Appendix 2.1: Summary of Consultation

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Table 1-1: Summary of Scoping Responses

Consultee	Description/ Issues Raised	Response
Aberdeenshire Council Planning Service Scoping Opinion dated 23/08/2023	Overall, the Planning Service agreed with the proposed scope of the EIA Report. Requested that Aberdeenshire Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) Policy P1.7 be considered in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain. Noted that LDP Policy C2 should also be considered. Confirmed the approach to the landscape and visual amenity assessment is satisfactory. Confirmed that the approach and scope of the assessments on socio-economics, tourism and recreation and soils, agriculture and land use are considered acceptable.	Noted. The EIA chapters have followed the approach set out in the EIA Scoping Report. The application is accompanied by a separate Planning Statement which describes the planning policy background relevant to the Proposed Development and appraises the Proposed Development's compliance with such policy. The landscape and visual amenity (LVIA) assessment is presented in Chapter 8: LVIA of the EIA Report. The socio-economics, tourism and recreation assessment is presented in Chapter 12: Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation. The soils, agriculture and land use assessment is presented in Chapter 13: Soils, Agriculture and Land Use.
Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Officer	Agreed with the assessment methodology including study areas, buffer zones applied to Scheduled Monuments, proposed data sources and scope of EIA.	Noted. The chapter has followed the approach set out in the EIA Scoping Report.
Aberdeenshire Council Built Heritage	Agreed with the methodology and proposed buffer zones applied to Scheduled Monuments but requested clarification on why the proposed buffer zones are restricted to Scheduled Monuments and not all nationally designated cultural and historic assets sited within the study area.	Where practicable buffers around designated and non-designated assets will be applied, to ensure that they are protected from accidental intrusion and damage. These buffers will be identified in response to the detailed design.
Aberdeenshire Council Contaminated Land	Stated that the Scoping Report contains no consideration for contaminated land within the onshore Scoping area, noting that there are approximately 300 potentially contaminated sites within the Scoping area, including three coastal landfills and a former RAF airfield. Stated that the impact on contaminated land on the landing point, onshore cable route and onshore works should be considered.	The Site boundary has been reduced considerably since EIA Scoping and Pre-Application Consultation was undertaken. There are now five potentially contaminated land sites within the Site boundary. This is detailed further in the review of the existing environmental baseline in Chapter 13. Further investigation will be undertaken at the Approval of Matters Subject to Condition (AMSC) stage.

Consultee	Description/ Issues Raised	Response
	Noted potential site investigation may be required at planning application stage depending on landing point, onshore cable route and onshore works.	
Aberdeenshire Council Environmental Health	Noted that the Environmental Health Service has considered noise, air quality and dust in relation to the application for the Proposed Development. Confirmed Environmental Health has no objections to the methods identified in the EIA Scoping Report for assessing the impact on noise as a result of the Proposed Development. Advised that the mitigation identified within the EIA Report should reduce the occurrence of dust and air quality issues.	The noise and vibration assessment is presented in Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration of the EIA Report. As proposed in the EIA Scoping Report, and explained in Chapter 2: Approach to EIA, potential effects on air quality resulting from construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development have been scoped out of detailed assessment.
Aberdeenshire Council Natural Environment	Advised the proposed range of ecological surveys is comprehensive and appropriate. Confirmed that the scope of the EIA and the proposed approach to the assessments is acceptable. Noted there are several core paths and rights of ways within the Scoping area, including the Formartine and Buchan Way, and highlighted the need for an access management plan.	The ecological assessment is presented in Chapter 5: Terrestrial Ecology of the EIA Report. The ornithological assessment is presented in Chapter 6: Terrestrial Ornithology of the EIA Report. Further consultation was held with Aberdeenshire Council regarding the Formartine and Buchan Way and this is detailed in the Outline Access Management Plan (OAMP) which is provided as Appendix 4.4 to the EIA Report.
Aberdeenshire Council Roads Development – Buchan	Unable to comment in detail as the locations for construction compounds, etc, along the route, and location of the onshore substation is unknown at the time of writing. Noted that further information would be required, including the extents of any development, types of vehicles proposed, any extra-ordinary vehicles (length, height and weight) and the proposed delivery routes. Agreed with the scope of the EIA, the study area defined for the traffic and transport assessment, the list of potential receptors and that the data sources identified are appropriate. Advised that the Developer should refer to the Council's Standards for Road Construction Consent and Adoption which provides useful information on the requirements for worksite access designs, etc.	Noted. The Roads Development team will be consulted at the detailed design stage.

