



Appendix 2.1

Marine Policy Plan Appraisal

Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind
Ltd

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Marine Policy Plan Appraisal

1.1 Introduction

1. This appendix to the EIA Report is intended to provide a summary of the main policies relevant to the Project drawn from the main marine planning policy documents set out in Chapter 2: Policy and Legislation, and specifically the relevant policies set out in the following relevant marine policy documents:
 - UK Marine Policy Statement (HM Government Northern Ireland Executive Scottish Government Welsh Assembly Government, March 2011 - UK Marine Policy Statement, available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-marine-policy-statement>); and
 - Scotland’s National Marine Plan (Scottish Government, 2015b. Scotland’s National Marine Plan. Available from: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00475466.pdf>.

1.2 Policy appraisal

2. The policy appraisal has identified what are considered to be the main, relevant policy statements set out in the UK Marine Policy Statement and Scotland’s National Marine Plan and sets out how the Project responds to those policies. The results of the policy appraisal are set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Marine Policy and Plan Appraisal

Policy reference	Policy summary	Policy Assessment
UK Marine Policy Statement		
Box 1: High level marine objectives	Living within environmental limits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biodiversity is protected, conserved and where appropriate recovered and loss has been halted. ▪ Healthy marine and coastal habitats occur across their natural range and are able to support strong, biodiverse biological communities and the functioning of healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystems. ▪ Our oceans support viable populations of representative, rare, vulnerable, and valued species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The EIA report (and HRA) set out the potential impacts on the environment arising from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project. ▪ More broadly, the Project will provide a source of low carbon, sustainable energy which will play a role in managing the effects of climate change on the marine environment.
	Promoting good governance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All those who have a stake in the marine environment have an input into associated decision-making. ▪ Marine, land and water management mechanisms are responsive and work effectively together, for example through integrated coastal zone management and river basin management plans. ▪ Marine management in the UK takes account of different management systems that are in place because of administrative, political or international boundaries. ▪ Marine businesses are subject to clear, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The application and the EIA Report have been prepared following consultation with relevant stakeholders; those stakeholders will have a further opportunity to comment on the application and those views will be considered by the Scottish Ministers in the consent determination. ▪ The location of the Project is consistent with the relevant marine planning process conducted in relation to the siting of offshore wind farms in Scottish Territorial Waters.

Policy reference	Policy summary	Policy Assessment
	<p>timely, proportionate and, where appropriate, plan-led regulation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The use of the marine environment is spatially planned where appropriate and based on an ecosystems approach which takes account of climate change and recognises the protection and management needs of marine cultural heritage according to its significance. <p>Using sound science responsibly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our understanding of the marine environment continues to develop through new scientific and socio-economic research and data collection. ▪ Sound evidence and monitoring underpins effective marine management and policy development. ▪ The precautionary principle is applied consistently in accordance with the UK Government and Devolved Administrations’ sustainable development policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consideration of the impacts on relevant environmental receptors has been undertaken through the scoping process and the preparation of the EIA report which has been prepared, where relevant, on an ecosystem basis and by examining relevant inter-relationships. ▪ The application has been prepared using the best available information and in line with the advice provided in the scoping opinion provided by the Scottish Ministers. ▪ Uncertainty encountered has been identified and an appropriate level of precaution has been built into the assessment process where considered necessary and in line with the advice provided in the scoping opinion.
<p>2.3.2.2</p>	<p>High level principles for decision making Decisions should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be conducted in a manner that meets requirements under UK and EU legislation and is consistent with our obligations under international law. ▪ Be conducted in a manner that takes account of other relevant projects, programmes, plans and national policies and guidance. ▪ Be taken using a risk-based approach that allows for uncertainty, recognising the need to use sound science responsibly as set out in the high-level objectives. ▪ Be sensitive to any potential impacts on sites of particular significance e.g. sites protected under environmental legislation, designated in relation to cultural heritage or of social or economic significance. ▪ Take account of potential impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation in individual applications to ensure that any appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures have been identified. ▪ Look to avoid and then mitigate negative impacts where possible at various stages of development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The application has been prepared in accordance with relevant legislation and policies (see Chapter 2 of the EIA report: policy and legislation). ▪ The impact assessments set out in the EIA Report have considered the impacts of the Project on the environment both alone and cumulatively with other relevant projects and using relevant, available guidance. ▪ Uncertainty encountered has been identified and an appropriate level of precaution has been built into the assessment process where considered necessary and in line with the advice provided in the scoping opinion. ▪ Impacts on relevant sites and features are considered in the EIA Report (and the HRA) and assessments have been conducted using the best available information and in line with the advice provided by the Scottish Ministers in the scoping opinion. ▪ Where necessary, additional measures to avoid or mitigate potential negative impacts are set out in the EIA report.
<p>2.4.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The marine plan authority will need to consider the potential cumulative impact of activities using best available techniques. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impact assessments set out in the EIA Report have considered the impacts of the Project on the environment both alone and cumulatively with other relevant

