MachairWind Offshore Windfarm

Tuathanas-Gaoithe Far Oirthir MachairWind

Windfarm Development Area Information Booklet: Summer 2025

Raon-Leasachaidh Tuathanas-Gaoithe Leabhar Fiosrachaidh: Samhradh 2025





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MachairWind Windfarm Development Area | Summer 2025



Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show, August 2024

Welcome

MachairWind is a proposed offshore windfarm located northwest of Islay and west of Colonsay, with potential to deliver around 2 Gigawatts (GW) of clean, green energy - enough to power the equivalent of up to 2 million homes.

MachairWind is wholly owned by ScottishPower Renewables (SPR), a leader in the development of renewable energy projects - both onshore and offshore. To date, SPR has over 3GW of operational assets across wind, solar and battery storage technologies. SPR is part of the Iberdrola Group, one of the world's largest utilities and a leading wind energy producer.

In 2022, SPR secured a seabed option agreement from Crown Estate Scotland to develop the MachairWind offshore windfarm site. Since then, numerous surveys have been undertaken to enhance our knowledge of the site, such as the ground conditions, existing marine mammal and ornithology species, and wind and wave conditions.

During this time, the project team have shared information and sought expertise from stakeholders across a range of sectors, such as heritage and environment, commercial fishing, renewable energy, infrastructure and education. Importantly, we have been building relationships with local people in our host communities - Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Ross of Mull and lona - to better understand the distinct priorities between and within communities and ensure as many people as possible are aware of MachairWind and how they can share their views.

This six-week public consultation is focused on the windfarm development area infrastructure and activities. The other parts of the project (the offshore transmission infrastructure and the onshore infrastructure) are being consented separately and consultation will follow on these at a later date. To provide you with a holistic view of the project, this booklet shares information on the full project, whilst focusing in on the windfarm development area's infrastructure, impacts and opportunities.

This is the first round of consultation that we will hold for the windfarm development area: we will hold another consultation later this year, where we will provide an update on how your feedback has helped shape our decision making on MachairWind.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information booklet, which we hope you will find provides helpful information about MachairWind, to enable you to have your say on our windfarm development area proposals. Please see the Have your Say section, which outlines the numerous ways you can share your views.

Please respond to the consultation by Sunday 6th July 2025.

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



machairwind@scottishpower.com



Team, ScottishPower HQ, 320 St Vincent

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

Fàilte

Tha am pròiseact tuathanaich-gaoithe far-oirthir, suidhichte an iar-thuath Ìle agus an iar Cholbhasa, MachairWind, comasach air timcheall air 2 GigaWatt (GW) de lùth glan, uaine a thoirt gu buil – gu leòr airson cumhachd a thoirt do cho-ionnanachd suas ri 2 mhillean dachaigh.

Tha MachairWind le sealbh iomlan aig ScottishPower Renewables (SPR), stiùiriche ann an leasachadh phròiseactan lùth ath-nuadhachail – air tìr agus far-oirthir le chèile. Gu ruige seo, tha còrr is 3GW de mhaoin obrachaidh aig SPR thar theicneòlasan gaoithe, grèine agus stòraidh bataraidh. Tha SPR na phàirt de Bhuidheann Iberdrola, aon de na companaidhean-uisge as motha san t-saoghal agus prìomh neach-dèanaidh lùth gaoithe.

Ann an 2022, fhuair SPR aonta roghainn air bonn na mara le Crown Estate Scotland airson tuathanas-gaoithe far-oirthir a leasachadh aig an àite ris an theirear a-nis MachairWind. Rè nam bliadhnaichean a dh'fhalbh, chaidh grunn sgrùdaidhean a dhèanamh gus ar n-eòlas air an àite a mheudachadh, leithid suidheachadh na talmhainn, gnèithean mamalan mara is eun-eòlais a tha ann mu thràth, agus suidheachadh gaoithe is thonnan.

Rè na h-ùine seo, tha an sgioba pròiseict air fiosrachadh a roinn agus eòlas a shireadh bho luchd-ùidh thar raon de roinnean, leithid dualchas is àrainneachd, iasgach malairteach, lùth ath-nuadhachail, bun-structar agus foghlam. Nas cudromaiche buileach, tha sinn air a bhith a' togail dhàimhean le daoine ionadail anns na coimhearsnachdan aoigheachd againn – Ìle, Diùra, Colla, Ros Mhuile agus Ì Chaluim Chille - gus tuigse nas fheàrr fhaighinn air na prìomhachasan eadar-dhealaichte eadar agus taobh a-staigh nan coimhearsnachdan agus gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil uimhir de dhaoine 's a ghabhas mothachail mu MachairWind agus mar as urrainn dhaibh am beachdan a chur an cèill.

Tha an co-chomhairle phoblach sè-seachdaineach seo ag amas air bun-structar agus gnìomhan sgìre leasachaidh an tuathanais-gaoithe. Tha pàirtean eile den phròiseact (a' toirt a-steach bun-structar sgaoilidh far-oirthir agus bun-structar air tìr) gan sireadh cead air leth agus thèid co-chomhairle a chumail air an fheadhainn sin aig ceann-ùine eile. Gus sealladh iomlan a thoirt dhuibh air a' phròiseact, tha am leabhran fiosrachaidh seo a' toirt seachad fiosrachadh air fad a' phròiseict, fhad 's a tha e ag amas gu sònraichte air dè tha sgìre leasachaidh tuathanais-gaoithe MachairWind a' gabhail a-steach a thaobh bun-structair, buaidhean agus cothroman.

'S e seo a' chiad chuairt de cho-chomhairle a nì sinn airson sgìre leasachaidh an tuathanais-gaoithe; bidh co-chomhairle eile againn nas fhaide air adhart am-bliadhna, agus ann am pàirt, seallaidh sin mar a tha ur beachdan air cuideachadh le bhith a' cumadh a' phròiseis co-dhùnaidh.

Mòran taing airson an ùine a ghabhail gus an leabhran fiosrachaidh seo a leughadh, agus tha sinn an dòchas gun toir e fiosrachadh feumail dhuibh mu MachairWind, gus am bi sibh comasach ur beachdan a chur an cèill air na molaidhean airson sgìre leasachaidh an tuathanais-gaoithe; faicibh earrann 6 a tha a' mìneachadh na dòighean anns an urrainn dhuibh ur beachdan a thoirt seachad.

Feuch gun freagair sibh an co-chomhairle ro Didòmhnaich 6 An t-Iuchair 2025.

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



Post-d: machairwind@scottishpower.com



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

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

1. Project Overview Sealladh Coitcheann air a' Phròiseact

In April 2022, Crown Estate Scotland awarded 17 projects as part of the ScotWind leasing round, the first offshore wind leasing round in Scottish waters for a decade.

MachairWind Limited entered into an Option to Lease Agreement with Crown Estate Scotland for MachairWind Offshore Windfarm and since then we have been developing our proposals.

1.1. NEED FOR MACHAIRWIND

MachairWind has the potential to deliver around 2 gigawatts of clean, green energy, which could power the equivalent of up to 2 million homes around the United Kingdom.

