

Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Draft Plan for Offshore Wind Energy in Scottish Territorial Waters: Pre-Screening Review of the Medium Term Options

Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Draft Plan for Offshore Wind Energy in Scottish Territorial Waters: Pre-Screening Review of the Medium Term Options

© Crown copyright 2011

ISBN: 978-1-78045-058-2 (web only)

The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Produced for the Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland
DPPAS11359 (03/11)

Published by the Scottish Government, March 2011

Scottish Government

Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Draft Plan for Offshore Wind Energy in Scottish Territorial Waters: Pre-Screening Review of the Medium Term Options




Date: January 2011

Project Ref: R.3974/1

Report No: R.1722a

© ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd

Version	Details of Change	Authorised By	Date
1	Draft for Comment	E San Martin	01/11/10
2	Second Draft	E San Martin	22/11/10
3	Final Draft	E San Martin	07/01/11
4	Final	E San Martin	21/01/11

Document Authorisation		Signature	Date
Project Manager:	E San Martin		21/01/11
Quality Manager:	C R Scott		21/01/11
Project Director:	S C Hull		21/01/11

ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd

Suite B, Waterside House
Town Quay
SOUTHAMPTON
Hampshire
SO14 2AQ

Tel: +44(0)23 8071 1840
Fax: +44(0)23 8071 1841
Web: www.abpmer.co.uk
Email: enquiries@abpmer.co.uk

ABPmer is certified by:



Summary

In May 2010, a Draft Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (OWE) in Scottish Territorial Waters was published by Marine Scotland. To inform this plan, Marine Scotland is carrying out a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) and producing an Appropriate Assessment (AA) in fulfilment of obligations under the Habitats Regulations and the Offshore Habitats Regulations. These Regulations implement the EC Habitats and Birds Directives in UK waters and require that an AA should be undertaken where a plan or project is not directly connected with or necessary for management of designated European sites or offshore European sites, including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and where the possibility of a likely significant effect (LSE) on these sites cannot be excluded, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. In the UK, these requirements are also extended to the consideration of effects on Ramsar sites and to sites that are proposed for designation such as potential SPAs (pSPAs).

A pre-screening study has already been undertaken to identify the possible impacts of the short-term options on sites of international nature conservation interest (Halcrow, 2010). ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd (ABPmer) has been commissioned by the Scottish Government to complete the remaining 'screening' and 'AA information production' stages of this HRA. The findings from the Halcrow (2010) study will be taken into account within the subsequent stages of the HRA for the Draft OWE Plan to ensure that the effects of both short and medium term sites are considered. ABPmer are carrying this out in an iterative, auditable and transparent manner following practices adopted for previous Plan-level HRAs and using new guidance for assessing plans that has been produced by Scottish Natural Heritage (David Tyldesley and Associates, 2010). This HRA process is being overseen by a Project Steering Group (PSG) which includes representatives of key stakeholders and consultees.

The Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) guidance for Plan-level HRAs (David Tyldesley and Associates, 2010), divides the whole process into 13 distinct stages. This report covers Stages 1 to 3 and 5 of the HRA process for the 25 medium term options (which should be viewed essentially as 'areas of search') and acts as an initial 'sifting' exercise for which the aim is to identify the relevant European/Ramsar sites and their qualifying interest features for which there is a potential for a LSE, or where such a LSE cannot be excluded. These selected sites and qualifying interest features will then be taken forward into the assessment process. The results of the pre-screening process are set out within three tables which summarise the findings of this analysis by showing:

- The environmental impact pathways that are relevant to the plan (i.e the mechanisms by which an activity arising from the offshore windfarm developments (that are proposed within Plan) could affect a relevant habitat or species);
- The designated European/Ramsar sites that are present within the OWE option areas and within 100km of these areas; and
- The designated European/Ramsar sites and their key qualifying interest features that have initially been screened into the assessment process (and those that have been screened out).

The 100km boundary that has been used here, has been applied because it defines a quantifiable and objective area that is likely to encompass many of the mobile species interest features (fish, seabirds and mammals) within designated sites which could be indirectly affected by the medium term

OWE options. However, it has not been used to limit further review of more distant locations or to presume that all relevant features within this area for which impact pathway exists are necessarily affected. In particular, it is recognised that impacts (especially to migratory bird species) may extend to sites beyond this 100km boundary and this aspect will need to be considered throughout the whole HRA process.

At this stage, only sites and interest features where no impact pathway exists have been excluded. This includes only non-coastal terrestrial habitats and species interest features within the 100km area. Following the initial pre-screening, a total of 355 sites were identified (from a total of 566 sites that were identified within the 100km boundary) as having a LSE and requiring further consideration in the HRA. Of these sites, 11 are located within the boundary of one of the 25 medium term options and could be subject to both direct and indirect effects while 344 lie outside of these options (but within 100km of them) and could be indirectly affected.

For each of the relevant European and Ramsar site designations, the following numbers of sites were identified and then screened in:

- Special Protection Areas (SPAs): 173 sites within 100km of which **148** were screened in;
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs): 308 sites within 100km of which **135** were screened in;
- Ramsar Sites: 73 sites within 100km of which **62** were screened in;
- Sites of Community Importance (SCIs): 3 sites within 100km of which all **3** were screened in;
- Candidate SACs: 5 sites within 100km of which **4** were screened in;
- Potential SAC: 3 sites within 100km of which all **3** were screened in; and
- Potential SPA: 1 site within 100km of which **none** were screened in.

Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
ABPmer	ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd
DECC	Department of Energy & Climate Change
DOENI	Department of Environment for Northern Ireland
EC	European Commission
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
HIE	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
IROPI	Imperative Reasons for Overriding Public Interest
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
N-RIP	National Renewables Infrastructure Plan
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
ODPM	Office of Deputy Prime Minister
OWE	Offshore Wind Energy
PFSA	Pentland Firth Strategic Area
pSAC	potential Special Area of Conservation
pSPA	Potential Special Protection Area
PSG	Project Steering Group
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
R3OWF	Round 3 Offshore Wind Farm
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SE	Scottish Enterprise
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SG	Scottish Government
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPP	Scottish Planning Policy
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
TCE	The Crown Estate
UK	United Kingdom
WAG	Welsh Assembly Government
WDCS	Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society
WHS	World Heritage Site

Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Draft Plan for Offshore Wind Energy in Scottish Territorial Waters: Pre-Screening Review of the Medium Term Options

Contents

	Page
Summary	i
Abbreviations	iii
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Report Background	1
1.2 Objectives of Pre-Screening and Report Structure	2
2. Offshore Wind Energy (OWE) Options	4
2.1 Background to Draft Plan	4
2.2 Medium Term Options	4
3. OWE Strategic Environmental Assessment	6
4. Habitats Regulations Appraisal	7
4.1 Legislative Background	7
4.2 HRA Framework and Approach for Plans	8
5. HRA Stages 1 to 3 and 5	10
5.1 Introduction and Scope	10
5.2 Stage 1 - Deciding Whether the Draft Plan is Subject to HRA	11
5.3 Stage 2 - Identifying the European/Ramsar Sites that Should be Considered in the Appraisal	12
5.4 Stage 3 - Gathering Information About the European/Ramsar Sites	13
5.5 Stage 5 - First Phase of Screening for LSE	13
6. Summary and Next Stage of the HRA	15
7. References	16

Appendix

- A. Pre-Screening Tables (*now superseded by Appendix A of the Appropriate Assessment Information Report*)

Tables

1.	Medium term options for offshore wind energy	6
2.	Is the Draft Plan for medium term OWE options subject to HRA?.....	12

Report Text Image

1.	Key Stages of HRA Process for Plans.....	2
----	--	---

Figures

1.	Medium term options (areas of search) from the Offshore Wind Energy draft plan
2a.	Location of all designated SPA sites within and surrounding the medium term option areas
2b.	Location of all designated SAC sites within and surrounding the medium term option areas
2c.	Location of all designated Ramsar sites within and surrounding the medium term option areas

1. Introduction

1.1 Report Background

In May 2010, a Draft Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (OWE) in Scottish Territorial Waters was published by Marine Scotland (Marine Scotland, 2010a). The purpose of this Draft Plan is to consider the potential of Scottish Territorial Waters to accommodate OWE developments from a national perspective, making proposals for the short, medium and long-term options. This Draft Plan has been fundamentally shaped by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which was undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 (Marine Scotland, 2010b). The SEA identified the potential for significant adverse effects on sites designated for their nature conservation interest at a European Level¹ (hereafter referred to as 'European' sites) and International Level (namely 'Ramsar' sites). Accordingly, a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of the OWE options requires to be undertaken under the Habitats Regulations which implement the EC Habitats Directive in the UK². As Competent Authority, Marine Scotland is carrying out this HRA and will produce an Appropriate Assessment (AA) in fulfilment of obligations under these Regulations.

