

**FAO David Love**  
Senior Planning Officer  
Northumberland County Council  
County Hall  
Northumberland  
NE61 2EF

**SSE Renewables**  
1 Waterloo Street  
Glasgow  
G2 6AY

31 October 2023

Dear Mr Love

**Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017  
(as amended).**

**Application by Berwick Bank Wind Farm Limited (BBWFL) for an outline planning application to Construct and Operate Onshore Transmission Infrastructure for Berwick Bank Wind Farm Cambois Connection Onshore Scheme**

Berwick Bank Wind Farm Limited (BBWFL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of SSE Renewables Limited. SSE Renewables is a leading developer and operator of renewable energy, headquartered in the UK and Ireland, with a growing presence internationally. Its strategy is to lead the transition to a net zero future through the world-class development, construction and operation of renewable power assets and it is building more offshore wind energy than any other company in the world. In the UK, SSE's portfolio includes the 3.6 GW Dogger Bank Wind Farm in the North Sea and the 1.1 GW Seagreen Offshore Wind Farm in the Firth of Forth. BBWFL is also developing the Berwick Bank Wind Farm (BBWF) in the Firth of Forth.

To enable BBWF to export its full generation capacity by 2030, BBWFL is developing the Cambois Connection. The Cambois Connection comprises two proposals or 'Schemes':

- Onshore Scheme: comprising the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a cable Landfall (down to mean low water springs (MLWS)), including up to four onshore HVDC cables (Onshore Export Cables), an onshore Converter Station, high voltage alternating current (HVAC) grid cables and works to integrate into the existing National Grid Blyth substation. The Onshore Scheme includes all aspects of the Cambois Connection located landward of MLWS; and
- Marine Scheme: comprising the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of up to four high voltage direct current (HVDC) Offshore Export Cables from up to two Offshore Converter Station Platforms (OCSPs) within the BBWF array area to mean high water springs (MHWS) of the Landfall location near Cambois, Northumberland. The Marine Scheme includes all aspects of the Cambois Connection seaward of MHWS and is located in both Scottish and English waters.

This outline application is being submitted by BBWFL for the Onshore Scheme in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended).

The offshore components of the Project seaward of mean high water springs (MHWS) ('the Marine Scheme') are located within both Scottish and English waters. Applications for the Offshore Scheme have been applied for separately and were submitted in July 2023. In Scotland, the Marine Scheme is entirely within offshore waters (i.e., between the 12 nautical miles (nm) limit and the Scottish Exclusive Economic Zone). In England, the Marine Scheme is within offshore waters and inshore waters. The primary consents which have been sought in support of the Marine Scheme are as follows:

- A Marine Licence from the Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 for the Offshore Export Cables beyond the 12 nm in Scotland; and
- A Marine Licence from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 for Offshore Export Cables and supporting activity beyond the 12 nm limit in England. This licence will also be sought for Offshore Export Cables, Landfall works and supporting activity for the portion of the Marine Scheme which is within the 0-12 nm limit.

### **Compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Habitats Regulations**

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed for the Onshore Scheme in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended). The Environmental Statement (ES) (Volumes 1 to 4) has been submitted as part of this application.

A separate ES has been submitted to accompany a marine licence application to MD-LOT and MMO for the Marine Scheme (the 'Marine Scheme ES'), in accordance with The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

A Coastal Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) has been completed for the Onshore Scheme in response to policy WAT-5 and the request for a CVA made by NCC during the course of pre-application engagement.

A Habitats Regulations Appraisal/Assessment (HRA) has been completed for the Onshore Scheme as required under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. In accordance with these Regulations a Report to Inform an Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) has been completed based on the outcome from the HRA Screening (assessment of likely significant effects (LSE)).

A Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment has been completed for the Onshore Scheme in accordance with the requirements of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017.

A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) indicative design stage report has been completed for the Onshore Scheme.