Consultee	Description/ Issues Raised	Response
NatureScot[1] Scoping Response dated 09/08/2023	Requested that a figure showing the study area and all statutory designed sites considered is provided in the EIA Report.	This is shown on Figure 5.2 of the EIA Report.
	Commented that the Loch of Strathbeg Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is not mentioned in the EIA Report and that it should be included and considered as a receptor as the breeding bird assemblage is one of the features of this SSSI.	All relevant statutory and non-statutory designated sites are considered within the EIA Report (see Appendix 5.1: Desk Study Terrestrial Ecology and Appendix 6.1: Desk Study Terrestrial Ornithology). Potential effects on the Loch of Strathbeg SSSI are considered in the assessment.
	Noted that effects on coastal geomorphology/processes is scoped in for the construction stage. Advised that as both open cut and/or trenchless techniques are considered for landfall construction, hard engineering/protection of re-exposed cable(s) may be required in the future; therefore, impacts on coastal morphology could arise. Advised that potential impacts of trenched landfall cable(s) being re-exposed by future coastal change should also be scoped in during operation. This is part of ensuring the development is resilient to climate change effects.	Effects on coastal geomorphology are considered in the hydrology, hydrogeology and coastal geomorphology assessment in Chapter 7. Trenchless techniques will be used for landfall construction and no hard protection at the coast is required, as the cable will be buried. Future coastal change is discussed in the baseline assessment and the resilient and likely effects of the Proposed Development to climate change effects (including future coastal erosion) are discussed in Section 7.10 of Chapter 7.
	Advised that if a landfall option is taken forward in the southern part of the onshore Scoping area, the EIA Report should fully assess any impacts of the onshore works on the interests of the Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast Special Protection Area (SPA), Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA and Bullers of Buchan Coast SSSI.	The proposed landfall site at Lunderton does not directly affect Buchan Ness and Collieston SPA/Bullers of Buchan SSSI or Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA qualifying features (no disturbance during breeding).
	Agreed with the receptors, survey methodologies and embedded mitigation in relation to terrestrial ecology and ornithology. Noted that any presence of invasive non-native (INNS) species should be noted and any necessary mitigation described in the EIA.	INNS were recorded, where identified, during ecological field surveys. Details are provided in Appendix 5.2.
	Noted that NatureScot considers the landscape and visual impacts of the Proposed Development will be local in nature and as such do not intend to comment further.	Noted.

[1] A Scoping response was received from NatureScot following receipt of the Scoping Opinion from Aberdeenshire Council. This response pre-dates the Scoping Opinion and was issued to Aberdeenshire Council as part of the Scoping consultation. As such, a summary of NatureScot's response has been included in this table.

Consultee	Description/ Issues Raised	Response
	Noted National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) sets out new requirements for development to deliver positive effects, primarily under Policy 3. The policy requires that significant biodiversity enhancements are provided, in addition to any proposed mitigation.	An Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (OBEP) in Appendix 5.5 sets out the Developer's response to NPF4 Policy 3.
	Advised that the EIA should explore fully any impacts arising from in-combination and cumulative effects with any other relevant plans or projects. Expressed concern with the likelihood of multiple export cables making landfall in similar areas and the potential cumulative impacts arising from construction.	The cumulative assessments for each chapter consider the offshore export cables.

