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**Section 36C Variation Environmental Statement
Non Technical Summary
KINCARDINE OFFSHORE WINDFARM PROJECT**

Document Category
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1. Introduction

This document is the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the Section 36C Variation Environmental Statement (Variation ES) for the Kincardine Floating Offshore Wind Farm (the 'Project'). The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the key findings of the Variation ES undertaken for the 'Varied Project' as described below.

In April 2016 Kincardine Offshore Wind Farm Limited (KOWL) submitted applications for consent (including the Original Environmental Statement, Original ES) to construct and operate the Kincardine Offshore Wind Farm known hereafter as the 'Project'.

The Project is considered a commercial demonstrator site, which will utilise floating foundation technology, and will be one of the world's first array of floating wind turbines. It has been included within the Survey, Deploy and Monitoring scheme for offshore renewable systems (similar to wave and tidal devices).

The Project is located south-east of Aberdeen approximately 8nm (15km) from the Scottish coastline and provides suitable water depth for a floating offshore wind demonstrator development (approximately 60-80m) (Figure 1-1).

In this NTS, reference is made to the following areas:

- The Development Area – the wind farm area including the Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) and inter-array cables.
- The Offshore Export Cable Corridor – the area within which the proposed export cables will be laid, from the perimeter of the Development Area to the onshore area at Mean High Water Spring (MHWS).
- The Onshore Area – the onshore area above Mean High Water Spring (MHWS) including the underground cables connecting to the onshore substation at Redmoss.


In September 2016, an addendum of additional environmental information to the KOWL Environmental Statement (ES Addendum) was also submitted, and in March 2017 the consent under Section 36 and Section 36A of the Electricity Act 1989, and for the associated Marine Licence under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 was awarded by the Scottish Government.

Since consent was granted, there have been several necessary changes to the Project. As such, this document forms part of the application for a variation of the Section 36 consent granted by the Scottish Ministers under S36C of the Electricity Act 1989.

The changes to the Project, as outlined in this document, fall within the variation guidelines. Therefore, it is not necessary to start a completely new Section 36 application as they are not fundamentally different in terms of character, scale or environmental impacts from what is authorised under the existing consent.

The Project as proposed to be varied is hereinafter known as the 'Varied Project'. The site boundary as consented in March 2017 is shown in Figure 1-1 below along with the indicative turbine locations. A further description of the changes as provided in Section 2.

Since the applications were submitted in 2016, changes to the EIA Regulations also come into force in May 2017 transposing the 2014 amended EIA Directive 20014/52/EU into UK Law. The changes have been outlined and have been considered and assessed where necessary as part of the Variation

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ES for the Variation application. For reference purposes, the various submission timelines are presented in Table 1-1 below.

Table 1-1 Summary of document timelines

Original Documents	Addendums	Variations
Kincardine Offshore Windfarm ES (Original ES)	ES Additional Information Addendum (ES Addendum)	Section 36C Variation ES (Variation ES)
Kincardine Floating Offshore Wind Demonstrator Project Habitats Appraisal (Original HRA)	ES Addendum: Appendix B: HRA Additional Information Addendum (HRA Addendum)	HRA – Information to Inform an Appropriate Assessment Variation (HRA Variation)
March 2017	September 2016	November 2017