A pre-screening study has already been undertaken to identify the possible impacts of the short-term options on sites of international nature conservation interest (Halcrow, 2010). ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd (ABPmer) has been commissioned by the Scottish Government to complete the remaining 'screening' and 'AA information production' stages of this HRA. This report therefore presents the findings from the first pre-screening stage of the HRA focussing specifically for the 25 medium-term OWE option areas identified in the Draft Plan. The findings from the Halcrow (2010) study will be taken into account within the subsequent stages of the OWE HRA process to ensure that the effects of both short and medium term sites are considered together within this HRA.

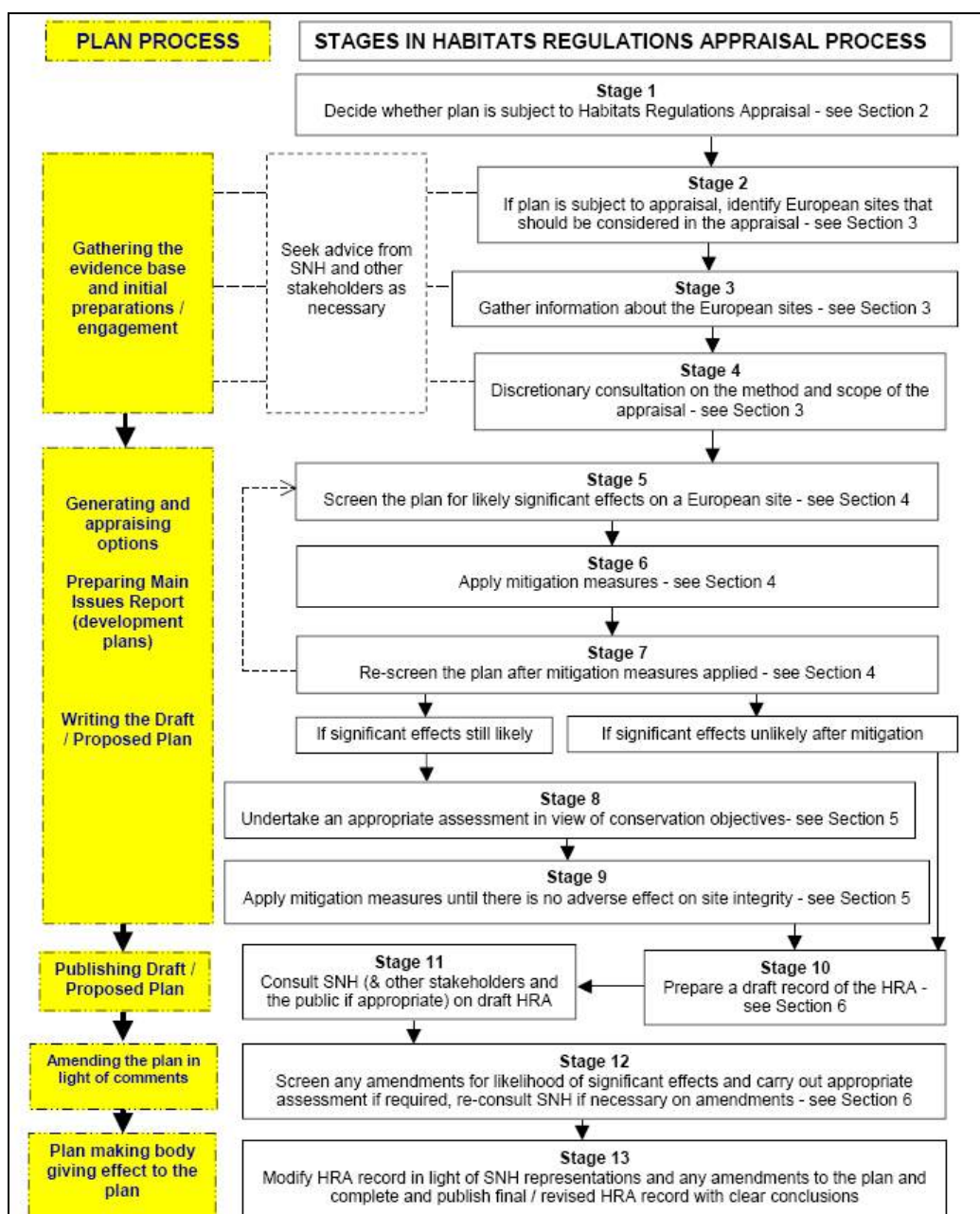
The HRA process for the Draft Plan is being overseen by a Project Steering Group (PSG) that comprises representatives of: Marine Scotland, The Scottish Government Environmental Assessment Team, DG Energy, Scottish Enterprise (SE), Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), The Crown Estate (TCE), Scottish Renewables, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). With respect to the long-term options, it has been agreed in discussion with the PSG (meeting dated 22 October 2010), that these do not need to be addressed at this stage because they are too broad in scale and scope to require or allow an HRA to be undertaken.

1 Sites designated for their nature conservation interest at a European level comprise designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and classified Special Protection Areas (SPAs), as well as candidate SACs and possible SPAs. Collectively these are referred to European sites while those SACs and SPAs which are wholly or partially marine are referred to as European Marine Sites or European Marine Offshore Sites.

2 Each EC Member State is ultimately responsible for implementation of the Directives in their territory and in Scotland, the EC Habitats Directive is transposed through a combination of the Habitats Regulations 2010 (in relation to reserved matters) and the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as well as Scottish Statutory amendments made between 2004 and 2007 as listed in Section 4.2).

1.2 Objectives of Pre-Screening and Report Structure

For this HRA, an iterative and auditable process will be followed to ensure that there is as much clarity as possible in the process and also to ensure that the relevant documentation can be readily accessed, interpreted and interrogated. In particular, this iterative process draws upon the agreed SNH guidance for undertaking HRAs for plans in Scotland which has been presented in the report produced by David Tyldesley and Associates (2010). This guidance document sets out the stages to be pursued in a flow diagram format and this figure is reproduced here in Image 1.



(David Tyldesley and Associates, 2010)

Image 1. Key Stages of HRA Process for Plans

This OWE pre-screening report also takes account of the lessons learned from past plan-level projects (particularly the HRA produced for the Round 3 Offshore Wind Farm (R3OWF) Plan (Entec 2009a and 2009b) and the HRA produced for the Pentland Firth Strategic Area (PFSA) ABPmer (2010a and 2010b) both of which were produced for TCE). It also draws upon the approach taken for the N-RIP pre-screening study (SE & HIE 2010).

In summary, this pre-screening report sets out the approach taken (and results obtained) of the work that has been carried out to satisfy the requirements of Stages 1 to 3 and 5 of the HRA process as set out in the SNH guidance (David Tyldesley and Associates, 2010). The intervening (and discretionary) Stage 4 will be covered subsequently through the production and circulation of a 'working paper' that will set the methods to be pursued for the screening of issues for the assessment process (i.e. including revisiting Stage 5 and then undertaking Stages 6 to 13).

Stages 1 to 3 and 5 which are pursued here can be seen as an initial high-level 'sifting' exercise for which the aim is to identify the relevant designated sites and interest features for which there is a potential for a likely significant effect (LSE) (or where such a LSE cannot be excluded) and then ensure that these sites are taken forward into the assessment process. Equally, the aim is to exclude sites and features from further consideration within the HRA where no 'impact pathway' exists and where there is definitively no LSE.

For this first stage sifting process a precautionary approach has been adopted in order to ensure that no relevant sites or features are excluded. Also, full consideration has been given to the definitions and interpretations of the LSE judgement. Under the Habitats Regulations, LSE is defined as a more than '*de minimis*' change. In other words, a plan would not be considered to have a LSE on a European site if "any potential effects are trivial, or '*de minimis*' or so restricted or remote from the site that they would not undermine the conservation objectives for the site in combination" (David Tyldesley and Associates, 2010). Furthermore, elements of the plan that have individually been screened out because of no likelihood in themselves of any significant effect on a European site should also be assessed in combination to consider any possible cumulative significant effect.