Table 1-2: Summary of Pre-Application Advice Consultation Responses

Consultee	Description/ Issues Raised	Response
Aberdeenshire Council (AC) Formal Pre-Application Advice Response dated 25/10/2024, including comments from: • AC Natural Heritage; • AC Contaminated Land; • AC Roads Development; • AC Flood Risk and Coastal Protection; • AC Built Heritage; • AC Archaeology; • Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA); • Transport Scotland; • National Gas;	Based on the information provided at the pre-application enquiry stage, the Council advised it is likely to be in a position to support the proposal, subject to formal details being considered acceptable by various consultees.	Noted.
	The following supporting information is requested as part of the application : • Abnormal Loads Assessment • Access Management Plan • Archaeological Site Investigations • Assessment of Impact on Historic Environment • Compensatory Planting Plan • Construction Traffic Management Plan • Contaminated Land Report • Drainage Impact Assessment • GWDTE Assessment • Flood Risk Assessment • Habitat Management Plan • Landscape and Visual Impact	• An Abnormal Loads Assessment is provided in Appendix 11.1. • An Outline Access Management Plan is provided in Appendix 4.4. • The scope of archaeological site investigation works is not known at the PPP stage. Further details and an assessment of impact on the historic environment are provided in Chapter 9. • A Compensatory Planting Plan will be prepared (see Appendix 4.3). Final details of compensatory planting requirements will be agreed at the AMSC stage. • A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) is included as Appendix 11.1 of the EIA Report. • There are five potentially contaminated land sites within the Site boundary. These will be investigated further at

Consultee	Description/ Issues Raised	Response
• Shell UK Ltd; and • INEOS FPS Ltd.	• (Outline) Landscape Maintenance/Management Plan • (Outline) Landscape Plan • Operational Noise Assessment • Planning Statement • Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report • Private Water Supplies • Schedule of Mitigation • Transport Statement • Outline Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Plan	the AMSC stage and a Contaminated Land Report prepared if required. • Drainage details and flood risk assessments (if required) will be provided at AMSC stage. • A Private Water Supply (PWS) and GWDTE Assessment is included in Appendix 7.2. • An Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Plan is included in Appendix 5.5. This is in lieu of a HMP. The approach to BNG is detailed in Chapter 5. • A Landscape and Visual Impact (LVIA) assessment is included in Chapter 8 and an Outline Landscape Mitigation Plan is shown on Figure 8-8. • Chapter 10 assesses operational noise. • A Planning Statement has been submitted. • A PAC Report has been submitted. • A Schedule of Mitigation is included in Appendix 4.2. • Transport Statement provided as Appendix 11.1.
	Provided advice on key planning policies from the Aberdeenshire LDP 2023 and from NPF4.	Noted. The application is accompanied by a separate Planning Statement.
	Noted that mitigation will be expected in terms of noise and visual impact whilst the Proposed Development will also have to demonstrate BNG.	Noise and visual mitigation is detailed in Chapters 10 and 8, respectively, and summarised in Appendix 4.2: Schedule of Mitigation. An Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Plan is included in Appendix 5.5 of the EIA Report.
	Requested evidence that all aspects of the Proposed Development (including mitigation measures) can be sited within the site envelope. This includes BNG unless it can be demonstrated to be securable and appropriate in an offsite location. Noted that detailed measures can be considered at AMSC stage.	The assessments have been undertaken on the basis of a 'design envelope' approach and with respect to the details provided in Chapter 4: Development Description. The final design of the Proposed Development will continue to be developed post-consent. The Proposed Development and all mitigation is currently proposed within the Site Boundary however this will be reviewed in discussion with Aberdeenshire Council at AMSC stage. The approach to BNG is detailed in Chapter 5, and an Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Plan is included in Appendix 5.5.

