Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 5.3 Statement of Competence

Date: March 2024

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Company:	**Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind**	Asset:	**Whole Asset**
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Acronyms & Terminology

Abbreviations / Acronyms

Abbreviation / Acronym	Description
AMETS	Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site
CIA	Cumulative Impact Assessment
DBWF	Dogger Bank Teesside
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
FLOWW	Fisheries Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables
GIS	Geographic Information System
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MA	Maritime Archaeology
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
NGO	Non-government Organisation
NRA	Navigational Risk Assessment
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
OPEN	Optimised Environments Limited
OWF	Offshore Windfarm
SAR	Synthetic Aperture Radar
SLVIA	Seascape Landscape and Visual Report
SOCG	Statement of Common Ground
TH	Trinity House
UK	United Kingdom
UKFEN	UK Fisheries Economic Network

Terminology

Term	Definition
Baseline	The status of the environment at the time of assessment without the development in place.
Cumulative effects	The combined effect of the Project acting cumulatively with the effects of a number of different projects, on the same single receptor/resource.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A statutory process by which certain planned projects must be assessed before a formal decision to proceed can be made. It involves the collection and consideration of environmental information, which fulfils the assessment requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, including the publication of an Environmental Statement (ES).
Environmental Statement (ES)	The suite of documents that detail the processes and results of the EIA.
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	A process which helps determine likely significant effects and (where appropriate) assesses adverse impacts on the integrity of European conservation sites and Ramsar sites. The process consists of up to four stages of assessment: screening, appropriate assessment, assessment of alternative solutions and assessment of imperative reasons of over-riding public interest (IROPI) and compensatory measures.
Impact	An impact to the receiving environment is defined as any change to its baseline condition, either adverse or beneficial.
Intertidal	The area between Mean HighWater Springs (MHWS) and Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS)
NSIP Reform Action Plan	An Action Plan launched in February 2023 by Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to reform the NSIP regime to ensure the effectiveness and resilience of the planning regime for the growing pipeline of critical infrastructure projects.
Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind	The Project.
The Project	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, an offshore wind generating station together with associated onshore and offshore infrastructure.

Reference Documentation

Document Number	Definition
6.1.7	Marine Physical Processes
6.1.8	Marine Water and Sediment Quality
6.1.9	Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology
6.1.10	Fish and Shellfish Ecology
6.1.11	Marine Mammals
6.1.12	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
6.1.14	Commercial Fisheries
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6.1.19	Onshore Air Quality
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6.1.27	Traffic and Transport
6.1.30	Human Health
6.1.31	Climate Change
6.3.5.2	Cumulative Effects Assessment Approach Offshore

1 Statement of Competency

1.1 Introduction

1. In order to ensure the Environmental Statement (ES) is complete and is of a high-quality Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant') has appointed experienced Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consultants to undertake the assessment work. This document outlines the relevant expertise and qualifications of the EIA consultants who have undertaken the environmental impact assessment and prepared the ES.

1.2 Competent Experts

1.2.1 GoBe Consultants

2. GoBe is an independent environment and planning consultancy offering a broad range of expertise and experience in the offshore, marine and coastal, and onshore development sectors. We are a leading consultancy in the marine renewable energy sector.
3. The company employs technical consultants and Project Managers (with both offshore and onshore experience) who have a proven capability to deliver EIA, planning and consents services for large (including Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)) as well as smaller scale offshore development projects throughout the project development life cycle and also the management of consenting requirements during the pre-commencement, construction and post-construction phases of development.
4. GoBe's technical consultants have a broad range of expertise including significant experience and knowledge in the fields of benthic ecology, fish and shellfish ecology, marine mammals, ornithology, physical processes, onshore ecology, water quality, the human environment, and commercial fisheries. Their extensive experience in the United Kingdom (UK) offshore wind energy sector since the earliest projects means that the Company is well placed to demonstrate a strong understanding of the complexity and challenges associated with the delivery of the required services and the project as a whole. The teams have worked on over two thirds of the UK Round 3 Offshore Windfarm (OWF) developments and have had a very substantial involvement in the Round 1, 2, 2.5, 3 and Scottish Territorial Waters projects.
5. GoBe staff have been involved in the EIA, consenting and compliance management of offshore windfarms in UK waters since 2000 having worked on Round 1, Round 2, Round 2.5 and Round 3 projects as lead EIA/Consent managers (frequently in seconded positions), compliance manager and environmental liaison officers.
6. GoBe undertook the technical impact assessment and were lead authors on the following impact assessments within the ES:
   - Chapter 7: Marine Physical Processes
   - Chapter 8: Marine Water and Sediment Quality
   - Chapter 9: Benthic and Intertidal Ecology