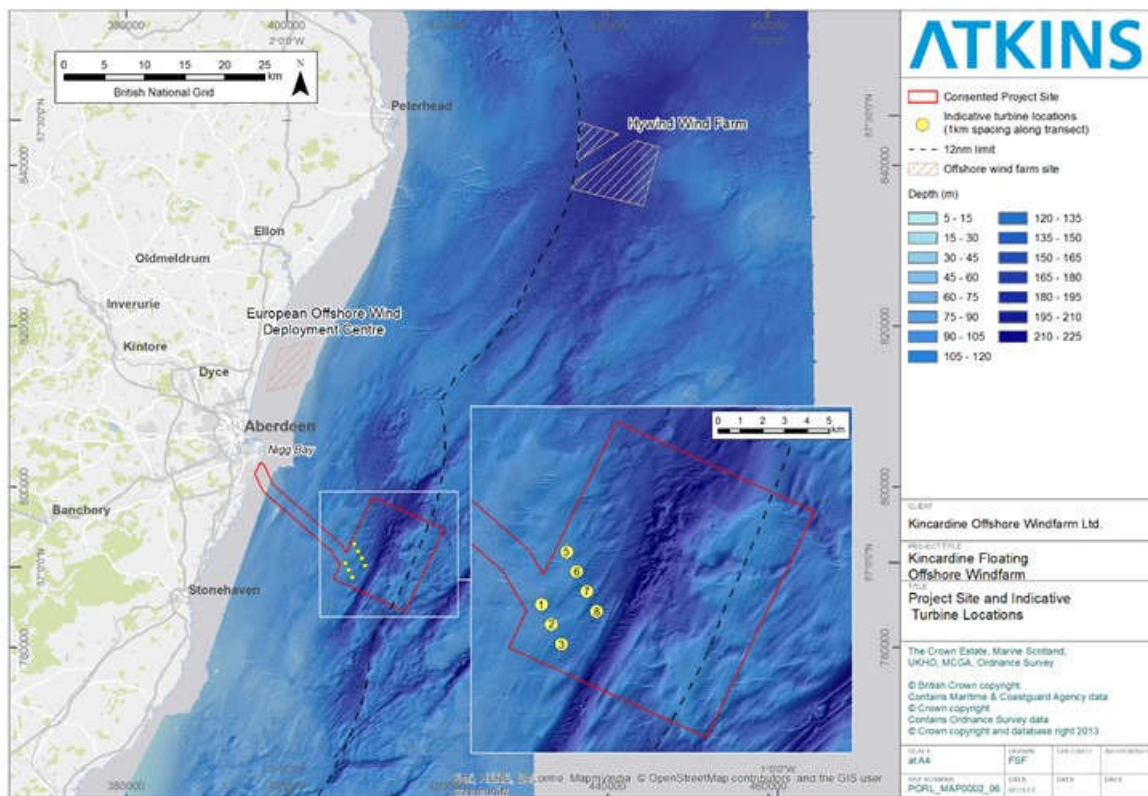


Figure 1-1 Project site and indicative turbine locations

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1.1. The Applicant

At the time of the original application (both April and September 2016) the Applicant, KOWL, was a company formed by Pilot Offshore Renewables Limited (PORL) and Atkins Ltd. PORL is an Aberdeen based joint venture between MacAskill Associates Limited and Renewable Energy Ventures (Offshore) Limited; both are Scottish companies with extensive experience in the wind industry. KOWL was established in order to develop, finance, construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Kincardine Offshore Windfarm. Since the application was submitted, Atkins are no longer part of PORL, and the company is now made up of Cobra Instalaciones y Servicios Internacional (CISI) and PORL. CISI is a construction company within the ACS Group with vast worldwide experience in the construction of energy generation plants, conventional and renewables (Wind, Thermosolar, PV and Biomass).

1.2. Purpose of the Variation

This Section 36C Variation Environmental Statement (Variation ES) has been prepared to outline and assess where any impacts of the Varied Project differ to those assessed in the Original ES and ES Addendum. This document assesses any significant impacts against both the existing criteria and the updated assessment criteria as identified in the new Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (together the 2017 EIA Regulation). This Variation ES effectively identifies where the Original ES met the requirements of the new Regulations or addresses any new assessment requirements as necessary.

The Variation ES, read together with the Original ES and ES Addendum, provides a full assessment of the likely significant effects of the Varied Project, in accordance with the 2017 EIA Regulations.

All documents submitted as part of the Original consent and this Variation application are available on the Kincardine Offshore Windfarm website and the associated website on the Marine Scotland portal for offshore wind developments at the following addresses:

www.pilot-renewables.com; and

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/scoping/Kincardine>

It is noted and acknowledged that under the new EIA Regulations the use of Environmental Statement is no longer considered correct and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) should be used. However, for continuity purposes with the Original ES and ES Addendum, Variation ES is used for this document instead of EIA Report.

1.3. Consultation

Pre-Application Consultation

KOWL has undertaken informal pre-application consultation with Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS LOT), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Ministry of Defence (MOD), Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and National Airborne Transport Services (NATS) on the proposed Variation application.

