughout the analysis.

### **6.2.4 Presentation of Results**

105. Several of the closed questions in the survey included an option for respondents to provide alternative answers in open-text form. These "other" responses have been summarised based on the main themes identified.
106. Please note that the percentages shown within this report and accompanying appendices may not necessarily equate to 100%, as figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

## **7 FIRST ROUND OF PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION**

### **7.1 SUMMARY**

107. Starting in May 2025, the Applicant carried out an initial six-week public consultation on the Project which introduced the approach to consent and the proposed WDA infrastructure and associated activities.
108. This included:
- 88 to 147 wind turbines on fixed foundations– a tried and tested technology;
  - IACs linking the wind turbines together and to the substation(s);
  - If required, scour protection (measures to prevent soil and sediment erosion) for foundation structures supporting the wind turbines;
  - If required, external cable protection for IACs and offshore export cable(s); and
  - The offshore substation(s), offshore substation platform link cables (if required), and some of the export cable(s) will be located among the turbines but will be fully assessed together with the transmission infrastructure.
109. The main objective of the consultation was to share up-to-date information about the Project with local communities, gather input from stakeholders and members of public, and provide opportunities for direct conversations between those interest and impacted by the Project and the Project team. This approach helped ensure that community members could raise local concerns and contribute to



shaping the Project’s development. This first round of public consultation saw 154 attendees across eight events and 143 feedback forms received.

*Table 7.1 Statutory consultation in-person attendees*

Island	Number of Attendees	% of population
Islay (two events)	39	1%
Jura	33	13%
Colonsay	31	29%
Ross of Mull <sup>1</sup>	23	5%
Iona	22	14%

110. As part of the first round of PAC, the Applicant delivered a postcard to 3,450 residential homes and businesses within the five host islands, containing details of the upcoming consultation events and methods for providing feedback. The consultation period was also advertised locally within newspapers, on the Project website, through posters displayed within the local communities and via emails from the Project team to stakeholders and community organisations.

111. Alongside the in-person events, during the first round of PAC activities, the Applicant provided access to a virtual consultation room and held two webinars to encourage consultation participation for those unable to attend in person events. The webinars and virtual consultation room were free to access. The virtual consultation room was available to enter from 26 May until 6 July 2025 (inclusive). The virtual consultation room recorded 101 visits and the webinars recorded six attendees.

**7.2 CONSULTATION MATERIALS**

112. As part of the consultation process, the Applicant provided a range of materials through the in-person events and online, including:

- Exhibition banners;
- Information booklets;
- Maps;
- Photomontages and accompanying viewpoint maps;
- Wirelines;
- Feedback forms (online and printed); and
- Virtual consultation room.

113. Please see examples of these materials in **Appendix 8**.

**7.3 FEEDBACK FORM RESPONSES**

114. This section presents a summary of the feedback form responses received during the first round of consultation.

**7.3.1 Overall Responses**

115. 143 responses were received during the first Statutory Consultation. The Applicant has reviewed and considered all submissions received during the consultation period. **Table 7.1** shows an island-by-

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<sup>1</sup> Based on a population estimate of 437 for the Ross of Mull (derived from address data on Emapsite - Address Data from Emapsite UK).





Respondents were predominately within the 60-74 age bracket, followed by those aged 45-59; this could indicate strong engagement from long-term residents with established local knowledge and strong attachments to their local community and surrounds.

120. A significant proportion of respondents identified as local residents, reinforcing that the consultation primarily captured the views of those most likely to experience direct or perceived impacts from the Project.

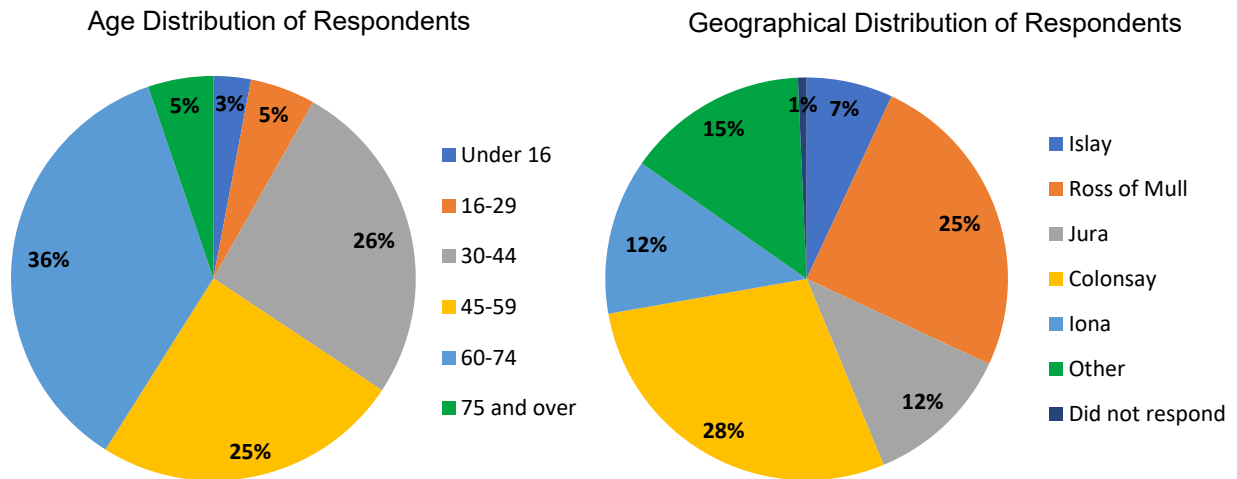


Plate 7.2 'About You' charts summarising the Statutory Consultation Round One respondents

**7.3.1.2 Renewable Energy**

121. When asked about views on the importance of climate change, half of respondents (50%) indicated that they felt climate change is the most important issue that must be addressed, while a further 44% agreed it is important but considered other issues more pressing. Only a very small proportion (2%) did not view climate change as important. This demonstrates that communities are generally aware of the climate emergency and recognise a need for change.

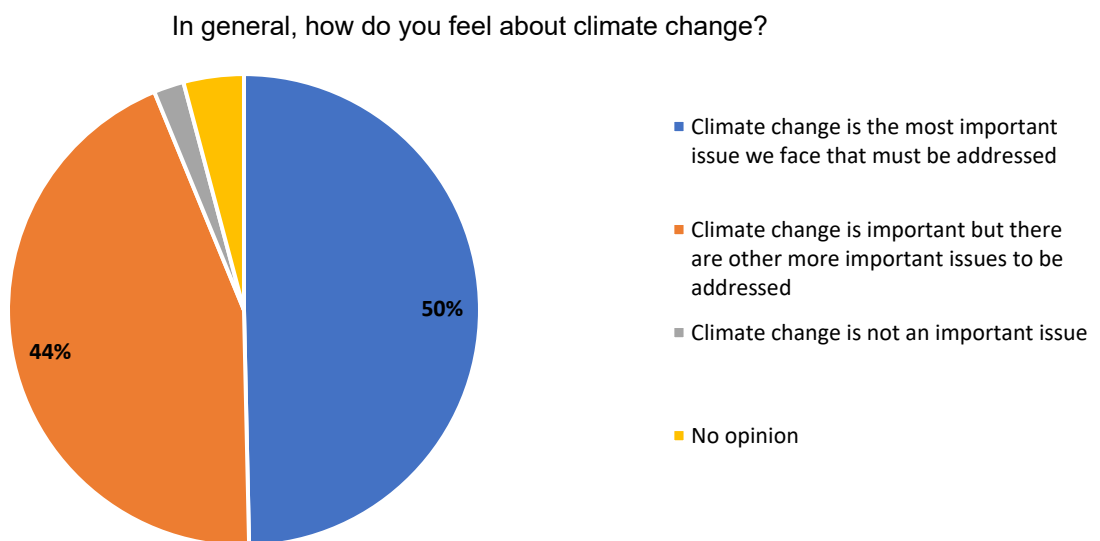


Plate 7.3 'Renewable Energy' chart summarising respondent views on Climate Change for Statutory Consultation Round One



122. Views were mixed on offshore wind’s potential role to address climate change, to bring economic benefits to Scotland and the UK, and to play a role in the future of Scotland and the UK’s energy security and affordability. While many respondents agreed that offshore wind could help address climate change (42%) and deliver economic benefits (46%), a sizeable minority expressed uncertainty or disagreement, with 26 to 32% disagreeing across these areas. Respondents were similarly divided on offshore wind’s role in energy security and affordability (45% agreed; 28% disagreed). These findings suggest that, although climate awareness was high, there is caution about whether offshore wind developments could deliver meaningful benefits.

**7.3.1.3 Windfarm Development Area**

123. Perceptions of the proposed WDA were dominated by concerns about local environmental and visual impacts. While respondents recognised potential positive impacts of the Project in relation to climate and sustainability (49%), most concerns focused on how the development could alter the natural environment and the character of the coastline and communities. High proportions of respondents anticipated negative impacts on seascape and landscape views (84%) and on wildlife and the natural environment (77%), making these the most significant themes raised during Statutory Consultation Round One.

What impact do you think the MachairWind Offshore Windfarm could have on the below topics?