- Chapter 10: Fish and Shellfish Ecology
- Chapter 11: Marine Mammals
- Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
- Chapter 18: Marine Infrastructure and Other Users

1.2.2 SLR Consulting

7. SLR is a global leader in environmental and advisory solutions. SLR is a dynamic, responsive and a fast-growing environmental consultancy with an unrivalled reputation for providing high quality tailored services.
8. SLR has been advising clients for over 25 years at every point of their project life cycle. Starting as a UK business, we now operate as a global company with more than 1600 people delivering client solutions across five regions.
9. With offices in Europe, Asia-Pacific, Africa, Canada and United States, we provide global advice and support on a wide range of strategic and site-specific environmental issues to a diverse and growing base of business, regulatory and governmental clients.
10. SLR is one of the UK's leading providers of environmental services to the electricity transmission and distribution industries, including National Grid, Distribution Network Operators and private developers.
11. SLR has established a reputation for providing robust technical advice using experience gained over almost 20 years of working on electricity infrastructure projects at all stages of the project lifecycle, from strategic optioneering, through the outline and detailed routeing and siting process, the planning or Development Consent Order (DCO) application stage through to construction, mitigation and condition discharge.
12. SLR has a strong reputation for providing robust technical advice using experience gained over the past 17 years of working on electricity infrastructure projects at all stages of the project lifecycle, from strategic optioneering, through the outline and detailed routeing and siting process, the planning or DCO application stage through to construction and mitigation on site and during the project's operation.
13. SLR is experienced at undertaking assessment of renewable energy and other major infrastructure projects throughout the UK and understands how to prepare a targeted and proportionate assessment that addresses both beneficial and adverse impacts, working with stakeholders to develop mitigation strategies where appropriate.
14. SLR's team has extensive experience in providing technical support (from EIA through to consenting services) for numerous offshore windfarms across the UK and Ireland. The team has significant experience in providing technical support for windfarm developments and have extensive experience in the onshore aspects of offshore windfarms.
15. SLR's team has undertaken baseline studies, surveys, impact assessment and mitigation designs for many clients in the renewable energy sector, in all jurisdictions of the British Isles including work with GoBe Consultants.

16. SLR undertook the technical impact assessment and were lead authors on the following impact assessment within the ES:
    - Chapter 19: Onshore Air Quality
    - Chapter 20: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
    - Chapter 21: Onshore Ecology
    - Chapter 22: Onshore Ornithology
    - Chapter 23: Geology and Ground Conditions
    - Chapter 24: Hydrology and Flood Risk
    - Chapter 25: Land Use
    - Chapter 26: Noise and Vibration
    - Chapter 27: Traffic and Transport
    - Chapter 30: Human Health
    - Chapter 31: Climate Change
    - Chapter 32: Cumulative Effects Assessment Approach Offshore

1.2.3 Anatec

17. Anatec is a market leader in risk-based decision making. We work within the UK and internationally in a variety of sectors including onshore, offshore, marine, shipping and renewables (wind, wave and tide). We provide consultancy services on most aspects of marine, oil and gas, renewables, transportation and onshore safety. The company was established in 2001.
18. Anatec has extensive and specialist experience of carrying out Navigational Risk Assessments (NRA) for offshore renewables projects and for other marine users including oil and gas operators, ports, marinas, cable and marine aggregate dredging companies in the UK and worldwide.
19. Anatec has a team of fifteen dedicated to NRA work which represents one of the largest NRA teams in the UK. Our key personnel have been at the forefront of the marine hazard analysis and risk management field for the last 20-30 years.
20. Anatec's approach is tried and tested having carried out the majority of NRAs for offshore windfarm projects in UK waters. Alongside these assessments, Anatec have developed excellent working relationships with the key stakeholders of shipping and navigation issues in the UK, including the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Trinity House (TH), the Chamber of Shipping (CoS), Royal Yachting Association, Cruising Association, as well as individual ports, oil and gas companies and vessel operators. Post consent Anatec has been assisting several UK developers with the successful applications for funding and the discharge of consent conditions. This includes gaining extensive experience in the layout approvals process and offshore safety management in relation to navigation, Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), etc.