The outputs from this report (text, tables and maps) have been produced so that they indicate the methods and rationale that have been taken for the pre-screening work. They have also been produced in a manner which is designed to allow clear communication of the issues between the key stakeholders and potential developers. In particular, the key outputs are pre-screening tables which identify the sites and the relevant interest features to be taken forward into the Plan-level assessment stage while also highlighting those sites and features which can be removed from the assessment work (and indicating the rationale for that removal).

The report has been structured as follows:

- Section 1:** Provides background to the Draft Plan and the requirement for SEA and screening for AA;
- Section 2:** Provides information on the OWE options;
- Section 3:** Provides a brief description of the SEA process for the OWE Draft Plan;
- Section 4:** Provides information on the HRA process;

Section 5: Addresses Stages 1 to 3 and 5 of the HRA process for the OWE Draft Plan; and

Section 6: Provides a summary of this report and information on the next stages of the HRA.

2. Offshore Wind Energy (OWE) Options

2.1 Background to Draft Plan

In 2009, The Crown Estate identified 10 areas where it was prepared to grant commercial leases and enter into 'exclusivity agreements' for offshore wind energy developments. Collectively, these areas have generation capacity of around 6.4GW. Marine Scotland subsequently progressed a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of offshore wind in territorial waters which led to the publication of the Draft Plan for OWE (Marine Scotland, 2010a) and an SEA Environmental Report (Marine Scotland, 2010b).

The Draft Plan provides a strategic overview of where OWE development could be progressed in the short, medium and long term. The Plan has been developed to meet Scottish Ministers' commitment to realising the environmental benefits associated with renewable energy and providing Scotland with a better mix of sources of power by reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

The overall objectives of the Draft Plan are to:

- Define a national strategy for the development of OWE in Scotland's seas over the short, medium and long term;
- Set out a regional framework for offshore wind energy development, based on an assessment of environmental and technical capacity; and
- Identify where options could be prioritised for development, and other areas where development may require further assessment and planning before progressing, as a result of their environmental and technical sensitivities.

The Crown Estate's initial 10 options were included in the Draft Plan, but subsequent to this one of the sites (Bell Rock) proved technically unsuitable for development and the developer has withdrawn from the scheme. The Draft Plan identified a further 25 medium term options that were considered to be potentially acceptable in environmental terms (see Section 2.2).

The Draft Plan for OWE in Scottish Territorial Waters sits alongside the National Renewables Infrastructure Plan (N-RIP). The focus of the N-RIP is on the on-shore sites which could provide infrastructure support for the development of the offshore wind sector.

2.2 Medium Term Options

In the planning process, 30 medium term (2020-2030) options were initially identified through a mapping exercise that identified options with the fewest possible constraints to development

(both technical and environmental). The method used is described in detail in the Draft Plan (Marine Scotland, 2010a). In summary, the key steps in the process of identifying these options were as follows:

1. **Mapping of Exclusions:** Constraints which preclude development were identified and the areas affected by them were discounted, as it would not be possible to site windfarms in these areas.
2. **Modelling Environmental Sensitivities:** Where datasets allowed, environmental sensitivities were mapped and compiled.
3. **Modelling the Potential Technical Constraints:** Potential technical constraints are generally man-made issues and could theoretically be moved or managed. In practice it is unlikely that more than one or two elements could be moved or managed in a given area, and as a result, areas with fewer technical constraints are more likely to be developed in the medium term.
4. **Overlaying Environmental Sensitivities onto Technical Constraints:** The Scottish Territorial Waters were divided into six regions to help structure the assessment, chosen purely on the basis of presentation of the maps.
5. **Identifying Least Environmentally and Technically Constrained Areas:** These areas were reviewed against the identified technical constraints, to identify medium term options that were considered to be most suitable for development.

Within the Plan, these 30 options were grouped into six geographic regions (north, northeast, east, southwest, west and northwest) and evaluated. The SEA assessed the potential high level environmental effects of developing any or all of these areas. This contributed to the decision to exclude five of the 30 options from the medium term plan on the basis of their potential technical or environmental constraints. Two of the options were excluded on the grounds of their proximity to the St Kilda World Heritage Site (WHS) (NW1 and NW3) and the potential effects on the historic environment interests of this area. The 25 options identified as suitable for OWE development in the medium term are included in Table 1 and their locations are shown in Figure 1.

Given the level of uncertainty with each of these medium term options, the Draft Plan recommends further work across all of the sites be undertaken to confirm their suitability for offshore wind energy generation. This includes taking action on the basis of the findings of the HRA that will be undertaken following this pre-screening study. Therefore, the medium term options should be viewed as 'areas of search' within which offshore wind energy generation could take place. At this Plan-level stage they should not be viewed as fixed boundaries marking the full extents of definitive developmental activities.

It is expected that the Draft OWE Plan will evolve over time and that some of the medium term sites are likely to prove more feasible for development than others. Thus, it is a characteristic of the Draft Plan that it is inherently flexible and this, in turn, means that the assessment of likely significant effects made in this report and the subsequent AA of Plan-level impacts will need to be made in more general terms.

Table 1. Medium term options for offshore wind energy

Area*	Medium Term Option	Approximate Area (sq. km)
East	E1	2022
North	N1	1671
	N4	776
	N5	1079
	N6	222
	N7	1729
	N8	300
North-East	NE1	387
	NE2	170
	NE3	131
North-West	NW2	1278
	NW4	156
	NW5	324
	NW6	914
	NW7	2554
	NW8	2531
South-West	SW1	7
	SW3	354
	SW4	24
	SW5	55
	SW6	16
West	W1	1491
	W2	1039
	W3	57
	W4	253
NB. N2, N3, SW2, NW1 and NW3 were removed from the Draft Plan following the technical and environmental assessment (Marine Scotland, 2010b) * See Figure 1 for map		

3. OWE Strategic Environmental Assessment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Draft Plan for short and medium term options for OWE development in Scottish Territorial Waters has been undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 (Marine Scotland, 2010b). The SEA process has formed an integral part of the preparation of the Draft Plan, to ensure that environmental considerations are incorporated within the decision-making process and that ultimately OWE development is sustainable. The SEA considered the following topics:

- Climate (climatic factors);
- Surface and groundwater;
- Geology, sedimentology and coastal processes;
- Biodiversity;
- Landscape, seascape and visual amenity;
- Population and human health;
- Cultural heritage; and
- Material assets (navigation and other renewable energy generation).

The SEA identified, evaluated and described the likely significant effects³, both positive and negative, of implementing the Draft Plan on the environment. The SEA developed a set of objectives, in consultation with key stakeholders, relating to the different environmental resources that were being considered, and the short and medium term options were tested against each of them.

A number of assumptions were made in the SEA regarding the blade tip heights (150m) and the offshore cable route (straight-line connection between development and shore). It also noted that the details of future development would become more certain as the industry evolved.

SEA follows the requirements of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) whereas an HRA follows the requirements of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and the Wild Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC). The SEA also takes a wider approach to identifying sustainability and environmental impacts, rather than the narrow approach that HRA takes by focusing on the predicted impacts of plans on internationally designated sites. The SEA scoping process identified that international sites could potentially be affected by the Draft Plan and that an HRA would be required under the Habitats Regulations. Based on the findings from this SEA, Scottish Ministers require that the HRA process for the OWE options should be completed before adoption of the Draft Plan.

4. Habitats Regulations Appraisal

4.1 Legislative Background

Where a plan or project is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of designated European sites or offshore European sites, including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and where the possibility of a likely significant effect (LSE) on these sites cannot be excluded, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, an Appropriate Assessment (AA) should be undertaken in view of the site's conservation objectives by the competent authority in compliance with the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the EC Habitats Directive). This Directive is transposed in Scotland through a combination of the Habitats Regulations 2010 (in relation to reserved matters) and the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. In the UK, it is Government policy (Scottish Government (SG) 2010, Office of Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) 2005, Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) 2010, Department of Environment for Northern Ireland (DOENI) 1997), that these requirements are also extended to the consideration of effects on sites that are proposed for designation such as proposed SPAs (pSPAs) and possible SACs (pSACs), and this would also include any proposed extensions or additions to existing European sites.

³ It should be emphasised that in SEA and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) terms, significance is not defined the same as for LSE for HRA (as described in Section 1.2)

In Scotland it is also a matter of policy as set out in the February 2010 Scottish Planning Policy document (SG 2010) that international Ramsar sites⁴ are 'also Natura sites and/or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and are protected under the relevant statutory regimes'. Therefore, in Scotland, where the interests of Ramsar sites correspond with those of overlapping European sites, there is no need to consider them separately. In the rest of the UK it is also as a matter of policy that Ramsar sites should receive the same protection as designated SPAs and SACs. In recognition of this, sites protected either by law under the Habitats Regulations, or by Government policy, are referred to throughout the HRA process as European/Ramsar sites.

