

## 7 Engagement and Commitments

### 7.1 Introduction

1 Consultation and stakeholder engagement has formed an integral part of the EIA process. In addition to scoping (the consultation responses for which are presented in **Chapter 3: EIA Methodology and Approach**), the EIA team and Mainstream have contacted a number of other relevant parties to determine their views on the Onshore Works, collect baseline information and to refine survey methodologies.

2 This chapter provides an overview of the consultation that has been undertaken, including consultation with the local communities and with both statutory and non-statutory consultees.

### 7.2 Approach to Engagement

3 Mainstream's vision, mission and values include a focus on working with others and respecting those with whom the organisation works. This has been reflected in the extensive consultation carried out for the Neart na Gaoithe project. Mainstream's values are illustrated in the box below, and further information is available at [www.mainstreamrp.com](http://www.mainstreamrp.com).

#### Mainstream Renewable Power: Values

- **We believe in a Safe environment for our people.** By putting safety first, we have created an environment in which people work at their best, assured in the knowledge that their security is priority
- **We believe in showing Personal Respect for everyone we deal with.** Respect forms the core of the most successful relationships. And relationships are the foundation block of our business. Where there is mutual respect, trust is established and partnerships thrive.
- **We believe that by Working Together as a team, we deliver more.** We won't achieve our vision in isolation. By coming together, sharing information and working towards a common goal, we empower each other to deliver a sustainable future and share in its success.
- **We believe that an Entrepreneurial approach will find the solutions others can't see.** The world is facing monumental challenges. We won't overcome them by conventional thinking. This is the time for finding new ways. Those with innovative concepts and creative solutions, coupled with the commitment to delivering them, will lead the way forward.
- **We believe in a Sustainable approach to everything we do.** We think about tomorrow and how today's actions will impact our future. It's central to everything we do. Taking the long-term view is fundamental to the success of our business; to the relationships that we form; and for the future of our planet.
- **We believe that by Embracing Innovation we will stay ahead of the game.** Our success reflects our flexibility and openness to embrace innovation across all our markets and business activities, reducing cost and maximising performance. Only by driving good practice and new ideas will we develop as a team, grow as a business and evolve as an industry.

### 7.3 Consultation with Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees

4 Mainstream's aim has been to work with all stakeholders (organisations, individuals and communities) who have an interest in the project, whether as a result of their activities or their location. This will enable the development to benefit from the considerable experience of the stakeholders and will allow the project to develop with the involvement of stakeholders on whom it may ultimately have an impact.

5 Meetings were held with a number of statutory and non-statutory consultees throughout the duration of the EIA process to inform the consultees of progress with the project, to enable any potential issues or concerns raised by the consultees to be discussed, and to ensure the assessment process was transparent. Meetings were held with:

- Historic Scotland;
- BEAR Scotland (re. transport);
- East Lammermuir and Dunbar Community Councils;
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH);
- Torness Power Station (EDF/British Energy); and
- Landowners.

6 Meetings were also held with East Lothian Council officers including planning, transport and archaeology.

7 Ongoing consultations, including discussions relating to the landscape and visual impact assessment, ecology, traffic and transport, noise, land use, cultural heritage and ornithology assessments, were also undertaken by the relevant specialists throughout the EIA process. Further details of these consultations are provided in the relevant specialist topic assessment **Chapters 8-17**.

#### 7.3.1 Public Consultation

8 A summary of the public consultation undertaken is outlined below with full details provided in the **Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) Report** (September 2012) which accompanies the planning application.

##### 7.3.1.1 Community Council Consultation

9 The public events have been undertaken following consultation with local Community Councils, with the dates and venues of the events agreed with the Community Councils where possible. Two of the East Lothian events, Innerwick and Spott, were scheduled to dovetail with meetings of East Lammermuir Community Council. Members of the Community Council attended the exhibition and then question and answer sessions were held with the developers.

10 Members of East Lothian Council met with members of the Mainstream development team immediately prior to the exhibition in Dunbar. They viewed the exhibition prior to it opening to the general public.

11 The Community Council consultation undertaken by Mainstream is identified below, with the corresponding dates provided:

- East Lammermuir Community Council: 10<sup>th</sup> May and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011
- Dunbar Community Council: 18<sup>th</sup> July 2011

##### 7.3.1.2 Community Consultation Events

12 A total of 15 events were held in Fife, Angus and East Lothian from November 2010 to August 2012. Six events were held at community halls with the remainder being held at community fetes and galas. A total of 1,659 people visited these events.

13 The East Lothian venues were chosen as they are in the vicinity of the proposed cable route. Details of the Community Consultation Events held for the Neart na Gaoithe project in East Lothian are provided in **Table 7.1**. The Community Consultation Event of particular relevance to the Onshore Works was that held in November 2011 at Spott Village Hall.

Location	Date
Innerwick Village Hall	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2011
Hall Healthy Living Centre, Dunbar	11 <sup>th</sup> May 2011
Dunbar RNLI Day	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2011
Spott Village Hall	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2011
Torness	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
Dunbar RNLI Day	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2012

Table 7.1: Details of Community Consultation Events

- 14 A number of different media were used to promote the above events including:
- radio;
  - newspaper adverts;
  - press releases;
  - email Invitations;
  - posters;
  - flyers;
  - door to door leafleting; and
  - sponsorship.
- 15 The public events were held in venues that were easily accessible to the public and were attended by members of staff from Mainstream and LUC as appropriate to provide points of contact on the day. All the events were scheduled to take place at times to allow them to be attended by as many members of the community as possible.
- 16 Importantly, the timing of the events enabled the emerging findings of the environmental surveys and the initial route corridor to be presented whilst allowing comments and feedback received from the public to be taken into account.
- 17 At the Community Consultation Events, exhibition boards were used to display information about the Onshore Works and the EIA, the timeline of the project and the consenting process. Graphic representations of the development were displayed for people to view and information on the key areas of survey work that has been (and continues to be) undertaken, was also provided.
- 18 Participants were asked to complete a questionnaire in order to gather public opinions and views on the proposed development and to obtain feedback on the quality of the event<sup>1</sup>.
- 19 Estimated numbers of the level of attendance at the events in East Lothian and feedback is provided in **Table 7.2**. Further detail on the issues raised during these events is provided in the **PACC Report** which accompanies the application.