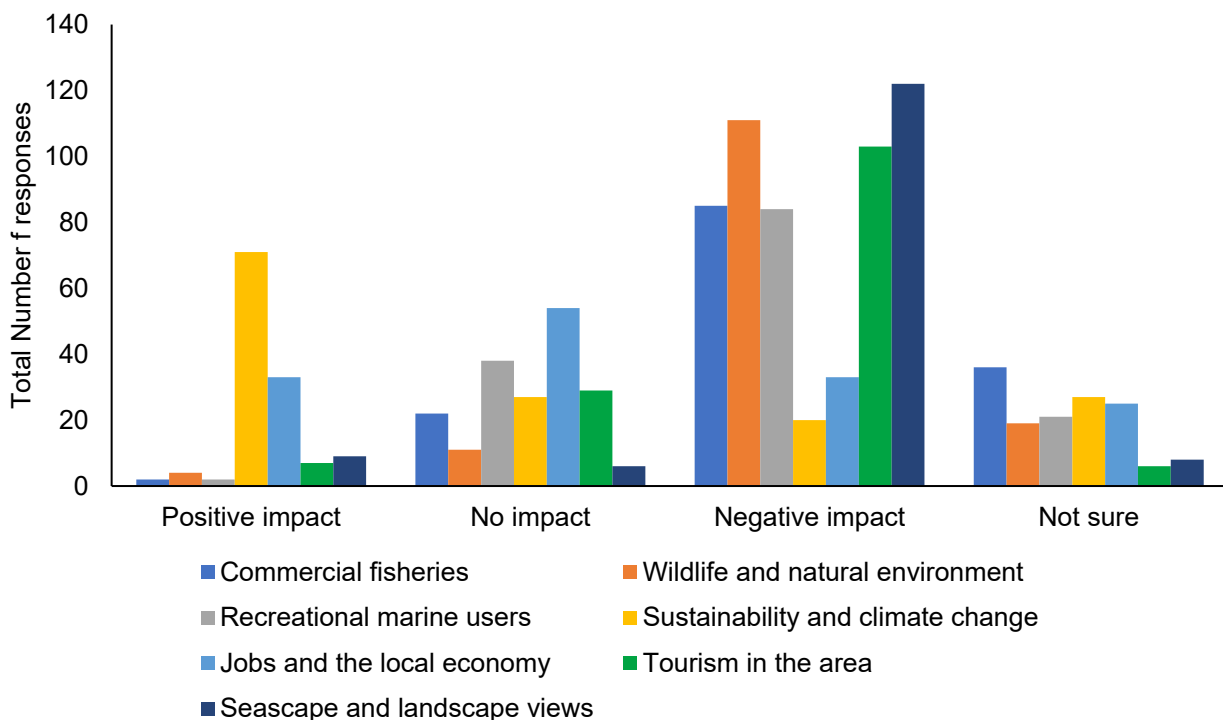


Plate 7.4 ‘Windfarm Development Area’ chart summarising key themes for Statutory Consultation Round One

124. Visual impacts emerged as a central issue. Photomontages of both turbine layout options (88 turbines at a 340 m height and 147 turbines at a 260 m height) received predominantly negative responses, with 87% of respondents expressing negative views for each layout, regardless of turbine height or number. Comments frequently referenced turbine height, distance to shore and the overall spread of turbines as key concerns. Free-text submissions reinforced similar issues, with additional



commentary focusing on the environmental implications, local economic impacts and the suitability of the proposed location.

125. Requests for further information were also common, with many respondents seeking more clarity on elements such as layout, environmental assessment, the CBF and potential local impacts. While a small proportion of comments expressed positive sentiment (2%), the majority reflected a desire for more detail and reassurance on visual, environmental and site selection factors before forming a final view.

**7.3.1.4 Benefits and Opportunities**

126. Respondents showed strong interest in the potential opportunities the project could bring. The most valued benefits included Community Benefit Funding (68%), environmental enhancements (67%), local employment opportunities (57%), and investment in community-led initiatives (57%). These themes demonstrate an early appetite for benefits that are direct, tangible and rooted in local priorities. Respondents clearly expressed a desire for the project, if taken forward, to deliver visible improvements in community wellbeing, environmental resilience and local economic development.

**7.3.1.5 Consultation**

127. Feedback on the consultation process was mixed but constructive. Most respondents (57%) felt that the consultation enhanced their understanding of the project, and 50% agreed that they had been given a good opportunity to share their views. However, opinions were more divided on the appropriateness of the information provided, with 34% agreeing and 38% disagreeing that it met their needs. This indicates that while the consultation was generally well received, there was a need for clearer, more accessible information in future rounds.

128. Respondents identified email (28%) and face-to-face events (25%) as their preferred communication methods, highlighting the importance of direct, personal engagement. Free-text responses echoed these preferences and provided additional insights into overall sentiment: 10% of responses were positive, particularly around climate action, job opportunities and the usefulness of materials, while 72% expressed concerns. Key issues raised included community benefits, fuel poverty, energy affordability and how profits from the project would be distributed; these findings indicate early expectations for fairness and transparency.

As the Project develops, how would you like us to keep you updated?

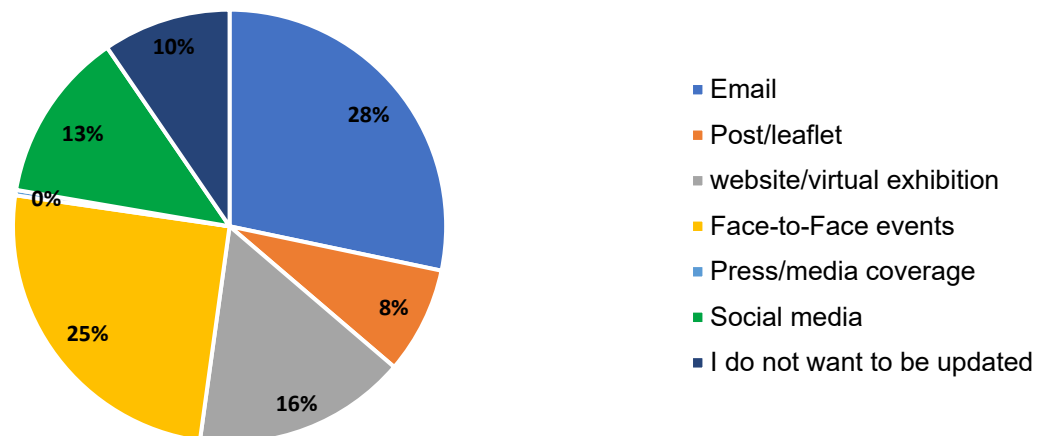


Plate 7.5 'Consultation' chart summarising preferred communication methods for Statutory Consultation Round One



## 7.4 VIEWS RAISED AT PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION EVENTS

### 7.4.1 Key Themes

129. During Statutory Consultation Round One, a series of in-person face-to-face consultation events were held across the host communities; across these events, 148 people attended in person. In addition, two webinar sessions were delivered as informal Q&A forums, attended by a further six attendees. The key themes and comments raised at the in-person events and webinars are summarised below.

#### 7.4.1.1 Energy Resilience

130. Energy resilience was a prominent theme, with several attendees noting that power supply on the islands is perceived as unreliable. Communities sought clarification on whether the proposed windfarm could improve local grid stability, including whether turbines could connect directly into island infrastructure.

131. Both event and webinar attendees consistently highlighted that communities with direct visibility of the windfarm should receive tangible financial benefits, particularly through reduced energy bills. Many felt that island communities should be able to benefit from the natural resources located close to where they live. This was framed not only as a matter of fairness but as an opportunity for wind energy development to play a role in addressing the ongoing cost-of-living pressures experienced by those living across the islands.

#### 7.4.1.2 Community Benefit Fund

132. Although not a material consideration to the consenting process, questions arose around Community Benefit Funding. If the Project is consented, Community Benefit Funding will be operational when the windfarm is. Respondents requested clarity on whether the Applicant was committed to delivering a fund and what the value of the fund would likely be. Some expressed concerns about whether any funding provided would be sufficient to support large-scale infrastructure projects that some of the islands require.

133. Attendees raised questions around the CBF distribution and governance process, with many suggesting communities most affected should receive a larger proportion of the fund, particularly those who perceived the Project as resulting in negative visual and/or economic-related impact. Many requested examples of the Applicant delivering community benefit funding across projects. In response, the [SPR Community Benefit Report 2024](#) was shared with those who requested evidence of the Applicant's commitment and delivery to community benefit funding. Respondents queried potential uses for a fund, such as supporting affordable housing and development officer roles and whether the funding could support community-owned turbines.

134. Some immediate and small-scale funding suggestions were made, such as support for swimming lessons and school residential trips; these respondents were encouraged to apply to the MachairWind Small Donations Fund when it launched in August 2025.

#### 7.4.1.3 Local Opportunities

135. Across in person and webinar events, employment opportunities and skills development generated strong interest. Respondents expressed support for training local young people in renewable energy careers and requested information around the Applicant's engagement with local schools to date. There were questions about the ports the Project may use, including whether local ports were being considered. Attendees asked for more detail on local job opportunities, supply-chain spending, and port redevelopment. There was particular interest in the future availability and scope of the MachairWind Supply Chain and Skills Fund (SCSF).



#### **7.4.1.4 Visual / Seascape Impacts**

136. Feedback on photomontages, wirelines and maps varied. Some attendees expressed optimism, indicating that seeing the turbines gave them hope for the future, while others felt that the visualisations provided cause for concern, particularly around impacts on landscape and tourism.
137. Communities requested that for future rounds of consultation additional photomontages be prepared for viewpoints shown only as wirelines and requested that nighttime photomontages be created for some viewpoints. At the request of Colonsay event attendees, the Applicant posted the photomontages to Colonsay Village Hall during the consultation period. Attendees were signposted to the virtual consultation room where all photomontages were available to view online.
138. Webinar attendees raised concerns around whether the photomontages accurately reflected potential visibility, particularly from elevated viewpoints on Iona and Colonsay. Questions also covered turbine lighting and marking at night.