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Post Application Process

Once the application has been accepted by MS LOT, an electronic version will be placed on the Kincardine Offshore Windfarm website and the associated website on the Marine Scotland portal for offshore wind developments as noted in Section 1.2.

On acceptance of the Section 36 Consent Variation application, KOWL will publish the notice within the local and national newspapers, and on the Lloyds List and in the Fishing News Bulletin as per the required regulations. This process will seek to invite comment from members of the public and interested parties in relation to the Variation application.

Following the completion of the formal consultation process, the Scottish Ministers will consider all consultation responses and may request further information from KOWL if necessary. On determining the Variation application, Scottish Ministers must provide the reasons for their decision (including for any Variation not requested by the applicant) and, if granted, will provide clean and marked-up versions of the varied Section 36 Consent.

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2. Project Technical Changes

As previously consented the Project will involve the installation of wind turbine generator (WTG) units connected by inter-array cables with the resultant power being exported directly to the onshore grid by two 33KV (Kilovolt) export cables. These will then connect into the power grid at Redmoss onshore substation, subject to final agreement with the operator.

Export cables will be buried to a depth of 1.5m where seabed conditions allow. Where burial is not possible, cable protection in the form of concrete mattresses and rock will be required.

The changes to the design of the windfarm are outlined below.

2.1. Turbines

In Chapter 1 (Section 1.5) of Original ES it was stated that '*KOWL intend to install between six and eight turbines, each with a capacity of between 6 to 8MW. The number and capacity of turbines chosen will not exceed the 50MW cap for the demonstrator site. For example, if six turbines were installed these could be of 8MW capacity and remain within the 50MW cap, however if eight turbines were installed these would be of a lower capacity e.g. 6.2MW each to remain within the overall 50MW cap for the Project*'.


KOWL now intend to install up to seven turbines (a reduction from the eight turbines proposed in the Original ES), including a 2MW turbine that will be installed first, followed by six larger turbines over the remainder of the installation period up to 2020. The current proposed turbines would have a rated capacity of up to 8.4MW; however, the maximum generating capacity of windfarm will remain up to 50MW.

The initial benefit of 2MW machine will be to provide four key input requirements for the larger turbines that will be installed in the Development Area as part of the test and demonstration nature of the Varied Project:

- Provide site specific motion and monitoring technical data for the larger machines;
- Demonstrate and define the procedure for the disconnection and reconnection of a floating offshore wind turbine, which will represent a first of kind operation for floating offshore wind structures;
- Provide proof of concept for installation of the larger machine at the Development site; and
- Provide the initial site ornithology data as defined by the Project Environmental Monitoring Plan (PEMP).

The installation of the 2MW turbine in 2018 will allow for the all bird monitoring equipment to be installed for approximately 12 to 18 months to gather on-site bird collision data before the remaining larger turbines are installed. Further information on the planned monitoring is being developed in the PEMP through consultation with RSPB, SNH and Marine Scotland Science (MSS), and will be in line with the new requirements imposed under the 2017 EIA Regulations.

The first turbine comprised in the Varied Project to be deployed will be a wind turbine generator and associated substructure, anchors and mooring lines with a generating capacity not exceeding 2MW ("Turbine 1"). A condition in the existing marine licence requires Third Party Certification or Verification (or suitable alternative as agreed, in writing, with the Licensing Authority) for all WTGs, mooring systems and WTG platform structures prior to the commencement of the works. The initial period sought for such certification / verification / suitable agreed alternative of the WTG platform substructure

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for Turbine 1 will be limited (expected to be three years or less). This is due to the engineering life of the substructure (ten years from initial substructure construction in 2011). At the expiry of the WTG platform substructure certification, Turbine 1 will only be re-deployed if (i) the platform structure is re-certified following inspection (and only for so long as valid certification is in place) and (ii) if MS-LOT (in consultation with SNH, Historic Environment Scotland, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council) is satisfied that the re-deployment at the proposed location within the Site would not give rise to new or materially different likely significant effects to those identified in the seascape, landscape and visual assessment of the Variation ES. Any further re-certification would follow the same process. If Turbine 1 is not re-deployed within 6 months, it will be decommissioned (in line with condition 5 of the S36 consent on Redundant turbines). It is anticipated this position will be secured by a condition in the marine licence (and if considered necessary, also in the S36 consent).

