



# Eastern Green Link (EGL) 3 Scottish Waters

## Stakeholder Engagement Report

Document Classification | **Internal**

# EGL3 Stakeholder Engagement

## Purpose of Document

The Eastern Green Link 3 (EGL 3) (herein after referred to as 'the Project') comprises a 2 GW High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Aberdeenshire in Scotland, and King's Lynn and West Norfolk in England. The Project comprises 580 km  $\pm$  5 km of subsea HVDC cables. For the purposes of seeking the necessary consents, the Project has been split into different 'Schemes' i.e. English Onshore Scheme, English Offshore Scheme, Scottish Onshore Scheme and the Scottish Offshore Scheme (herein after referred to as 'the Proposed Development'). The scope of this Stakeholder Engagement Report is limited to activities of the Proposed Development; however, details of the wider Project have been provided where needed for context and information.

This report presents an overview of the consultation activities and stakeholder engagement carried out as part of the Marine Environmental Appraisal (MEAp) process for the Proposed Development. The purpose of consultation and stakeholder engagement was to ensure that relevant stakeholders were aware of the Proposed Development and had the opportunity to comment on issues of relevance to them, to raise concerns and to influence the project development. Since the inception of the Proposed Development, consultation with statutory agencies has been carried out jointly between the Transmission Operators (TOs): Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (SHE Transmission herein referred to as Scottish and Southern Energy Networks Transmission (SSENT)) in Scotland; and National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) in England and the Project has ensured there has been key engagement from statutory and non-statutory stakeholders.

Public consultation is an iterative process that continues throughout the stages of the project design, development and environmental appraisal and is characterised by formal, structured activity. Consultation has been carried out in a coordinated manner. It has been completed independently and has been structured in part by the jurisdictions within which each TO operates. Stakeholder engagement has involved technical discussions with regulators, statutory bodies, and a range of fisheries organisations.

This Stakeholder Engagement Report records the consultation process for the Proposed Development which has been undertaken prior to submission of the application for a Marine Licence, in accordance with the above consultation.

## Summary of Consultation

Consultation with statutory and non-statutory agencies was carried out throughout the pre-application period, with a range of relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to:

- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC),
- Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT),
- Maritime Coast Authority (MCA),
- Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB),
- NatureScot (NS),
- Peterhead Port Authority (PPA)
- Scottish Fisheries Federation (SFF).

The Project has ensured there has been extensive engagement with fishers and fisheries across all phases and activities during the Project.

As part of the route selection process (as described in **Chapter 2 - Project Need and Alternatives**), feedback was sought from key stakeholders on the evolution of the preferred route for the Proposed Development. Alongside this, technical engagement has been carried out at key stages prior to and during

the desk top studies and marine surveys. Regular engagement with the licensing body, MD-LOT, for the Proposed Development was undertaken prior to the marine licence application being submitted.

## The Consultation Process

This section provides information on meetings, documents distributed and discussions held with stakeholders in order to obtain feedback on the application prior to submission (**Table 1**).

**Table 1. Timeline of engagement with regulatory authorities and statutory agencies relevant to the Proposed Development (not exhaustive).**