The competent authority can agree to the Draft Plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European or Ramsar site(s) concerned. Marine Scotland is the competent authority under the Onshore and Offshore Habitats Regulations for undertaking the HRA of the Draft Plan.

If it is concluded that the Draft Plan will have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European/Ramsar site, (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), the Draft Plan can only be adopted if it has been ascertained that there are no alternative solutions and it is necessary for Imperative Reasons for Overriding Public Interest (IROPI), including those of a social or economic nature⁵. In such cases, compensatory measures must be taken to ensure that the overall coherence of the network of Natura 2000 sites is maintained.

4.2 HRA Framework and Approach for Plans

The requirements of the EC Habitats and Birds Directive are transposed in Scotland to the limit of 'inshore' waters at 12 nautical miles off the coast through the following legislation:

- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994;
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2004;
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2007;
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Amendment (No. 2) (Scotland) Regulations 2007; and
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 which replace the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in England and Wales (and to a limited degree in Scotland - as regards reserved matters)

Beyond this, in the 'offshore' zone, which lies between 12 and 200 nautical miles, the UK Government has authority and the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 are in force.

⁴ Ramsar sites are wetlands designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as waterfowl habitat.

⁵ Article 6 of the Habitats Directive also states that, where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat, type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

The above legislation provides the framework for the overall assessment process. There is first a need to determine whether there is a Likely Significant Effect (LSE) followed, if required, by the AA itself, as part of which the plan-making authority may need to amend the Draft Plan to eliminate or reduce potentially damaging effects on the European/Ramsar site. Depending on the outcome of the AA, the plan-making authority may need to consider alternative solutions that would have a lesser effect on the relevant site and may also need to consider if IROPI is sufficient to justify the potential effects on the European/Ramsar site(s) affected. This process, including the assessment of LSE and AA, is referred to as a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Guidance on the application of the process for Plans has been produced on behalf of SNH, by David Tyldesley and Associates (2010). This guidance divides the process into 13 distinct stages as illustrated in Image 1.

In outline this HRA for the Draft Plan will cover these 13 stages in the following iterative steps:

- **Pre-screening Report (this document):** This report covers **Stages 1 to 3 and 5** of the HRA process and acts as an initial 'sifting' exercise for which the aim is to identify the relevant European/Ramsar sites and interest features for which there is a potential for a likely significant effect (LSE) (or where such a LSE cannot be excluded) and then ensure that these sites are taken forward into the assessment process. In outline this report includes:
 - Background to the OWE Plan including the location and extent of the medium term options areas;
 - An outline of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the OWE Plan;
 - A summary of the Legislative Background for the HRA;
 - A review of the environmental impact pathways that are relevant for the OWE Plan;
 - A map-based overview of the location of European/Ramsar sites within and around the area of search;
 - The identification of an initial list of sites where there is no LSE because there is no impact pathway and thus no impact will occur. This is based on an initial broad-scale sweep of sites within a 100km buffer zone of the medium term options areas and the exclusion of a range of freshwater and terrestrial qualifying habitats and species within sites inside this boundary for which there is no impact pathway. Importantly, this screening process is not fixed at this point in the HRA process and will be revisited during the following more detailed screening phases (this process is likely, for instance, to bring in sites from outside the 100km area).
- **Working Paper:** This technical note will cover the discretionary **Stage 4** by setting out (for consultation with the PSG) the methods to be pursued for the screening of issues for the assessment. This report will also consider the role of mitigation measures and thus address **Stages 6 and 7** as well. It will also set out a methodology to be adopted in the subsequent Appropriate Assessment (AA) phases.

- **Draft Screening Review and AA Information Report:** In light of the agreements reached on the working paper, the **Stage 5** LSE judgements will be revisited to formally scope the assessment. Then the information for AA (**Stages 8 to 10**) will be prepared which considers the impact pathways, habitat and species sensitivities and the effects on site integrity at Plan level. To ensure full transparency in the process, this report will include all the findings from the screening and assessment work (**Stages 1 to 10**) as a single iterative and coherent document covering both the short and medium term options for OWE in the Draft Plan.
- **Consultations with Stakeholders (Steering Group) and Final AA Information Report:** To cover **Stages 11 to 13** the draft Screening Review and AA Information Report will be forwarded to the PSG for consultation and a final assessment document produced in the light of this consultation work. The final AA will be produced by Marine Scotland as the Competent Authority.

This report presents the findings from the pre-screening stage of the HRA (Stages 1 to 3 and 5), focussing specifically on the 25 medium-term OWE options in the Draft Plan, as reviewed in the following section. Subsequent stages of the OWE HRA process will consider the effects of both short and medium term sites, taking account of the findings from the Halcrow (2010) pre-screening study of short-term options.

5. HRA Stages 1 to 3 and 5

5.1 Introduction and Scope

The aim of this pre-screening is to be a first sifting process whereby those sites and the interest features for which there is a potential for a LSE (or where such a LSE cannot be excluded) are identified and taken forward into the assessment process. Equally, the aim is to exclude sites and features from further consideration within the HRA where no 'impact pathway' exists and where, therefore, there is definitively no LSE. In making this judgement about LSE, interlinked factors need to be considered such as the impacts arising from OWE projects, the distance of the medium term options from the designated sites or features as well as current scientific understanding (and gaps in that understanding) about the ecology, behavioural characteristics and 'sensitivities' of the interest features. The impacts of the OWE plan either alone or in combination with other plans or projects also needs to be considered. Advice on these aspects has been provided by the key consultees on the PSG and will continue to be sought during all phases of the HRA process. In addition, information from initial literature reviews and from the advice received as part of the completed HRA work for TCE's Pentland Firth Strategic Area (PFSA) Leasing Round (ABPmer, 2010a; 2010b) and Round 3 Offshore Wind Farm (R3OWF) Plan (Entec 2009a; 2009b) were also taken into account.

In general terms, this process has been pursued by creating tables of designated sites from within and surrounding the medium term OWE options and then reviewing these in an iterative manner to identify which sites and which of their key interest features need to be taken forward into the following stages of the assessment process. The following sections describe the iterative steps undertaken to progress Stages 1-3 and 5 of the HRA for the Draft Plan for

medium term OWE options. The tabular outputs which were produced in order to achieve this are presented within Appendix A⁶.

This report is based on the understanding that all wind turbines, inter-array cabling and offshore substations will be located within the 25 medium term development zone boundaries, with the only development outside these zones being export cables and associated onshore structures. The onshore sites which could provide support for the development of the OWE options have been considered as part of the N-RIP (SE and HIE 2010). No judgement has been made at this stage about the likely location and extent of cable laying activities. This aspect will be addressed, on the basis of available information, in the next screening phase of the HRA.

Specific windfarm projects for delivery of the Draft Plan are yet to be defined (for instance possible turbine numbers and exact locations of devices within the development zones are not yet known), which means that the likelihood of significant effects and the nature of the effects themselves can only be determined in very general terms at the Plan-level. This means inevitably that, for many aspects of the Draft Plan, the final conclusions of the HRA process will be heavily influenced by the choices that are made at the Project-level. As the detail of project level work is not known at this stage the views that will be expressed about the effects on site integrity within this HRA will be based on the current scientific understanding of the impacts as well as a firm understanding the proposed manner in which the Plan is to be implemented (including the proposals for mitigation measures to avoid or reduce impacts). The manner of implementation will include a recognition that, as a matter of law, a project will be required to undergo project-level AA wherever the possibility of a LSE on a European/Ramsar site cannot be excluded.

While the decisions regarding OWE deployment are still being discussed it is possible that new technologies associated with the turbines themselves, or associated infrastructure, will be developed. This may influence where they are located, how they are constructed and their size, all of which could have a bearing on their potential to cause likely significant effects on international sites. At this stage however, no assumptions have been made regarding turbine design. It is also the case that continued improvements in our understanding of environmental impacts may mean some sites become more or less feasible for development in the future.

5.2 Stage 1 - Deciding Whether the Draft Plan is Subject to HRA

In order to decide whether the Draft Plan for medium term OWE options should be subject to HRA, it was necessary to consider the questions contained in Table 2.

