Eastern Green Link 3

Marine Environmental Appraisal

Prepared for: Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (SHE-T)

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

collaborative environmental advisers

Date: August 2025
Document Reference: C01494a_NGET_REP_D0585
Version Number: 0

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Record of Changes

Rev #	Date	Description	Approved
0	29/08/2025	Issued for submission	Anna Farley
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Responsible for	Job Title	Name	Date	Signature
Content	Consultant	Jasmine Barnes	29/08/2025	[Redacted]
Checked & Approved	Director	Anna Farley	29/08/2025	[Redacted]
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This document has been checked in line with internal quality control requirements.

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Abbreviations/Glossary

ALARP	As Low as Reasonably Practicable
Km	Kilometre
MEAp	Marine Environmental Appraisal
MPA	Marine protected Area
NM	Nautical Mile
PMF	Priority Marine Features
RLB	Red Line Boundary
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSC	Suspended Sediment Concentrations
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

16. Summary and Conclusions

Eastern Green Link (EGL) 3 comprises a two gigawatt (GW) High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Aberdeenshire in Scotland, and King's Lyns and West Norfolk, Norfolk, with a landfall on the Lincolnshire coastline, England. EGL 3 comprises approximately 700 km of subsea and underground HVDC cables between new converter stations at each end of the electricity transmission link. A Marine Licence is being sought for the development within Scottish Waters, referred to as the 'Proposed Development'. The Scottish Ministers have devolved powers to grant the Marine Licence under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (within territorial waters up to 12 nautical miles (NM)) and the MCAA in the Scottish offshore region, beyond 12 NM. A Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008 is being sought for the development in English waters.

This Marine Environmental Appraisal (MEAp) presents an assessment of the potential effects of the construction, operation (including maintenance and repair) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, embedded mitigation and where required, project specific mitigation to avoid or reduce identified likely significant effects to an acceptable level.

For the purpose of environmental assessment, the significance of effect (adverse or beneficial) resulting from identified impacts have been assessed by determining the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of the impact with significance of effect outcomes classified as either Negligible, Minor, Moderate or Major. A Moderate or Major significant effect constituted consideration of appropriate mitigation and then residual effects were assessed to determine whether effects had been reduced or removed to an acceptable level.

Cumulative effects, those which can occur when an activity with similar impacts as the Proposed Development have the potential to occur in-combination either temporally or spatially on a receptor, were assessed in each topic chapter. From the longlist identified for the Proposed Development, ten planned projects (offshore wind farms and cable projects) were identified with the potential to interact with the Proposed Development.

Following assessment of likely significant effects across the physical, biological and socio-economic environment, the following has been concluded:

- **Marine Physical Processes**: No significant adverse or beneficial effects were identified for the marine physical environment either in isolation or cumulatively with other planned activities. No additional project specific mitigation measures are proposed.
- **Intertidal and Subtidal Benthic Ecology**: No notable significant adverse or beneficial effects were identified for intertidal and subtidal benthic ecology. Cumulatively there was no significant effect. No additional project specific mitigation measures are proposed.
- **Fish and Shellfish:** No significant adverse or beneficial effects were recognised for fish and shellfish habitats. Cumulative effects have been addressed as minor and not significant. No additional project specific mitigation measures are proposed.
- **Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology:** There is the potential for a moderate adverse effect if vessels are present within the Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast Special Protection Area (including the 2 km marine extension) during the breeding season. Additional mitigation measures are required to protect nesting species from visual/ physical disturbance and displacement. This has been proposed in the form of a restriction on vessel movements within the SPA during the relevant season. With the implementation of the mitigation no residual or cumulative effects are predicted.
- **Marine Mammals and Reptiles:** No significant adverse or beneficial effects were recognised for marine mammals and reptiles, therefore requiring no additional mitigation. Overall, cumulative effects were addressed as negligible and not significant.
- **Shipping and Navigation:** The appraisal of the impacts of the Proposed Development on shipping and navigation receptors identified two residual effects as moderate and potentially significant, 'disturbance to existing shipping and fishing patterns' and 'project vessels blocking navigational features'. The Navigation Risk Assessment concluded that with the implementation of embedded mitigation the risk are As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP) and cannot be mitigated further. No project specific mitigation has been proposed. No cumulative effects were predicted.
- **Commercial Fisheries:** No significant effects were identified for commercial fisheries and no additional mitigation was proposed. The cumulative effects consisted of restricted access, temporary displacement of fishing activity and loss of ground. These were all assessed as minor and not significant.
- **Other Marine Users:** It was concluded that there were no major significant effects to other marine users either from the Proposed Development alone or cumulatively with other projects. No project specific mitigation was proposed.
- **Marine Archaeology:** No significant negative or beneficial effects were established for marine archaeology, as a result there was no requirement for additional mitigation. Cumulative effects upon marine archaeology have been assessed for all direct and indirect impacts arising from redeposition of suspended sediment, sediment removal and scour for nearby projects. The outcome of the assessment was minor and not significant.