Consultee	Description/ Issues Raised	Response
	Advised a Design and Access Statement is not required as the application will be for PPP.	Noted.
	Advised that an economic statement/assessment of economic need should be included with any formal submission in accordance with NPF4.	Noted. Chapter 13 provides an assessment of socio-economic effects of the Proposed Development.
Aberdeenshire Council (Pre-Application Consultation Natural Heritage and Landscape comments)	SEPA noted there does not appear to be peat or carbon rich soils in the area; however, this should be monitored when groundworks are undertaken.	There is no peat present within the Site.
	SEPA noted the effort to collate GWDTE within the Site boundary and understand that a worst-case scenario will be assessed in the EIA.	An assessment of potential effects on GWDTEs is provided in Appendix 7.2
	Requested a biodiversity enhancement strategy which outlines the approach for calculating BNG and how identified measures could be delivered. Full details of the proposed BNG should be provided at AMSC stage, including maintenance and monitoring strategies.	An Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Plan is provided as Appendix 5.5. The approach to BNG has been discussed with Aberdeenshire Council.
	Noted a LVIA will be required. The viewpoints previously provided to and agreed with the Planning Service should be incorporated into the final LVIA.	An assessment on the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on landscape and visual receptors is included in Chapter 8. Viewpoints, as agreed with Aberdeenshire Council, are included in Table 8 3.
	Advised the Proposed Development needs to visually blend into the landscape as much as possible, particularly when viewed from the south, east and north-east, utilising existing and proposed boundary treatments to sufficiently screen the visual impact of any proposed infrastructure upon the immediately surrounding landscape.	The Outline Landscape Mitigation Plan (see Figure 8-8) and text in Chapter 8 sets out the key aims of the proposed landscape mitigation planting. Screen planting will assist in the screening of the proposed substation and integration into the wider landscape.
Aberdeenshire Council Contaminated Land Officer (Pre-Application Consultation comments)	Noted there are 33 potentially contaminated land (PCL) sites within the PoAN boundary, and three PCL in the vicinity of the proposed onshore substation location. Advised a Phase 1 site investigation report will be required at the planning application stage.	The Site boundary has been reduced considerably since EIA Scoping and Pre-Application Consultation was undertaken. There are now five potentially contaminated land sites within the Site boundary. This is detailed further in Chapter 13 and will be investigated further at the AMSC stage.
	Advised the management of surplus peat or soils may	A Site Waste Management Plan will be prepared as part of

Consultee	Description/ Issues Raised	Response
	require an exemption under The Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011. Advised that the submission needs to demonstrate that there will be no discarding of materials likely to be classified as waste as any such proposals would be unacceptable under waste management licensing.	the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)
Transportation and Wider Access (Pre-Application Consultation comments from AC Roads Development, AC Natural Environment and Transport Scotland)	Transport Scotland advised that any proposed works or changes to the trunk road network must be discussed and approved by the appropriate Area Manager. Any new accesses should be designed to design requirements of the DMRB.	Transport Scotland will be consulted at the detailed design stage should any works on the trunk road network be proposed.
	Requested an assessment of the potential impact of construction traffic.	A traffic and transport assessment is included in Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport of the EIA Report.
	Requested a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and a full Abnormal Load Route Assessment (ALRA). Advised that a Swept Path Analysis should be undertaken and details provided with regard to any required changes to street furniture or structures along the route.	An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP) and an Abnormal Loads Assessment (ALA) are provided in Appendix 11.1.
	Noted the design and management of the construction access to the onshore substation which crosses the Formartine and Buchan Way will need to be discussed with the Council's Outdoor Access Team and a wayleave for the crossing will also be required from Aberdeenshire Council.	A meeting was held with the Developer, LUC and AC Outdoor Access Team on 11th November 2024 to discuss the Proposed Development and interaction with the Formartine and Buchan Way and other walking routes within the Site. This is discussed further in Appendix 4.4.
Water Environment (comments from AC Flood Risk and Coastal Protection and SEPA)	Advised that drainage details and flood risk assessment will need to be provided to demonstrate how surface water will be managed as part of a detailed application.	Drainage details and flood risk assessments (if required) will be provided at detailed design stage. Flood risk areas will be avoided where practicable.
	Advised the Developer should consult Scottish Water and ensure they are content with the proposals in relation to the Drinking Water Protected Area.	Scottish Water were consulted during Scoping, and post Scoping (see Table 1-3 below).
	SEPA recommended that areas of flood risk, based on SEPA's future flood maps, should be avoided in line with SEPA's standing advice.	Flood risk areas are shown on Figure 7-3 of the EIA Report and will be avoided where practicable during detailed design. The exception will at watercourse crossing

