

# BUCHAN OFFSHORE WIND

## Project Consultation

Buchan Offshore Wind is a new floating offshore wind project with the potential to make a significant contribution to Scotland's and the UK's renewable energy ambitions.

A ScotWind project located 75km off the coast of Fraserburgh, it will have up to 70 wind turbines generating around 1GW of clean, green renewable energy – enough to power the equivalent of 1.4 million homes.

Buchan Offshore Wind could see more than £1.4bn invested in Scotland's manufacturing sector and supply chain, with potential for a further £800m in the rest of the UK. This has the potential to support over 2,800 jobs in Scotland at the peak of construction and 320 during operation.

Subsea cables bringing energy from the turbines would come ashore near Rattray head, and underground cables would then transport the energy to a new project substation in the Peterhead area. This new substation would be connected to the existing Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) transmission network at the existing Peterhead substation.

## We want to hear your views!

Last year we consulted with local people on our preferred landfall point, onshore cable route options, onshore substation site options, and our planned offshore scheme. We have considered all feedback received and have developed our plans in more detail.

We are now holding a second round of public consultation to update local people and stakeholders on how our proposals have developed and seek their feedback to help us progress our proposals. You can find more information about our plans in this leaflet, at our public exhibitions and on our website [www.buchanoffshorewind.com](http://www.buchanoffshorewind.com)

**Our public consultation runs  
from Monday 25 November to  
Friday 20 December 2024.**





## About Buchan Offshore Wind

A joint venture between BayWa r.e, Elicio and BW Ideol, Buchan Offshore Wind was awarded the rights to develop the site through the ScotWind leasing process launched by Crown Estate Scotland (CES) to facilitate the expansion of offshore wind in Scotland.

ScotWind was delivered in response to the Scottish Government's target of net-zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045 and the aim to generate 50% of Scotland's overall energy consumption from renewable sources by 2030. Buchan Offshore Wind was awarded ScotWind NE8 Plan Option, with an Option area of 330 km<sup>2</sup>.



## What does the project involve?

Buchan Offshore Wind will help put Scotland at the forefront of floating wind technology. Our aim is to develop a project that balances the delivery of the project with the aim of reducing potential effects on the environment and communities.

The wind turbines would be fixed to floating concrete barges which will be moored and anchored to the seabed. Our preferred technology is BW Ideol's Damping Pool technology, which has already been successfully installed off the coasts of France and Japan.

The serial production of foundations and turbine assembly is intended to take place in Scotland. Project partner BW Ideol have prepared detailed plans for the proposed manufacture of concrete floating foundations at the former oil and gas yard at the Port of Ardersier. It is expected that more than 1,000 staff would be employed locally in Scotland for the manufacturing of the floating foundations.

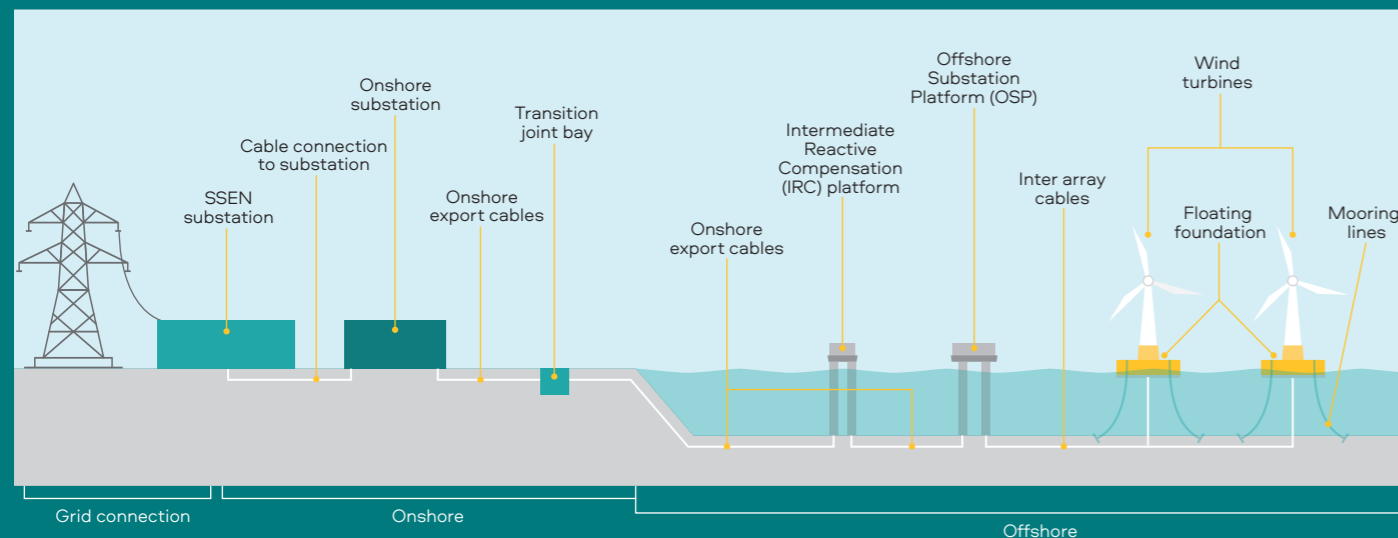
Up to three offshore substations would collect energy generated by the turbines for transmission via subsea export cables and an offshore intermediate reactive compensation (IRC) platform to a landfall location near Rattray head, on the Aberdeenshire coast. At landfall the subsea cables would