Given the answers to two of the questions (highlighted in bold), there is a requirement to proceed to the next stages of the HRA to identify the European/Ramsar sites that may potentially be affected, gather the information about them and 'screen' for the likelihood of significant effects.

⁶ During the subsequent screening and re-screening phases of the HRA, these tables were updated and revised. To avoid confusion and repetition, these tables (in their post screening updated format) are now shown in Appendix A of the Appropriate Assessment Information Report. ([ABPmer R.1722c](#)).

Table 2. Is the Draft Plan for medium term OWE options subject to HRA?

Questions to Decide if HRA is Required	YES / NO
Is the whole of the OWE Draft Plan directly connected with and necessary to the management of a European site for nature conservation purposes?	NO
Is the OWE Draft Plan a 'strategic development plan' or 'local development plan' or 'supplementary guidance' (regulation 85A), or a core path plan (regulation 69A) or a revision thereof?	NO
Does the OWE Draft Plan provide a framework for deciding applications for project consents and / or does it influence decision makers on the outcome of applications for project consents? (NB. the Draft Plan provides a framework for the selecting potential developmental sites in the short, medium and long term and identifies 34 'areas of search' for the short and medium term. It does not seek to direct or influence project-level consenting arrangements within these areas)	NO
Does the OWE Draft Plan contain a programme, or policies, or proposals which could affect one or more particular European site?	YES
Is the OWE Draft Plan a general statement of policy showing only the general political will or intention of the plan-making body, and no effect on any particular European site can reasonably be predicted?	NO

Adapted from Figure 3 in SNH Guidance (David Tyldesley and Associates, 2010)

5.3 Stage 2 - Identifying the European/Ramsar Sites that Should be Considered in the Appraisal

As a starting point for this (and indeed any) assessment process, it is necessary first to identify the key mechanisms (i.e. the impact pathways) by which interest features can be affected by OWE generation. These impact pathways need to encompass all stages of the development process and all potential project elements associated with developments in the 25 medium term option areas. These project components are outlined in Table A1 in Appendix A (as noted above, the updated tables are now contained in Appendix A of the AA Information report).

A list of the impact pathways associated with these project elements was primarily derived from the HRA work that was undertaken for TCE's R3OWF (Entec 2009a; 2009b) and a review of the implications of new conservation designations for key business activities (ABPmer, 2007). Both these studies reviewed the impacts to conservation features and identified the relevant management and mitigation measures associated with the main activities involved in OWE development. The output is shown as Table A2 in Appendix A (now shown as the left hand 4 columns of the updated Table A2a in Appendix A of the AA Information report).

Within this table, the impact pathways and relevant mitigation measures are considered separately for each of the following groups:

- Coastal, intertidal and subtidal habitats and species;
- Bird species;
- Marine mammal species (Cetaceans and Seals);
- Migratory Fish and Freshwater Pearl Mussel;
- Otters; and
- Bats.

The specific interest features (species and habitat types) comprising these groups are considered in more detail in the following stages of the HRA process (see Sections 5.4 and 5.5).

5.4 Stage 3 - Gathering Information About the European/Ramsar Sites

To progress the pre-screening review, the locations of European/Ramsar sites within and around the location of the medium-term sites were mapped. To achieve this, the latest GIS mapping layers for designated and proposed European/Ramsar sites in the UK (including recently confirmed SPA marine extensions) were sourced from SNH and JNCC. Sites from the Republic of Ireland were also sourced from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

To begin the screening process, all of these European/Ramsar sites that lie either within the proposed medium term OWE option areas or within a 100km zone around these area were selected for consideration. The maps of sites are shown in Figures 2a to 2c for SPA, SAC and Ramsar Sites respectively. The sites that have been considered in this pre-screening phase are included in Table A3 in Appendix A (now shown with post-screening updates in Appendix A of the AA Information report).

It should be emphasised that this 100km boundary has been used as a quantifiable and objective area that is likely to encompass many of the mobile species interest features (fish, seabirds and mammals) in sites which could be indirectly affected by the medium term OWE options. However, for this Plan-level HRA it has not been used to limit further review of more distant locations or to presume that all relevant features within this area for which impact pathway exists are necessarily affected. In the same way, it should not be used to limit reviews undertaken for the purposes of project-level HRAs when details of the implementation of the Plan are known. In particular, it is recognised that the impacts (especially to migratory bird species) may extend to sites beyond this 100km boundary and this aspect will need to be considered throughout the HRA process. To illustrate this point at this stage the maps shown in Figures 2a to 2c do not exclude European/Ramsar sites that lie outside of the 100km boundary.

5.5 Stage 5 - First Phase of Screening for LSE

In total 566 sites were identified from the initial sweep of sites within the 100km boundary. For each of the sites the key interest features were identified from the JNCC, SNH and NPWS online site details. These interest features have been subject to a preliminary assessment to determine which could be significantly affected by the medium term OWE options. Features were separated into those for which there was no LSE and, therefore, did not need to be taken forward and those for which either there was a LSE (or where such an effect could not be excluded) and which need to be taken forward.

This preliminary LSE screening process was undertaken on the basis that no impact pathway exists between the proposed plan and non-coastal terrestrial habitat and species interest features. Thus, for example, features that were excluded at this first stage included woodland, peatlands, heaths and bogs, as well as species associated with such terrestrial habitats (e.g. snail species). It is recognised that there is a potential for terrestrial sites located on the coast

to be affected where they occur in the vicinity of proposed cable landfall locations or onshore in the vicinity of anticipated cable routes to substations. Effects on these terrestrial sites could also result from marine activities such as changes in sediment dynamics (that could affect sand dunes) or increased levels of disturbance or collision risk (that could affect birds that breed or overwinter at or near the shoreline). Therefore, as per the approach adopted for the R3OWF screening study (Entec 2009a), where terrestrial sites have a coastal habitat feature (e.g. dunes, coastal lagoons, inlets, caves and sea cliffs) and associated species then these sites and features have been 'screened in' and will be taken forward into the next stage of the HRA.

Freshwater habitats and species which have no connectivity with the Draft OWE Plan were also screened out at this stage. Freshwater habitats included water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculus fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation, oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*, alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*, floating water-plantain. Non-migratory freshwater species, that were also screened out, included great crested newts, white-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish, bullhead and brook lamprey.

Following the approach taken for R3OWF HRA (Entec 2009a and b) and taking advice from SNH (memo dated 9 November 2010), a number of bird qualifying interests were also screened out on the basis that there would be no impact pathway with the Draft OWE Plan. These are birds which are entirely resident within inland terrestrial habitats, do not forage at sea and do not migrate internationally. These bird species are Western Capercaillie, Scottish Crossbill, Fair Isle Wren, Red-billed Chough and the Eurasian Marsh Harrier. SNH also confirmed that a number of bird species that are qualifying interests of SPAs as breeding populations only could also be screened out. These birds species are Hen Harrier, Merlin, Eurasian Dotterel, Spotted Crake, Grey Heron, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Osprey, Peregrine and Short-eared Owl. These species were however 'screened in' where they are roosting and/or wintering qualifying interests of the relevant designated sites. For breeding and resident populations of Golden Eagle these were screened in where they are qualifying features of coastal European/Ramsar sites (due to potential effects on foraging, prey and/or from disturbance). They were screened out where they are features of inland designated sites in which case there will be no LSE. Having identified these habitats and species as being the ones for which there was no impact pathways (based on this broad-scale plan-level evaluation), a selection of designated sites were identified which had no remaining qualifying habitats and species that will be affected by the Draft OWE plan.

The results of this process, showing the sites and interest features that were screened in and out after this initial review, are presented in tabular format in Table A4 in Appendix A (now shown with post-screening updates in Appendix A of the AA Information report). In order to maintain full transparency and auditability of approach, the sites which were screened out were not removed from these screening tables but they were colour-coded to indicate that a judgement of no LSE had been made. No judgement has been made at this stage about the overlap and interaction of sites and features with potential cable alignments, cable landfall locations, links to grid connections and any other associated coastal developmental work (e.g. infrastructure and activities linked to the construction and maintenance of the windfarms including any required to meet the needs of the service personal undertaking such work). This

aspect will be considered further in the following screening and assessment phases of the HRA.

Following this first broad-scale pre-screening sweep of sites and features, a total of 355 sites have been identified which support interest features which need to be taken into the next phase of the assessment process (see Table A3 in Appendix A). Of these sites, 11 are located within the boundary of medium term options and could be subject to both direct and indirect effects while 344 lie outside of these options (but within 100km of them) and could be indirectly affected.