Policy reference	Policy summary	Policy Assessment
		projects and using relevant, available guidance.
2.5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properly planned developments in the marine area can provide environmental and social benefits as well as drive economic development, provide opportunities for investment and generate export and tax revenues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 15 of the EIA Report; Socioeconomics, provides an assessment of socioeconomic impacts of the Project.
2.5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine based activities can provide opportunities for employment in long established industries such as fishing, marine transport, port related storage and processing, oil and gas production and new and developing industries such as the renewable energy sector and associated offshore electricity transmission. This employment provides wide and long-term benefits for both national and local economies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 15 of the EIA Report; Socioeconomics, provides an assessment of socioeconomic impacts of the Project.
2.5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine planning will also therefore make an important contribution towards ensuring vibrant and sustainable coastal communities - helping to build strong local economies - improving quality of life, access to, and enjoyment of, their marine areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 15 of the EIA Report; Socioeconomics, provides an assessment of socioeconomic impacts of the Project. Impacts on the fishing industry are considered in Chapter 10 of the EIA Report: Commercial Fisheries. Impacts on coastal landscapes and seascapes are assessed in Chapter 14 of the EIA Report: SLVIA.
2.5.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The marine plan authority should ensure, through integration with terrestrial planning, and engagement with coastal communities, that marine planning contributes to securing sustainable economic growth both in regeneration areas and areas that already benefit from strong local economies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The onshore elements of the Project have been the subject of a separate planning application under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997) which was granted by East Lothian Council in June 2013. The permission was subsequently amended by an application under Section 42 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) in November 2015 and advance construction works were undertaken in August 2016. Inter-related effects as a result of the offshore components and the onshore works have been considered where relevant in the EIA Report.
2.5.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a wide range of legislative provisions at the international and national level that Marine Plans need to take into account. These include the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive, Habitats Directive and Wild Birds Directive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The application has been prepared in accordance with relevant legislation and policies (see Chapter 2 of the EIA report: policy and legislation).