#### **7.4.1.5 Consultation Materials and Events**

139. Attendees highlighted the importance of avoiding overly technical language and ensuring consultation materials clearly explain next steps, processes and project infrastructure.
140. Additional comments included requests for engagement on the west side of Mull and encouragement for the project team to continue using social media to publicise consultations. Many residents stated they had initially heard about the events through Facebook or local newspapers, such as Round & About and The Ilead. Communities also expressed interest in seeing how the MachairWind site was selected and how it fits within the wider context of ScotWind.

#### **7.4.1.6 Impact Assessment**

141. Respondents showed strong interest in the project's environmental impacts. Discussions were held around the bird and marine surveys undertaken to date, with some questioning the robustness of the baseline data, and whether any data from other developers had been used to fill gaps. Webinar attendees asked about effects of piling/drilling on marine species and how impacts on migratory species would be assessed and, if necessary, mitigated.
142. Respondents requested information on whether airborne noise from the turbines might be audible and disruptive to live on the islands. There was interest in the quantities and sustainability of the materials used to manufacture the WDA infrastructure, such as steel and concrete.

#### **7.4.1.7 Tourism**

143. Some attendees expressed concern that the presence of an offshore windfarm could negatively affect tourism, particularly on islands such as Colonsay, Ross of Mull and Iona, where the unique landscape and sense of place are important attractors to tourists.

#### **7.4.1.8 Project Timescales**

144. Attendees asked about the Section 36 consultation period, and when a consent decision might be expected. Questions were also raised about the timeline for reaching Final Investment Decision (FID), if consent was to be granted for the Project.

#### **7.4.1.9 Engineering**

145. Attendees were curious about operational aspects of the turbines, with questions around whether the windfarm would shut down at high wind speeds, and how frequently high-wind conditions might cause downtime. There were also questions about why two wind turbine layout options were being



presented, the reasons for the wide range in turbine height, and what type of foundations would be used.

146. Webinar attendees additionally asked about the design parameters for OSPs and cable installation techniques.

## 8 SECOND ROUND OF PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

### 8.1 SUMMARY

147. Starting in October 2025, the Applicant carried out a second six-week public consultation on the Project to provide updated information on the development of the WDA, including refinements made since the first statutory consultation. This included:

- A refined WDA footprint and updated maximum design parameters based on ongoing technical and environmental studies;
- Up to 144 wind turbines on fixed foundations (with the previously considered 147 turbine maximum updated through design refinement);
- Updates to turbine dimensions, spacing and layout approaches, supported by updated and additional photomontages;
- A 3D virtual reality model of the windfarm showing the SLVIA worst-case 91 turbine layout scenario; and
- Updated information on offshore substation platforms (OSP), OSP-link cables and offshore export cable routing, all of which will be fully assessed together with the transmission infrastructure.

148. The main objectives of the second round of consultation were to share updated project information with local communities, demonstrate how feedback from the previous round of consultation had been considered and incorporated into Project decision making, and provide further opportunities for direct discussion with the Project team. This ensured that stakeholders could raise concerns, requests and suggestions, and help shape how the Project continues to evolve. Across the second round of public consultation, a total of 119 attendees participated across six in-person events and two webinars, and 23 feedback forms, one letter, and one email submission were received.

*Table 8.1 Statutory consultation round two- in-person attendees*

Island	Number of Attendees	% of population
Islay (two events)	27	0.8%
Jura	8	3.1%
Colonsay	30	25.7%
Ross of Mull <sup>2</sup>	26	5.9%
Iona	14	7.8%

149. As part of the PAC process, the Applicant delivered a mail drop to 3,415 residential homes and businesses across the five host islands, containing a postcard with details of the upcoming consultation events and methods for providing feedback. The consultation period was also advertised

<sup>2</sup> Based on a population estimate of 437 for the Ross of Mull (derived from address data on Emapsite - Address Data from Emapsite UK)



locally within newspapers, on the Project website, via community social media pages, through posters displayed within the local communities and via emails from the Project team to stakeholders and community organisations.

150. Alongside the in-person events, during this first round of PAC activities, the Applicant provided access to a virtual consultation room and held two webinars to make the consultation events more accessible and inclusive. The online platform was free to access and provided links to all the materials available at the in-person events. This was live from 20 October until 30 November 2025 (inclusive). The virtual consultation room recorded 81 visits and the webinars recorded six attendees.

## 8.2 CONSULTATION MATERIALS

151. As with the first consultation, a range of materials was provided in both physical and digital formats to support public understanding of the updated proposals. Materials included:

- Exhibition banners;
- Information booklets;
- Maps;
- 3D virtual reality model of the windfarm;
- Photomontages and accompanying viewpoint maps;
- Wirelines and ZTV;
- Feedback forms (online and printed); and
- Virtual consultation room.

152. Examples of all consultation materials used in Statutory Consultation Round Two are provided in **Appendix 9**.

## 8.3 FEEDBACK FORM RESPONSES

153. This section presents a summary of the feedback form responses received during the second round of consultation.

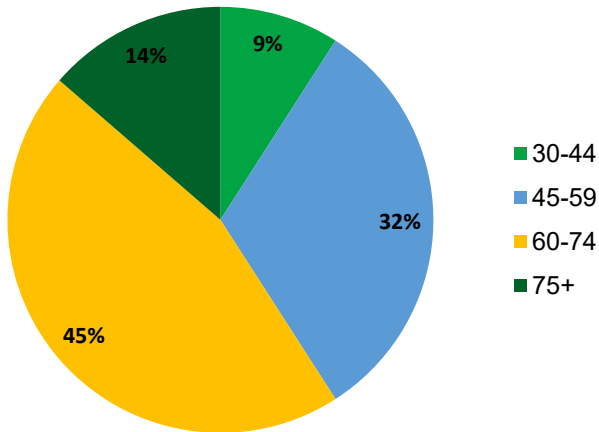
### 8.3.1 Overall Responses

154. A total of 23 online feedback forms, one written letter, and one email submission were received during the second round of Statutory Consultation. The Applicant has reviewed and considered all submissions received during the consultation period. **Table 8.1** summarises the island-by-island attendance at in-person and webinar events during this second round of consultation.
155. Full analysis of the Statutory Consultation Round Two feedback, is provided in **Appendix 10**. A summary of the key findings from the feedback form responses is set out below.
156. **Plate 8.1** presents a word cloud of the most frequently raised themes during Statutory Consultation Round Two, illustrating areas of greatest interest, including community benefit funding, night-time lighting, ports and job opportunities, environmental impacts, and climate-related concerns.





Age Distribution of Respondents



Geographical Distribution of Respondents

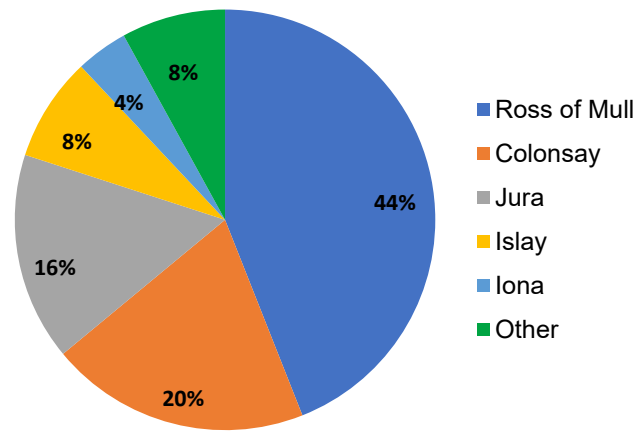


Plate 8.2 'About You' charts to summarise the Statutory Consultation Round Two respondents

**8.3.1.2 Benefits and Opportunities**

161. Community Benefit Funding remained one of the most frequently discussed themes throughout Statutory Consultation Round Two. In response to this being a key area of interest during Statutory Consultation Round One, the feedback form for Statutory Consultation Round Two included questions around funding and its potential use. Respondents expressed consistent expectations for long-term, locally governed and proportionate benefits. Echoing the response to Statutory Consultation Round One, feedback emphasised that community benefits should be proportionate to experienced impact<sup>3</sup>, inferring that some island communities may experience greater impacts than others (such as visual and tourism-related effects). Investment in ports and harbour infrastructure was highlighted as a lasting economic legacy opportunity.
162. When asked to select their top three Community Benefit Funding priorities, the most frequently chosen options were:
- Community buildings, halls, or renewable heating upgrades - selected by 23% of respondents;
  - Local environmental projects, including habitat restoration and biodiversity improvements - selected by 19% of respondents;
  - Skills, apprenticeships, or education programmes – selected by 15% of respondents; and
  - Local heritage, culture, or tourism initiatives – selected by 15% of respondents.
163. These preferences demonstrate a clear appetite for investment in local infrastructure as well as environmental stewardship.

<sup>3</sup> Community Benefit Fund is not a mitigation measure for impact; it is a voluntary payment by the developer.



How would you like to see Community Benefit Funding used?