### **Documentation Enclosed**

The documents submitted as part of the outline application for the Onshore Scheme include:

- This cover letter to the outline planning application
- Application drawings and parameter plans
- Planning Statement

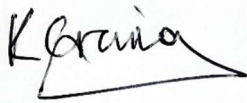
- Design and Access Statement
- Environmental Statement:
  - Volume 1 – Non-Technical Summary
  - Volume 2 – ES Chapters
  - Volume 3 – Technical Appendices
  - Volume 4 – Figures
- Report to Inform an Appropriate Assessment (RIAA):
- Water Framework Directive Assessment
- Coastal Vulnerability Assessment
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) indicative design stage report

A complete list of submitted documents can be found in Appendix 1. Once the application has been accepted by NCC, the application documents will be published online at: <https://www.berwickbank.com>.

Hard copies can also be made available on request. These will be subject to a charge of £200. Requests for hard copies of the application documents can be made at: [berwickbank@sse.com](mailto:berwickbank@sse.com)

We look forward to hearing from you in relation to the formal acceptance of the application.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerrie Craig", written over a light grey rectangular background.

Kerrie Craig  
Consent Delivery Lead

APPENDIX 1: Application documents

Volume	Chapter / Appendix
<b>Volume 1</b>	Non-Technical Summary
<b>Volume 2</b>	Chapter 1: Introduction
	Chapter 2: Policy and Legislative Context
	Chapter 3: EIA Methodology
	Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives
	Chapter 5: Project Description
	Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement
	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity
	Chapter 8: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
	Chapter 9: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology
	Chapter 10: Geology and Soils
	Chapter 11: Hydrology and Hydrogeology
	Chapter 12: Traffic, Transport and Access
	Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration
	Chapter 14: Air Quality
	Chapter 15: Socioeconomics, Recreation and Tourism
	Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments
<b>Volume 3</b>	Technical Appendix 1.1: Details of Project Team
	Technical Appendix 1.2: Scoping Report
	Technical Appendix 1.3: Scoping Opinion and Responses
	Technical Appendix 1.4: NCC Pre-Application Consultation Response
	Technical Appendix 3.1: Long-list of Cumulative Developments
	Technical Appendix 5.1: Climate Assessment (Greenhouse Gas Emissions)
	Technical Appendix 5.2 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)
	Technical Appendix 6.1: Report on Public Consultation
	Technical Appendix 6.2: Report on Public Consultation
	Technical Appendix 7.1: Illustrative Viewpoints
	Technical Appendix 7.2: Woodland Retention Plan

Volume	Chapter / Appendix
	Technical Appendix 8.1: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
	Technical Appendix 9.1: Ecology – Habitat Survey Report
	Technical Appendix 9.2: Ecology – Great Crested Newt Survey Report
	Technical Appendix 9.3: Ecology – Invertebrate Survey Report
	Technical Appendix 9.4: Ecology – Mammal Survey Report
	Technical Appendix 9.5: Ecology – Bat Survey Report
	Technical Appendix 9.6: Ornithology – Breeding Bird Survey Report
	Technical Appendix 9.7: Ornithology – Wintering Bird Survey Report
	Technical Appendix 9.8: Preliminary Ecological Assessment Report (PEA)
	Technical Appendix 10.1: Preliminary Environmental Risk Assessment Report (PERA)
	Technical Appendix 11.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Landfall and Cable Route)
	Technical Appendix 11.2: Flood Risk Assessment (Onshore Converter Station)
	Technical Appendix 11.3: Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy
	Technical Appendix 11.4: Coastal Vulnerability Assessment
	Technical Appendix 12.1: Baseline Traffic and Transport
	Technical Appendix 13.1 Baseline Noise and Vibration
	Technical Appendix 13.2 Construction Plant Sound Levels
	Technical Appendix 14.1: Air Quality Policy and Legislation
	Technical Appendix 14.2: Construction Dust Assessment Methodology
	Technical Appendix 14.3: Air Quality Mitigation Measures
<b>Volume 4</b>	ES Figures
<b>Accompanying Documentation</b>	Report to Inform and Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) including Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening
	Water Framework Assessment Directive (WFD) Assessment
	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) indicative design stage report
	Planning Statement
	Design and Access Statement