For each of the relevant European and Ramsar site designations the following numbers of sites were identified and then screened in:

- Special Protection Areas (SPAs): 173 sites within 100km of which 148 were screened in;
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs): 308 sites within 100km of which 135 were screened in;
- Ramsar Sites: 73 sites within 100km of which 62 were screened in;
- Sites of Community Importance (SCIs): 3 sites within 100km of which all 3 were screened in;
- Candidate SACs: 5 sites within 100km of which 4 were screened in;
- Potential SAC: 3 sites within 100km of which all 3 were screened in; and
- Potential SPA: 1 site within 100km of which none were screened in.

It should be noted that none of the sites within 100km support bat species and, therefore, of the species and habitat groups listed in Section 5.3 this species group will not be taken forward into the next stages of the HRA process. Bats were considered as part of the R3OWF HRA (Entec 2009a and b) because these species can be affected by windfarms (e.g. from turbine pressure changes and collision risk) and while bats have been known to fly short distances over the sea these distances will not extend beyond the 100km extent that has been used for this pre-screening review⁷.

6. Summary and Next Stage of the HRA

As detailed above, the results of the pre-screening process are set out within the tables in Appendix A. These tables summarise the findings of this analysis by showing:

- The OWE Plan activities that could impact European/Ramsar sites (Table A1);
- The environmental impact pathways and management/mitigation measures that are relevant to the Draft Plan (Table A2);
- The sites that are present within the OWE areas and within 100km of these areas (Table A3); and

⁷ Of the nine R3OWF areas studied, a potential effect with bats was only identified (in the AA) for turbines within the Bristol Channel zone that was approximately 30km-100km from the relevant coastal SAC which was the Exmoor and Quantock Oakwoods SAC (Entec 2009b).

- The sites and key interest features that have initially been screened in and those that have been screened out (Table A4).

It is recognised that, due to the extensive geographical area covered by the Draft Plan and the need to apply a precautionary approach, a large number of designated sites have now been screened into the AA. However, this pre-screening study should be seen as a high-level assessment of impacts and a more detailed assessment of the significance of impacts will be undertaken in the following stage. In the next phase of the HRA, a working paper will be produced that will review the methods to be adopted for a more refined and detailed screening of the AA. With references to the key stages set out in the SNH guidance (David Tyldesley and Associates, 2010), this working paper (and the consultations on it) as well as the subsequent screening process will address the following tasks:

- **Stage 4 - Discretionary consultation on the method and scope of the appraisal:** a working paper on the proposed approach to screening and assessment will be drafted and circulated along with this pre-screening report to key consultees;
- **Stage 5 - Screen the plan for likely significant effects on a European site:** following consultation, the pre-screening table (Table A4 in Appendix A) will be reviewed and revised in an iterative manner as required. From this initial list of sites and features, an updated list of sites will be produced which contains features for which an LSE is expected or cannot be excluded;
- **Stage 6 - Applying mitigation measures at screening stage to avoid significant effects;** and
- **Stage 7 - Re-screen the medium term OWE sites and decide on the need for AA.**

Consultation will be undertaken with the Project Steering Group (PSG) to review the draft pre-screening report and the working paper in order to verify the sites and features that need to be taken forward into the assessment process. The Plan-level AA will then assess whether the medium term options for OWE in Scottish Territorial Waters will have an effect on these interest features and an adverse impact on the integrity of the relevant sites as defined by their Conservation Objectives. The AA will also include a review of current understanding about the impacts of OWE and the sensitivities of the relevant features, including gaps in that understanding, as well as details about the applicable mitigation measures and the manner in which the Draft Plan is to be implemented.

For this pre-screening review and the subsequent stages of the HRA, a precautionary approach has been, and will be, applied throughout. Therefore, where there is uncertainty relating to potential effects, or a lack of information with which to make accurate predictions with the requisite levels of certainty, then a 'worst case' consideration is adopted.

7. References

ABPmer. 2007. Implications of New Conservation Designations for Key Business Activities. ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd, Report No. R.1394. Report for The Crown Estate.

ABPmer, 2010a. Screening and Scoping Review for the Pentland Firth Strategic Area (PFSA) Leasing Round Habitats Regulations Assessment. Report for The Crown Estate January 2010; ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd, Report No. R.1601.

ABPmer, 2010b. Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment for the Pentland Firth Strategic Area (PFSA) Leasing Round. Report for The Crown Estate February 2010; ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd, Report No. R.1602.

David Tyldesley and Associates, 2010. Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans. Guidance for Plan-making Bodies in Scotland Version 1.0, August 2010 Ref 1739

Department of Environment for Northern Ireland (DOENI) 1997. Planning Policy Statement 2 (PPS2) Planning and Nature Conservation. June 1997

Entec UK Ltd, 2009a. Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Round 3 Plan. Screening Report, Report for The Crown Estate October 2009.

Entec UK Ltd, 2009b. Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Round 3 Plan. Information to Inform an Appropriate Assessment, Report for The Crown Estate December 2009.

Halcrow, 2010. The Plan for Offshore Wind Energy in Scottish Territorial Waters. Pre-Screening for Appropriate Assessment. June 2010.

Marine Scotland, 2010a. Draft Plan for Offshore Wind Energy in Scottish Territorial Waters. Published by Marine Scotland, May 2010.

Marine Scotland, 2010b. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Draft Plan for Offshore Wind Energy in Scottish Territorial Waters: Volume 1: Environmental Report. Published by Marine Scotland, May 2010.

Office of Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) 2005. Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation ISBN 0-11-75394-6

SE & HIE, 2010. National Renewables Infrastructure Plan. Pre-Screening Report for Habitats Regulations Appraisal.

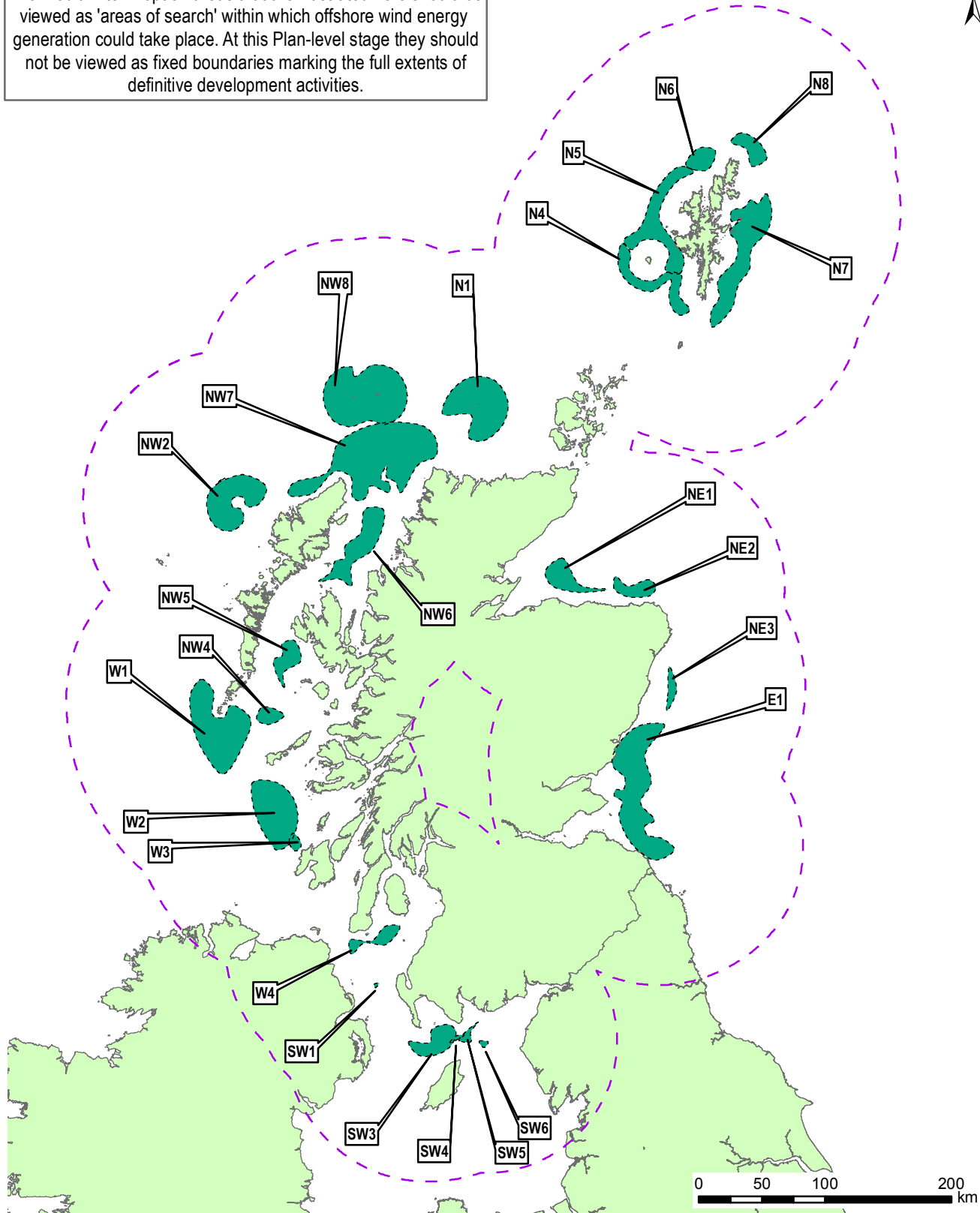
Scottish Government 2010. Scottish Planning Policy SPP 2010 February 2010 ISSN 1741 1203