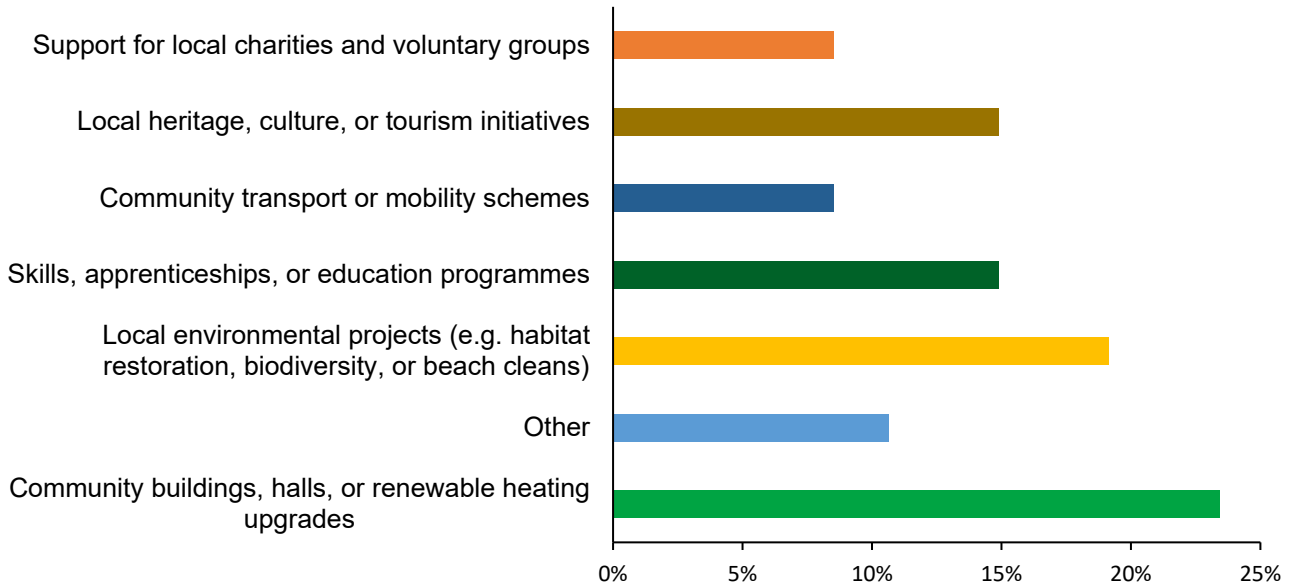


Plate 8.3 'Benefits and Opportunities' chart summarising preferred use of Community Benefit Funding - Statutory Consultation Round Two

**8.3.1.3 Socio-Economic Commitments**

164. Respondents expressed high levels of support for the Project's proposed commitments, as presented within the **MachairWind Offshore Development Socio-economic Action Plan (SEAP)**. Feedback demonstrated strong expectations for transparency and long-term investment.

165. The most supported commitments are outlined below:

- Long-term Community Benefit Funding: 95% Important or Very Important.
- Supporting local innovation and enterprise challenges: 95% Important or Very Important
- Keeping open communication through newsletters and a local contact: 90% Important or Very Important.
- Supporting skills, training, and business growth in Argyll and Bute: 90% Important or Very Important.



**Please tell us how important you feel each commitment is for your community.**

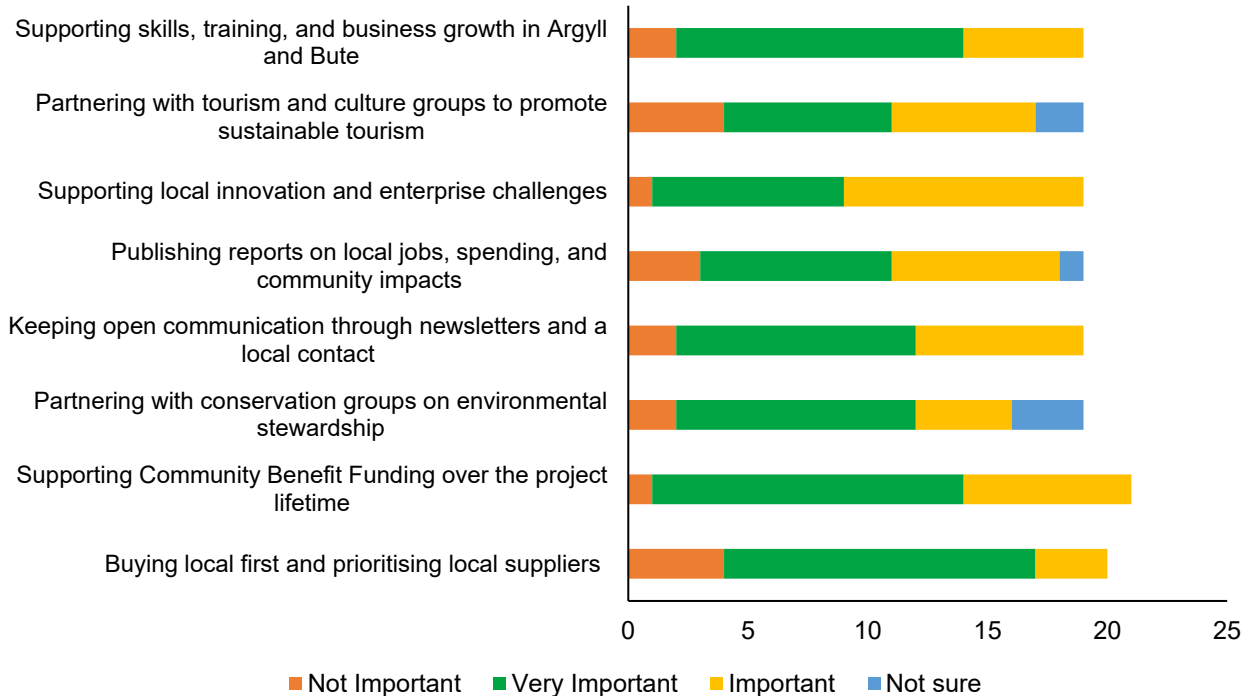


Plate 8.4 ‘Socio-Economic Commitments’ chart summarising perceived importance of Project commitments

**8.3.1.4 Renewable Energy**

- 166. Respondents demonstrated strong awareness of climate change and acceptance of the need for renewable energy.
- 167. When asked about the importance of climate change, 61% stated that climate change is “the most important issue we face that must be addressed.”
- 168. Thematic feedback reinforced that respondents view offshore wind as a key part of the wider energy transition. The majority agreed that offshore wind plays an important role in:
  - Addressing climate change;
  - Supporting economic growth; and
  - Improving energy security and affordability.
- 169. This strong underlying support suggests that respondents recognise the strategic value of offshore wind, although they expect offshore wind to be delivered responsibly, with clear community benefits and robust mitigation measures.



To what extent do you agree with the below statements?

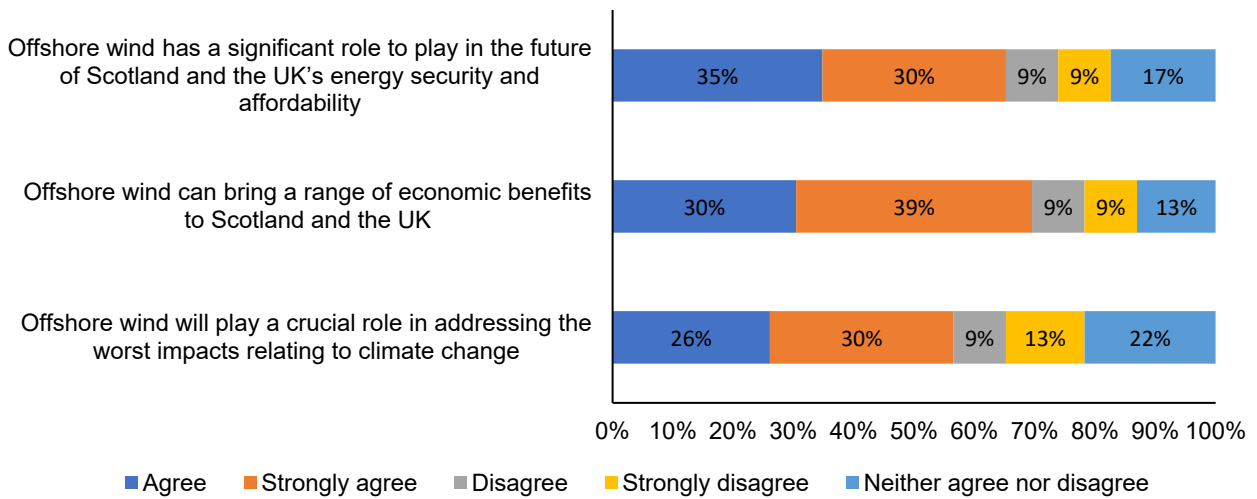


Plate 8.5 'Renewable Energy' chart to summarise respondent views on Climate Change for Statutory Consultation Round Two

**8.3.1.5 Consultation**

- 170. Respondents generally felt that the Statutory Consultation Round Two consultation process improved their understanding of the project. Feedback indicated that the majority (69%) agreed or strongly agreed that the consultation enhanced their knowledge.
- 171. When asked how they would like to receive ongoing updates, respondents most frequently selected website updates, newsletters, and targeted local communications.
- 172. The preference for multiple communication channels reflects strong expectations for ongoing transparency and continuous engagement. Respondents expressed a desire for clear, accessible information and suggested deeper, local engagement mechanisms such as advisory groups to ensure a wide range of perspectives continue to inform future project decisions.

To what extent do you agree with the below statements?