Date	Meeting/Document Title	Description	Attendees
18/01/2023	Eastern Green Link 3 and 4: High Voltage Direct Current Link Projects: Introductory briefings	This meeting aimed to introduce the upcoming projects (EGL3 and 4) and outline the underlying need case driving their development. The proposed marine activities scheduled for 2023 were presented, highlighting potential operational and regulatory challenges. A key focus was on engaging with MMO/MD-LOT to gather input on resource requirements and explore future collaborative approaches to improve efficiency and alignment in marine planning and execution.	MD-LOT, Marine Management Organisation (MMO), SSENT, NGET, Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) & Collaborative Environmental Associates (CEA)
26/04/2023	Eastern Green Link 3 and 4 - JNCC, NatureScot and Natural England Introductory Briefing	The meeting introduced the projects and explained the strategic need case behind their development. In-confidence discussions were initiated with JNCC, NatureScot, and Natural England ahead of planned marine surveys. The proposed marine activities for 2023/2024 were outlined, and feedback was sought from stakeholders on the proposed approach and indicative marine alignments. The session also explored the implications for conservation designations and protected species, with consultee input helping to shape the future development of the projects.	NS, Natural England (NE), JNCC, SSENT, NGET, SPEN & CEA
27/04/2023	Eastern Green Link 3 and 4 - Trinity House, Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Chamber of Shipping Introductory Briefing	The team outlined their approach to developing proposals and explained the need case for transmission network reinforcement. A comprehensive project overview was provided, including the scope of the marine surveys and indicative marine route alignment options, detailing timelines and key activities. The session concluded with an open discussion and a Q&A segment, allowing attendees to raise questions and share feedback.	MCA, Trinity House (TH), SSENT, NGET, SPEN & CEA
13/06/2023	Introductory Meeting EGL3 and Morven OWF	A progress update was provided for EGL2, and EGL3 was introduced to attendees. The 2023 marine survey programme was presented, including key activities and timelines. Discussions covered interactions with PPA operations and the necessary authorisations required to support marine activities. The forward programme for regular update meetings was outlined, along with key points of contact for ongoing engagement. The meeting concluded with any other business (AOB) and an open floor for questions and discussion.	SSENT, PPA

Date	Meeting/Document Title	Description	Attendees
13/06/2023	Introductory Meeting EGL3, EGL4 and Morven OWF	The meeting began with introductions and a background overview of the EGL project portfolio. Marine routing principles were presented, followed by a detailed discussion of marine route options for EGL3 and EGL4. The 2023 marine survey programme was outlined, including scope and timelines. Key interactions with fishing activities were addressed, with consideration given to potential impacts and coordination needs. Important development dates were shared to inform planning and stakeholder engagement. The meeting concluded with any other business (AOB) and an open discussion.	SSENT, NGET, SPEN, Brown and May Marine Ltd, SFF & The Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA)
19/06/2023	Eastern Green Link 3 and 4: High Voltage Direct Current Link Projects: Introductory briefings	The meeting presented the preferred marine route options for EGL 3 and 4, specifically in relation to upcoming survey activities. An overview of the marine consenting applications required for the surveys was provided, along with a detailed outline of the marine survey scope. Future proposed marine activities were set out to inform planning and stakeholder engagement. The session concluded with key discussion points, allowing attendees to provide input and raise any questions or considerations.	MD-LOT, MMO, SSENT, NGET, SPEN & CEA
11/07/2023	Eastern Green Link 3: Proposed Marine Environmental Survey August 2023	An email was issued to MCA, NLB and PPA containing the Notice to Mariners (NtM), introducing the project whilst detailing the outline of the marine survey scope.	SSENT, MCA, NLB & PPA
04/08/2023	Application to Disturb Marine Species, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc.	Following the application submitted on 08 June 2023 for geophysical surveys along the proposed EGL3 cable corridor, MD-LOT confirmed that the conditions for issuing a European Protected Species (EPS) and Basking Shark licence had been met. Licences MS EPS 00010407 and MS BS 00010408 were issued, valid until 03 August 2024. NatureScot provided comments as part of the advisory process.	MD-LOT & SSENT
10/08/2023	Notice of Intention to Carry out and Exempted Activity - EGL3	An email was issued to confirm the notice of exempted activity; of which JNCC, NS, MCA, NLB and PPA confirmed support.	MD-LOT & SSENT
14/12/2023	Eastern Green Link 3 and 4 – NatureScot (NS) and Natural England (NE) Project Update Meeting	The meeting began with introductions, followed by updates on the current status of the projects. Project programmes were reviewed, outlining key milestones and timelines. The session concluded with a discussion on next steps and AOBs, allowing attendees to raise additional points and confirm actions moving forward.	NS, NE, SSENT, NGET, SPEN & CEA
02/08/2024	Application to Disturb Marine Species, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc.	Following the application submitted on 03 July 2024 for geophysical surveys along the proposed EGL3 cable corridor, MD-LOT confirmed that the conditions for issuing a European Protected Species (EPS) and Basking Shark licence had been met. Licences MS EPS 00010874 and MS BS	MD-LOT & SSENT