Policy reference	Policy summary	Policy Assessment
2.5.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In estuaries and coastal waters there are similar requirements under the WFD for Member States to achieve good ecological status/potential by 2015. There needs to be consideration of whether an activity (as a pressure on the environment) causes, or contributes to causing, a failure to meet water body status objectives. New development should not cause a water body or adjacent water bodies to deteriorate in status, nor prevent the achievement of established objectives set out in any River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The requirement to provide an assessment of the impact of the Project on water quality was scoped out of the EIA Report in the scoping opinion provided by the Scottish Ministers.
2.6.1.1	<p>UK aims to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A halting and, if possible, a reversal of biodiversity loss with species and habitats operating as a part of healthy, functioning ecosystems. ▪ The general acceptance of biodiversity's essential role in enhancing the quality of life, with its conservation becoming a natural consideration in all relevant public, private and nongovernmental decisions and policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impacts of the Project on biodiversity have been set out in the EIA Report in so far as was required by the scoping opinion provided by the Scottish Ministers.
2.6.2.1	<p>Air quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activities and developments in the marine and coastal area can have adverse effects on air quality at various stages. The construction, operation and decommissioning phases of projects can involve emissions to air which could lead to adverse impacts on human health, biodiversity, or on the wider environment. Other key sources that impact air quality include emissions from shipping, oil and gas platforms at sea, oil and gas importing facilities, vehicle emissions as a result of increased coastal activity, and dust from construction. The generation of energy from renewable sources has an overall beneficial effect on air quality, as compared with fossil fuels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The requirement to provide an assessment of the impact of the Project on air quality was scoped out of the EIA Report in the scoping opinion provided by the Scottish Ministers. ▪ Since the Project is an offshore wind farm producing low carbon electricity from a sustainable source, the Project will have an overall beneficial effect on air quality as compared to generation from fossil fuels.
2.6.3	<p>Noise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Noise resulting from a proposed activity or development in the marine area or in coastal and estuarine waters can have adverse effects on biodiversity although knowledge of the extent of impacts is limited and there are few systematic monitoring programmes to verify adverse effects. ▪ Manmade sound sources of primary concern with regard to disturbance of marine life are explosions, shipping, seismic surveys, offshore construction and offshore industrial activities, for example dredging, drilling and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impacts of underwater noise resulting from the construction of the Project on marine mammals and fish are assessed in the EIA Report (Chapter 7: fish and shellfish and Chapter 9: marine mammals) and in addition in the HRA report in relation to protected sites and species.

Policy reference	Policy summary	Policy Assessment
	<p>piling, sonar of various types and acoustic deterrent devices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It should be noted that for certain animals, deliberate disturbance is prohibited and can only be carried out in accordance with the terms of a license. 	
<p>2.6.4.3</p>	<p>Water quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The marine plan authority should satisfy itself where relevant that any development will not cause a deterioration in status of any water to which the WFD applies, subject to the provision of Article 4.7 of that Directive, or prevent compliance with any WFD obligation and is consistent with the requirements of daughter directives of the WFD including those on priority substances and groundwater. Decision makers should also take into account impacts on the quality of designated bathing waters and shellfish waters from any proposed development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The requirement to provide an assessment of the impact of the Project on water quality was scoped out of the EIA Report in the scoping opinion provided by the Scottish Ministers.
<p>2.6.5.2</p>	<p>Seascape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When developing Marine Plans, marine plan authorities should consider at a strategic level visual, cultural, historical and archaeological impacts not just for those coastal areas that are particularly important for seascape, but for all coastal areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impact of the Project on seascape is set out in Chapter 14: SLVIA, and visual impacts on cultural heritage are considered in Chapter 13: Archaeology.
<p>2.6.6</p>	<p>Historic environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marine activities have the potential to result in adverse effects on the historic environment both directly and indirectly, including damage to or destruction of heritage assets. ▪ Where the loss of the whole or a material part of a heritage asset's significance is justified, the marine plan authority should identify and require suitable mitigating actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The requirement to provide an assessment of the impact of the Project on marine archaeology was, for the most part, scoped out of the EIA Report in the scoping opinion provided by the Scottish Ministers. ▪ The visual impacts of the Project on cultural heritage are considered in Chapter 13: Archaeology.
<p>3.1.6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When developing Marine Plans the marine plan authority will incorporate the identified areas and features of importance for nature conservation and state policies for or in connection with the sustainable development of the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The EIA Report sets out an assessment of impacts on designated sites and features in line with the requirements of the scoping opinion provided by the Scottish Ministers. ▪ The HRA report sets out the impacts of the Project on relevant Natura 2000 sites.
<p>3.1.7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marine plan authorities and decision makers should take account of how developments will impact on the aim to halt biodiversity loss and the legal obligations relating to all MPAs, their conservation objectives, and their management arrangements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The EIA Report sets out an assessment of impacts on designated sites and features in line with the requirements of the scoping opinion provided by the Scottish Ministers. ▪ The HRA report sets out the impacts of the Project on relevant Natura 2000 sites.