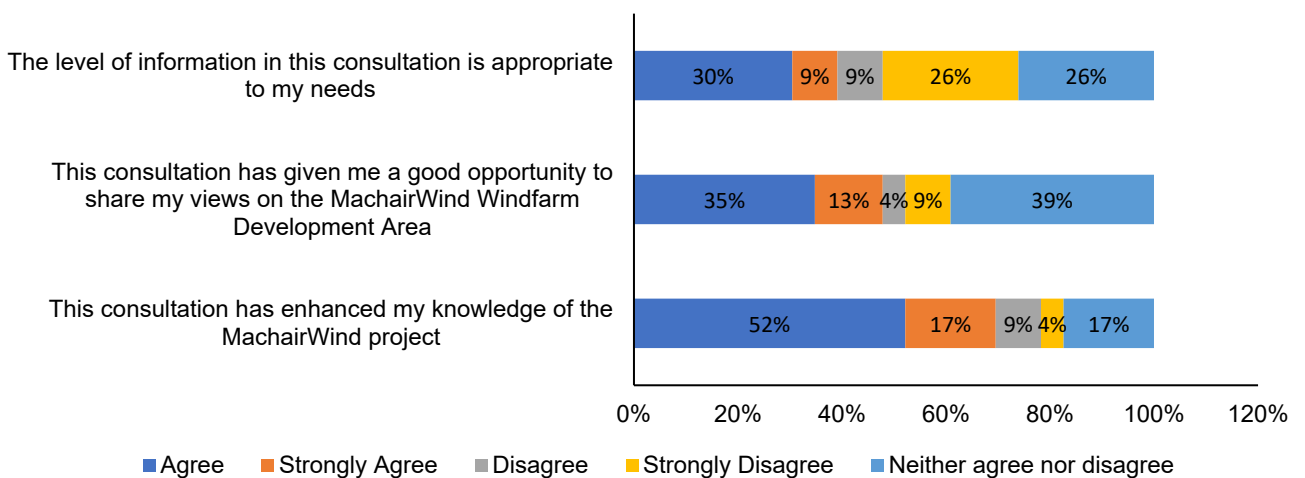


Plate 8.6 'Consultation' chart to summarise respondent views on the consultation provided as part of Statutory Consultation Round Two



## 8.4 VIEWS RAISED AT PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION EVENTS

### 8.4.1 Key Themes

173. A second series of in-person face-to-face consultation events were held. These events attracted a total of 105 in-person attendees. Two additional webinars were also delivered as informal Q&A sessions, attended by 14 attendees. The key themes and comments raised at the in-person events and webinars are summarised below.

#### 8.4.1.1 Community Benefit Fund

174. Community Benefit Funding was a prominent topic of discussion across all in-person events. Attendees expressed continued interest in the potential value of the fund, including questions around the overall level of funding and indicative £/MW figures. There was also interest in ScottishPower Renewables' response to the Scottish Government consultation on community benefits for net zero projects (The Scottish Government, 2024); this response has since been shared with those who requested it via email following these discussions.

175. In terms of potential uses of CBF, suggestions raised during events included investment in road improvements (particularly on Islay), and electrification of transport, particularly ferries and, to a lesser extent, fishing vessels. Attendees responded positively to case studies from SPR's onshore projects presented in the consultation materials, and there was a clear desire for island communities to retain agency over how funds are allocated and managed.

176. Discussions also highlighted a strong interest in directing CBF towards improving local infrastructure and supporting opportunities for younger people, including skills development, workforce resilience, affordable housing, and diversification of the local labour market. Requests were made for flexibility in how funding is distributed, including the potential for lump-sum payments where appropriate. Questions were also raised regarding how funds would ultimately be delivered and governed, with lines of questioning demonstrating that concerns around trust and transparency were emerging, particularly in relation to the timing and certainty of funding commitments.

#### 8.4.1.2 Visual / Seascape Impacts

177. There was significant interest in visual material, particularly in relation to night-time photomontages. Attendees engaged actively with the photomontages and 3D virtual reality model, with several participants noting that the visuals were either in line with, or better than, their expectations. The 3D model was widely viewed as a useful tool, with some attendees using it to explore views from locations of personal importance to them, such as from street on which they live or from scenic viewpoints across the islands.

178. Specific questions were raised regarding mitigations to minimise night-time light pollution. The significance of Dubh Artach Lighthouse was also raised, both in terms of its historical importance and role as a navigational aid, with attendees noting the lighthouse provides familiarity within the context of uninterrupted views across the Atlantic.

#### 8.4.1.3 Environmental and Socio-economic Impacts

179. Environmental impacts formed a key area of interest during in-person discussions. Attendees asked detailed questions about the species which were being assessed within the EIA, with particular interest in certain species such as corncrake, migratory birds (including Greenland white-fronted geese), and basking sharks. Some concern was expressed regarding the potential for the windfarm to affect biodiversity and wildlife-based tourism activities, such as boat tours. Although some also cited examples where renewable developments have enhanced opportunities for tourism and enabled existing industries to diversify.



180. There was also interest in the potential impacts on fishing activity, including both commercial and recreational fishing. Questions were raised about construction impacts on the seabed, creels, shellfish, and wider marine ecology, as well as underwater noise and proposed mitigation measures.

#### **8.4.1.4 Ports, Employment and the Marine Economy**

181. Attendees frequently asked about which ports may be used during construction and operation, and whether local ports are being considered. Linked to this were questions around employment opportunities, including the number of jobs expected to be created and the extent to which these would be filled by residents. These discussions align with wider consultation feedback expressing interest in long-term economic opportunities and the development of a marine-based supply chain.

#### **8.4.1.5 Engagement and Communication**

182. Feedback on engagement was generally positive, with several attendees noting that they had become aware of the events through local newspapers and social media. Attendance patterns suggested that participants spent longer engaging with the exhibition materials than during Statutory Consultation Round One.

183. Suggestions for future engagement included the establishment of island-specific community advisory groups, with some attendees expressing the view that community councils alone may not fully capture the range of local perspectives. Increased use of social media platforms, such as local Facebook groups, was also suggested to broaden engagement.

#### **8.4.1.6 Project Timescales**

184. Attendees sought clarity on the anticipated timeline for publication of the EIAR and queried what the next stages of the project involved, if the Project was consented.

## **9 YOU SAID, WE DID**

### **9.1 STATUTORY CONSULTATION ROUND ONE – KEY THEMES**

185. The Applicant has reviewed all feedback received during the first round of Statutory Consultation. The following section provides an overview of the main themes identified from questionnaire responses and written submissions received by email and Freepost and how they have been considered by the Project.

186. The principal themes identified during the first round of Statutory Consultation were as follows:

- Energy Resilience;
- CBF;
- Local Opportunities;
- Visual / Seascape Impacts;
- Consultation Materials and Events;
- Impact Assessment;
- Tourism;
- Project Timescales; and
- Engineering.

187. These findings were shared during the second Statutory Consultation to demonstrate how stakeholder input has helped shape the development of the Project.



**9.2 STATUTORY CONSULTATION ROUND TWO – KEY THEMES**

188. The Applicant has reviewed all feedback received during the second of Statutory Consultation. The following section provides an overview of the main themes identified from questionnaire responses and written submissions received by email and Freepost and how they have been considered by the Project.
189. The principal themes identified during the second round of Statutory Consultation were as follows:
- CBF;
  - Landscape, Visuals and Photomontages;
  - Renewable Energy Support;
  - Environmental and Socio-Economic Impacts;
  - Engagement and Communication; and
  - Project Timescales.
190. The themes identified during the first and second round of Statutory Consultation are set out in **Table 9.1** below, including a comparison as to how the community response to each theme had evolved throughout the process:

*Table 9.1 Summary of how themes have evolved between consultations*

Theme	Previous Statutory Consultation	Second Statutory Consultation	Key Change / Continuity
Support for Renewable Energy	Broad support in principle	Broad support maintained	Consistent
Climate Change Awareness	Awareness expressed	Awareness reinforced	Consistent
Community Benefit Funding	General support for benefit	Strong demand for long-term, locally controlled and proportional benefit funds	Evolved
Governance of Benefits	Mentioned in broad terms	Clear preference for development trusts and local decision-making	Evolved
Economic Opportunities	Jobs and supply chain noted	Expanded focus on marine economy, ports, skills, decarbonisation	Expanded
Community Led Renewable Energy Developments	Limited discussion	Proposals on energy equity and local energy models	New emerging theme
Visual / Seascape Impacts	General concern and uncertainty	More technical/specific concerns (especially with night lighting), solution-focused concerns (e.g. lighting mitigation options suggested)	More concern
Environmental Stewardship	Desire for protection	Interest in partnerships and best practice delivery	Evolved



Theme	Previous Statutory Consultation	Second Statutory Consultation	Key Change / Continuity
Consultation Quality	Desire for clarity	Improved understanding acknowledged; higher expectations remain	Evolved
Engagement Expectations	Ongoing engagement requested	Expectation of long-term partnership reinforced	Consistent

191. Compared with the first round of consultation, feedback from the second round did not show an increase in opposition to the Project. Instead, people’s views remained broadly consistent, with many demonstrating a deeper understanding of the proposals and asking more detailed questions. This reflects growing awareness of both the Project and offshore wind more generally. It is also important to note that the number of participants in Statutory Consultation Round Two was smaller than in Round One, so the two sets of results cannot be directly compared.
192. The Applicant’s responses to the key themes identified in both rounds of Statutory Consultation are set out in **Table 9.2**. Each theme represents a collection of comments received and is summarised alongside the Applicant’s corresponding response. These responses aim to address concerns, clarify points where needed, and explain how stakeholder input has influenced decision-making. This feedback has been used to refine early Project proposals and inform the second Statutory Consultation.