In the Original ES, it was presented that the turbines would be between 6 to 8MW. The largest turbines (up to 8.4MW) that will now be used have some parameters that are out with the Rochdale Envelope developed for the turbines that were previously assessed for the Original ES and ES Addendum, including increasing the rotor diameter from 154m to 164m. The larger turbines for the remainder of this Variation ES will be referred to as 164m turbines. The dimensions for the 2MW and 164m turbines are shown in Section 2.4 below along with those originally assessed in the Original ES and ES Addendum.

This EIA has been undertaken using the following turbine matrix:

1 x 2MW turbine and 6 x 164m turbines.

2.2. Substructure

In the Original ES, the WindFloat™ Semi-submersible substructure designed by Principle Power was assessed as part of the EIA process, whereas in the ES Addendum the semi-spar substructure designed by Cobra was presented. Therefore, both substructures have been assessed previously. The two substructure designs result in different masses and types of material used in the manufacture of the substructures, a change in the displacement of water and in the depth of water the substructure would penetrate to (draft). However, there were no significant impacts identified in the Original ES, and no changes to the conclusions identified in the ES Addendum.

For the installation of the 2MW turbine the semi-submersible WindFloat™ prototype from the demonstrator site in Portugal will be utilised.

The type of substructure to be used for the remainder of the larger turbines is still under development, and it will be that a combination of the WindFloat™ (steel semi-sub) and Cobra (concrete semi-spar) substructure design. As no significant impacts were identified from either substructure design in the Original ES (semi-sub) and ES Addendum (semi-spar) respectively no further assessment is required for any receptor related to the substructure.

2.3. Construction Programme

An updated indicative Construction Programme is shown below as the programme has now been modified since the Original ES. A final Construction Programme will be provided as a consent condition in due course.


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Table 2-1 Indicative construction programme for the Varied Project

Tranche	Activities	Indicative Start Dates
Tranche 1	Mooring installation Turbine Location 1 Export cable 1 installation Installation of 2MW turbine to Location 1	May 2018 May 2018 June 2018
Tranche 2	Export cable 2 installation Mooring installation Turbine Locations 5-7 Installation of inter-array cables Locations 5-7 Installation of turbines to Locations 5-7	April 2019 April 2019 Aug 2019 Aug 2019
Tranche 3	Mooring installation Turbine Locations 1-3 Installation of inter-array cables Locations 1-3 and 8 Move 2MW to Location 8 (dependent on recertification and consultation as noted above) Installation of turbines to Locations 1-3	March 2020 June 2020 June 2020 June 2020

2.4. Rochdale Envelope

Table 2.1 in the Variation ES shows the Rochdale Envelope as presented in the Original ES, along with the following modifications to show the changes in assessed parameters throughout the consenting process:

- the amendments which were assessed in the ES Addendum;
- the new parameters identified for the larger turbines; and
- the parameters for the 2MW turbine.

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3. Scope of Section 36C Variation

The revisions or additional information is presented in the following Chapters of the Original ES or ES Addendum, or new sections of this Variation ES where necessary for the new EIA regulations as set out in Table 3-1 below.

3.1. Baseline Data Review

All baseline site data used for the Original ES and ES Addendum were collected within the last five years and therefore are still valid for the EIA and appropriate assessment. All baseline data have been previously submitted as part of the original consent documentation and can be obtained from the Marine Scotland website as noted above.

3.2. Assessment Methodologies

No changes to the assessment methodologies used in the Original ES or ES Addendum have been identified and therefore the methodologies are still considered valid.

3.3. Review of Receptors (Chapters)

A review of the potential impact on all receptors against the changes to turbine dimensions has been undertaken in Table 3-1. As the turbine dimensions change the above water elements of the Varied Project only, the potential impacts to the sub-surface receptors (Physical Environment, Benthic Ecology, Fish and Shellfish, Marine Mammals, Underwater Noise, Marine Navigation, Marine Historic Environment, and Commercial Fisheries) have not changed, and therefore the previous assessment process is compliant and the residual impacts remain unchanged.