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.

As more and more people shift away from using fossil fuels to heat their homes and power their cars, the demand for electricity is set to increase significantly, requiring more clean electricity generation to be built to keep up with demand.

Renewable energy costs have fallen markedly over the past decade as capacity has grown and technologies have been refined. This is particularly true of offshore wind, which has become one of the cheapest forms of new electricity generation in the UK.

Offshore wind also has a wider economic benefit, with each gigawatt of new offshore wind contributing approximately £2-3bn of Gross Value Add to the UK economy (RenewableUK, 2024).

1.2. CONSENTING THE PROJECT

MachairWind is classified as a National Development under the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4. This means that whilst the need for the Project has been established through Government policy, planning permission, marine licences and other consents or licences are still required for construction and operation activities.

The onshore grid connection has yet to be confirmed, therefore, separate consents will be sought for areas defined as follows:

- The Windfarm Development Area (WDA);
- The Offshore Transmission Development Area; and
- The Onshore Transmission Development Area.



Once the location for the project's onshore infrastructure has been identified, we will progresss separate consent applications for the Transmission Infrastructure. Each consent application and associated assessments will take account of the wider Project.

This consultation is for the windfarm area only. To ensure we are consulting in a meaningful and transparent way, the infrastructure considered to be part of the Offshore Transmission Development Area - the export cable(s), offshore substation platform(s), and offshore substation platform link cables - are also represented in the consultation materials to provide you with a full view of the infrastructure that could be part of the windfarm. At this stage, the size, location and number of offshore substation platform(s), offshore substation platform link cables, and number of export cable(s) are indicative. The project will undertake consultation for the Offshore Transmission Development Area and Onshore Transmission Development Area infrastructure at a later date.

We will submit applications for Section 36 consent and Marine Licenses for the proposed infrastructure within the Windfarm Development Area.



Section 36 consent: As the Windfarm Development Area infrastructure comprises an offshore generating station with greater than 1 Megawatt capacity, there is a requirement for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. Section 36 consent will authorise the installation and operation and maintenance of the fixed wind turbine, inter-array cables and associated infrastructure within the Windfarm Development Area;

Marine Licences: As the Windfarm Development Area infrastructure comprises a renewable energy structure exceeding 10,000m², there is also a requirement to obtain marine licenses for relevant construction and operational activities from the Scottish Ministers under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. License applications will be submitted to the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate - Licencing Operations Team, which is responsible for processing applications on behalf of the Scottish Ministers.

Our consenting applications for the MachairWind Windfarm Development Area infrastructure will be supported by detailed impact assessments including an Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulations Appraisal.

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The initial stages of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping and Habitats Regulations Appraisal Screening were completed between September 2024 – January 2025, available in the Document Library on the MachairWind website: www.machairwind.com

1.3. WINDFARM SITE REFINEMENT

The windfarm site from the option to lease area awarded by Crown Estate Scotland covered an area of seabed of 754km². Following our ground investigation surveys in 2023, the site was refined down from 754km² to 510km² as shown in black and red respectively in the map above. These surveys helped us identify the more favourable ground conditions. Water depths on the reduced site now range between 28.6m and 89.6m.

We anticipate the site will be refined further as our understanding of the site progresses; this refinement will be informed by several factors such as stakeholder feedback, environmental considerations and construction and operational requirements.

1.4. WINDFARM DEVELOPMENT AREA INFRASTRUCTURE

The figure below represents a typical windfarm, as well as our different areas for consenting purposes.



The windfarm is expected to include the following infrastructure components:

- Up to 147 wind turbines on fixed foundations- a tried and tested technology;
- Inter-array cables 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 inter-array cables and offshore export cables; 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.

The Project is not including options for floating wind turbine foundations.

The Project is still within the early stages so it cannot be confirmed exactly how many wind turbines will be installed (and their dimensions) but based on the wind turbines likely to be available on the market at the time the Project enters construction, the smallest and biggest turbines we are currently considering are:

The final selection of wind turbines will be made once further surveys, technical studies and engagement with the supply chain have been undertaken with the final decision being made post-consent. These parameters are indicative and are



being reviewed on a regular basis and will be refined as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

It is worth noting that the project also requires some transmission infrastructure to bring the electricity ashore. Offshore substation(s) will be located among the turbines and as such, detailed in the following sections. They are however part of the 'Transmission Infrastructure' in terms of our planning application process.

1.5. TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE The transmission infrastructure, to be fully assessed in a separate consenting process, will include:

- Up to two offshore substation platforms, to collect and convert the electricity generated by the wind turbines before transmitting it to shore.
- The main export subsea cable(s) transmitting the electricity generated by the wind turbines from the offshore substation platforms to shore.
- Landfall (where cable comes ashore).
- Any onshore infrastructure that will be detailed at a later date, expected to include an HVDC switching station.

The identification of the onshore grid connection is included as part of a wider Holistic Network Design process led by the National Grid Electricity System Operator (now the National Energy System Operator). Work is ongoing to confirm the final grid connection arrangements for the Project.

The design that is currently proposed for MachairWind features a High Voltage Direct Current connection from the windfarm to a switching station that is expected to be located in South Ayrshire, which further connects separate cables to North Ayrshire and south to England or Wales. The exact connection location is subject to an ongoing optioneering study being undertaken by the Transmission Owner.

At this stage, the size, location and number of offshore substation platform(s), offshore substation platform link cables, and number of export cable(s) are indicative. The Project will undertake consultation for the Offshore Transmission Development Area and Onshore Transmission Development Area infrastructure at a later date.

1.6. INDICATIVE PROJECT TIMELINE

Developing MachairWind involves significant work, and our priority is to deliver a project that minimises effects on local communities and the environment, while delivering clean, renewable energy. The programme on the right sets out the anticipated timeline for developing MachairWind. MachairWind is expected to begin generating electricity in the early 2030s and has an indicative design life of 35 years.





Indicative Project Timeline

	2021 to 2023: Progressed with technical and environmental surveys, feasibility studies and community stakeholder engagement.
→	2022: MachairWind entered into its Option to Lease Agreement with Crown Estate Scotland.
	2023-2024: First site investigation campaign and one year metocean campaign completed.
	Jan 2025: Windfarm Development Area Scoping Opinion received from Marine Directorate.
	2025: Community Engagement and Site Investigation Surveys continue.
	2026: Consent Application submitted for the Windfarm Development Area.
	2027: Consent decision for the Windfarm Development Area.
	Late 2020s: Construction to start.
	Early 2030s: First export of power from the windfarm.

2. How are We Assessing the Impacts?

Dè mar a tha sinn a' measadh nam buaidhean?

2.1. WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT **ASSESSMENT (EIA)?**

Before we can build our offshore windfarm, we need to carefully consider the impacts it might have on the environment and the local communities. To do this, we are undertaking a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) focusing on the Windfarm Development Area (WDA) infrastructure.