### 9.3 YOU SAID, WE DID

Table 9.2 You said, we did

Key Theme	You Said	We Did
<b>First Round of Consultation</b>		
Support for Offshore Wind	Enthusiasm about offshore wind being pursued instead of fossil fuel energy sources	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). Low-emission materials are being explored to minimise this 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.
Community Benefit Funding	Request for clarity in relation to the value of a CBF and when	Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Ross of Mull and Iona are recognised as the host communities of this nationally significant project and strongly believe that sharing the



Key Theme	You Said	We Did
	<p>communities can access any fund.</p>	<p>benefits, social and economic, is key to being a good neighbour. The specific value of the fund is not known 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. Recommendations following consultation on Community Benefit from both the Scottish and UK Governments have not been released at the time of writing. 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.</p> <p>If the Project is consented, the CBF will be operational once the windfarm is.</p>
<p>Economic Opportunities</p>	<p>Request for clarity in relation to the jobs, skills, ports, and supply-chain opportunities that the Project could generate and contribute towards locally and for the long term.</p>	<p>Socio-economic impacts (including jobs, skills, and local business opportunities) have been assessed by undertaking an EIA. Findings will inform actions with local partners (e.g., ports and training bodies) to support a lasting local economic legacy. The draft Socio-economic Action Plan has also been shared providing clearer explanations of funding principles and potential long-term opportunities such as skills development, local supply chain participation and marine economy enhancements.</p>
<p>Visual/Seascape Impacts</p>	<p>A narrower spread of turbines across the horizons is generally preferred to reduce visual impact.</p>	<p>The spread of turbines has also been reduced through the refinement of the north-south extent of the windfarm.</p> <p>The windfarm layout has been refined and the turbine heights reduced. The WDA 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%.</p> <p>As detailed in the 'Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact' chapter within the EIAR, the windfarm boundary has been moved further away from coastal communities, with the closest distance to shore being 12.4 km.</p>
<p>Wildlife and Natural Environment</p>	<p>Concerns regarding the impact of the Project on sense of place and physical environment, with negative perceptions relating to impacts on marine life, wilderness and biodiversity.</p>	<p>The Project is located near several important seabird colonies, and migratory seabirds and marine mammals move through the region. With this in mind, extensive Digital Aerial Surveys have been undertaken to identify seabirds, marine mammals and basking sharks in addition to securing third-party survey data.</p> <p>The Applicant has 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 funding a National Trust for Scotland study to track Manx Shearwaters on the island of Lunga (Treshnish Isles).</p> <p>The Project has one of the most extensive bird datasets of any UK offshore windfarm project. The Project is committed to not only reducing its environmental impact,</p>



Key Theme	You Said	We Did
		but to actively improving nature in the area. That's why we're developing a Nature Positive Plan for the project.
Tourism	Concerns regarding the Project deterring tourists and negatively impacting the tourism economy.	<p>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, refinement has been made to the windfarm area, horizontal spread of the turbines and the proximity of the windfarm to coastal communities. Working in collaboration with NatureScot, the Project has sought to agree design objectives, 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 the Project is consented.</p> <p>Responding to feedback, tourism has formed part of the socio-economic impact assessment, which has been carried out by BiGGAR Economics. When delivered sensitively and collaboratively, the Applicant believes offshore wind development can coexist with tourism.</p>
Location/Layout of the WDA	Queries and interest around why the Project is situated where it is.	<p>The W1 Plan Option (now known as 'MachairWind') was identified within the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan – Offshore Wind (2020). This plan was approved by the Scottish Ministers and formed the basis of the ScotWind offshore wind leasing round. As a direct result of 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.</p> <p>In 2022, SPR won the rights to develop an offshore windfarm within the plan area (W1) through the ScotWind leasing round.</p>
Fuel Poverty and Energy Costs	Queries and requests in relation to those living on the islands receiving discounts on household energy bills and/or receiving support towards fuel costs.	While the Applicant cannot set retail tariffs, energy-cost concerns are fully recognised. Community Benefit Funding can be steered towards initiatives that communities consider a priority; we will continue to engage on practical, locally led options. We will leverage experience from our onshore projects, for example SPR has supported communities that chose to direct funds towards initiatives to help local people address rising energy costs through a Community Energy Fund.
<b>Second Round of Consultation</b>		
Community Benefit Funding / Governance of Benefits	Request for clarity in relation to the value of a community benefit fund (CBF) and the governance of the funding.	CBF will be provided during the operational phase if the Project is consented. The value depends on investment decisions to be made post-consent and on guidance awaited from both UK and Scottish Governments. The Applicant will work with communities to ensure the CBF is set up in a way that suit their needs.
Economic Opportunities	Request for clarity in relation to ports and supply-chain opportunities (including	Updated information was shared on potential port requirements and continued engagement with local authorities and port operators. The Supply Chain and



Key Theme	You Said	We Did
	infrastructure upgrades and employment) that the Project could generate and contribute towards locally.	Skills Fund was discussed in terms of how it could help create opportunities for training, apprenticeships, and local businesses as the Project develops.
Community Led Renewable Developments	Interest in community ownership, with a view to reduce fuel poverty.	Strong interest was acknowledged in community-energy approaches and committed to engaging with those interested in shared ownership.
Visual/Seascape Impacts	Requests to view photomontages of the windfarm at nighttime, to demonstrate lighting.	SLVIA materials were expanded for Statutory Consultation Round Two. This included: five night-time photomontages, additional daytime photomontages, refined wirelines, and a 3D virtual reality model that allowed consultees to explore views from locations most relevant to them. These tools were made available at in-person events and in the virtual consultation room to support clearer, more accessible understanding of scale, lighting and visibility.
Visual/Seascape Impacts	Queries and interest into whether the Project can reduce any associated light pollution.	Provided detailed explanations of marine and aviation lighting requirements. Questions were raised around Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems (ADLS) and other “on-demand lighting” systems that are being used in Europe. The Applicant confirmed that lighting mitigation will continue to be explored post-consent with regulators including the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and NLB, with NatureScot input, to minimise visual effects where possible while maintaining navigational and aviation safety.
Environmental Stewardship	Interest in the species identified during environmental surveys and how any negative impacts on marine mammals and birds will be mitigated.	Technical specialists attended all in-person events and webinars to answer detailed questions on corncrake, Greenland white-fronted geese, basking sharks, marine mammals, fisheries, underwater noise, and other ecological topics. Discussions were held in relation to past and ongoing survey work, how data is analysed, and how mitigation is being developed through the EIA.
Consultation Quality	Consensus that the updated photomontages combined with the 3D virtual reality model make it easier to understand the visual impact of the Project.	Additional viewpoints were displayed as photomontages, from 14 viewpoints during Statutory Consultation Round One and 28 during Statutory consultation round two. Clearer information boards were created and an interactive 3D virtual reality model was developed to support public understanding.
Engagement Expectations	Queries around future opportunities to engage with the Project, and most importantly, shape the Project as it evolves.	The Applicant is committed to continued long-term engagement, including exploring community-led advisory groups, stronger communication channels (newsletters, website updates, targeted local messaging), and maintaining open dialogue throughout the lifetime of the Project.



## 10 LESSONS LEARNT

### 10.1 STATUTORY CONSULTATION ROUND ONE

193. Throughout the first round of Statutory Consultation, the Applicant gathered valuable insights into the effectiveness of engagement methods, the accessibility of consultation materials, and the needs and expectations of communities across the host islands. The lessons learned informed improvements carried forward into the second round.
194. Engagement methods that supported meaningful two-way dialogue, particularly the in-person drop-in events and webinars, proved highly effective. The ability for attendees to speak directly with technical specialists enhanced understanding of complex topics such as SLVIA, ecology, and fisheries. The virtual consultation rooms were also well-used, providing flexibility for consultees who could not attend events in person.
195. Feedback received during the first round of statutory consultation led to several tangible improvements in how the Project communicates and interacts with local communities within the second round:
- Venue Adjustments on Mull – The venue used during Statutory Consultation Round One was cited as not convenient for some residents. For the second round, the event location in the Ross of Mull was revised, ensuring the venue was situated closer to where residents naturally gather.
  - Geographic Coverage on Islay (North and South) - Feedback highlighted the need for more balanced engagement across different parts of Islay. As a result, consultation events were held in both northern and southern locations during the second round of consultation to ensure all residents had equitable access to the Project team.
  - Use of Accessible Language - During Statutory Consultation Round One, it was highlighted that some of the project materials relied on specialist terminology (for example, technical terms such as “metocean”), which could make some information inaccessible. For Round Two, the Project team reviewed all materials to reduce technical jargon, ensuring information was presented in clear, accessible terms.
196. Certain logistical challenges were also identified such as the dispersed geography of the islands, which created accessibility challenges for some consultees. In response, additional events were scheduled, and the virtual consultation space was maintained for the full consultation period to ensure full territorial coverage. Consultees expressed a need for clearer visual materials to understand potential landscape and seascape impacts. In response the Project expanded its SLVIA materials, including additional photomontages, and a 3D virtual reality model for the second round of consultation.

### 10.2 STATUTORY CONSULTATION ROUND TWO

197. The second round of Statutory Consultation was designed to build directly on the lessons learned from Round One, with a clear focus on improving accessibility, strengthening two-way dialogue, and presenting more detailed, refined information about the Project. Engagement activities during Statutory Consultation Round Two demonstrated high levels of community interest and provided further insight into how residents and stakeholders wish to engage as the Project evolves.
198. A key improvement introduced for Statutory Consultation Round Two was the expansion and enhancement of visual materials, following clear requests from communities during Round One for more detailed and clearer SLVIA outputs. In response, the Applicant provided additional photomontages, five night-time lighting visualisations, and an interactive 3D virtual reality model. These tools enabled consultees to explore turbine visibility more intuitively, including from meaningful



viewpoints and locations to them. Feedback indicated that these additions significantly improved understanding of scale, lighting and landscape effects.