For the remaining above water receptors, the following reviews have been undertaken for this ES Variation:

1. Ornithology – Identified that the change in turbine dimensions could potentially change the current assessment conclusions against the identified bird species (Kittiwake and Puffin only). This is therefore re-assessed in detail in Section 4.
2. Military and Aviation – Identified that larger turbines could impact on the radar reflectance of the site. However, consultation with Ministry of Defence and NATS have identified that there are no additional requirements to re-assess the impacts to radars due to the reduction in turbine numbers at site. Therefore, the previous assessment process remains appropriate and the residual impacts remain unchanged from those shown in the Original ES.
3. Seascape, Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) – It was identified that the Varied Project could change the conclusions of the Original SLVIA. New visualisations were therefore created for the Varied Project and an assessment undertaken on Operational impacts to the identified viewpoints previously used in the Original ES and ES Addendums in Section 5 below.
4. Socio-Economics – The changes to the Varied Project does not change any of the considerations or assumptions used in this chapter of the Original ES or ES Addendum. Therefore, the previous assessment process remains appropriate and the residual impacts remain unchanged from those shown in the Original ES and ES Addendum.
5. Other Marine Users – The changes to the Varied Project does not reduce the blade tip clearance that was considered in the Original ES Therefore, the previous assessment process remains appropriate and the residual impacts remain unchanged from those shown in the Original ES.

6. Onshore – The changes to the Varied Project are only relevant to the offshore elements of the Varied Project. Therefore, the previous assessment process remains appropriate and the residual impacts remain unchanged from those shown in the Original ES and Addendum.

Table 3-1 Summary of chapters (receptors) reviewed as part of this variation against Project amendments

Project updates	Original ES Chapters													
	Physical Environment	Benthic Ecology	Fish and Shellfish	Marine Mammals	Ornithology	Underwater Noise	Maritime Navigation	Military and Aviation	LSVIA	Marine Historic Environment	Socio- Economics	Commercial Fisheries	Other Marine Users	Onshore
Maximum Hub height	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Rotor diameter	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Revolutions per minute	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Height of blade tip	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

3.4. Mitigation


Mitigation is only considered in respect to those receptors identified above (ornithology) and for the new receptors to be considered from the new EIA Regulations as the conclusions from the Original ES and ES Addendum remain unchanged for the remaining receptors.

3.5. Cumulative Impacts

No changes to the other Developments that were considered in the Original ES or ES Addendum have been identified. It is acknowledged that the Forth and Tay Windfarms have put in new Scoping Requests; however as discussed with relevant consultees as these are only at Scoping stage they should not be considered in a cumulative assessment in line with the Regulations as only consented developments should be included. Therefore, the developments that were considered in the Original ES and ES Addendum remain unchanged. Cumulative impacts have therefore only been assessed for the relevant receptors identified above against the currently consented offshore developments as per the Original ES and Addendum.

3.6. Summary and Residual Impacts

A summary and discussion of the residual impacts from the Varied Project is only considered in respect to those receptors identified above (ornithology) and for the new receptors to be considered from the

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new EIA Regulations as the conclusions from the Original ES and ES Addendum remain unchanged for the remaining receptors.

3.7. Impact Assessment Tracker

The following table provides a summary of the receptors where additional assessments have been undertaken since the Original ES to allow for ease of tracking all relevant conclusions.

Table 3-2 Summary of relevant Chapter and Section references in Original ES, ES Addendum and Variation ES

Chapter Ref in Original ES	Section Ref in ES Addendum	Section Ref in Variation ES (i.e. this document)
Chapter 1 Introduction: Table 1-3 Rochdale	Section 1.3 Refinement of Substructure: Table 1-1	Section 2.3 Rochdale Envelope: Table 2-3
Chapter 2 Project Description: Section 2.1 Floating Offshore Wind – Technology Overview	Section 1.3 Refinement of Substructure: Table 1-1	Section 2.2 Substructure
Chapter 7 Ornithology	Section 3 Ornithology	Section 4 Ornithology
Chapter 11 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	N/A	Section 5 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
N/A	N/A	Section 6 New EIA Regulations

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4. Ornithology

4.1. Conclusions from Previous Assessments

The EIA undertaken and presented in the Original ES included a detailed assessment of all potential bird species that could be potentially impacted by the construction of the Project. This assessment identified that two species that could be potentially impacted by the Project; Kittiwake (collision risk) and Atlantic Puffins (barrier effect). All other bird species were assessed to be at no significant risk from the Project.