Due to the interlinking nature of the Windfarm Development Area (WDA), Offshore Transmission Development area, and Onshore Transmission Development Area infrastructure, the assessment of the WDA will consider an appraisal of the construction. Operations & Maintenance and decommissioning of the Offshore Transmission Development Area activities, and Onshore Transmission Development Area activities (commensurate with the level of detail that is available at the time of carrying out that appraisal). This approach will ensure a holistic view is undertaken of the entire Project.

The findings of this assessment will be accounted for in our project design and presented in the Windfarm Development Area Environmental Impact Assessment Report which will be submitted to the Marine Directorate alongside our Windfarm Development Area consent application.

Below is a high-level summary of the key topics that our EIA will be assessing; for more detail on all of the topics that will be assessed, please view our EIA Scoping Report available in the Document Library on our website: www.machairwind.com

2.2. WHAT IS A HABITATS REGULATIONS APPRAISAL?

Alongside the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report, the Project team has prepared a Habitats Regulations Appraisal Screening Report.

The Marine Directorate (on behalf of Scottish Ministers) is the competent authority with responsibility for Habitats Regulations Appraisal, and its response to our Habitats Regulations Appraisal Screening Report is included within the Scoping Opinion (a copy of which is available on the Marine Directorate website).

Where the Habitats Regulations Appraisal Screening Report has identified the potential for "likely significant effects" on a designated site, and the Screening Opinion agrees with this



conclusion, an Appropriate Assessment is required to be undertaken by the Marine Directorate.

The conservation sites considered in Habitats **Regulations Appraisal are:**

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

2.3. APPROACH TO ASSESSMENTS

We have undertaken an extensive programme of surveys to understand current environmental conditions and create a baseline for the assessment. We will provide further information later this year at our second round of statutory consultation, where we will summarise the findings from these surveys.

Alongside our surveys, we are also engaging with key stakeholders, including government and statutory consultees. The purpose of this engagement is to introduce the Project to consultees, present the survey data collected to date on key topics, and to consult on the assessment methodologies to ensure they are satisfied with our proposed approach.



our application, to make a well-informed decision on whether the Project should be granted consent. This document will be made public at the time of submission.

- Licencing Operations Team in 2026.

2.4. PROJECT DESIGN

Consent would be granted on the basis of a range of parameters to allow flexibility in the final detailed design of the Project.

Many different, often competing, factors need to be weighed up when arriving at a final windfarm design; these include existing marine related infrastructure, other marine users and a wide range of environmental and engineering considerations. Where it is possible for us to do so, we will seek to balance these factors with feedback received during consultation to help inform the project design.

For example:

Fixed foundation designs that we will consider for the Project will be informed by environmental characteristics such as ground conditions, water depths and metocean conditions, technoeconomic parameters including the size of wind turbines selected, and supply chain constraints (including, but not limited to, installation vessel supply challenges and/or port limitations).

2.5. SITE SURVEYS

We have undertaken offshore surveys and studies to understand the site conditions, local marine wildlife, habitats and species including:

- Third-party benthic survey (2021), including sediment grabs and drop-down video.
- Third-party offshore bird, marine mammal and basking shark surveys (2020 to 2022) for 16 months, using planes.
- Offshore bird, marine mammal and basking shark surveys (2021 to 2023) for 30 months, using planes.
- A geophysical survey (2023) of the entire site including drop-down videos with seabed photographs and water samples for environmental DNA analysis.
- Metocean survey (2023 to present) to collect information on weather and ocean conditions.
- Marine vessel traffic surveys (2023 and 2025) to assess navigational risks.
- A more detailed geophysical survey (2025) of the reduced windfarm area.

2.6. FISH, SHELLFISH AND BENTHIC ECOLOGY

All fish and shellfish species and key habitats that have been recorded within the site either by site-specific surveys or within existing datasets will be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment. Environmental DNA samples were also collected during our 2023 survey campaign.

A number of potential impacts will be assessed such as temporary physical disturbance, habitat loss, underwater noise and vibration, introduction of marine invasive non-native species, colonisation of introduced hard substrate, and vessel collision for basking shark.

Further studies will be undertaken including:

- An underwater noise assessment to understand potential effects on fish from our temporary construction works and operational noise; and
- Further data analysis on fish and shellfish species including engagement with key stakeholders Marine Directorate (on behalf of Scottish Ministers) and NatureScot.

Subject to MachairWind being granted consent, further surveys will be undertaken pre-construction to identify any sensitive habitats/species within the areas where infrastructure will be installed. This will enable the identification and avoidance of sensitive features, as far as practicable at a very local level.



There are sand dunes on the seabed of this site? Sand dunes may move, just like they do on land!

2.7. BIRDS

MachairWind is located in waters with important seabird colonies to the north-east on the island of Colonsay and to the south on Rathlin Island. These colonies include important numbers of fulmar kittiwake, guillemot and puffin. There are also smaller populations of shag, cormorant, great blackbacked gull, herring gull, Arctic tern and black guillemot in the area.

Other breeding colonies of seabirds include Manx shearwater colonies on Rum and Copeland Island and storm petrel colonies on Lunga in the Treshnish Isles. The nearest gannet colony is on Ailsa Craig in the Firth of Clyde and is the most likely source of birds in the breeding season.

In the non-breeding season, nearshore waters are important for several species of wintering water birds, particularly common eider and great northern diver.

Migratory ducks, geese, swans and shorebirds also pass through the region on passage between their breeding locations in Iceland, Greenland and Canada and wintering areas in Scotland and elsewhere in the UK. Internationally important numbers of Greenland white-fronted goose and Greenland barnacle goose winter on Islay, with important numbers of Canadian light-bellied brent goose stopping on passage.

A combination of site-specific aerial survey data and deskbased assessments will be used to characterise the existing environment around the windfarm. The Environmental Impact Assessment will closely follow NatureScot guidance notes on offshore wind ornithology impact assessment and will be informed by extensive consultation with stakeholders including NatureScot, RSPB Scotland and Marine Directorate.

The key impact assessments are collision risk and displacement, each informed by a suite of modelling approaches relying on defined worst-case turbine and site parameters. Input parameters include the wind turbines blade length, the minimum distance between the sea surface and lowest point of the rotating blade, and the maximum extent of the windfarm.

Did You Know

Kittiwake get their name from their distinctive call, which sounds like "kitti-wake".

2.8. MARINE MAMMALS

Within the site, the Hebrides and west coast of Scotland, the occurrence of 17 different marine mammal species has been identified either from aerial surveys or existing datasets:

Toothed whales:

- Harbour porpoise;
- Bottlenose dolphin;
- Short-beaked common dolphin;
- Striped dolphin;
- White-beaked dolphin;
- Atlantic white-sided dolphin;
- Risso's dolphin;
- Long-finned pilot whale;
- Killer whale;
- Cuvier's beaked whale; and
- Northern bottlenose whale.

Baleen whales:

- Minke whale;
- Fin whale;
- Sei whale; and
- Humpback whale.

Pinnipeds:

- Grey seal; and
- Harbour seal.

Did You Know

We have got trained Marine Mammal Observers on our geophysical survey vessel to record any sightings, using visual and passive acoustic monitoring? Should any marine mammal be detected, we implement a 'soft start', slowly ramping up any noisy activity to give them enough time to leave the area.