199. Accessibility improvements were made to ensure more equal participation across the islands. Event locations were refined, particularly on Mull, following earlier feedback about travel convenience, and coverage across Islay was balanced by hosting events in both the north and south of the island. Alongside six in-person events, the Applicant also delivered two webinar sessions and maintained a fully updated virtual consultation room, which mirrored the in-person exhibition and provided an accessible alternative for consultees unable to travel.
200. Building on cultural and linguistic feedback from the first round, the Applicant continued to make use of bilingual materials. This approach supported more inclusive engagement across the islands and reflected the importance of cultural identity highlighted during Statutory Consultation Round One.
201. Statutory Consultation Round Two also placed a stronger emphasis on clarity of information and responsiveness to questions raised during the sessions. Technical specialists attended all drop-in events and webinars, enabling detailed discussions about species of concern (such as corncrake, Greenland white-fronted geese and basking sharks), underwater noise, marine ecology, fisheries, and turbine lighting. Residents fed back that this direct access to specialist knowledge improved their understanding of the Project's assessments and constraints.
202. Across all engagement activities, consultees demonstrated increasing interest in the socio-economic aspects of the Project, particularly the Community Benefit Fund and the draft Socio-Economic Action Plan. The Project responded by providing clearer explanations of funding principles, emerging Action Areas, and potential long-term opportunities such as skills development, local supply chain participation and marine economy enhancements.
203. Overall, the second round of Statutory Consultation benefitted from a more tailored and more accessible engagement programme. Feedback indicates that consultees felt better informed about the Project, more able to explore updated design information, and more confident that their views are shaping the development of the proposals. At the same time, Statutory Consultation Round Two revealed the continuing need for clear communication and ongoing dialogue as the Project progresses toward EIAR submission and consent determination.

## 11 WIDER ENGAGEMENT

204. Before the PAC process began, the Applicant undertook an extensive programme of non-statutory public engagement to raise awareness and gather feedback. These efforts included, but were not limited to, information drop-in sessions, supporting island community initiatives, and attending community events and meetings. A chronological summary of the wider engagement undertaken to date is illustrated in **Plate 11.1** below.



## 2022

- **October:** first engagement consisted of introductory meetings with Islay and Jura Community Councils and local Development Trusts. Introductory meetings were held with some local businesses, namely distilleries and estates.

## 2024

- **February:** hosted a stand at MAK STEM event in Machrihanish, to showcase a range of renewable career routes, reaching over 140 pupils (Senior year 2-6) in the region.
- **Feb/March:** project update meetings were held with Islay, Jura and Colonsay Community Councils and local Development Trusts.
- **May:** community drop-in sessions were held across Jura, Colonsay, Bowmore, Islay and Port Ellen, Islay. During this visit, the Applicant met with the IET to provide members with a project update.
- **June:** first community drop-in sessions were held on the Ross of Mull and Iona to introduce community members to the Project and team. Attended a meeting with Islay and Jura Senior Citizen Association to introduce the Project to members. Carried out educational session with Port Ellen Primary and Islay High School.
- **August:** the Applicant sponsored the annual Islay, Jura, and Colonsay Agricultural Show, which involved hosting a stand at the event for a second year.
- **November:** rounded off the year at the Islay and Jura's Senior Citizen Tea & Talk event, presenting a project update to 22 attendees. Carried out educational session with Small Isles Primary School, Jura.
- **November:** sponsored and exhibited at the Scottish Maritime Cluster (SMC) Maritime Careers Event at Glasgow Science Centre; this event is catered to S3 pupils with an interest in careers in maritime and renewables.
- **Nov/December:** project update meetings were held with Islay, Jura, Colonsay and Mull Community Councils and local Development Trusts.

## 2026

- **February:** returned to MAK STEM Fest in Machrihanish, for third year to showcase a range of renewable career routes, reaching 110 pupils across Kintyre.
- **Feb/April:** project update meetings, including discussions on the Socio-Economic Action Plan (SEAP), were held with host island Community Councils and local Development Trusts.

## 2023

- **April:** project update meetings were arranged on Islay, Jura, and Colonsay with Argyll and Bute Council, Islay Energy Trust (IET), local councillors, Community Councils, and local Development Trusts. A locally based Community Engagement Manager with cross-island knowledge is appointed.
- **August:** first community drop-in session was held on Colonsay and met with local landowners. The Applicant sponsored the Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show, which involved hosting a stand at the event.
- **October:** engagement event with a focus on children and young people was held on Bowmore beach, Islay, in partnership with marine survey company Fugro, to encourage the construction and decommissioning of a small wind turbine using educational offshore wind toolkits.

## 2025

- **March:** in-person project update with Iona Community Council. Delivered a second round of community drop-in sessions on the Ross of Mull and Iona, including an educational wind turbine-building workshop at Iona Primary School. Hosted a stand at MAK STEM event in Machrihanish to showcase a range of renewable career routes, reaching over 100 pupils (S2-S6) in the region.
- **April - September:** sponsored and attended some of the key local events, including the Colonsay Book Festival (April), Mull Bunnassan Show (August), and the Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show (August) for the third consecutive year.
- **May/June:** completed the first statutory public consultation across five host islands, comprising six in-person events and two online webinars, gathering community feedback.
- **August:** launched the MachairWind Small Donations Fund (SDF) in response to community feedback to support local groups during the early project development phase, 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.
- **Oct/November:** completed the second statutory public consultation across five host islands, comprising six in-person events and two online webinars, informing on key findings from first round of statutory consultation and gathering further community feedback.
- **December:** allocation of Small Donations Fund, 21 applicants across the Project's five host communities were successful.

Plate 11.1 Timeline of Engagement Activities



## 11.1 PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY WIDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

### 11.1.1 2022

205. In October 2022, two public information drop-in events were held on Jura and Islay with another held on Colonsay in August 2023. Around 55 people attended these sessions, which introduced the Project and invited residents to share their views. The events took place at Jura Village Hall in Craighouse on 25 October 2022 and the Islay Gaelic Centre in Bowmore on 27 October 2022.
206. Conversations during these meetings provided valuable insight into local priorities such as education, skills development, and support for community initiatives, while also highlighting the unique challenges faced by different islands.
207. In addition to this, introductory meetings were held with Islay and Jura Community Councils and community trusts to help understand local priorities with a focus on, community benefits, infrastructure constraints, fisheries, supply chain opportunities and strengthening stakeholder mapping.

### 11.1.2 2023

208. In April project update meetings were arranged on Islay, Jura, and Colonsay with Community Councils, and local development and community trusts, local businesses and estates. A public drop-in event was held in Colonsay Village Hall on 09 August 2023.
209. In August, the team held an informal public information drop-in event on Colonsay and met with local landowners as well as expanding its outreach by hosting a stand at the Islay, Jura, and Colonsay Agricultural Show, engaging with visitors and sharing project materials. Approximately 1,600 people attended the Show, with 180 visiting the stand, providing the opportunity to engage with individuals who might not typically attend public events.
210. In October the Project hosted its first educational engagement event on Bowmore Beach (Islay), building and decommissioning small wind turbines.



*Plate 11.2 Left: Colonsay visit 2023. Right: Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show 2023*

### 11.1.3 2024

211. Two rounds of public information drop-in events were held in 2024. The first round, held in May, included four sessions across Jura, Colonsay, and Islay. These events provided updates on key developments such as the refinement of the WDA and the publication of the BiGGAR Economics Opportunities and Impacts report. Information boards, maps, and leaflets were available to explain the Project's scope and outline opportunities for community benefits, supply chain involvement, and STEM learning. Approximately 100 people attended these events.



212. The second round of drop-in events held in June introduced the Project to communities on Iona and Ross of Mull through two public information drop-in events. These initial events focused on building awareness and gathering feedback on local priorities, including support for renewable energy, concerns about infrastructure limitations, and suggestions for future engagement. Approximately 20 people attended these events.



*Plate 11.3 Left: Jura Care Centre, May 2024. Right: Creich Hall, Ross of Mull, June 2024.*

213. The Project team returned to the Islay, Jura, and Colonsay Agricultural Show in August 2024 for a second consecutive year. Approximately 300 visitors engaged with the stand, which featured information boards, maps, feedback surveys, and interactive activities for children and young people. This approach helped strengthen community connections and encouraged wider participation.
214. In November 2024, the team attended the Islay and Jura Senior Citizens Association event where they presented an overview of the Project to 22 people in an auditorium set-up and provided an open Q&A session.
215. Further project update meetings were held in November and December 2024 with Islay, Jura, Colonsay and Mull Community Councils as well as local development and community trusts.

#### 11.1.4 2025

216. The team hosted a stand at MAK STEM event in Machrihanish in February 2025, to showcase a range of renewable career routes, reaching over 110 pupils (S2-S6) in the region. The Applicant undertook educational engagement with children and young people, to ensure the Project was understood by the full range of communities likely to be interested and impacted by the proposed development.
217. In March, project update meeting was held with Iona Community Council with a focus on key development activities, project timeline and upcoming PAC events. A second round of community drop-in sessions were delivered on the Ross of Mull and Iona, including an educational wind turbine-building workshop at Iona Primary School.
218. In April, the team attended Colonsay Book Festival, sponsoring this event for the first time, where some 400 visitors and residents attended.
219. In June 2025, further project update meetings were held with local development and community trusts with a focus on key development activities, project timeline, energy aspirations and upcoming public PAC events.
220. The team then returned for a third time to sponsor the Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show in August, where displays and activities attracted around 350 visitors. In that same month for the first



time, the team hosted and sponsored a stand at the Buessan Show on Mull, with around 80 visitors to the Project stand. All of which offered a further opportunity to reach community members who might not have been able or willing attend public events.



Plate 11.4 Left: Colonsay Book Festival, April 2025. Right: Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show, August 2025.

**11.1.5 2026**

221. From February to April, further project update meetings were held with Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Mull and Iona Community Councils as well as local development and community trusts, with a focus on key findings on our statutory consultation events, further project and project timeline updates and an introduction to the **SEAP**.