<table>
<tr><th>Consultee</th><th>Description/ Issues Raised</th><th>Response</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td>locations.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>SEPA provided guidance on recommended buffer zones which are more appropriate for the Proposed Development than the ones provided in their Scoping response:
<table><tr><th>Channel width</th><th>Buffer width</th></tr><tr><td>< 2 m</td><td>10 m</td></tr><tr><td>2 – 15 m</td><td>15 m</td></tr><tr><td>> 15 m</td><td>30 m</td></tr></table></td><td>SEPA’s recommended riparian buffers will be used for this Project, as opposed to the 50 m buffer noted in their Scoping response. The buffers are shown on Figure 7-2 of the EIA Report.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>SEPA noted the effort to collate PWS information within the Site boundary and understand that a worst-case scenario will be assessed in the EIA.</td><td>The PWS assessment is included as Appendix 7.2 of the EIA Report.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Built and Cultural Heritage (comments from AC Built Heritage and AC Archaeology)</td><td>Noted no concerns regarding the impact on assets deemed to be of historic and cultural significance; however, requested elevation drawings of the onshore substation and associated infrastructure as part of the future application.</td><td>Indicative elevation drawings are provided in support of Chapter 4.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Noted there is potential for previously unknown buried archaeological remains to be encountered and appropriate mitigation will be required in response to this.</td><td>The assessment presented in Chapter 9 includes consideration of the potential for previously unknown buried archaeology to be encountered.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Requested an assessment of the potential direct and indirect impacts on the historic environment, including both a Desk-Based Assessment of the known assets, and details of walkover surveys conducted of the development area.</td><td>A Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (HEDBA) is included as Appendix 9.1. An assessment of effects on archaeology and cultural heritage is presented in Chapter 9 of the EIA Report; this has been informed by walkover surveys</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Requested a ZTV assessment of the visual impact of any Scheduled Monument in the vicinity of the Site (notably Ravenscraig Castle, Castle Hill, Inverugie Castle and Mount Pleasant). Noted setting impacts of the buried cable route may be minimal.</td><td>No significant effects on setting have been identified as detailed in Chapter 9.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Advised mitigation methodology at the High/Low tidal point should consider how it interfaces with the offshore archaeological assessment.</td><td>The assessment has considered potential effects in the intertidal area, and has assessed effects associated with the ‘whole project’, including the offshore infrastructure.</td></tr>
</table>

Consultee	Description/ Issues Raised	Response
	Advised Longside Airfield was a WWII airfield, and a procedure should be put in place prior to any ground-breaking works to offset the risk should unexploded ordnance (UXO) be encountered.	The Proposed Development is not located within the Longfield Airfield; however, the potential for UXO will be considered should ground disturbance or any archaeological works be required here.
	Advised a programme of archaeological monitoring for Ground Investigation Works will be required and that this will be followed up by further archaeological mitigation works as appropriate.	Archaeological recording in advance of construction where avoidance of sites or features is not feasible, will be secured by a Written Scheme of Investigation.
Other (comments provided by National Gas, Shell UK Ltd and INEOS FPS Ltd)	National Gas identified that the proposed works are within the High-Risk zone from National Gas Transmission's apparatus and the Developer must not proceed without further assessment from Asset Protection. Shell UK Ltd advised the proposal appears to cross Shell's Major Accident Hazard pipelines. Requested the Developer consults with Shell prior to construction. INEOS requested the Developer consults with INEOS prior to any site works (including pre-works, ground investigations, etc) to ensure continued safe operation and integrity of the pipeline which runs between St Fergus Gas Terminal and the INEOS pump station at Cruden Bay.	The Developer is committed to further consultation with National Gas, Shell UK Ltd and INEOS PFS Limited regarding crossing of existing infrastructure.
Health and Safety Executive Pre-Application Advice Response dated 18/09/2024	Advised that, provided the Proposed Development does not constitute a 'vulnerable' building, HSE has no comment to make.	Noted.
Historic Environment Scotland (HES) Pre-Application Advice Response dated 30/10/2024	Noted that there are no heritage assets within HES's remit within the Site boundary and HES are content that the Proposed Development will not result in significant impacts on the setting of designated heritage assets within the vicinity of the proposal. Welcomed that the onshore archaeological assessment will include land down to Low Mean Water Springs (LMWS),	Noted.