Of these, common dolphin was the most abundant marine mammal species recorded in the Project's aerial surveys as well as during the geophysical surveys. Harbour porpoise, common dolphin, Risso's dolphin, white-beaked dolphin, grey seal and harbour seal are expected to be relatively common while minke whale are seasonal visitors and are commonly seen in the summer months.

Bottlenose dolphin, Atlantic white-sided dolphin, killer whale, long-finned pilot and humpback whale are also present in the area, but in lower numbers.

Other cetaceans such as striped dolphin, northern bottlenose whale, Cuvier's beaked whale, fin whale and sei whale could potentially occur in the area. However, these species are found in deeper offshore waters, and sightings in coastal waters of the west coast of Scotland are rare.

Further studies will be undertaken including:

- An underwater noise assessment to understand potential effects on marine mammals from our temporary construction works and operational noise; and
- Further data analysis on marine mammal species including engagement with key stakeholders Marine Directorate (on behalf of Scottish Ministers) and NatureScot.

A draft Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP) will be prepared for piling and unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance. These will set out adequate mitigation measures to minimise the risk of any physical or permanent auditory injury to marine mammals as a result of piling or UXO clearance. A final MMMP will be prepared and agreed with stakeholders in the post-consent stage.



2.9. COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

We recognise that commercial fisheries are integral to communities along the west coast of Scotland. Our aim is to support the co-existence between the Project and commercial fishing activities. By collaborating with the industry, we will seek to identify practical ways for both MachairWind and fishers to operate safely and successfully within the windfarm.

The project team has been engaging with local fishers and fishery organisations to ensure our understanding of impacts, and how we can mitigate these, is informed by their views and experience.

We are assessing commercial fisheries (UK and non-UK fishing vessels) on a fleet-by-fleet basis related to the type of fishing gear (such as pots, dredges, or trawls) and target species through:

- Analysis of data, including fishing catch statistics, spatial vessel monitoring system (VMS) data and mapping of fishing grounds;
- Engagement with key fishery organisations; and
- Engagement with the local fishers themselves.

We are assessing potential restricted access to fishing grounds that overlap the project and associated displacement of fishing vessels during all phases of the project including construction, operation and decommissioning.

We will also consider the potential effects on commercial fishing as a result of impacts on fish and shellfish resources. This assessment will be informed by the findings of the fish and shellfish ecology assessment and will include an assessment of the potential effects associated with noise and electro-magnetic fields.

Fishing methods such as potting or creeling for crab and lobster, as well as scallop dredging, can still take place within the windfarm. However, some gear types—like large pelagic trawl nets—may be less suited to operating in this space. We will continue to engage with individual fishers, closer to construction. We will take these fishing activities into account in our impact assessments, as well as in our Fisheries Mitigation, Monitoring and Communication Plan (FMMCP), to be submitted as part of our planning application.

The FMMCP will be shaped by the outcomes of fishery engagement, outlining our approach to mitigation and

monitoring of impacts on commercial fishery activities. We are evaluating options at a project level and Scottish level. Our aim is to work with other developers, the Scottish Government and the fishing industry to agree a consistent approach.

2.10.SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

We have carried out vessel traffic surveys during the summer and winter months over two years to collect data about the vessels transiting both nearby and within the windfarm site. This data will inform the Navigational Risk Assessment, which will follow the guidance set out by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

The assessment will present detailed baseline information including navigational features and vessel traffic survey data. We will be engaging with stakeholders to understand any potential hazards to users of the sea, including commercial vessel operators, fishing vessels and recreational vessels. Stakeholders consulted will include the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Northern Lighthouse Board, UK Chamber of Shipping, Royal Yachting Association Scotland, and the Cruising Association amongst others. The Navigational Risk Assessment will conclude with a list of mitigations to ensure the project is safe for all sea users.

Did You Know

The windfarm will remain open for vessel transit other than small areas around structures where construction or major maintenance is underway.

2.11. OFFSHORE ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

We are looking at existing marine archaeological data (such as shipping wrecks near Dubh Artach Lighthouse) and onshore designated heritage assets (i.e. scheduled monuments and listed buildings) within 50km of the windfarm, to inform the impact assessment and mitigate potential impacts.

We are also collecting additional data through our site surveys to gather more information on unknown heritage assets. Any archaeological finds identified during development activities will be recorded and reported to Historic Environment Scotland.

Did You Know

We found a Roman anchor at our East Anglia One offshore windfarm site.

MachairWind Windfarm Development Area | Summer 2025



2.12. MILITARY AND CIVIL AVIATION

The airspace above the windfarm site is used by both civil and military aircraft and lies within the Scottish Flight Information Region for Air Traffic Control. We will be undertaking assessments, including Radio Line of Sight modelling, which will assess sensitive aviation and radars such as National Air Traffic Service Primary Surveillance Radar on Tiree, helicopters involved in Search and Rescue operations, helicopters in support of the Dubh Artach Lighthouse, Instrument Flight Procedures at Islay and Tiree Airports, and military low flying activity.

To understand the potential impacts and effects of the Project on military and civil aviation, we are engaging with a range of stakeholders, including:

- National Air Traffic Service:
- Highlands and Islands Airports Limited:
- Northern Lighthouse Board;
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency; and
- Ministry of Defence.

2.13. SEASCAPE, LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT

MachairWind is situated in a unique setting of scenic landscapes with distinctive coastlines, home to some nationally and locally designated landscapes. People living on, visiting and travelling between the islands may see the windfarm, depending on their location.

The initial location of the windfarm was chosen by the Scottish Government, within the Sectoral Marine Plan - Offshore Wind Energy (2030); this site is known as 'WI'. We have reduced the windfarm area from 754km² to 510km², to increase the distance between the windfarm and sensitive landscapes. The site will be refined further, as the project progresses.

This may involve changes to the design that take account of sensitive landscapes / seascapes and views, for example by increasing the distance offshore, limiting the spread of the turbines across the horizon, and balancing the number of turbines and turbine height for the anticipated power generation (around 2 Gigawatts). Seascape, landscape and visual issues are key considerations for MachairWind and will be a key driver of the Project's overall design and approach to consenting.

We have looked at a zone of theoretical visibility and mapped it – enabling us to understand what communities, national scenic areas and local landscape areas may be impacted. Due to the Project being located 12km, or 6.5 nautical miles from shore at its closest point, the windfarm will be visible. Effects on seascape, landscape and views, and other key constraints, will be considered to minimise potential effects where possible.

As part of this consultation, we welcome you to view our photomontages, which show a windfarm layout of 88 turbines (25 Megawatt (MW) each) with an indicative height of 340m



Beinn an Oir, Jura

and 2 offshore substation platforms, and a windfarm based on 147 turbines (14 Megawatt (MW) each) with an indicative height of 260m and 2 offshore substation platforms; these are shown from 14 local viewpoints. The viewpoint selection process has been informed by discussions with community groups and with stakeholders, such as Argyll and Bute Council and NatureScot.