One project specific mitigation measure has been proposed (Reference: PSM01) namely:

- All project vessels operating within 12 Nautical Miles (NM) of the coastline will have the boundary of the Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA marked on their navigational systems.
- Vessel transit routes will be planned to avoid entering the Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast Special Protection Area (SPA).
- Vessels must avoid entering the Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA (the seaward extension of which extends 2 km from the coastline as shown in **Figure 9-6 (Drawing reference C01494-EGL3-BIRD-009-A)**) during the period 01 March to 15 September inclusive. Where the RLB overlaps with the SPA, vessels should remain within the RLB. If such vessels are required to enter the SPA outside of the RLB this must be for the purposes of safe navigation (or as agreed with NatureScot), they must avoid approaching cliffs where nesting birds are present and adhere to the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code.

A summary of the Marine Environmental Assessment (MEA) is provided in **Table 16-1.**

Table 16-1 Summary of Assessment

Impact Pathway / Description of Effect		Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor / Frequency of Occurrence	Magnitude of Impact / Severity of Consequence	Significance of Effect with Embedded Mitigation	Project Specific Mitigation Measures	Magnitude /Severity after Additional Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effect
Chapter 6 Marine Physical Processes								
Construction Phase								
Disturbance from boulder clearance, pre-sweeping, cable burial, cable protection and HDD exit pits		Sub-tidal Seabed Morphology	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
		Intertidal Morphology	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
Temporary Increases in Suspended Sediment Concentrations (SSC) and Subsequent Deposition		Peterhead Lido Bathing Water	Medium	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Buchan Ness to Collieston SPA and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Medium	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Southern Trench Marine Protected Area (MPA)	Medium	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Chapter 7 Intertidal and Subtidal Benthic Ecology								
Construction Phase								
Temporary habitat loss/seabed disturbance	Subtidal broadscale habitats	Atlantic infralittoral rock	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Atlantic infralittoral coarse sediment	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Atlantic circalittoral coarse sediment	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Atlantic circalittoral rock	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Subtidal Annex I habitats	*Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Stony reefs	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

Impact Pathway / Description of Effect		Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor / Frequency of Occurrence	Magnitude of Impact / Severity of Consequence	Significance of Effect with Embedded Mitigation	Project Specific Mitigation Measures	Magnitude /Severity after Additional Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effect
	Priority Marine Features (PMF)	Subtidal sands and gravels	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Ocean quahog	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Kelp beds	Medium	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Permanent Habitat Loss	Subtidal broadscale habitats	Atlantic infralittoral rock	Medium	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Atlantic circalittoral rock	Medium	Negligible	Minor Adverse (not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Atlantic infralittoral coarse sediment	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Atlantic circalittoral coarse sediment	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Subtidal Annex I habitats	*Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Stony reefs	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	PMF	Subtidal sands and gravels	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Ocean quahog	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Kelp beds	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Temporary Increase and Deposition of Suspended Sediment	Intertidal Habitats	Intertidal Habitats	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
	Subtidal broadscale habitats	Atlantic infralittoral rock	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Atlantic infralittoral coarse sediment	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Atlantic circalittoral coarse sediment	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

Impact Pathway / Description of Effect		Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor / Frequency of Occurrence	Magnitude of Impact / Severity of Consequence	Significance of Effect with Embedded Mitigation	Project Specific Mitigation Measures	Magnitude /Severity after Additional Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effect
		Atlantic circalittoral rock	Medum	Low	Minor	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Subtidal Annex I habitats	*Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs	Medium	Low	Minor	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Stony reefs	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
	PMF	Subtidal sands and gravels	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Ocean quahog	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Kelp beds	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
Operation Phase								
Permanent Habitat Loss	Subtidal broadscale habitats	Atlantic infralittoral rock	Medium	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Atlantic infralittoral coarse sediment	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Atlantic circalittoral coarse sediment	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Atlantic circalittoral rock	Medium	Negligible	Minor Adverse (not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Subtidal Annex I habitats	*Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Stony reefs	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	PMF	Subtidal sands and gravels	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Ocean quahog	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Kelp beds	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)