Welsh Assembly Government 2010. Planning Policy Wales Chapter 5 Conserving and Improving Natural Heritage and the Coast

Figures



The medium-term option areas that are illustrated here should be viewed as 'areas of search' within which offshore wind energy generation could take place. At this Plan-level stage they should not be viewed as fixed boundaries marking the full extents of definitive development activities.



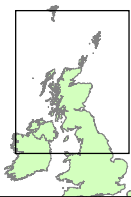
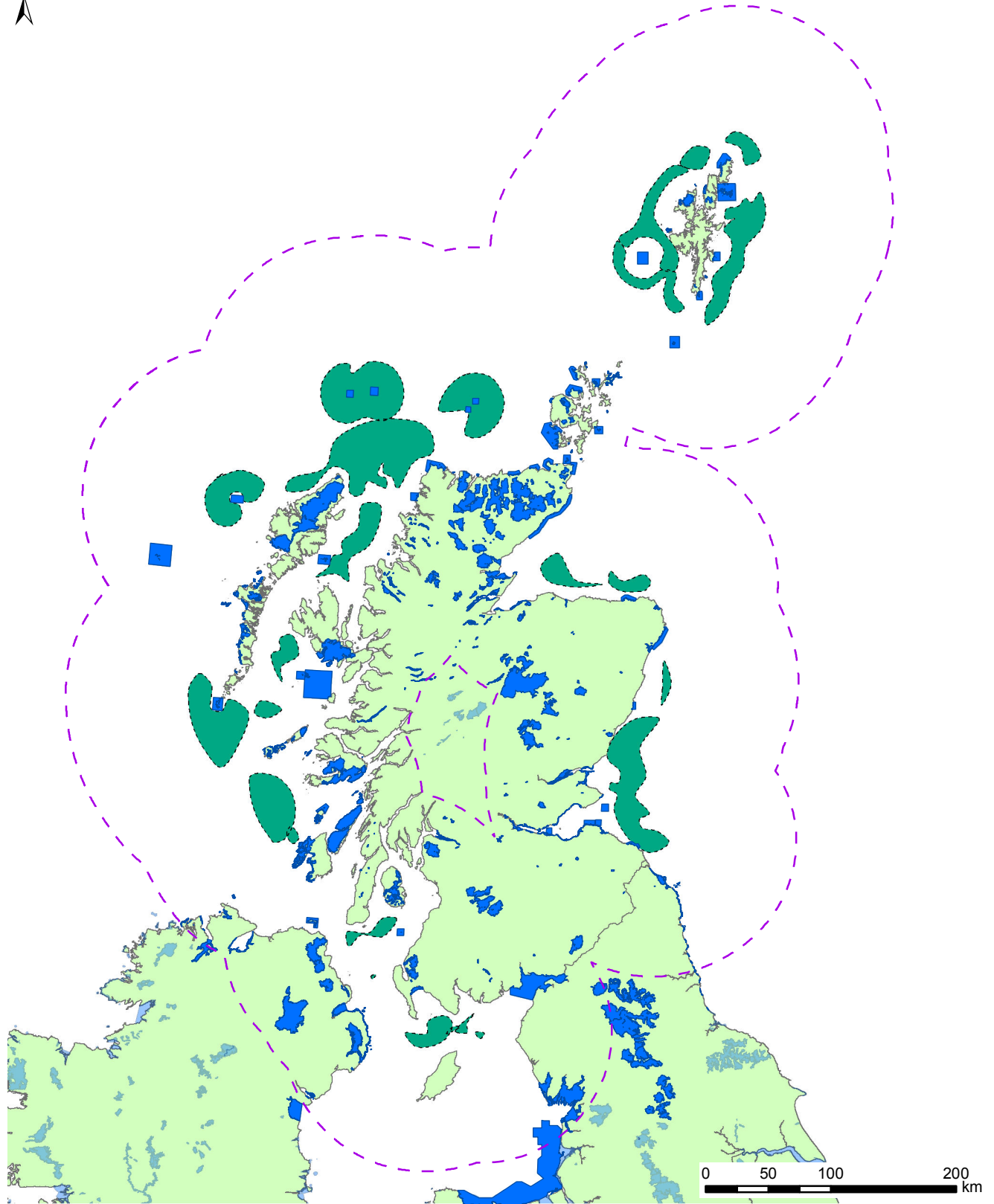
	Date	By	Size	Version
	Nov 10	FMM	A4	1
	Projection		OSGB 1936	
	Scale		1:4,500,000	
	QA		NKD	
	8974-fig1_Medium_term_options.mxd			
Produced by ABPmer Ltd				
© ABPmer, All rights reserved, 2010 Data Sources: Scottish Government, 2010 NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION				

Medium-term options for Offshore Wind Energy
 100km zone around medium term options



Medium-term option (areas of search) for Offshore Wind Energy draft plan

Figure 1



Date	By	Size	Version
Jan 11	FMM	A4	2
Projection		OSGB 1936	
Scale		1:4,500,000	
QA		NMW	
3974 - fig2a_SPA_Locations.mxd			
Produced by ABPmer Ltd			

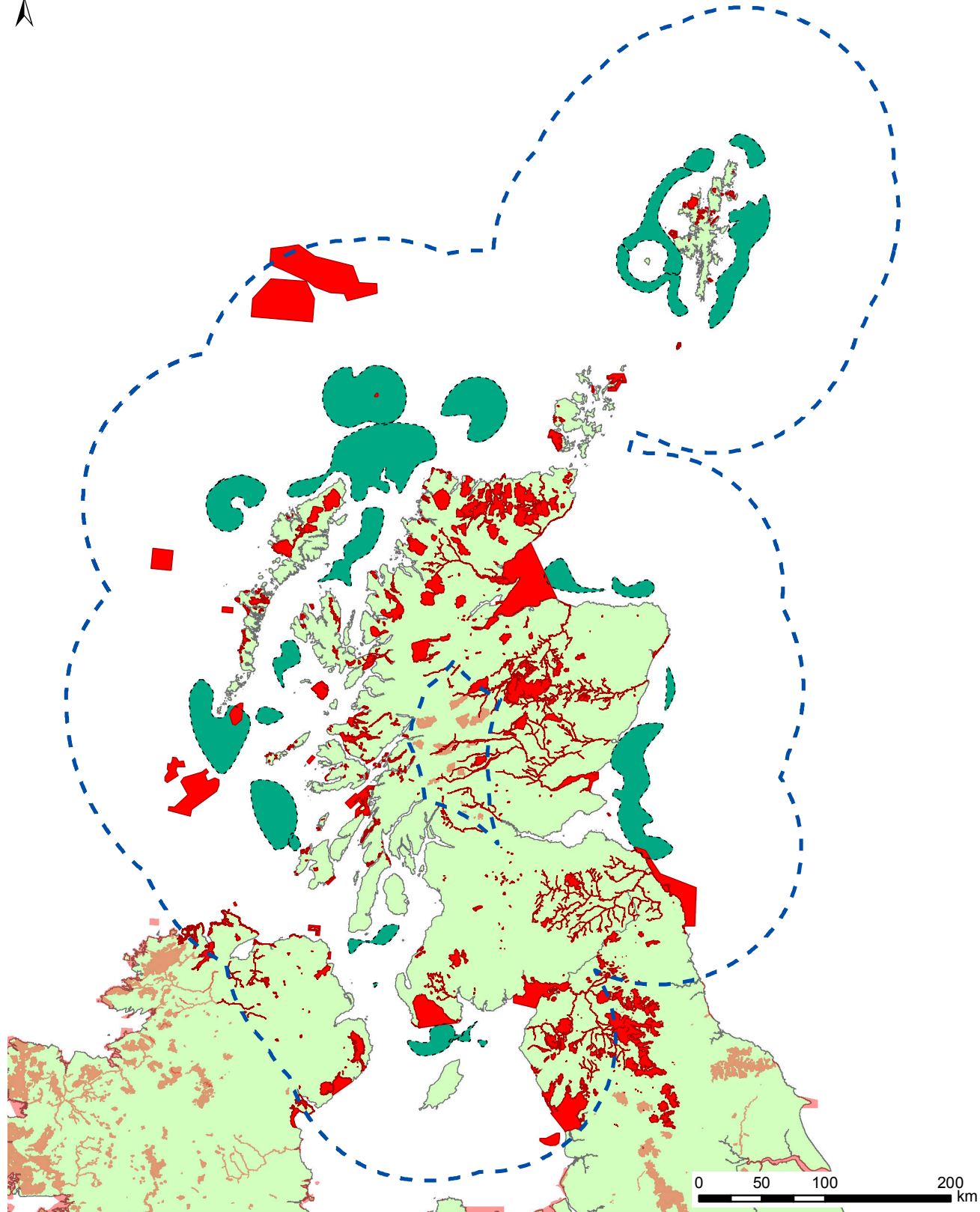
- 100Km zone around medium term options
- Special Protection Areas
- Medium term options for Offshore Wind Energy
- Medium term options for Offshore Wind Energy
- Special Protection Areas outside the 100km zone