The project is using indicative turbine numbers and turbine heights, based on what is currently available on the market. However, it is likely that the market will evolve by the time MachairWind enters construction phase (anticipated late 2020s), therefore the indicative turbine numbers and heights may change based on the turbines available at that point in time.

The offshore substation platforms are shown for context only; the project will include up to 2 offshore substation platforms. The size and location of the offshore substation platforms are not known at the time of writing. The offshore substation platforms are considered part of the Offshore Transmission Area, which we are apply for consent for at a later date.

To view these photomontages, please visit our website: www.machairwind.com

A Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

will form part of the Environmental Impact Assessment and will include an assessment of effects on the special qualities of nationally and locally designated landscapes. Special qualities are defined by NatureScot (2010) in 'The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas' as "the characteristics that, individually or combined, give rise to an area's outstanding scenery", and underpin the reason for designation of an area as a National Scenic Area.

Three National Scenic Areas (NSAs), each with defined special qualities, are of relevance to MachairWind, although none are within immediate proximity:

- Jura NSA is located approximately 25km to the east, and is known for "the distinctive Paps of Jura", "large tracts of wild land" and "the inaccessible Loch Tarbert";
- Loch na Keal, Isle of Mull National Scenic Area is located approximately 30 km to the north-east, and is known for "highly distinctive seaways and shores", "dramatic coast of basalt terraces and cliffs" and "views of an island-studded sea"; and
- Scarba, Lunga and the Garvellachs National Scenic Area is located approximately 40 km to the north-east, and is known for its "uninhabited, remote, wild islands" and "seascape of distinctive and contrasting island groups".

Did You Know

A book was written on the extreme conditions in which Dubh Artach was built? 'The New Lighthouse on the Dhu Heartach Rock, Argyllshire' by Robert Louis Stevenson.

The windfarm will require aviation and marine navigation lighting. An assessment of the effects of lighting on the seascape, landscape and views will also form part of the Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.

We are consulting with stakeholders including Argyll and Bute Council and NatureScot on our approach to undertaking the Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.

2.14. INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER MARINE USERS

We are aware of other marine users within and surrounding the windfarm, such as recreational sailing, and existing infrastructure, such as the Dubh Artach Lighthouse, and will assess the impact the project may have on them.

We will be engaging with topic experts, such as: The UK Chamber of Shipping, Cruising Association, Ministry of Defence and the Royal Yachting Association.

2.15. SOCIO-ECONOMICS

Offshore wind has the potential to generate considerable economic value to Scotland, where it can play an important role in supporting the energy transition to a low carbon economy. MachairWind is committed to working in partnership with communities to ensure they can enjoy the opportunities from renewable energy and for the West of Scotland to maximise the socio-economic benefits. Our aim is to ensure that as much of the economic value as possible stays within Scotland, particularly where possible within the communities closest to the Project.

MachairWind is committed to:

- Working closely with local communities, businesses and other key stakeholders to help Scotland maximise the value that offshore wind has to offer.
- Maximising socio-economic benefits and will create industrial, economic, employment and skills benefits for local communities in Scotland.
- By creating opportunities across the project lifecycle, MachairWind is seeking to stimulate investment in Scotland's supply chain capabilities, which will help us to maximise Scottish involvement where possible.

Mitigation is also being considered as part of the development and design process in order to minimise negative socio-economic effects that might stem from the project, and to enhance positive effects (in particular, those associated with the supply chain and skills development). Our commitment aligns with national policy objectives to provide local socio-economic benefits from renewable energy projects.

Exploring opportunities and impacts

MachairWind commissioned BiGGAR Economics to assess the potential socio-economic impacts of the MachairWind development on communities and businesses. The resulting report, 'MachairWind Development Economic and Social Scenarios: Opportunities and Impacts' (2024), outlines the potential economic and social benefits of the Project on a wide range of factors, such as housing affordability, employment, public services, and infrastructure. BiGGAR Economics found that MachairWind's impact on the labour market could present a win-win for host communities and MachairWind, by providing the potential to diversify the economic base and create jobs, and, in some regions, bolster communities which are heavily reliant on specific industries. BiGGAR Economics also identified a strong appetite exists for skills development, and local authorities and public agencies are proactively addressing labour market constraints.

This report was an early stages exploration of how the opportunities could be enhanced and how challenges could be mitigated. The report is available on the MachairWind website **www.machairwind.com**. A full socio-economic impact assessment will be undertaken as the project progresses.



needs, social infrastructure requirements and the potential for legacy effects.

2.16. CLIMATE CHANGE

We are using meteorological data, collected at the windfarm site, to understand how changes in weather conditions due to climate change, such as temperature, rainfall and sea level rise, can affect the construction, operation and decommissioning of the windfarm. We are considering how to design the project to be resilient to climate change and to



MachairWind Windfarm Development Area | Summer 2025



ensure the continued safe operation of the windfarm with little disturbance to energy generation.

Although MachairWind will be providing renewable electricity, there will be greenhouse gas emissions associated with the construction and installation of the infrastructure, as well as from the maintenance and decommissioning of the project. As such a project life cycle assessment of greenhouse gas emissions, from construction to decommissioning, will be undertaken to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

As part of our project commitment to sustainable development and environmental enhancements, we are engaging with our supply chain to understand the sustainable alternatives to traditional offerings that are available for MachairWind and will continue to identify opportunities to incorporate measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the construction and maintenance phases where feasible. These measures will inform our carbon assessment.

2.17. MAJOR ACCIDENTS AND DISASTERS

The project needs to consider the likelihood of significant threats or hazards occurring and identify measures that will mitigate associated risks as much as possible.

Project specific hazards that will be assessed will include:

- Exposed inter-array cables leading to vessel snagging;
- Vessel interactions;
- Aviation collision;
- Disturbance of Unexploded Ordnance; and
- Workplace accidents.

3. How will We **Build the Windfarm?**

Dè mar a thogaidh sinn an tuathanas-gaoithe?



3.1. CONSTRUCTION

Given the scale of the Project, the potential availability of technology and service providers, and the likely timing of capacity at the point of grid connection, the construction of MachairWind may involve phased installations of infrastructure associated with the windfarm. transmission infrastructure and onshore works. The full construction period is currently anticipated to be between three and four years.

3.2. VESSELS

A variety of vessels will be required for the installation, commissioning and operation and maintenance activities associated with the windfarm. We expect to utilise crew transfer vessels during construction, and service operation vessels once the Project is fully operational. These vessels will be used to transport the necessary equipment and personnel to facilitate work during the construction phase and operational phase respectively.

Did You Know

Offshore wind projects use jack-up vessels that lower legs onto the seabed to lifts themselves above the waves? This allows better stability for heavy lifting activities.



3.3. PREPARING THE SEABED

Before the installation of the wind turbine foundations and cables, the seabed will be prepared and cleared of obstacles such as debris and boulders. This will provide a flat seabed free from obstructions and mobile sediments.

3.4. INSTALLING THE INTER-ARRAY CABLES

The turbines are connected to one-another and to the offshore substation(s) by cables, known as inter-array cables.