Impact Pathway / Description of Effect		Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor / Frequency of Occurrence	Magnitude of Impact / Severity of Consequence	Significance of Effect with Embedded Mitigation	Project Specific Mitigation Measures	Magnitude /Severity after Additional Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effect
Temporary Increase and Deposition of Suspended Sediment	Intertidal Habitats	Intertidal Habitats	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
	Subtidal broadscale habitats	Atlantic infralittoral rock	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Atlantic infralittoral coarse sediment	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Atlantic circalittoral coarse sediment	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Atlantic circalittoral rock	Medum	Low	Minor	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Subtidal Annex I habitats	*Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs	Medium	Low	Minor	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Stony reefs	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
	PMF	Subtidal sands and gravels	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Ocean quahog	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Kelp beds	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
Electromagnetic Changes/Barrier to Species Movement		All Benthic Invertebrates	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
Temperature Increase		All Benthic Invertebrates	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Decommissioning								
Temporary Increase and Deposition	Intertidal Habitats	Intertidal Habitats	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
		Atlantic infralittoral rock	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

Impact Pathway / Description of Effect		Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor / Frequency of Occurrence	Magnitude of Impact / Severity of Consequence	Significance of Effect with Embedded Mitigation	Project Specific Mitigation Measures	Magnitude /Severity after Additional Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effect
of Suspended Sediment	Subtidal broadscale habitats	Atlantic infralittoral coarse sediment	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Atlantic circalittoral coarse sediment	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Atlantic circalittoral rock	Medum	Low	Minor	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Subtidal Annex I habitats	*Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs	Medium	Low	Minor	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Stony reefs	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
	PMF	Subtidal sands and gravels	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Ocean quahog	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Kelp beds	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
Chapter 8 Fish and Shellfish								
Construction								
Temporary Habitat Loss/Seabed Disturbance		Herring	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Sandeel	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Shellfish	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Permanent Habitat Loss		Herring	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Sandeel	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Shellfish	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

Impact Pathway / Description of Effect	Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor / Frequency of Occurrence	Magnitude of Impact / Severity of Consequence	Significance of Effect with Embedded Mitigation	Project Specific Mitigation Measures	Magnitude /Severity after Additional Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effect
Temporary Increase and Deposition of Suspended Sediment	Fish with Demersal Life Stages and Shellfish	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Operation							
Temporary Habitat Loss/Seabed Disturbance	Herring	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Sandeel	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Shellfish	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Temporary Increase and Deposition of Suspended Sediment	Fish with Demersal Life Stages and Shellfish	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Electromagnetic Changes/Barrier to Species Movement	Fish with Demersal Life Stages and Shellfish	Low	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Diadromous Species	Negligible	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Elasmobranchs	Medium	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Temperature Increase	Fish with Demersal Life Stages and Shellfish	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Decommissioning							
Temporary Habitat Loss/Seabed Disturbance	Herring	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Sandeel	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Shellfish	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Temporary Increase and Deposition of Suspended Sediment	Fish with Demersal Life Stages and Shellfish	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

Impact Pathway / Description of Effect	Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor / Frequency of Occurrence	Magnitude of Impact / Severity of Consequence	Significance of Effect with Embedded Mitigation	Project Specific Mitigation Measures	Magnitude /Severity after Additional Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effect
Chapter 9 Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology							
Construction							
Temporary Increase and Deposition of Suspended Sediment	All functional groups	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Changes in Distribution of Prey Species	All functional groups	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
Visual/Physical Disturbance or Displacement	Designated species of the Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA (guillemot, fulmar, shag, herring gull, black-legged kittiwake)	High	Low	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**	**PSM01**	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Intertidal and Offshore species not designated features of the Buchan Ness to Collieston SPA	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Operation							
Temporary Increase and Deposition of Suspended Sediment	All functional groups	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Visual/Physical Disturbance or Displacement	Designated species of the Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA (guillemot, fulmar, shag, herring gull, black-legged kittiwake)	High	Low	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**	**PSM01**	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Intertidal and Offshore species not designated features of the Buchan Ness to Collieston SPA	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Decommissioning							
Temporary Increase and Deposition of Suspended Sediment	All functional groups	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