Date	Meeting/Document Title	Description	Attendees
		00010875 were issued, valid until 03 August 2025. NatureScot provided comments as part of the advisory process.	
10/08/2024	Notice of Intention to Carry out and Exempted Activity - EGL3	An email was issued to confirm the notice of exempted activity; of which JNCC, NS, MCA, NLB and PPA confirmed support.	MD-LOT & SSENT
23/10/2024	Eastern Green Link 3 and 4 – JNCC Project Update Meeting	The meeting began with introductions and proceeded with project updates, covering the consenting strategy, southern (England) preferred landfall option, marine surveys, programme dates, and scoping responses. Marine topics were discussed in detail, including the position on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). Future engagement was also addressed, with discussions on the format and frequency of upcoming meetings, including the possibility of joint sessions with NE and NS. It was proposed to use a tracker to manage Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) and monitor key issues and discussion topics.	JNCC, SSENT, NGET, SPEN & CEA
10/04/2025	EGL3 PAC consultation event	An email was issued to confirm the pre-application event details; of which MD-LOT, NS, NLB, SFF and SWFPA were included.	SSENT, MD-LOT, NS, NLB, SFF, SWFPA
12/05/2025	Eastern Green Link 3 and 4 JNCC Project Update Meeting	The meeting included reflections on the recent walkthrough and consultation events, with a focus on lessons learned and stakeholder feedback. Discussions were held on the in-principle Marine Environmental Enhancement Benefit (MEEB), including its scope and potential application. Ornithology was also addressed, covering relevant considerations and data needs. The session concluded with AOB and an open discussion.	JNCC, SSENT, NGET, SPEN & CEA
18/06/2025	Eastern Green Link 3 and 4 JNCC Project Update Meeting	The meeting began with introductions and provided an update on the statutory consultation process. Plans for post-statutory consultation activities were outlined, including next steps and timelines. The Scottish consultation was also discussed, highlighting regional considerations and engagement. The session concluded with AOB an open discussion.	JNCC, SSENT, NGET, SPEN & CEA
19/06/2025	EGL3 PAC consultation event	An email was issued to confirm the pre-application event details; of which JNCC were included.	JNCC & SSENT
19/06/2025	Notice of Intention to Carry out and Exempted Activity - EGL3	An email was issued to confirm the notice of exempted activity; of which JNCC, NS, MCA, NLB and PPA confirmed support.	MD-LOT & SSENT
08/07/2025	EGL 3 Interconnector, SSEN Transmission, Pre-application Consultation	An email was issued to provide a minute that contained advice from JNCC as part of our statutory advisory role to the UK Government and devolved administrations on issues relating to nature conservation in UK offshore waters (beyond the territorial limit).	JNCC & SSENT

Date	Meeting/Document Title	Description	Attendees
01/08/2025	Application to Disturb Marine Species, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc.	Following the application submitted on 14 May 2025 for geophysical surveys along the proposed EGL3 cable corridor, MD-LOT confirmed that the conditions for issuing a European Protected Species (EPS) and Basking Shark licence had been met. Licences EPS/BS-00010874 and EPS/BS-00010875 were issued, valid until 03 August 2026. NatureScot provided comments as part of the advisory process.	MD-LOT & SSENT
04/08/25	Eastern Green Link 3 and 4 JNCC Project Update Meeting	The meeting began with introductions and provided an update on EGL3 in Scotland, including progress and key developments. Feedback from recent consultations was reviewed, followed by a discussion on decommissioning considerations. Other related developments were also shared. The session concluded with a review of next steps and AOB.	JNCC, SSENT, NGET & CEA