The inter-array cables will be laid by specialist vessels to deploy the cable in sections and join them together. The cable laying vessels will bury the inter-array cables at an appropriate depth beneath the seabed wherever possible. Burial protects the inter-array cables from damage, with other protection methods such as concrete mattresses or rock berms may be used where burial is not possible.

3.5. WIND TURBINE FOUNDATIONS The figure below presents the different types of foundation designs that are being considered for the wind turbines:

The foundation installation technique and installation time will depend on the chosen foundation type which in turn depends on a number of environmental and engineering factors such as ground conditions and meteorological conditions. Monopiles and jackets on pin piles could be installed by pile driving or drilling, depending on the type of foundation selected and the seabed conditions within the site. Suction bucket foundations would not require piling or drilling and instead are installed by lowering onto the seabed.

3.6. WIND TURBINES INSTALLATION

The separate components of the wind turbines (nacelle, blades, sections of tower) will be transported by sea to the windfarm area to be installed. The construction methods will likely involve a crane on a vessel to lift the components. The port(s) that will support the installation works are yet to be selected.

3.7. OFFSHORE SUBSTATION PLATFORMS

The foundation for the offshore substation platform(s) will be built and transported to site for installation. Once the foundations are installed in the seabed, the offshore substation platform(s) can then be lifted into place.

3.8. EXPORT CABLE

Similar installation methods will be used for the interarray cable and export cable(s). This will be explored in more detail as part of the Offshore Transmission consenting process.

3.9. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (O&M)

Offshore maintenance requirements will depend on the final infrastructure, for example: the final layout of the windfarm, the type of electrical transmission infrastructure used, as well as the model of wind turbine and fixed foundation type selected.

Maintenance will typically be undertaken via a service operation vessel. Helicopters or specialised vessels may also be used where necessary to prevent damage to equipment, repair corrosion, and carry out all necessary repairs to maintain safe operation of the windfarm.

3.10. DECOMMISSIONING

Decommissioning the MachairWind Offshore Windfarm is anticipated to involve the removal of all offshore infrastructure above the seabed. The inter-array cables could be removed or left in place. This decision will be made with the aim to minimise environmental effects and offshore navigational safety risks.

We will develop the Project in a sustainable manner and are considering both project operation and decommissioning in the development and design of the Project.

The decommissioning works are likely to be undertaken in reverse of the construction process. A decommissioning plan and programme will be developed prior to construction and updated during the operational phase of the Project to account for any changes to industry best practice, relevant legislation and policy, or developments in technology. This decommissioning plan will be submitted to the Marine Directorate alongside our consent application.





4. Benefits, Impacts and Opportunities

Buannachdan, Buaidhean agus Cothroman

MachairWind presents an opportunity to generate social, economic, and environmental value to Scotland. MachairWind is dedicated to delivering wider benefits, and leaving a positive legacy, particularly for communities on the west coast of Scotland.

4.1. SUSTAINABILITY

MachairWind is being developed with sustainability embedded as a core value throughout the full project lifecycle, from development through to construction, operation & maintenance, and decommissioning. We are adopting a strategic approach, reflective of ScottishPower's ambitious sustainability targets and associated policies.

We have identified four key priority areas in relation to sustainability:

- **Emissions Reduction:** we are committed to minimising, monitoring and measuring our greenhouse gas emissions where feasible.
- Embedding Circularity: our ambition is to utilise resources and materials efficiently and optimise reuse and recycling across the project lifecycle.
- Nature Positive Development: we are committed to ensuring negative effects on biodiversity are avoided and mitigated and that the project has an overall positive benefit on biodiversity.
- Optimising Social and Economic Performance: we will seek to maximise the project's net economic effect and support local and regional economic priorities where feasible, including employment and skills development and associated business and supply chain opportunities.

We are adopting a holistic approach to sustainability, with all key priorities considered together. For each key priority area, we are reviewing options for enhancing sustainability, including exploring existing design options, new technologies and partnership opportunities. We will undertake studies to further explore and select which options can be taken forward. By adopting this approach, MachairWind will strive for an optimised sustainability performance that will benefit the environment and local communities.

Did You Know

Estimates for the Carbon Payback of offshore wind range from 5 months to 1 year? Carbon Payback is a term referring to the period of time for which a wind turbine needs to be in operation before it has, by displacing generation from fossil-fuelled power stations, avoided as much carbon dioxide as released in its lifecycle.

4.2. SUPPLY CHAIN

We place a strong focus and emphasis on supply chain engagement and skills development to help build capacity across Scotland. We will seek to create a clear, visible pipeline of opportunities to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and new market entrants establish themselves as key players in the sector.

Did You Know

ScottishPower Renewables have committed to a MachairWind Supply Chain Stimulus Fund of £25 million to support improvements in Scottish infrastructure and facilities supplying key goods and services for offshore wind, as well as supporting companies to innovate and upskill, including SMEs.

4.2.1. RECENT AND ONGOING INITIATIVES MachairWind has already undertaken a range of supply chain development activities to engage with the supply chain and support the growth of Scotland's offshore wind industry, including:

- Sponsorship of the 2025 Fit 4 Offshore Renewables (F4OR) Scottish Islands & Coastal Communities programme, led by the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult, to support new entrants into the offshore wind sector which is a first of its kind. Four businesses from the Argyll and Bute region successfully secured a place in this year's cohort.
- Hosting a 'Meet the Buyer' Supply Chain Event in Oban in

July 2023 in partnership with the DeepWind Cluster (now part of the Clean Industry Cluster), Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Argyll & Bute Council to showcase the potential opportunities for suppliers within the region, attended by over 100 representatives.

- Regular attendance at both national and regional conferences to offer direct engagement for supply chain companies.
- Providing ongoing support to Scotland's Strategic Investment Model (SIM), which seeks to build the case for investment in vital new supply chain facilities and port infrastructure.
- Promotion of ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) Supplier Interest Portal to identify companies for future events, activities and contracting opportunities to not only for MachairWind but SPR's wider portfolio of projects.
- Continual engagement with enterprise agencies, public and private sector bodies to unlock opportunities to enable the growth of Scotland offshore wind industry.

4.2.2. PORTS AND HARBOURS

Due to the size and weight of the components of the windfarm (tower sections, nacelles, cables, substation for example), most components will be shipped to site by sea. The marine coordination around the project is complex and likely to require the use of different ports. Vessels are already being mobilised from different ports for our survey operations (metocean buoy installation, maintenance and recovery, as well as geophysical surveys and scouting vessels). During construction, the main components are likely to be manufactured close to a port, which therefore triggers the need for a large amount of storage space at a marshalling port. We will pre-assemble some components on land before shipping them offshore for installation.

We will coordinate most vessels and activities from a Marine Operations Base, close to the project.

Operation and Maintenance will then take place from an Operation and Maintenance Base which needs to combine ease of access for personnel on rotation, significant storage space for spare parts, and distance to the project. A base too far from the windfarm would mean longer downtime when a turbine is requiring intervention simply due to transit time to and from site.