© ABPmer, All rights reserved, 2010
 Data Sources: JNCC, 2010, NPWS, 2010 &
 The Scottish Government 2010.







Location of all designated SPA sites within and surrounding the medium term option areas.

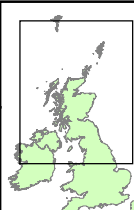
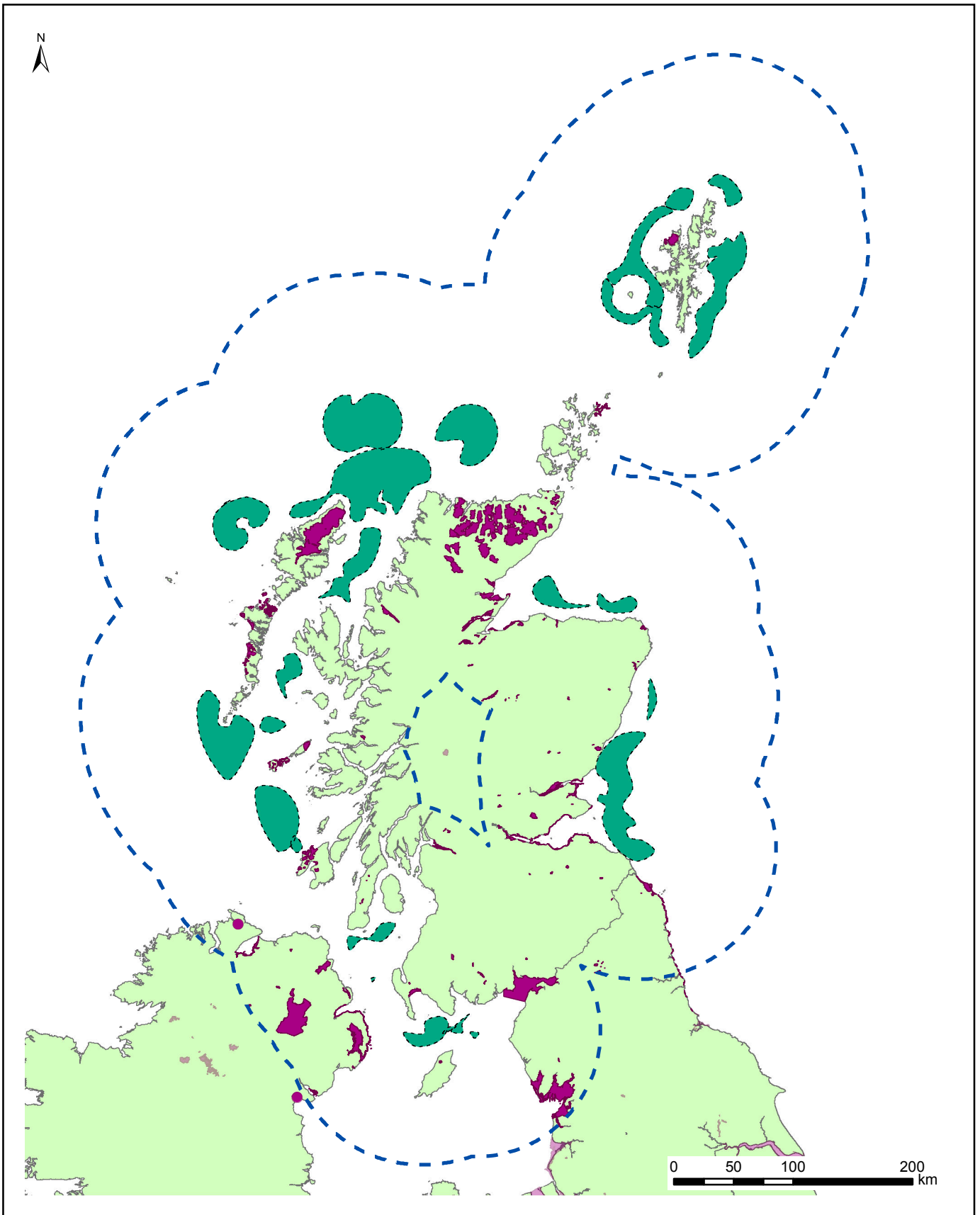
Figure 2a



Date	By	Size	Version
Nov 10	FMM	A4	1
Projection		OSGB 1936	
Scale		1:4,500,000	
QA		NMW	
3974 - fig3_SAC_Locations.mxd			
Produced by ABPmer Ltd			

© ABPmer, All rights reserved, 2010
Data Sources: JNCC, 2010, NPWS, 2010 &
The Scottish Government 2010.

-  100Km zone around medium term options
-  Special Areas of Conservation
-  Special Areas Of Conservation outside the 100km zone
-  Medium term options for Offshore Wind Energy



Date	By	Size	Version
Nov 10	FMM	A4	1
Projection		OSGB 1936	
Scale		1:4,500,000	
QA		NMW	
3974 - fig2c_Ramsar_Locations.mxd			
Produced by ABPmer Ltd			

- Medium term options for Offshore Wind Energy
- 100km zone around medium term options
- Ramsar Sites
- Republic of Ireland Ramsar sites
- Ramsar sites outside the 100km zone

© ABPmer, All rights reserved, 2010
 Data Sources: JNCC, 2010 & the Scottish Government 2010.
 NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION



Location of all designated Ramsar sites within and surrounding the medium term option areas.

Figure 2c

Appendix A
Pre-Screening Tables
(now superseded by Appendix A of the Appropriate
Assessment Information Report)



Appendix A. Pre-Screening Tables (*now superseded by Appendix A of the Appropriate Assessment Information Report*)

In this appendix tables summarising the findings of the pre-screening analysis were presented which showed the following.

- The OWE Plan activities that could impact European/Ramsar sites (Table A1);
- The environmental impact pathways and management/mitigation measures that are relevant to the Draft Plan (Table A2);
- The European/Ramsar sites that are present within the OWE areas and within 100km of these areas (Table A3); and
- The European/Ramsar sites and key interest features that were initially screened in and those that have been screened out (Table A4).

During the subsequent screening and re-screening phases of the HRA, these tables were updated and revised. As part of this process, consultation advice was sought from the PSG. To avoid confusion and repetition, these tables (in their post screening, updated, format) are shown in Appendix A of the Appropriate Assessment Information Report. Within these updated versions, Table A2 has been further developed and divided into three sub-tables (A2a-c) which show the relevant initial and additional mitigation measures.

[Click here for link to Appendix A of AA Information Report \(ABPmer R.1722c\)](#)



**The Scottish
Government**

© Crown copyright 2011

ISBN: 978-1-78045-058-2 (web only)

APS Group Scotland
DPPAS11359 (03/11)

w w w . s c o t l a n d . g o v . u k