enter a transition bay, and then onshore underground cables will transport the electricity to the project's substation, near Peterhead. Here it would be converted to 400kV (400,000 volts) for onward transmission via underground cables to join the national transmission network.

Our expected grid connection point is at the existing Peterhead substation, located to the south of the town of Peterhead, which is owned and operated by Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN).

## How does floating wind energy work?



## Our proposed offshore development

Buchan Offshore Wind would have up to 70 turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 340 metres, sited in an area approximately 75km from Fraserburgh with water depths between 73m and 110m. The turbines will not be visible from shore, and are well away from designated sites.

Dynamic (flexible) inter-array cables would connect the turbines to each other and up to three offshore substations within the windfarm.

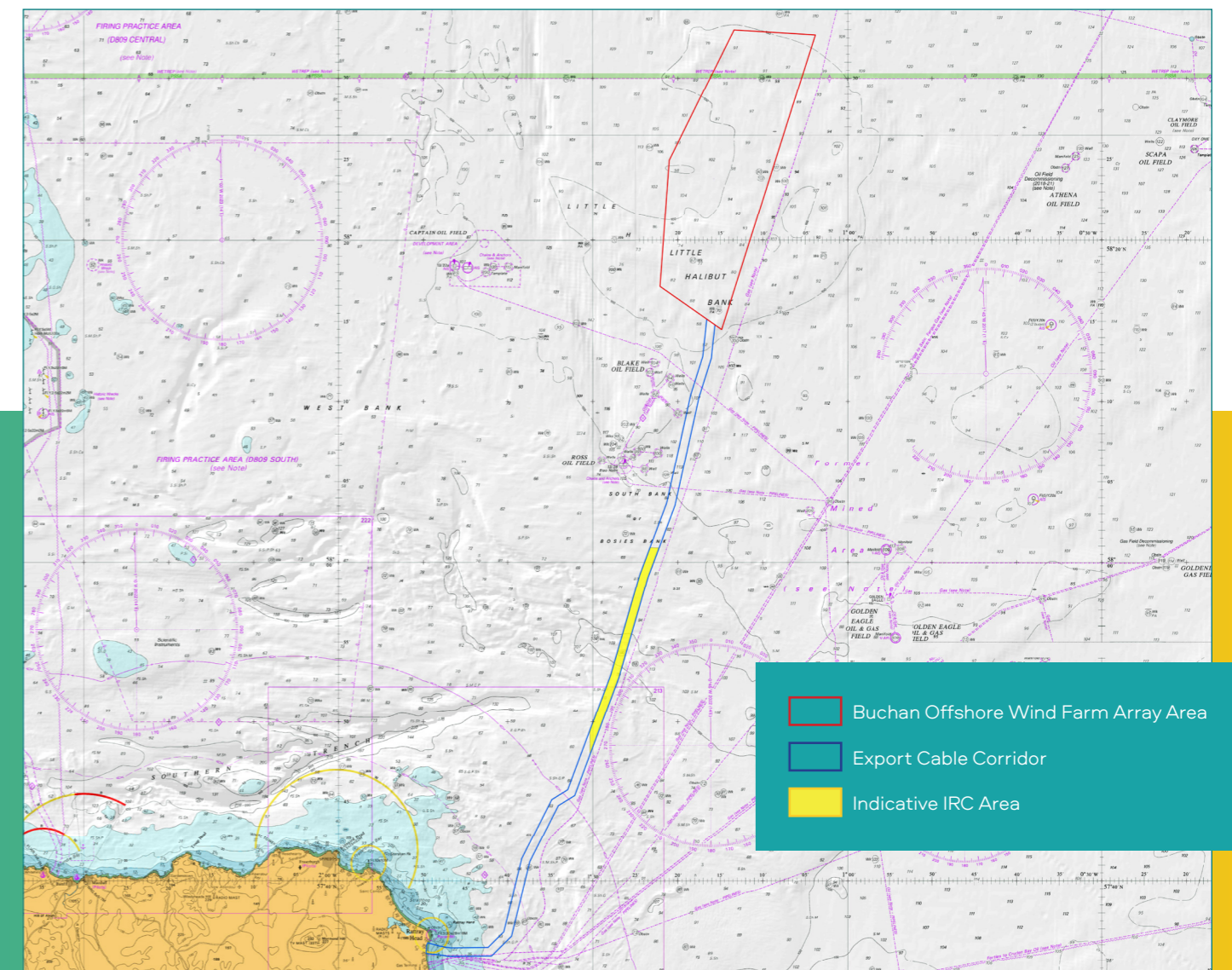
To help us decide exactly where the floating wind turbines should be sited within the awarded development area, and the best subsea cable route, we have undertaken detailed technical and environmental surveys. We are also conducting ongoing engagement with a range of stakeholders – including environmental organisations – to help inform a comprehensive approach to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report. That approach is outlined in the project's Offshore Scoping Report, issued in September 2023 and accessible via our website, and the resulting EIA report will accompany the consent application.