One of our key objectives is to prioritise the use of Scottish ports and harbours for the construction of MachairWind. We have undertaken a ports assessment to identify ports that may be suitable for construction and operation & maintenance activities associated with the Project. This assessment also involved engagement with local ports.

No decision has been taken regarding the use of specific ports for construction, marshalling, assembly or operation and maintenance. However, the Project has made significant commitments to Scottish supply chain expenditure within our Supply Chain Development Statement, which forms part of our option to lease agreement. We recognise the importance



of this long-term presence for the local communities and economics, and we will endeavour to use local facilities where possible. Further due diligence continues.

4.2.3. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

A key driver of success will be the creation of sustainable employment opportunities for local communities, which will be supported through the development and upskilling of the current and future workforce. We are committed to tackling skills shortages by working with established industries, including oil and gas and the armed forces, to create employment transition routes and accessible training opportunities. This will be complemented by entry level career opportunities, such as graduate and apprenticeship roles, both directly and within the supply chain.

We don't know yet precisely how many jobs will be created or sustained through MachairWind, or where those jobs will be located, as much will depend on where the construction and operational facilities are located. We will do everything we can to ensure there are opportunities for local business to upskill and the existing and future workforce to ascertain careers in the renewable energy sector.

In the last academic year alone (2023/2024), over 550 pupils were reached across our host communities and the Kintyre Peninsula through interactive lessons, careers fayres, and field trips. We will continue to work with education institutes to support learning about Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects, helping to stimulate interest in offshore wind from Scotland's future offshore wind workforce.



4.2.4. PRIORITISING LOCAL BENEFITS

We take pride in being a positive and productive part of MachairWind is working closely with skills bodies and the communities near our windfarms and we want these industry partners to identify and develop initiatives where local businesses and workers can benefit. We are actively communities to benefit from a future powered by seeking collaboration with local suppliers to deliver essential renewable energy. services for the Project. This will help to deliver increased local employment, business opportunities and a thriving supply MachairWind is committed to working alongside communities chain, and ultimately contribute to a more sustainable and to deliver community benefits which align with our prosperous Scotland. commitment to sustainability and meet local needs and aspirations. In our experience, we recognise that there is not a 'one-size fits all' approach to defining community benefit.

A key focus of the local supply chain strategy is enabling island and coastal communities to participate fully in the The most effective community benefit schemes are the ones offshore wind sector. As part of this, we are supporting the Fit4Offshore Islands and Coastal Communities which are closely aligned with community action planning **programme** – the first of its kind. This programme sets out goals. This enables communities to highlight their own to help local companies strengthen their capacity to win priorities for funding which align with their local strategic contracts in the offshore wind industry. We are proud that four environmental, social and economic goals as defined by the businesses from the Argyll and Bute region are taking part in communities themselves. this programme, building skills and capabilities that will not only support the project but also open up future opportunities Over the coming months and years, we will work closely with for the growing offshore wind market. local communities and stakeholders to determine how the Community Benefit Fund will be structured and delivered.

4.2.5. GET INVOLVED

Companies wishing to get involved as a supplier to MachairWind can register their interest to do so on the MachairWind website: www.machairwind.com

We are keen to hear from local businesses and suppliers who are interested in being part of the MachairWind project..

There are two easy ways to get involved:

- Register on our supply chain portal via our website. By signing up, you'll receive updates about supplier events, tender opportunities and project milestones.
- Email us directly at sproffshoresupplychain@ scottishpower.com to introduce your business, ask questions or express an interest in upcoming opportunities.

4.3. COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Generally, Community Benefit Funds (CBF) don't become available until the project is in operation. However, we have already started work to understand the economic opportunities that could arise locally because of the project and are identifying small ways that we can give back to our host communities ahead of traditional community benefit timelines.

Do you have a community initiative that requires support? If so, get in touch at machairwind@scottishpower.com

5. Stakeholder Engagement

Conaltradh le Luchd-ùidhe

5.1. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

A key part of the project is the building and maintaining of trusted relationships with our stakeholders and communities throughout the lifetime of MachairWind, from development and consent through to operations and maintenance, and decommissioning. Our vision is to develop an offshore windfarm in a considered way that is sensitive to the needs and expectations of stakeholders and communities – effective engagement is critical to achieve this.

Since the outset of the project, in 2022, we have been engaging across a range of sectors, such as renewable energy, maritime, environment, heritage, commercial fisheries, government, infrastructure and transport, to ensure stakeholders are well-informed about the project's development activities and anticipated timescales, and to discuss stakeholders' priorities, areas of interest and expectations (such as organisations to engage with).

Through this engagement, we have:

- Gained a richer insight into industry-wide constraints and opportunities.
- Shared and discussed best practice and relevant guidance.
- Identified collaboration opportunities with stakeholders sharing a common goal (such as filling data gaps).

Owing to the significance of fishing to numerous communities across the west coast of Scotland, we have engaged with local fishers and key commercial fishing organisations, including Scottish Fisherman's Federation (SFF), Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association (SPFA), Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWPA), Mull and Iona Fishermen's Association (MIFA), Clyde Fishermen's Association (CIFA), and South West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (SWCRIFG). We are acutely aware of protecting livelihoods and firmly believe we can co-exist with fishers. These conversations will ensure decision making is informed by fishery expertise and lived experience.

Most recently, we sought fishers' feedback on the 2023 site investigation campaign and incorporated fishers' suggestions and asks, where possible, into our Spring 2025 site investigation campaign, such as ensuring the surveying started earlier in the year to take account of prime fishing seasons and improving our communication around site access by creating a live map that all fishers can access for up-to-date information on open and closed areas. We will be preparing a Fisheries Mitigation, Monitoring and Communication Plan, known as a FMMCP, which will be



Iona, Village Hall



Creich Hall, Mull

shaped by the outcomes of fishery engagement, outlining our approach to mitigation and monitoring of impacts on commercial fishery activities; this will be submitted as part of our planning application.



5.2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We have undertaken a series of public information days on our host communities – Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Ross of Mull and Iona – along with attending community council meetings and local development trust meetings. Our Community Engagement Manager, Debs Bryce, is based on Jura so is the first point of contact for our host communities.

It is great to see lots of interest from local people about MachairWind. This engagement is key to us better understanding what is important to you both in the short term and the long-term. We are eager to work in partnership with our host communities to deliver a positive legacy.

Below is a summary of the events that we have held and supported across our host communities so far – and we're just getting started!

- 2022: Two public drop-in events and introductory meetings on Islay and Jura.
- 2023: Public drop-in event held on Colonsay and update meetings with Islay, Jura and Colonsay businesses, community councils and development trusts. Sponsored Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show.
- 2024: Six drop-in events held on Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Ross of Mull and Iona. Sponsored Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show. Update meetings with community councils, development trusts and other community groups continued (such as Islay and Jura Senior Citizens Association).
- **2025:** Two public drop-in events held on Ross of Mull and Iona. Sponsored Colonsay Book Festival.