Consultee	Description/ Issues Raised	Response
	with specific consideration given to the intertidal zone to ensure there are no gaps in the assessment between the onshore and offshore elements. Welcomed the indication of local landscaping and tree-planting to act as screening of the onshore substation in views from assets within HES's remit, specifically Ravenscraig Castle (SM2496) and Inverugie Castle (SM98) to the east.	
AC Environmental Health **Pre-Application Advice Response dated 30/10/2024**	Requested a Noise Impact Assessment to predict the impact on sensitive receptors and specify any necessary control measures. Advised the assessment methodology must be agreed with the Environmental Health Service prior to the undertaking of the noise impact assessment.	The Environmental Health Officer (EHO) was consulted by Hoare Lea to agree the proposed survey approach and the criteria required for the operational noise impact assessment for the onshore substation. The survey and assessment has been undertaken as per the agreed approach detailed in Chapter 10.
	Advised that the risks associated with the construction phase, primarily; fugitive dust emissions, construction noise and vibration and artificial light impact, have been considered by Environmental Health and a separate assessment of these is not required but these matters should be address within the CEMP.	A CEMP will be agreed and prepared and secured through a planning condition. This will include measures relating to noise and vibration management and dust and air quality management; water management and pollution control and soil resource management. An Outline CEMP is provided as Appendix 4.1.
	Noted the potential PWS impacts and advised that an appropriate assessment on the PWS potentially affected must be carried out and mitigation measures are introduced.	A PWS Assessment is provided in Appendix 7.2.

Table 1-3: Summary of Additional Consultation Responses[2]

Consultee	Description/ Issues Raised	Response
Aberdeen International Airport (23/10/2023)	Confirmed there will be no radar impacts as a result of the Proposed Development.	Noted.
British Trust for Ornithology (30/10/2023)	Advised they would not comment on the proposals.	n/a
Historic Environment Scotland (HES) (12/01/2024)	Confirmed to be satisfied with the Scheduled Monuments identified within the EIA Scoping area and recommended that all of these assets are scoped into assessment. Recommended that setting impacts on Category A Listed Buchanness Lighthouse (LB16367) be considered as part of any planning application.	Based on the results of the setting assessment only Ravenscraig Castle Scheduled Monument (SM2496) was taken forward for further assessment in Chapter 9. This is because some of the assets listed in HES' response, including Buchanness Lighthouse no longer fell into the Study Area following refinement of the site boundary.
	Recommended further assessment of coastal and marine assets below the Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) mark, particularly when assessing landfall locations for cabling in combination with separate assessment provided for offshore elements of the Project.	The assessment has considered the potential for effects in the intertidal area and an assessment of the 'whole project' has been undertaken, including all offshore infrastructure. However, this does not include an assessment of onshore effects of the turbines, as they are a sufficient distance offshore that they will nt result in any significant setting effects onshore.
	Satisfied with a 100 m buffer from Scheduled Monuments during construction and operation.	The 100 m buffer will be maintained on all Scheduled Monuments.
	Requested an assessment of the likelihood of any vibrational impacts (drilling through bedrock/trenchless technique) and advised that this buffer should extend where necessary to avoid direct impacts on Scheduled Monuments.	The requirement for detailed assessment in relation to vibrational impacts will be reviewed at the AMSC stage, depending on the final design.

[2] Following receipt of the formal EIA Scoping Opinion from Aberdeenshire Council, additional consultation was undertaken on behalf of the Developer to invite statutory and non-statutory consultees not consulted during the formal Scoping consultation process to make comment on the Scoping Report and proposals. Responses to this additional Scoping consultation is summarised within this Table.