Event	No. of People who Attended	No. of Feedback Forms Completed
Innerwick Village Hall	29	16
Hall Hill Healthy Living Centre, Dunbar	75	55
Dunbar RNLI Day (2011)	79	12
Spott Village Hall	42	26
Torness	43	N/A (feedback forms not available at this event)
Dunbar RNLI Day (2012)	182	N/A (feedback forms not available at this event)
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>109</b>

Table 7.2: Level of Attendance and Feedback at Community Consultation Events

<sup>1</sup> With the exception of the Torness event held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012 and the Dunbar RNLI event on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2012.

### 7.3.1.3 Proposal of Application Notice

- 20 As part of the pre-application consultation process, a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was submitted to East Lothian Council on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011. The PAN was also sent to the following Community Councils on the same date:
- East Lammermuir Community Council;
  - Dunbar Community Council.
- 21 The PAN included the following information:
- a description of the Onshore Works;
  - a plan showing the preferred cable route;
  - contact details for Mainstream and Facilitating Change (UK) Ltd;
  - an account of the details of the Community Consultation Events held to that date; and
  - details for the primary public event for the Onshore Works (Spott Village Hall, November 2011).
- 22 In respect of the Spott Village Hall event, the newspaper advert was published in one local newspaper circulating in East Lothian and contained:
- a description of and the location of, the proposed development;
  - details as to where further information could be obtained concerning the proposed development and the date and place of the public event;
  - a statement explaining how and by when persons wishing to make comments to the prospective applicant could do so;
  - a statement that comments made to the proposed applicant would not be representations and if the prospective applicant submitted an application there would be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the planning authority.

### 7.3.1.4 Other Consultation Events

- 23 A series of other consultation events were held with some of the statutory and key stakeholders and, in some instances, were co-ordinated by the Forth & Tay Offshore Wind Developers Group (FTOWDG). FTOWDG is chaired by The Crown Estate and comprises the developers of all the offshore wind farm projects in the Forth and Tay area.

### 7.3.2 Additional Consultation Methods

- 24 In addition to the consultation methods discussed above, Mainstream designed and maintains a website dedicated to the Neart na Gaoithe project, including both the Offshore and Onshore Works components of this ([www.nearthnagaoithe.com](http://www.nearthnagaoithe.com)).
- 25 This online consultation tool provides up-to-date information on the progress of the project. In addition, interested parties can register their details on the website, enabling new information to be sent to them as and when it is published.
- 26 The website has also enabled questionnaires to be completed and submitted online and for visitors to submit comments or post queries on the development. A number of queries have been received through the website to date on a variety of topics ranging from those expressing their opinion to specific queries on the project design and the EIA process.

### 7.3.3 Summary of Output from Community Consultation

- 27 This section presents a summary of the results of the questionnaires which were completed by public exhibition attendees across each of the 15 events. Further analysis of these questionnaires and comments from attendees at each exhibition are detailed in the **PACC Report**.
- 28 Of those who attended the public exhibitions, 463 filled in the questionnaires equating to 27.9% of total attendees. A further 17 people submitted their questionnaires online.
- 29 The questionnaire began with questions relating to attitudes to climate change and the development of offshore renewable energy projects. The responses highlighted that there is a high level of support for efforts that address and combat these issues.

30 One of the questions addressed how aware participants were of the Offshore and Onshore Works proposals. The results showed that only 18.8% of participants were “very well informed” or “know a lot”, with the remainder stating that they “knew little” or “nothing” of the proposals. These results indicate that more effective communication would be required as the project progresses.

31 The questionnaire asked how the participants viewed the impact of the proposals. The most perceived positive impact was that the project would help reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and provide employment opportunities within the region. Participants also stated that they perceived the greatest negative impact of the project would be related to birds, visual issues, marine mammals, fishing and the natural environment; the majority of these comments refer to the Offshore Works elements of the project.

32 The results of the questionnaire revealed that 68% of participants support the development, 21% hold a neutral view, and 11% oppose the development.

33 Based on the feedback received, 88.5% of participants believed that the quality of the exhibitions was excellent or good.

#### 7.4 Summary

34 Mainstream’s overarching aim in engaging stakeholders has been to realise the efficient development of an environmentally and socially responsible project that is viable to construct and operate in a safe manner. Mainstream’s approach has focused on managing relationships with stakeholders through a flexible process incorporating well planned, targeted consultations supported by clear objectives to avoid unnecessarily burdening stakeholders (and, in particular, regulators) with ill-informed, inappropriate or superfluous information.

35 During the planning process for the Onshore Works, the project team has consulted with relevant statutory and non-statutory consultees and with the local public and other stakeholders. This consultation process has resulted in a number of recommendations being made in terms of the design of the cable route, as well as providing information on specialist topics. Feedback has also been useful to guide the mitigation measures proposed. Furthermore, the consultation events have proved to be a good opportunity to instigate dialogue and build relationships with key individuals. A number of key stakeholders have attended more than one event which has helped build trust and relationships.