Impact Pathway / Description of Effect	Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor / Frequency of Occurrence	Magnitude of Impact / Severity of Consequence	Significance of Effect with Embedded Mitigation	Project Specific Mitigation Measures	Magnitude /Severity after Additional Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effect
Changes in Distribution of Prey Species	All functional groups	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
Visual/Physical Disturbance or Displacement	Designated species of the Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA (guillemot, fulmar, shag, herring gull, black-legged kittiwake)	High	Low	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**	**PSM01**	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Intertidal and Offshore species not designated features of the Buchan Ness to Collieston SPA	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Chapter 10 Marine Mammals and Marine Reptiles							
Construction							
Change in Distribution of Prey Species	Marine mammals	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
	Minke Whale Feature of the Southern Trench MPA	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Bottlenose Dolphin Feature of the Moray Firth SAC	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
	Harbour Porpoise Feature of the Southern North Sea SAC	Minor	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
Underwater Noise Changes – Geophysical Survey (Injury)	Cetaceans and Pinnipeds	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Minke Whale Feature of the Southern Trench MPA	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Bottlenose Dolphin Feature of the Moray Firth SAC	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Harbour Porpoise Feature of the Southern North Sea SAC	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Cetaceans and Pinnipeds	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)

Impact Pathway / Description of Effect	Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor / Frequency of Occurrence	Magnitude of Impact / Severity of Consequence	Significance of Effect with Embedded Mitigation	Project Specific Mitigation Measures	Magnitude /Severity after Additional Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effect
Underwater Noise Changes – Geophysical Survey (Disturbance)	Minke Whale Feature of the Southern Trench MPA	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Bottlenose Dolphin Feature of the Moray Firth SAC	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Harbour Porpoise Feature of the Southern North Sea SAC	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Operation							
Change in Distribution of Prey Species	Marine mammals	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
	Minke Whale Feature of the Southern Trench MPA	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Bottlenose Dolphin Feature of the Moray Firth SAC	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
	Harbour Porpoise Feature of the Southern North Sea SAC	Minor	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
Underwater Noise Changes – Geophysical Survey (Injury)	Cetaceans and Pinnipeds	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Minke Whale Feature of the Southern Trench MPA	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Bottlenose Dolphin Feature of the Moray Firth SAC	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Harbour Porpoise Feature of the Southern North Sea SAC	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Underwater Noise Changes – Geophysical Survey (Disturbance)	Cetaceans and Pinnipeds	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
	Minke Whale Feature of the Southern Trench MPA	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Bottlenose Dolphin Feature of the Moray Firth SAC	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Harbour Porpoise Feature of the Southern North Sea SAC	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

Impact Pathway / Description of Effect	Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor / Frequency of Occurrence	Magnitude of Impact / Severity of Consequence	Significance of Effect with Embedded Mitigation	Project Specific Mitigation Measures	Magnitude /Severity after Additional Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effect
Chapter 11 Shipping and Navigation							
Construction, Operation and Decommissioning							
Increased Risk of Vessel Collisions	All Vessel Types	Extremely Remote	Catastrophic	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Catastrophic	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Disturbance to Existing Shipping and Fishing Patterns	All Vessel Types	Probable	Severe	**Moderate (Potentially Significant)**	Risk reduced to ALARP. Whilst significance is classed as 'potentially significant', the risk is considered ALARP and therefore no further project mitigation is required.	Severe	**Moderate (Potentially Significant)**
Accidental Anchor Strike or Drag	All Vessel Types	Extremely Remote	Catastrophic	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Catastrophic	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Accidental Snagging of Fishing Gear	All Vessel Types	Extremely Remote	Catastrophic	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Catastrophic	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Reduction in Under Keel Clearance	All Vessel Types	Remote	Significant	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Significant	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Interference with Marine Navigational Equipment	All Vessel Types	Remote	Minor	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Minor	Negligible (Not Significant)
Proposed Development Vessels Blocking Navigational Features	All Vessel Types	Probable	Severe	**Moderate (Potentially Significant)**	Risk reduced to ALARP. Whilst significance is classed as 'potentially significant', the risk is considered ALARP and therefore no further project mitigation is required.	Severe	**Moderate (Potentially Significant)**
Impact of Human Safety due to Reduced Visibility	All Vessel Types	Probable	Significant	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Significant	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Chapter 12 Commercial Fisheries							
Construction							