21. Anatec's senior personnel each have over 20 years' experience of working in marine and offshore safety. Our aim is to provide specialised knowledge in a cost-effective manner. Through our experience we are well recognised on a national and international level, and we have conducted several national research studies on behalf of various UK government departments. We have also conducted business for most of the world's energy majors.
22. In the UK, this has included carrying out vessel traffic surveys, NRAs and Environmental Impact Assessments for a number of projects, including all Hornsea Projects as well as Walney (inc. Extension), Burbo Bank (inc. Extension), Westermost Rough and Race Bank.
23. Anatec has also been involved in the NRA and subsequent DCO process for Dogger Bank Creyke Beck (now DBWF), Dogger Bank Teesside (now DBWF and Sofia), East Anglia projects (One, One North, Two Three), Norfolk Boreas, Norfolk Vanguard, Navitus Bay and Rampion. This includes everything from the development of Statement of Common Grounds (SOCGs) through to issue specific hearings, consent hearings and post consent condition discharge.
24. Anatec undertook the technical impact assessment and were lead authors on the impact assessment within the ES Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation

1.2.4 BiGGAR Economics

25. BiGGAR Economics is a leading independent economic consultancy based just outside Edinburgh providing economic analysis and advice for central and local government, economic development and other government agencies, universities, colleges, social economy organisations and private sector firms across Europe.
26. BIGGAR Economics particular expertise includes universities and research institutes, innovation, energy, tourism and culture, regeneration and development, voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, economic strategy, economic policy development and appraisals, evaluation and economic impact assessment.
27. BIGGAR Economics energy expertise focuses on socio-economic assessments of renewable energy developments and advising energy companies on maximising positive local and regional economic impacts. Their tourism expertise focuses on feasibility studies and business plans for proposed new developments and economic impact assessments of tourism and cultural assets.
28. BiGGAR Economics undertook the technical impact assessment and were lead authors on the impact assessment within the ES Chapter 29: Socio-Economic Characteristics

1.2.5 Cyrrus

29. Cyrrus Limited is a leading independent aviation consultancy that focuses on bringing creative, contemporary solutions to the challenges facing windfarm developers, airports, and the air traffic industry. Their background and experience enable Cyrrus to provide high quality consultancy services to understand and resolve the often-disparate objectives of the aviation and renewable energy industries. Working with wind energy developers across the United Kingdom, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East we have a demonstrated track record of delivering client solutions, providing added value and expertise that is cost effective and efficient.

30. Cyrrus has the Safeguarding, Airspace and Air Traffic Management expertise and experience to conduct these studies. For over 15 years Cyrrus has provided similar support to major windfarm developers, these include ScottishPower Renewables, SSE, Peel Energy together with several environmental companies (RSK, WSP, SLR).
31. Cyrrus conduct these studies to the required State aviation regulatory requirements and the Standards and Recommendations (SARPs) as set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).
32. Cyrrus staff possess a wealth of aviation related experience – nearly all our staff have spent their entire working lives in aviation and are imbued with the safety culture, discipline and enthusiasm that pervades this safety-critical, dynamic and technically challenging industry. They have the experience of delivering offshore aviation and radar assessments to bring added value to this project.
33. Cyrrus work closely with organisations that deliver services, technology and construction projects on or around airports. With a team of highly knowledgeable and experienced staff, they can help you address any impact that your project may have on the safety and/or operation of the neighbouring airport or aviation activity. Cyrrus have helped developers across the globe deal with the technical complexities that make successful delivery to airports such a challenge. They will provide advice where needed and help you understand exactly what is required at every stage of the process. Cyrrus can attend key stakeholder meetings with you to ensure you are well represented.
34. Cyrrus undertook the technical impact assessment and were lead authors on the impact assessment within the ES Chapter 16: Aviation, Radar, Military and Communication

1.2.6 Maritime Archaeology

35. Maritime Archaeology (MA) works across the UK and internationally in development related consultancy and field services specialising in underwater archaeology and also offers a range of research, development and training services for the wider maritime heritage sector.
36. Maritime Archaeology is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and have a record of high-quality work which is regularly subject to external audits.
37. Unusually for a limited company, Maritime Archaeology operates on a not-for-profit basis with all profits being used to support charitable work undertaken by Maritime Archaeology Trust with the aim to promote interest, research and share knowledge of underwater cultural heritage.
38. The Maritime Archaeology team has substantial experience in supporting offshore developments through the provision of cultural heritage and archaeological services, from scoping and environmental impact assessment, examination hearings and statutory advisor engagement, through to post-construction consent compliance and retained archaeological services including archaeological research, offshore watching briefs and commercial diving operations.