Policy reference	Policy summary	Policy Assessment
3.2.9	<p>Defence and national security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The construction and operation of offshore marine infrastructure, installations and activities, as well as policies on conservation designations and the health of the wider environment may impact on defence interests in certain areas. Marine plan authorities and decision makers should take full account of the individual and cumulative effects of marine infrastructure on both marine and land based MoD interests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The EIA Report sets out an assessment of the impacts of the Project on air defence radar (Chapter 12: Civil and Military Aviation).
3.3.4	<p>When decision makers are examining and determining applications for energy infrastructure they should take into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The national level of need for energy infrastructure. ▪ The positive wider environmental, societal and economic benefits of low carbon electricity generation. ▪ Renewable energy resources can only be developed where the resource exists and where economically feasible. ▪ The potential impact of inward investment in offshore wind energy related manufacturing and deployment activity; as well as the impact of associated employment opportunities on the regeneration of local and national economies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chapter 2: policy and legislation of the EIA Report confirms the need for renewable energy and sets out how the Project complies with the relevant policy drivers. ▪ The Project will provide a maximum of 450 MW of low-carbon energy. ▪ The project will further contribute to reducing carbon emissions in line with national objectives. ▪ Chapter 15 of the EIA Report; Socioeconomics, provides an assessment of socioeconomic impacts of the Project.
3.3.5	<p>Marine plan authorities will need to liaise, as appropriate, with terrestrial planning authorities to ensure the development of any necessary on-shore Infrastructure such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sub-stations, to support offshore electricity generation and connection to the national grid ▪ New gas and electricity import infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The onshore elements of the Project have been the subject of a separate planning application under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997) which was granted by East Lothian Council in June 2013. The permission was subsequently amended by an application under Section 42 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) in November 2015 and advance construction works were undertaken in August 2016. ▪ Inter-related effects as a result of the offshore components and the onshore works have been considered where relevant in the EIA Report.
Scotland's National Marine Plan:		
GEN 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a presumption in favour of sustainable development and use of the marine environment when consistent with the policies and objectives of this Plan. ▪ Sustainability is an overarching principle encompassing environmental, social and economic policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Project will provide a source of low carbon energy from a sustainable source.
GEN 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable development and use which 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chapter 15 of the EIA Report;

Policy reference	Policy summary	Policy Assessment
	<p>provides economic benefit to Scottish communities is encouraged when consistent with the objectives and policies of this Plan.</p>	<p>Socioeconomics, provides an assessment of socioeconomic impacts of the Project.</p>
<p>GEN 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable development and use which provides social benefits is encouraged when consistent with the objectives and policies of this Plan. ▪ Includes both economic and health and wellbeing benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Project will provide a source of low carbon energy from a sustainable source. ▪ Chapter 15 of the EIA Report; Socioeconomics, provides an assessment of socioeconomic impacts of the Project.
<p>GEN 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposals which enable coexistence with other development sectors and activities within the Scottish marine area are encouraged in planning and decision-making processes, when consistent with policies and objectives of this Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impacts of the Project on the commercial fishing industry are set out in the EIA report (Chapter 10: commercial fisheries). ▪ The impacts of the Project on the shipping and navigation are set out in the EIA report (Chapter 11: shipping and navigation). ▪ The impacts of the Project on civil and military aviation interests are set out in the EIA report (Chapter 12: civil and military aviation).
<p>GEN 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marine planners and decision makers must act in the way best calculated to mitigate, and adapt to, climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Project will provide a source of low carbon energy from a sustainable source.
<p>GEN 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development and use of the marine environment should protect and, where appropriate, enhance heritage assets in a manner proportionate to their significance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The requirement to provide an assessment of the impact of the Project on marine archaeology was, for the most part, scoped out of the EIA Report in the scoping opinion provided by the Scottish Ministers. ▪ The visual impacts of the Project on cultural heritage are considered in Chapter 13: Archaeology.
<p>GEN 7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marine planners and decision makers should ensure that development and use of the marine environment take seascape, landscape and visual impacts into account. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impact of the Project on seascape is set out in Chapter 14: SLVIA, and visual impacts on cultural heritage are considered in Chapter 13: Archaeology.
<p>GEN 8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developments and activities in the marine environment should be resilient to coastal change and flooding, and not have unacceptable adverse impact on coastal processes or contribute to coastal flooding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The requirement to provide an assessment of the impact of the Project on coastal processes was scoped out of the EIA Report in the scoping opinion provided by the Scottish Ministers.
<p>GEN 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development and use of the marine environment must: ▪ Comply with legal requirements for protected areas and protected species. ▪ Not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features. ▪ Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the health of the marine area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The EIA Report sets out an assessment of impacts on designated sites and features in line with the requirements of the scoping opinion provided by the Scottish Ministers. ▪ The HRA report sets out the impacts of the Project on relevant Natura 2000 sites.