Consultee	Description/ Issues Raised	Response
	Satisfied that cumulative effects on cultural heritage with offshore elements of the Project will not be assessed.	Noted
Ministry of Defence (MoD) (12/01/2023)	Requested that the MoD is consulted at all future stages, to allow for a full technical assessment to be completed.	Noted. The MoD will be consulted further during the AMSC stage.
National Air Traffic Safeguarding (NATS) (24/10/2023)	Confirmed the Proposed Development does not conflict with NATS safeguarding criteria and no objection is made to the Proposed Development.	Noted.
North East Scotland Bat Group (NESBats) (03/12/2023)	Advised Nathusius Pipistrelle are present within NESBats area and have appeared in the North Sea in the past. Advised this species should be considered in the assessment, although it is advised that NESBats currently hold no data to base any assessments on. Noted there have been studies on Nathusius conducted in the southern North Sea which may help to inform collisions risk.	Biological records have been sought from National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. The suitability of the study area to support all native bat species, including Nathusius' pipistrelle, has been considered as part of the survey methods adopted (see Chapter 5: Ecology). There will be no significant effects on bats as a result of the Proposed Development.
Scottish Water (26/10/2023)	Advised the Proposed Development falls within a Drinking Water Protected Area (DWPA) and noted the protection measures to be undertaken and the incident reporting procedure. Advised site-specific risks and mitigation measures will be required to be assessed and implemented.	Most of the Site is within the River Ugie catchment and some of the Site falls within the DWPA. The abstraction location is located downstream of the Site. Figure 7-1 of the EIA Report shows the DWPA, and approximate location of the abstraction.
	Advised the River Ugie supplies Forehill Water Treatment Works (WTW) and it is essential that water quality and water quantity in the area are protected.	The Developer is aware of the list of precautions for activities within a DWPA and associated protection measures. The guidance will be used to inform suitable pollution prevention measures where required. These will be documented in the CEMP, an outline of which is included as Appendix 4.1.
	Requested shapefiles on the detailed design to assess the risk to water quality and any Scottish Water assets.	Once the detailed design of the Proposed Development is finalised, further consultation will be undertaken with Scottish Water.
The Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society	Completed a Rights of Way (RoW) Search Result Report to identify whether there are any RoW, other route, Heritage Path or Scottish Hill Track recorded as running either through or close to the site. The following RoW were identified: GB201 to 205, GB209	The RoW identified have been considered as part of the baseline in addition to Core Paths in (see Chapter 12: Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation and Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual

Consultee	Description/ Issues Raised	Response
(ScotWays) (09/01/24)	and GB243. Confirmed that there are no Heritage Paths or Scottish Hill Tracks recorded within or near the Site.	Amenity).
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) (28/11/2023)	Advised the EIA must contain a scaled plan of sensitivities, for example, peat, GWDTE, proximity to watercourses, overlain with the Proposed Development.	Figures 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 of the EIA Report show sensitivities with the Site boundary and Development Zones. For the PPP application, it is assumed that infrastructure could be sited anywhere within the relevant Development Zone, although relevant buffers will be adhered to where practicable.
	Agreed that Air Quality can be scoped out of the assessment.	Noted.
	Welcomed and are satisfied with the proposed scope of the Ecology assessment noted within the EIA Scoping Report. Advised SEPA are unaware of any additional guidance that should be considered.	Noted.
	Advised the layout should be designed to minimise watercourse crossings and avoid other direct impacts on water features. Requested a map showing all proposed temporary or permanent infrastructure overlain with all lochs and watercourse, and a minimum buffer of 50 m around each loch or watercourse. If this minimum buffer cannot be achieved, each breach must be numbered on a plan with an associated photograph of the location, dimensions of the loch or watercourse and drawings of what is proposed in terms of engineering works. Measures should be put in place to protect any downstream sensitive receptors. SEPA provided advice on flood risk, watercourse crossing design and Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR).	Due to the linear nature of the Proposed Development, cable crossings of watercourses will be unavoidable. Figure 7-2 shows watercourses and buffers within the Site boundary which could be crossed in a worst-case scenario. Following further consultation with SEPA in September 2024, SEPA advised that their recommended riparian buffers are appropriate for this Project and should be used (see above). Flood risk and CAR requirements are described in the baseline and assessment. .
	SEPA provided detailed advice if proposals are on peatland or carbon-rich soils.	There is no peatland or carbon rich soils within the Site.
	Advised the layout and design of the Proposed Development must avoid impacts on GWDTE. A National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey is required and relevant buffers must be adhered to.	The NVC survey is shown in Appendix 5.2 of the EIA Report. GWDTE and existing groundwater abstractions, including PWS