Impact Pathway / Description of Effect	Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor / Frequency of Occurrence	Magnitude of Impact / Severity of Consequence	Significance of Effect with Embedded Mitigation	Project Specific Mitigation Measures	Magnitude /Severity after Additional Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effect
Temporary restricted access to fishing grounds (including required static gear clearance)	Static gear	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Dredging	Negligible	Low	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Negligible (Not Significant)
	Demersal seine, beam trawling and demersal trawl	Negligible	Low	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Negligible (Not Significant)
	Pelagic trawl and seine	Negligible	Low	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Negligible (Not Significant)
Temporary displacement of fishing activity into other areas	Static gear	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Dredging	Negligible	Low	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Negligible (Not Significant)
	Demersal seine	Negligible	Low	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Negligible (Not Significant)
	Beam trawling and Demersal trawl	Negligible	Low	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Negligible (Not Significant)
Loss of grounds	Bottom drift netting	Negligible	Medium	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Medium	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Changes in distribution of target species	All gear types	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
Operation							
Temporary restricted access to fishing grounds (including required static gear clearance	All gear types	Low	Low - Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low - Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Temporary displacement of fishing activity into other areas	All gear types	Low - Medium	Low - Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low - Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Loss of grounds	Bottom drift netting	Negligible	Medium	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Medium	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Changes in distribution of target species	All gear types	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)

Impact Pathway / Description of Effect	Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor / Frequency of Occurrence	Magnitude of Impact / Severity of Consequence	Significance of Effect with Embedded Mitigation	Project Specific Mitigation Measures	Magnitude /Severity after Additional Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effect
Decommissioning							
Temporary restricted access to fishing grounds (including required static gear clearance)	All gear types	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Temporary displacement of fishing activity into other areas	All gear types	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Loss of grounds	Bottom drift netting	Negligible	Medium	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Medium	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Changes in distribution of target species	All gear types	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Negligible (Not Significant)
Chapter 13 Other Marine Users							
Operation							
Interaction with other seabed infrastructure	Cables and pipelines Oil and gas Aggregates Power and telecom cables Offshore wind farms Carbon capture and storage Recreational users	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Occupancy of seabed – below seabed		Low	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Occupancy of seabed – on seabed		Low	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Chapter 14 Marine Archaeology							
Construction							
Direct Impacts to Marine Archaeology	Sub-seabed deposits of palaeoenvironmental potential	Low to medium	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Known archaeological sites and high/medium potential geophysical anomalies	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Low potential geophysical anomalies	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

Impact Pathway / Description of Effect	Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor / Frequency of Occurrence	Magnitude of Impact / Severity of Consequence	Significance of Effect with Embedded Mitigation	Project Specific Mitigation Measures	Magnitude /Severity after Additional Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effect
	Magnetic anomalies	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Unknown archaeological sites and remains	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Indirect Impacts to Marine Archaeology	Sub-seabed deposits of palaeoenvironmental potential	Low to medium	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Known archaeological sites and high/medium potential geophysical anomalies	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Low potential geophysical anomalies	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Magnetic anomalies	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Unknown archaeological sites and remains	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Operation							
Direct Impacts to Marine Archaeology	Sub-seabed deposits of palaeoenvironmental potential	Low – Medium	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Known archaeological sites and high/medium potential geophysical anomalies	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Low potential geophysical anomalies	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Magnetic anomalies	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Unknown archaeological sites and remains	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Indirect Impacts to Marine Archaeology	Sub-seabed deposits of palaeoenvironmental potential	Medium	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Known archaeological sites and high/medium potential geophysical anomalies	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

Impact Pathway / Description of Effect	Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor / Frequency of Occurrence	Magnitude of Impact / Severity of Consequence	Significance of Effect with Embedded Mitigation	Project Specific Mitigation Measures	Magnitude /Severity after Additional Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effect
	Low potential geophysical anomalies	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Magnetic anomalies	Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Low	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
	Unknown archaeological sites and remains	High	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	None Proposed	Negligible	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

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