Table 4-1 below summarises the results of the original collision risk model estimates for all birds present on site. Of these species, only gannet and kittiwake were effected by collisions. Only two of the six individual gannets effected were apportioned back to an SPA, the Forth Islands, which equated to approximately 0.002% of its Gannet population. This was negligible and therefore no further assessment was undertaken as per the Original HRA and HRA Addendum.


Table 4-1 Collision Risk Model Estimates from the original HRA.

Species (avoidance rate)	Survey Area	Option 2 (modelled)
Kittiwake (98.9%)	NE3	34
	Kincardine	32
Gannet (98.9%)	NE3	6
	Kincardine	5
Guillemot (98%)	NE3	0
	Kincardine	0
Fulmar (98%)	Kincardine	0
Herring Gull (99% and 99.5%)	Kincardine	1
Razorbill (98%)	Kincardine	0
Puffin (98%)	Kincardine	0

Source: see Table 7-18 of the original ES.

MS-LOT undertook an Appropriate Assessment of the for the Kincardine Offshore Windfarm Ltd as part of the application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and Application for a Marine Licence under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2012 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 in February 2017. This assessment concluded that, based on the content of the following assessment the proposed KOWL project will not on its own or in combination with other projects adversely affect the integrity of the Fowlsheugh SPA, Buchan Ness to Colliston Coast SPA, Troup, Pennan and Lion's Head SPA or Forth Islands SPA.

The main issues raised during the consultation were the potential impacts on Black-legged Kittiwake (collision) (Fowlsheugh SPA) and Atlantic Puffin (displacement) (Forth Islands SPA), with all other bird species and SPAs being discounted as not having a significant impact from the Project. These findings have therefore been used to ensure duplication of work and effort is not undertaken with all other pertinent data found within Original ES, Original HRA and HRA Addendum, with only Black Legged Kittiwake and Atlantic Puffin being taken forward for review as part of this update.

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4.2. Baseline Environment

The baseline environment for the Ornithology Chapter of the Original ES (Section 7.2) was amended in the ES and HRA Addendums to include additional proposed Special Protection Areas (pSPA) following consultation with the RSPB. All the pSPAs were assessed in the HRA Addendum (Appendix B of ES Addendum). Therefore, within this ES Variation, no other baseline environment data has changed since the ES Addendum and HRA Addendum.

4.3. Assessment Methodology

The assessment methodology was defined in Chapter 7.3 of the Original ES remains unchanged.

This section assesses the collision risk impact of the wind turbine model scenario on Kittiwake from Fowlsheugh SPA. The turbine model scenario is as follows:

- 1 x 2MW turbine followed by 6 x 164m turbines.

4.4. Summary and Residual Impacts

Table 4-2 below summarises the impact assessments for the wind turbine model scenario above. From these results, it is possible to see that there will be no significant differences in either of the scenarios, with no additional birds being attributed to the Fowlsheugh SPA population.

As such, it can be concluded that using a 2MW turbine along with the six 164m turbines will result in no change to the impact significance levels previously calculated for eight 6MW turbines as outlined in Table 7-39 and Section 7.8 of the Original ES.


Table 4-2 Summary of potential collision impacts on Kittiwake from Fowlsheugh SPA

Turbine number and model	Survey Area	Total adult collisions from Fowlsheugh SPA*
8x6MW**	NE3	8
	Kincardine	6
1x 2MW + 6x164m	NE3	8
	Kincardine	6

*Using a 98.9% avoidance rate and option 2 of the Band CRM for the NE3 survey area.

**Proposed in the Original ES and Original HRA.

As noted in the Appropriate Assessment, the impact from collision risk is negligible for Puffin due to their flight height and the turbine blade height. Displacement effects have been previously assessed for the eight 6MW turbines. As the Varied Project contains only seven turbines, with the one small turbine, there will be a net reduction in the total barrier effect. Therefore, the conclusions identified in the Appropriate Assessment are still valid for this Variation ES.