Consultee	Description/ Issues Raised	Response
		are shown on Figure 7-3 of the EIA Report with relevant buffers. Where buffers cannot be achieved (in a worst-case scenario), a detailed assessment is provided in Appendix 7.2 of the EIA Report.
	Advised the design should avoid large-scale felling and the submission must include map of where felling will take place and a description of what is proposed for this timber in accordance with the relevant guidance.	Localised felling is proposed within the Site, including the area of forestry close to the landfall (see Chapter 4). Forestry felling and removal will follow the good practice guidance and legal requirements set out in Section 9 (Forests and Water) of the UK Forestry Standard (2023).
	Advised on the information required to be submitted in relation to borrow pits.	No borrow pits are proposed.
	Advised a schedule of mitigation supported by site-specific maps and plans must be submitted. These must include reference to best practice pollution prevention and construction techniques and regulatory requirements. This should also set out the daily responsibilities of Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), how site inspections will be recorded and acted upon and proposals for a planning monitoring enforcement officer.	A schedule of mitigation is provided as Appendix 4.2.
Transport Scotland (06/12/2023)	Advised that the new IEMA guidance 'Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement (July 2023)' should be referred to.	See the assessment of traffic and transport presented in Chapter 11.
	Requested any potential impact on the A90(T) or its junctions is considered in the EIA Report.	See the assessment of traffic and transport presented in Chapter 11.
	Confirmed that the proposal to obtain base traffic data from the Department for Transport (Dft) Road Traffic Statistics is acceptable. Noted that an alternative source of traffic data is Traffic Scotland's National Traffic Data System.	See the assessment of traffic and transport presented in Chapter 11.
	Advised that National Road Traffic Forecasts (NRTF) Low Growth should be utilised to estimate traffic growth factors to apply to baseline traffic conditions instead of TEMPRO.	The latest data has been utilised in the assessment (see Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport). Traffic forecasts have been made using NRTF Low Growth.
	Confirmed that it is acceptable that impacts associated with the operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development are proposed to be scoped out of the EIA.	Noted.
	Requested that a full Abnormal Loads Assessment Report is	An Abnormal Loads Assessment (ALA) is included in Appendix

Consultee	Description/ Issues Raised	Response
	provided with the EIA.	11.1.
Crown Estate Scotland	No response received at the time of writing.	n/a
Scottish Wildlife Trust	No response received at the time of writing however further correspondence was undertaken with a member of the Scottish Wildlife Trust following attendance at one of the public consultation events. Information was provided to the Scottish Wildlife Trust in June 2024 in relation to the ecology surveys undertaken for the Proposed Development, including providing information on the habitats and protected species found.	n/a
National Trust for Scotland	No response received at the time of writing.	n/a
Civil Aviation Authority	No response received at the time of writing.	n/a
Visit Scotland	No response received at the time of writing.	n/a
Mountaineering Scotland	No response received at the time of writing.	n/a
Keep Scotland Beautiful	No response received at the time of writing.	n/a
British Horse Society	No response received at the time of writing.	n/a
John Muir Trust	No response received at the time of writing.	n/a
The British Geological Survey	No response received at the time of writing.	n/a
The James Hutton Institute	No response received at the time of writing.	n/a