39. Maritime Archaeology undertook the technical impact assessment and were lead authors on the impact assessment within the ES Chapter 13: Maritime and Intertidal Archaeology

1.2.7 MetOceanWorks

40. MetOceanWorks is a UK based metocean consultancy. Its core skills combine technical expertise, oceanographic knowledge and innovative software solutions with specialist consultancy to support complex marine engineering and environmental projects. Established in 2012, it is a dynamic, inventive and highly skilled organisation. It has gained a reputation providing high quality metocean data and expert interpretation to meet the rigorous requirements of offshore industries.
41. Its modelling expertise provides global, regional and site-specific data to support decision making and analyses throughout a metocean project. It has extensive experience in modelling estuarine, coastal and offshore systems which it regularly uses to support consultancy, operability and design studies, as well as environmental impact assessments.
42. MetOceanWorks, assisted by Cooper Marine Advisors Ltd (details provided below in section 1.2.8), undertook the physical processes modelling to inform the impact assessment within the ES Chapter 7: Marine Physical Processes.

1.2.8 Cooper Marine Advisors Ltd

43. Cooper Marine Advisors Ltd are an independent consultancy offering specialist support to marine developers and organisations with a responsibility in managing the marine environment. Bill has more than 30 years' international consultancy experience studying river, estuary, coastal and offshore environments. In particular, Bill has a strong background in the application of modelling tools to support investigations of wave, tide, sediment transport and water quality issues for a variety projects. Bill has published industry guidance, is the author of various technical papers and he also provides peer review for science and engineering councils and technical journals.

1.2.9 OPEN

44. Optimised Environments Limited or "OPEN" is a multidisciplinary design company with masterplanning, landscape architecture, architecture, landscape planning, urban design and Geographic Information System (GIS) at its core. The professionals who work at OPEN have a vast depth of experience in the design, planning and assessment of the built environment. OPEN has particularly strong reputation in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for renewable energy developments.

45. Having worked on OWF development since Round 1, OPEN staff have developed a high level of understanding of the issues and likely scope of work associated with Seascape Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) assessment, including night-time effects. OPEN has been involved in the SLVIA assessment work for 17 OWFs. Specifically, OPEN staff have worked in or close to all of the Round 4 areas, as well as OWF projects around the coast of Scotland and the Republic of Ireland. OPEN has also worked on LVIA's for onshore windfarms and other development in many of the terrestrial areas that may be affected by views of the Round 4 areas. OPEN staff are therefore very familiar with the spatial areas where there may be SLVR impacts resulting from Round 4 projects.
46. OPEN undertook the technical impact assessment and were lead authors on the following impact assessment within the ES Chapter 17: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Assessment and Chapter 28: Landscape and Visual Assessment.

1.2.10 Poseidon

47. Poseidon are fisheries consultants working globally providing advice in support of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, marine planning, and blue growth.
48. Established in 2001, and with offices registered in both the UK and in Europe, Poseidon has successfully completed more than 450 short- and long-term projects for international and bilateral donor agencies, regional fisheries bodies, national and local governments, the private sector, and Non-government Organisations (NGOs).
49. Poseidon provides high quality outputs and solutions across a range of fisheries and marine environmental projects, delivered by a core team of seven staff members, and Poseidon's network of specialist independent consultants.
50. As fisheries consultants, consultation is a continuous element of our work across industry, producer organisations, regulators, environmental NGOs and government departments. Through not only our impact assessment work, but importantly through the work we do with certification bodies and also directly with the fishing industry, the team has knowledge of and contact with the fishing fleets operating around the UK, in addition to wider European fisheries interests. Our work requires sound understanding of fish and shellfish ecology, the status of commercial stocks and patterns of fishing activity.
51. Together with excellent consultation, organisation and communication skills, Poseidon bring a full understanding of the methodology and best practise for undertaking commercial fisheries impact assessments. For example, we have a keen knowledge of all Fisheries Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables (FLOWW) guidance and guidance related to undertaking impact assessment, including leading the development of "Best Practice Guidance for Fishing Industry Financial and Economic Impact Assessments" for the UK Fisheries Economic Network (UKFEN) and Seafish.