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GEN 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities to reduce the introduction of invasive non-native species to a minimum or proactively improve the practice of existing activity should be taken when decisions are being made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The embedded mitigation included as part of the Project design includes the provision of an Environmental Management Plan which will address measures to manage the risk of the introduction of invasive non-native species in line with standard IMO measures.
GEN 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developers, users and those accessing the marine environment must take measures to address marine litter where appropriate. Reduction of litter must be taken into account by decision makers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The embedded mitigation included as part of the Project design includes the provision of an Environmental Management Plan which will address measures to manage the handling and disposal of waste matter generated during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the project.
GEN 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developments and activities should not result in a deterioration of the quality of waters to which the Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive or other related Directives apply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The requirement to provide an assessment of the impact of the Project on water quality was scoped out of the EIA Report in the scoping opinion provided by the Scottish Ministers.
GEN 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and use in the marine environment should avoid significant adverse effects of man-made noise and vibration, especially on species sensitive to such effects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impacts of underwater noise resulting from the construction of the Project on marine mammals and fish are assessed in the EIA Report (Chapter 7: fish and shellfish and Chapter 9: marine mammals) and in addition in the HRA report in relation to protected sites and species.
GEN 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and use of the marine environment should not result in the deterioration of air quality and should not breach any statutory air quality limits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The requirement to provide an assessment of the impact of the Project on air quality was scoped out of the EIA Report in the scoping opinion provided by the Scottish Ministers.
GEN 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All marine interests will be treated with fairness and in a transparent manner when decisions are being made in the marine environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The application will be subject to public consultation. The consent determination decision will be made public.
GEN 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The application and the EIA Report have been prepared following consultation with relevant stakeholders; those stakeholders will have a further opportunity to comment on the application and those views will be considered by the Scottish Ministers in the consent determination.
GEN 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision making in the marine environment will be based on sound scientific and socio-economic evidence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The application has been prepared using the best available information and in line with the advice provided in the scoping opinion provided by the

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		Scottish Ministers.
GEN 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adaptive management practices should take account of new data and information in decision making, informing future decisions and future iterations of policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Embedded mitigation and additional mitigation measures have been identified in the EIA Report to manage the potential impacts arising from the development of the Project.
GEN 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem of the marine plan area should be addressed in decision making and plan implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impact assessments set out in the EIA Report have considered the impacts of the Project on the environment both alone and cumulatively with other relevant projects.
Chapter 11 – offshore and renewables	<p>Marine Licensing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Applications for marine licenses and consents relating to offshore wind and marine renewable energy projects should be made in accordance with the Marine Licensing Manual and Marine Scotland’s Licensing Policy Guidance. ▪ Marine planners and decision makers must ensure that renewable energy projects demonstrate compliance with Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulations Appraisal legislative requirements. ▪ New and future planned grid connections should align with relevant sectoral and other marine spatial planning processes, where appropriate, to ensure a co-ordinated and strategic approach to grid planning. Cable and network owners and marine users should also take a joined-up approach to development and activity to minimise impacts on the marine historic and natural environment and other users. ▪ Marine planners and decision makers should ensure infrastructure is fit for purpose now and in future. Consideration should be given to the potential for climate change impacts on coasts vulnerable to erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The application has been prepared to be compliant with the relevant legislation and guidance relating to applications for marine licences for offshore wind farm projects in Scottish Territorial Waters (See Chapter 2 of the EIA Report: policy and legislation). ▪ The cable landfall and associated infrastructure will be designed to accommodate predicted changes to the coastline from climate change over the Project’s life time.
	<p>Maximising benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developers bringing forward proposals for new developments must actively engage at an early stage with the general public and interested stakeholders of the area to which the proposal relates and of adjoining areas which may be affected. ▪ Marine planners and decision makers should support the development of joint research and monitoring programmes for offshore wind and marine renewables energy development. ▪ Good practice guidance for community benefit from offshore wind and renewable energy development should be followed by 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The application and the EIA Report have been prepared following consultation with relevant stakeholders; those stakeholders and the general public will have a further opportunity to comment on the application and those views will be considered by the Scottish Ministers in the consent determination. ▪ NnGOWL will participate, where relevant, in appropriate monitoring programmes. ▪ It is anticipated that a community benefit scheme will be progressed for NnG, commencing with a consultation