Jura, May 2024, Photography: Ben Shakespeare

We have been visiting local schools over the years to educate and enthuse the next generation about renewable energy. In the last academic year alone (2023/2024), over 550 pupils were reached through interactive lessons, careers fayres, and field trips. Most recently, we visited Iona Primary School, bringing our windfarm to life by getting pupils to build a turbine and find fun and creative ways to get the blades spinning!

We are committed to keeping local people up to date on the project development activities. Whether you have an interest around the engineering of the project, a request to visit your local school, or suggestions in terms of community groups we should engage with, we are very eager to hear from you. Please email us at **machairwind@scottishpower.com**

6. Have Your Say Thoiribh ur Beachd Seachad

This consultation, and the events we are hosting within the consultation period, relates to all of the proposed infrastructure within the MachairWind Windfarm Development Area and therefore also supports a future application for Section 36 consent under the Electricity Act 1989, although there is currently no statutory requirement for this. In line with best practice, we will hold a second round of consultation for the MachairWind Windfarm Development Area later this year.

We are committed to ensuring stakeholders understand our proposals and can influence how we approach the Project's design, construction and operation. One of our main goals is to meaningfully consider all feedback received and demonstrate how your feedback has been incorporated into the decision-making process.

This engagement is important to us as it helps us to refine the development proposals for the project, understand what is important to you, and identify whether there is any additional information that you would like us to present at the next round of consultation.



6.1. VIEWING OUR PROPOSALS

6.1.1. IN PERSON EVENTS

We will be holding six public consultation events during the first consultation period, which we welcome members of the local community and other stakeholders to attend. Members of our project team will be available to provide more information and answer any questions you may have.

Date	Time	Location
Tues 3rd June	3pm – 7.30pm	Port Mor, Port Charlotte, Islay
Wed 4th June	3pm – 7.30pm	Colonsay, Village Hall, Scalasaig, Colonsay
Wed 11th June	3pm – 7.30pm	Gaelic Centre, Bowmore, Islay
Thu 12th June	3pm – 7.30pm	Jura, Village Hall, Craighouse, Jura
Tue 17th June	3pm – 7.30pm	Creich Hall, Fionnphort, Mull
Wed 18th June	3pm – 7.30pm	Iona Village Hall, Iona



Colonsay, May 2024, Photography: Ben Shakespeare

6.1.2. ONLINE EVENTS

Come along to one of our online webinar events to find out about the project and ask the team questions about MachairWind. We will be holding two online webinars:

- 1. Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 6.30pm to 7.30pm; and
- 2. Monday 23rd June at 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

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

6.1.3. VIRTUAL CONSULTATION ROOM

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

You can access the virtual consultation room from the Public Consultation webpage on our website: www.machairwind.com

6.2. PROVIDING YOUR FEEDBACK

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

Your feedback is very important to us, as it will help to inform decisions that we make relating to the project's design,

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

MachairWind Windfarm Development Area | Summer 2025

before we submit our Windfarm Development Area planning application in 2026.

You can provide your feedback to us in one of the following ways:

6.2.1. FEEDBACK FORM

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

6.2.2. WRITING

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

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

This consultation will run for 6 weeks, from Monday 26th May to Sunday 6th July 2025. Feedback received after the deadline may not be considered. All feedback received within this period will be considered, however, we are unable to respond to every response received individually.

7. What's Next? Dè tha romhainn?

We will be hosting a second consultation later this year, showing a more refined Windfarm Development Area proposal, which you will have another opportunity to provide feedback on. This consultation will demonstrate in part how your feedback has informed the decision making process.

All feedback received at both rounds of consultation will provide information on how it was considered in a Pre-Application Consultation Report. This will be published as part of our Windfarm Development Area planning application.

When we submit our Windfarm Development Area application, the Marine Directorate (on behalf of Scottish Ministers) will determine whether to grant permission for the Windfarm Development Area. During the representation period of the determination, you will have further opportunity to comment on our proposal.



Thank you for taking the time to read this information booklet, we hope you found it helpful. Should you have any questions, suggestions or requests, please get in touch:



8. Frequently Asked **Questions (FAQs)**

Ceistean Bitheanta (CBn)

Below we have answered some of the most frequently asked questions that we have received during engagement with stakeholders and communities to date.

Who is Iberdrola?

ScottishPower Renewables is part of the Iberdrola Group, one of the world's largest utilities and a leading wind energy producer. SPR is responsible for progressing Iberdrola's renewable energy projects in the UK, including managing the development, construction, and operation of offshore windfarms.

Iberdrola has been the leader in electrification for 25 years, combining disciplined execution with long-term commitment to deliver increased shareholder value. SPR is continuing on this path through our focus on network investments in the US and the UK, using the proceeds from fossil fuel divestments to accelerate growth in both markets.

Where will the project be located?

The proposed offshore windfarm, MachairWind, will be developed northwest of Islay and west of Colonsay, approximately 12km off Colonsay and 15km off Islay. We anticipate the site will be refined further as our understanding of the site progresses; this refinement will be informed by a number of factors such as stakeholder feedback, environmental considerations and construction and operational requirements.

Will we be able to see the windfarm?

Due to the Project being located 12km, or 6.5 nautical miles MachairWind is committed to working alongside communities from shore at its closest point, the windfarm will be visible. to deliver community benefits which align with our Effects on seascape, landscape and views, and other key commitment to sustainability and meet local needs and constraints, will be considered to minimise potential effects aspirations. In our experience, we recognise that there is not where possible. As part of this consultation, we welcome you a 'one-size fits all' approach to defining community benefit. to view our photomontages of the windfarm from 14 local The most effective community benefit schemes are the ones viewpoints. You can view these photomontages at our in which are closely aligned with community action planning person events or online via our Virtual Consultation Room goals. This enables communities to highlight their own on the Public Consultation page of our website: priorities for funding which align with their local strategic www.machairwind.com environmental, social and economic goals as defined by the communities themselves.

What impact will have the wind farm have on fishing in the area?

Fishing is a vital part of life for communities on the islands. We are acutely aware of protecting livelihoods and firmly believe we can co-exist with fishers. We have undertaken several survey campaigns at the array site so far and have cooperation agreements in place with fishers who have demonstrated, in line with Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW) guidance, that they fish in the area.



MachairWind's turbines will be fixed to the seabed and spaced out across the Wind Farm Development Area. This means that fishing activity will still be possible in and around the turbines once the project is operational.

What are your plans for future consultation with the public?

After the first consultation period, where we will be holding six public consultation events, a second round of public consultation events will be held, and these are scheduled to take place later in the year (Autumn 2025). The purpose of these public consultation events is to provide an update on how we have considered all feedback received from this first round of consultation and to give more of an understanding about what the final Windfarm Development Area consent application will look like.

Will the project establish a Community Benefit Fund?

Yes, over the coming months and years, we will work closely with local communities and stakeholders to determine how the Community Benefit Fund will be structured and delivered. We take pride in being a positive and productive part of the communities near our windfarms and we want these communities to benefit from a future powered by renewable energy.

If you would like to get in touch, please reach out to us at: **machairwind@scottishpower.com** ScottishPower 320 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5AD **www.scottishpower.com**

2025