We have also been working closely with fishing communities and representatives on how we can work with the fishing industry to reduce potential impacts from the installation and operation of the turbines, subsea cables and the IRC platform, which would be about halfway along the cable route.

The IRC platform helps balance the power being transmitted, so it arrives onshore safely and ready for onward transmission.

The offshore cables will be buried in the seabed where this may be achieved, both to protect them and to reduce the potential for interaction with other sea users. Where burial is not possible and the cables need to be laid on the seabed – such as when crossing other pipelines and cables – rock armour or similar protection would be used.

### Export Cable Corridor Search Area and Preferred Export Cable Corridor



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We believe our refined routes and sites are the ones that best balance our technical requirements with the impact on the environment and the people who live, work and enjoy spending their time in the area.

But we need your views to help us develop our plans, and to let us know if there is anything else you would like us to take into account as the project progresses.

You can view our plans, ask questions of the project team and give us your feedback at one of our public exhibitions:

### **Tuesday 26 November:**

St Fergus Village Hall AB42 3QD – 2pm-7pm

### **Wednesday 27 November:**

Dalrymple Hall, Fraserburgh AB43 9BD – 2pm - 7pm

### **Thursday 28 November:**

Peterhead Football Club AB42 1EQ – 2pm – 7pm

You can find more information and an online feedback form at our website:

[www.buchanoffshorewind.com](http://www.buchanoffshorewind.com)

How to contact us:

Freephone:

**0800 0129 889**

Email:

[feedback@buchanconsultation.com](mailto:feedback@buchanconsultation.com)

Freepost:

**FREEPOST BUCHAN OFFSHORE WIND**



## Working with the community

Buchan Offshore Wind would be part of the local community for many years to come, and we are already working in partnership with local organisations to make a positive difference, such as:

- Supporting the University of Highlands and Islands (UHI) STEM Programme in the Highlands and Islands and its planned expansion to schools in Fraserburgh, Mintlaw and Peterhead
- Working with Fraserburgh and Peterhead Ports to support their ambitions to capitalise on the opportunities floating offshore wind presents
- Partnering with Powering Futures to deliver their Schools Programme in Peterhead and Fraserburgh Academies, providing pupils with sustainability and meta-skills education
- Sponsorship of the Best of Buchan Awards in July 2023 and 2024 as part of Peterhead Scottish Week
- Sponsorship of Peterhead FC's Community Foundation, funding a community coach who supports education, health and wellbeing.



## What happens next?

The final date for people to give us their comments on the proposals as part of this consultation is Friday 20th December. We will carefully consider all feedback we receive, alongside our technical appraisals and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), as we develop our plans. We will carry out further consultation on our detailed proposals before submitting consent applications. We expect to submit applications in 2025.

At this stage, please note that your comments are not representations to the Scottish Ministers or Local Planning Authority. If we do make applications for development consent and marine licences/planning permission in future, you will be able to make formal representations to the Scottish Ministers or Local Planning Authority at that stage.

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