Table 11.1 Summary of meetings with community groups and local organisations

Date	Locations	Community Groups and Local Organisations	Engagement Summary
October 2022	Islay and Jura	Community Councils and Development Trusts (Islay, Jura)	Introductory meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand local priorities (community benefits, infrastructure constraints, fisheries, supply chain opportunities); and</li> <li>• Strengthened stakeholder mapping.</li> </ul>
April 2023	Islay, Jura and Colonsay	Island businesses, estates, Community Councils and Development Trusts	
February 2024	Online and in-person (Jura, Colonsay)	Community Councils and Development Trusts	Series of meetings with Community Councils and Development Trusts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project updates;</li> <li>• Outlined engagement plans for 2024/25; and</li> <li>• Discussions regarding establishment of a community advisory group.</li> </ul>
March - May 2024	Online and in person (Islay, Mull and Iona)	Community Councils, Development Trusts and Islay Energy Trust (IET)	Series of meetings with Community Councils and local Development Trusts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project characteristics and development activities;</li> </ul>



Date	Locations	Community Groups and Local Organisations	Engagement Summary
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing engagement;</li> <li>• Update on timelines and feasibility studies;</li> <li>• BiGGAR Economics Opportunities and Impacts report; and</li> <li>• Explored current and future energy demand, and associated infrastructure needs, on Islay.</li> </ul>
Nov 2024	Islay in-person	Islay and Jura Senior Citizen Association	Presented an overview of the Project to 22 persons in an auditorium set-up and provided an open Q&A session at the end.
Nov – Dec 2024	Microsoft Teams Jura – in-person Islay – in-person	Mull Community Council South West Mull and Iona Development (SWMID) Jura Community Council Islay Community Council Islay Energy Trust (IET) Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) Colonsay Community Council/Colonsay Community Development Company (CCDC)	Attended monthly meetings to provide update on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key development activities and project timeline;</li> <li>• WDA Scoping Report submission; and</li> <li>• Community engagement plans, including first round of PAC.</li> </ul>
March 2025	Iona – in-person	Iona Community Council	Attended meetings to provide update focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key development activities and project timeline;</li> <li>• WDA Scoping Opinion (January 2025);</li> <li>• Social &amp; Economic Impact Assessment; and</li> <li>• Community engagement plans, including first round of PAC.</li> </ul>
May 2025	Islay – in-person	South Islay Development (SID)	Attended meeting to provide update on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key development activities and project timeline;</li> <li>• Community engagement; and</li> <li>• Informed on first round of PAC.</li> </ul>
June 2025	Islay in -person	Islay Energy Trust (IET)	Discussions relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photomontage map and virtual consultation room;</li> </ul>



Date	Locations	Community Groups and Local Organisations	Engagement Summary
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned grid infrastructure upgrades in context of future energy demand;</li> <li>Regulatory challenges of a direct connection from Project to Islay; and</li> <li>Energy aspirations for Islay (housing, distilleries and transport).</li> </ul>
Feb-April 2026	In-person (Islay) and Microsoft Teams	Mull Community Council Iona Community Council Colonsay Community Council / Colonsay Community Development Company (CCDC) Islay Community Council South Islay Development (SID) Jura Community Council Jura Development Trust	Attended monthly meeting to provide project update focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key findings from statutory consultations;</li> <li>Project activities updates;</li> <li>Introduction to SEAP; and</li> <li>Questions and answers.</li> </ul>

Table 11.2 Summary of non-statutory public drop-in events hosted and local island events attended

Date and Time	Locations	Number of Attendees	Description
25 October 2022 12 - 3pm	Jura Village Hall, Craighouse	Approximately 55 people attended these events.	Public information drop-in event in central venues.
27 October 2022 3 - 6pm	Islay Gaelic Centre, Bowmore		Local people met the Project team, who answered their questions and gained a better understanding of:
9 August 2023 5 - 7pm	Colonsay Village Hall, Scalasaig		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education and skills needs and interests</li> <li>Support for local initiatives</li> <li>The distinct challenges between island communities.</li> </ul>
10 August 2023 10 - 4pm	Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show, Bridgend, Islay	Approximately 1,600 attended the Show, with around 180 people attending the Project's stand specifically.	Hosted a stand encouraging attendees to stop by, ask questions. Materials available included printed copies of the community newsletter and maps of the WDA. High footfall event helped the team reach community members who may not have previously heard about the Project, and/or; would not



Date and Time	Locations	Number of Attendees	Description
			typically attend or were unable to attend the first round of public drop-in events.
7 May 2024 3 - 6.30pm	Jura Care Centre, Craighouse	Approximately 100 people attended these events.	<p>Second round of public information drop-in events to update on key developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refinement of the WDA</li> <li>• The BiGGAR Economics Opportunities and Impacts report.</li> </ul> <p>The event featured information boards, printed maps and leaflets.</p> <p>Materials also highlighted opportunities related to supply chain investment and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) learning.</p>
8 May 2024 2.30 - 6.30pm	Colonsay Village Hall, Scalasaig		
9 May 2024 1.30 - 4.30pm	Islay Gaelic Centre, Bowmore		
9 May 2024 6 - 8.30pm	Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen		
12 June 2024 2.30 - 4pm	Iona Village Hall, Iona	Approximately 20 people attended these events.	<p>Public information drop-in event in central venues.</p> <p>Local people met the Project team, who answered their questions and gained a better understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for renewable energy;</li> <li>• Concerns about existing infrastructure constraints;</li> <li>• Suggestions for future engagement and communication; and</li> <li>• Ongoing engagement to build strong working relationships.</li> </ul>
12 June 2024 5 - 7.30pm	Creich Hall, Fionnphort, Mull		
8 August 2024 10 - 4pm	Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show, Bridgend, Islay	Approximately 1,000 people attended the Show, with approximately 300 people attending the Project's stand.	<p>Hosted a stand for the second year, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information boards, printed maps and information leaflets, and merchandise;</li> <li>• Interactive activities for community members, especially young people.</li> </ul>
25 March 2025 3.30 - 7.30pm	Creich Hall, Fionnphort Mull	Approximately 20 people attended these events, including families and community representatives.	<p>Second round of public information drop-in events aimed to update on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WDA refinement;</li> <li>• EIA process;</li> <li>• Future plans for consultation; and</li> <li>• Materials included information banners, printed maps and leaflets.</li> </ul>
26 March 2025 2 - 7.30pm	Iona Village Hall, Iona		



Date and Time	Locations	Number of Attendees	Description
27 - 28 April 2025	Colonsay Book Festival	Approximately 400 people attended the festival, of which approximately 130 were Colonsay residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence in the village hall;</li> <li>• Materials available included information banners, printed maps and leaflets; and</li> <li>• Merchandise in keeping with event (branded bookmarks and notepads).</li> </ul>
6 August 2025 10 - 4.30pm	Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show, Bridgend, Islay	Approximately 1,200 people attended the Show, with approximately 350 people attending the Project's stand.	<p>Hosted a stand encouraging attendees to stop by and ask questions and provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interactive games, including Virtual Reality (VR) headsets showing onshore and offshore windfarms and Buzzwire task;</li> <li>• Materials available included printed copies of the Summer 2025 MachairWind Information Booklet and maps of the refined WDA;</li> <li>• Highlighted the launch of the MachairWind Small Donations Fund, with support from the Argyll and Bute MSP; and</li> <li>• High-footfall event helped the team reach community members who may not have previously heard about the Project, and/or would not typically attend or were unable to attend the first round of public consultation events.</li> </ul>
30 August 2025 11 - 4.30pm	Bunessan Agricultural Show, Ross of Mull	Approximately 1,500 people attended the Show, with approximately 80 people attending the Project's stand	<p>Hosted an indoor stand encouraging attendees to stop by and ask questions and provided;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interactive games, including VR headsets showing onshore and offshore windfarms;</li> <li>• Materials available included printed copies of the Summer 2025 MachairWind Information Booklet and maps of the refined WDA;</li> <li>• Highlighted the launch of the MachairWind Small Donations Fund; and</li> <li>• High-footfall event helped the team reach community members who may not have previously heard about the Project, and/or would not typically attend or were unable to attend the first round of public consultation events.</li> </ul>



## 12 CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

222. The Applicant has delivered a comprehensive programme of engagement to ensure that local communities and stakeholders are kept informed about the evolving development proposals and have meaningful opportunities to share their views. All materials provided throughout the Statutory Consultation process are included in the Appendices to this report.
223. This PAC Report provides a full account of all engagement activities, in line with the legislative requirements set out in the EIAR (**Chapter 2 Policy and Legislation**). In addition to meeting statutory obligations, the Project Team has carried out a wide range of supplementary engagement with stakeholders beyond these requirements.
224. The report has been submitted to the Marine Directorate as part of the consent applications. The Applicant remains committed to maintaining open communication and collaboration throughout the application process and continuing engagement during construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning.
225. Subject to consent and approval, construction of the MachairWind Offshore Windfarm is assumed to be in the early 2030s.

### 12.1 SUBMISSION OF CONSENT APPLICATIONS

226. A tablet device providing access to the digital EIAR and supporting documents, including this PAC Report, is available at the locations listed below. Printed copies of the Non-Technical Summary Report(s), including plans detailing MachairWind's proposed location, further information on the development, and an analysis of its environmental implications, are available for inspection at these locations. Visual materials associated with the EIAR, including maps, photomontages, and wirelines, are also available in print at these locations.
227. The application and supporting documents will also be available via the Document Library on the project website: <https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/offshore/machairwind/document-library>.
228. Copies of the relevant documents will be made available for public inspection at:
- Islay Service Point, Jamieson Street, Bowmore, Isle of Islay, PA43 7HP;
  - Jura Service Point, Craighouse, Isle of Jura PA60 7XG;
  - Colonsay Service Point, Scalasaig, Isle of Colonsay, PA61 7YW;
  - Island Castaways, The Square, Bunessan, Isle of Mull PA67 6DG; and
  - Iona Village Hall, Isle of Iona PA76 6SJ.
229. The venues listed have limited opening hours, where these are not advertised, please contact the Project team ([machairwind@scottishpower.com](mailto:machairwind@scottishpower.com)) to ensure you can access the documents at the appropriate times.



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