52. Poseidon have invaluable experience in leading every stage for the commercial fisheries elements of Section 36 Consent and DCO applications for nationally significant offshore windfarm projects. We are also engaged in providing equivalent services to a number of other newly identified and extension offshore windfarm projects in UK and Irish waters. Poseidon also supports developers in meeting post-consent compliance requirements; for example, for Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Windfarm we prepared a fisheries mitigation and management plan, inputted to commercial negotiations with fishermen, and are undertaking an ongoing programme of commercial fisheries monitoring.
53. Poseidon undertook the technical impact assessment and were lead authors on the impact assessment within the ES Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries

1.2.11 SMRU Consulting

54. SMRU Consulting is the world's leading marine mammal consultancy with an unrivalled reputation for providing innovative, robust, and environmentally sound solutions for clients active in the marine environment, with extensive experience in assessing the impacts of underwater noise on marine mammals.
55. The SMRU Consulting team is trained in this highly specialized field to help our clients understand, assess, and mitigate the marine mammal challenge of their projects. The team has decades of experience in marine mammal research, biology, hearing and impacts of noise on marine mammals.
56. SMRU Consulting have provided EIAs, Habitat Regulation Assessments (HRAs) and Cumulative Impact Assessments (CIAs) for several offshore activities around the UK and they ensure that our noise impact assessments use the latest and best scientific data available to inform our approach.
57. SMRU Consulting have extensive experience producing fully robust and quantitative assessments of the potential impact of underwater noise as a result of the offshore activities. This includes quantification of impact for both hearing damage/auditory injury and displacement/behavioural responses. Their quantitative noise impact assessments combine the most up to date spatially explicit estimates of density of each species with estimates of the spatial and temporal extent of 'impact footprints' for each noise related impact in order to provide a quantitative prediction of the number of animals at risk of impact. This takes into account the best available scientific evidence on the movement and behaviour of marine mammals, both under baseline conditions and in response to underwater noise.
58. SMRU Consulting have considerable experience with developing frameworks for the environmental assessment of the effects of anthropogenic activities on marine mammals and basking sharks.
59. SMRU Consulting work closely with developer teams to ensure project risks are identified and managed, from pre-consenting consultation through to post installation monitoring and reporting.

60. SMRU Consulting offshore windfarm impact assessment experience includes the baseline characterisation technical report, quantitative impact assessment and EIA chapter production for the following UK projects: Hornsea Three, Hornsea Four, Thanet Extension, Moray West, Seagreen, Navitus Bay, Dounreay Tri (currently also working on other projects including Rampion 2, Dublin Array, Erebus, Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site (AMETS), Awel-y-Mor, Five Estuaries).
61. SMRU Consulting has extensive experience in Offshore Wind, both pre and post consent, monitoring and mitigation and on both project specific and strategic levels.
62. SMRU Consulting undertook the quantitative impact assessment for underwater noise impacts for marine mammals, that informed the impact assessment within the ES Chapter 11: Marine Mammals.

1.2.12 Subacoustech

63. Established in 1993, Subacoustech has over 30 years' experience in specialist underwater noise consultancy. Having successfully completed hundreds of consultancy and research projects, Subacoustech have first-hand experience and expert knowledge of every type of marine development activity in common usage including the assessment of impact on marine fauna.
64. The team of Tim Mason and Richard Barham have undertaken environmental impact assessments together for the majority of Round 1, 2, 3 and 4 offshore windfarms currently consented or going through the consenting process in England, Scotland and Wales for more than 10 years.
65. Subacoustech developed the INSPIRE semi-empirical underwater noise propagation modelling software that has gone into the prediction of noise impacts on marine mammals and fish, including contributions to noise modelling at almost all British OWFs, including Sofia, Galloper, Dogger Bank A-D and South, Triton Knoll, Teesside A, Seagreen Alpha, Inch Cape and Moray Firth, Hornsea Projects 1 to 4, East Anglia 2 and 1 North, Norfolk Boreas and Norfolk Vanguard, Inner Dowsing and many others. The Subacoustech team has also carried out on-site monitoring for underwater noise during construction of many of them. They are well known to and have developed good relationships with all major developers and regulators.
66. Subacoustech undertook the modelling and underwater assessments, that informed the impact assessment within the ES Chapter 10: Fish and Shellfish and Chapter 11: Marine Mammals.