Policy reference	Policy summary	Policy Assessment
	<p>developers, where appropriate.</p>	<p>of the form of the scheme e.g. the geographic scope and scale of projects to be funded. The scheme will commence when the project commences generation.</p>
	<p>Regional policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grid requirements and onshore infrastructures for grid. Links to strategic grid initiatives and engagement with these, e.g. the North Sea Countries Offshore Grid Initiative could also be supported by regional marine planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The onshore elements of the Project have been the subject of a separate planning application under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997) which was granted by East Lothian Council in June 2013. The permission was subsequently amended by an application under Section 42 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) in November 2015 and advance construction works were undertaken in August 2016.
	<p>Sustainable marine economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Infrastructure is in place to support and promote safe, profitable and efficient marine businesses. ▪ The marine environment and its resources are used to maximise sustainable activity, prosperity and opportunities for all, now and in the future. ▪ Marine businesses are taking long-term strategic decisions and managing risks effectively. They are competitive and operating efficiently. ▪ Marine businesses are acting in a way which respects environmental limits and is socially responsible. This is rewarded in the marketplace. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mainstream have successfully completed and developed a range of projects, including the 4 GW offshore Hornsea Zone and numerous wind and solar plants onshore in the US, Canada, Chile and South Africa. ▪ Mainstream Renewable Power have a set of values which encompasses safety, sustainability, innovation and integrity. Leading to a forward thinking efficient company. ▪ The potential impacts on the environment are examined in detail in the EIA report and, where necessary, mitigation is proposed to reduce or avoid significant effects and ensure that the Project will be developed within environmental limits and in a sustainable manner.
	<p>Strong, healthy and just society:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People appreciate the diversity of the marine environment, its seascapes, its natural and cultural heritage and its resources and act responsibly. ▪ The use of the marine environment is benefiting society as a whole, contributing to resilient and cohesive communities that can adapt to coastal erosion and flood risk, as well as contributing to physical and mental wellbeing. ▪ The coast, seas, oceans and their resources are safe to use. ▪ The marine environment plays an important role in mitigating climate change. ▪ There is equitable access for those who want to use and enjoy the coast, seas and their 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impact of the Project on seascape is set out in Chapter 14: SLVIA, and visual impacts on cultural heritage are considered in Chapter 13: Archaeology. ▪ Chapter 15 of the EIA Report; Socioeconomics, provides an assessment of socioeconomic impacts of the Project. ▪ The impacts of the Project on the commercial fishing industry are set out in the EIA report (Chapter 10: commercial fisheries). ▪ The impacts of the Project on the shipping and navigation are set out in the EIA report (Chapter 11: shipping and navigation).

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	<p>wide range of resources and assets and recognition that for some island and peripheral communities the sea plays a significant role in their community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use of the marine environment will recognise, and integrate with, defence priorities, including the strengthening of international peace and stability and the defence of the UK and its interests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impact of the Project on seascape is set out in Chapter 14: SLVIA, and visual impacts on cultural heritage are considered in Chapter 13: Archaeology. ▪ The EIA Report sets out an assessment of the impacts of the Project on air defence radar (Chapter 12: Civil and Military Aviation).