

Offshore Wind Power Limited

West of Orkney Windfarm Offshore EIA Report

Volume 1, Foreword and Contents

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1 FOREWORD

Our era is defined by the urgent need to address climate change, energy security, and the transition towards cleaner energy sources. The West of Orkney Windfarm represents an opportunity to do this at scale and in a timely manner. Our vision is to develop a world-leading offshore windfarm that will spearhead the deep decarbonization of the Scottish economy and play a pivotal role in fostering growth, empowerment and prosperity for local communities.

Any project which intends to power around two million homes cannot be undertaken in isolation from the communities in which it will operate. Over the last two years we've organised over 29 public events, reaching over 1600 residents across Caithness, Sutherland and Orkney. These events have served as a platform for the community to actively participate and engage with the project's design, ensuring that we develop an environmentally responsible and socially beneficial project that resonates with local needs and aspirations.

This comprehensive Offshore Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report has been managed via Xodus Group's Stromness office and represents over three years' work. The Offshore EIA Report also draws on the collective expertise and passion of 30 specialist subcontractors who have been instrumental in conducting extensive and thorough assessments of the environmental impact and proposing measures to avoid, reduce, monitor and manage potential challenges, where necessary.

EIA is not just a legal requirement; it is a representation of our dedication to fostering a sustainable future for generations to come. It is our pledge to remain transparent, adaptive and accountable every step of the way.

This application outlines our commitment to safeguard marine habitats, protect wildlife, and minimise any potential disturbances to the local ecosystem. It includes a biodiversity enhancement plan, setting out how the West of Orkney Windfarm can, over the long term, improve the overall biodiversity in the area in which we operate. Moreover, it highlights our proactive approach to engaging with local communities to foster sustainable development and create a positive legacy across generations.

We hope we have set out our ambition with clarity and with openness, and that by reading this document, you will gain a clear understanding of how we intend to deliver a project to the highest environmental standards, and we look forward to continuing our dialogue with you.

We extend our thanks to the environmental authorities, regulatory bodies, and local communities for their support and guidance thus far. We invite all stakeholders to explore this EIA application and engage in the determination process. Together, we have the opportunity to set an example for responsible development in Scotland that harmonizes progress and preservation.



Stephen Kerr Project Director



2 EIA CONTENTS

2.1 Volume 1 EIA Chapters

CHAPTER NUMBER	CHAPTER TITLE
	Non-Technical Summary
	Contents and Foreword
1	Introduction
2	Need for the Project
3	Planning Policy and Legislative Context
4	Site Selection & Consideration of Alternatives
5	Project Description
6	Stakeholder Engagement
7	EIA Methodology
8	Marine Physical and Coastal Processes
9	Water and Sediment Quality
10	Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology
11	Fish and Shellfish Ecology
12	Marine Mammals and Megafauna
13	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
14	Commercial Fisheries
15	Shipping and Navigation
16	Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
17	Military and Aviation
18	Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
19	Socio-Economics (Whole Project)
20	Other Sea Users
21	Onshore EIA Summary
22	Summary of Mitigation and Monitoring
23	Conclusions and Next Steps



2.2 Volume 2 – EIA Supporting Studies

REPORT NUMBER	REPORT TITLE
SS1	Climate and Carbon Assessment (Xodus Group and OWPL)
SS2	Major Accidents and Disasters (Xodus Group)
SS3	Marine Physical and Coastal Processes Supporting Study (Xodus Group and PCS)
SS4	Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Baseline Report (Xodus Group)
SS5	Benthic Environmental Baseline Report (Ocean Infinity)
SS6	Intertidal Survey Habitat Assessment (Ocean Ecology)
SS7	Fish and Shellfish Ecology Baseline Report (Xodus Group)
SS8	Digital Video Aerial Survey Methodology and Marine Mammal Survey Results (HiDef)
SS9	Marine Mammals and Megafauna Baseline Report (HiDef)
SS10	Marine Mammal Underwater Noise Impact Assessment (SMRU)
SS11	Underwater Noise Modelling Report (Subacoustech)
SS12	Offshore Ornithology Technical Supporting Study (MacArthurGreen)
SS13	Commercial Fisheries Baseline Report (Xodus Group)
SS14	Navigational Risk Assessment (Anatec)
SS15	Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Gazetteer of Sites (ORCA)
SS16	SLVIA Viewpoint Assessment (WSP)
SS17	SLVIA Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Visualisations Methodologies (WSP)
SS18	SLVIA Night-time Lighting Assessment (WSP)
SS19	SLVIA Figures (WSP)
SS20	SLVIA Visualisations (WSP)
SS21	Methodology used to Quantify GVA and Employment Effects (Development Economics)
SS22	Marine Archaeology Onshore Setting Supporting Figures (WSP/ORCA)

2.3 Volume 3 - Outline management plans

REPORT NUMBER	OUTLINE MANAGEMENT PLAN
OP1	Outline Environmental Management Plan
OP2	Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (geophysical, UXO and piling)
OP3	Outline Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy
OP4	Outline Navigational Safety and Vessel Management Plan
OP5	Outline Aids to Navigation Management Plan
OP6	Outline Lighting and Marking Plan