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5. Seascape, Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment

5.1. Baseline Environment

The study area including seascape and landscape character types, viewpoints and receptors was defined in Section 11.2 of the Original ES and remains unchanged.

5.2. Assessment Methodology

The assessment methodology was defined in Section 11.3 of the Original ES and remains unchanged.

5.3. Summary

Wirelines and Photomontages

The configuration of turbines assessed in the Original ES and the ES Addendum (8 x 6MW) is still considered to be the worst-case scenario in terms of visual impact that the Project could have, as this is the largest number of turbines that could be utilised to generate up to the maximum of 50MW. Furthermore, the turbines that were used in the wirelines and photomontages were conservatively scaled to a blade tip height of 192m in line with the zones of theoretical visibility (ZTV) assessments that were undertaken as part of the Scoping Report. Therefore, the larger turbines that will now be used for the Varied Project are still within the parameters assessed in the Original ES and ES Addendum.

The initial location of the 2MW turbine will be in the first turbine location (Location 1) and the turbine will then be moved to Location 8 during the final construction phase (subject to re-certification). Presently, it is anticipated that Location 4 will not be used in any configuration of the windfarm removing the outermost outlying turbine from the configuration previously assessed and this will further reduce the visual impact of the Varied Project.

New photomontages have been produced for the Varied Project configuration i.e. 7 turbines, but using the turbine parameters as defined in the Original ES (1 x 2MW and 6 x 192m tip height) and are shown in Appendix A. An assessment of the Operational phase of the Varied Project (i.e. 1 x 2MW and 6 x 192m) has been undertaken below and shows that there are no changes to the significance of impacts identified in the Original ES and ES Addendum.


There are no changes to the residual impacts identified in Section 11.7 of the Original ES and 4.7 of the ES Addendum.

6. Updated EIA Regulations

The newly amended Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2014/52/EU entered into force on May 15, 2014. Scotland was required to apply the new rules by 16 May 2017. The requirements of the new Directive were enabled in relation to s36 Consents by The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, and in relation to marine licences by the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.


6.1. Key Changes to the EIA Regulations

There are several key changes to the EIA Regulations. A number of these are not relevant to the stage at which the Varied Project is currently at (variation as opposed to pre-application). Other changes, however, are relevant and where applicable these have also been noted and further work undertaken as part of this variation.

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6.2. Summary

An assessment of the new EIA regulations has been undertaken as part of the Section 36C Application and it has been shown that no additional receptors have been identified for potential impact from the Project. A full review and summary is provided in the Variation ES.

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7. Environmental Management

The potential effects of the Project have been assessed through the EIA processes and the results of the impact assessment are presented in the Variation ES as well as the Original ES. These processes have indicated that it is necessary to manage certain aspects of the Project to ensure potential impacts are not significant. Some key mitigation measures that were identified in the Original ES include:

- Standard industry practice with regards to the management and mitigation of shipping and navigation activities will be followed in addition to project specific mitigation. The details of this mitigation will be agreed as part of ongoing consultation with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. This includes consideration of either compulsory or advisory safety zones and/or fishing prohibition.
- KOWL will retain the already appointed Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) for the construction phase of the Project and will follow the Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Groups (FLOWW) best practice guidance for offshore renewables developments with regards to liaison with the fishing community.
- Agreements will be put in place with other sea users (such as asset owners e.g. Scottish Water and Aberdeenshire Council) to ensure no unacceptable impacts arise during installation of the Project.
- Emergency plans developed for the Project will include measures to reduce the risk or impacts from any accidental fuel, oil or other hydrocarbon or chemical spills.

Environmental assessment will continue beyond submission of the Variation ES. A full Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will ensure that ES mitigation commitments, consent conditions and environmental monitoring requirements are taken through to implementation. This will be a live document that will undertake various iterations to reflect the various phases of the project as it progresses.

The EMP will highlight the various parties who are responsible for the implementation of the EMP and will identify a number of mechanisms to deliver environmental management measures. The EMP will be implemented by a dedicated Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW) in agreement with the Regulators and statutory advisors as part of the current Project consents. Mitigation measures will be monitored to enable KOWL to track and assess the performance of the EMP to ensure improvements are made if necessary.