



**Cambois Connection Onshore Scheme
Environmental Statement Volume 3
Appendix 6.2 Report on Public Consultation
September 2023**

BERWICK BANK WIND FARM – CAMBOIS CONNECTION

REPORT ON PUBLIC
CONSULTATION
September 2023



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1. Introduction

This report provides a summary of activity and high-level analysis following an in-person public consultation event which was conducted by SSE Renewables (SSER) in relation to the proposed development of the Berwick Bank Offshore Wind Farm (BBWF). Specifically, this relates to the Cambois Connection for the BBWF, which will export electricity from the BBWF to the existing Blyth substation in Northumberland near Cambois (the Project). The Cambois Connection will be consented separately from the BBWF whose consent determination is ongoing.

SSER held a public exhibition to allow members of the public to visit the exhibition, meet members of the Project team and ask questions on our proposals whilst they are still in the development stage.

This report summarises the event and details the key themes discussed with members of the public.

CONTACT DETAILS

For this event, the first point of contact for all queries from stakeholders was managed by the appointed Stakeholder Engagement Manager (SEM) – Gary Donlin. The SEM’s details were included on information letters issued to local residents in advance of the event.

Please note that Gary Donlin has now changed role and the new SEM is Ciara Jamieson effective from 04/09/23.

Head of Stakeholder Engagement (Offshore)	Gary Donlin	07384 798 101
Stakeholder Engagement Manager	Ciara Jamieson	ciara.jamieson@sse.com

2. Summary of events

The public exhibition was held at the below location and time:

- Cambois Primary School, Cambois, Blyth NE24 1RD
- 26th September 2023
- 13:00 - 19:00

2.1. EXHIBITION MATERIALS

The Project team compiled a variety of materials during the exhibition, which included the following.

- A4 information booklet;
- Project information boards; and,
- Maps showing the Offshore Export Cable Corridor for the Marine Scheme, within which the Offshore Export Cables will be installed.

2.2. ADVERTISING

SSER understands that advertising the public consultation events is critical to gaining valued feedback. Details of the efforts made to highlight the events are as follows:

Local Newspapers - Advertisements were taken out in the following publications.

- 2 x ½ page advertisements on 15/9/2023 and 22/09/2023 in News Post Leader titles, targeting South Northumberland; and,
- Online advertisements on Northumberland Gazette Group Website targeting 50,000 display impressions.

Project Webpage - A dedicated webpage was set up by SSER to host information about the BBWF including the Cambois Connection and provide updates as the Project progresses - www.berwickbank.com

Email - Emails were sent to multiple organisations, affected stakeholders, elected councillors, MSPs, MPs and Parish Councils informing them of the events. All parties were invited to share notice of our events through their own contacts and channels. See section 5 Appendices for further information.

Mail Drop – A mail drop containing information on how people could attend the event was sent to all properties within a 2.5mile radius of NE24 1RD (Cambois postcode). The breakdown of properties and total amount of letters sent is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1 - Number of letters sent inviting to the public consultation event in May 2023

Property Type	Number of Letters sent within NE24 1RD; 2.5 mile radius
Residential	27,514
Commercial	972
Total	28,486

3. Analysis of Consultation

At the in-person exhibition, approximately 20 persons attended the event to provide feedback on the Project and ask questions of the Project team.

3.1. FEEDBACK

The general feedback received was supportive of the project and recognised the importance of delivering renewable energy projects to tackle climate change. Attendees commented that they appreciated Berwick Bank hosting consultation events to keep them informed of what is going on and having an opportunity to ask questions and understand it better.

Further detail on specific issues raised:

Employment opportunities – A key issue raised by several attendees was the need for jobs in the Cambois area. In particular, there is strong local disappointment in the withdrawal of the British Volt EV battery factory. The project team explained that we are committed to identifying routes to create local employment opportunities where possible and that what is achievable and realistic on this matter will be further defined as our plans develop.

Supply Chain – Along with direct employment, a key point raised was the need for broader economic growth in the local area and support for businesses. Project team members confirmed that further engagement specifically addressing local supply chain opportunities would take place in the event of successful consent applications.

Project timelines – A number of attendees asked when the works are likely to begin. The Project team confirmed that we could not currently confirm this due to variables regarding the consenting processes and commercial factors. However, the earliest realistic time frame for the Project would involve beginning construction in 2027/2028.

Construction traffic and noise – Attendees raised concerns regarding construction traffic and the associated noise. The team confirmed that whilst it is necessary for our construction traffic to use some of the local roads, we will develop a Construction Traffic Management Plan which would be implemented throughout the construction phase, with the aim of reducing the impact on local road users and residents living in the area. This would be subject to the approval of Northumberland County Council should planning consent be secured. With regard to noise, it was confirmed that as part of our EIA process our noise specialists will complete a noise impact assessment that models noise levels and the potential impacts on nearby receptors.

Beach access – There was an enquiry regarding access to the beach and whether it would be restricted during construction. The Project team explained that during construction it is expected that access to the beach will be maintained and signage may be employed at this time to advise of the works. The project team also explained that trenchless techniques, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), would be used on these proposals which will allow the Project to drill or tunnel underneath the beach/sand dunes and ensure that these sensitive areas are not disrupted because of construction works.

Ornithology – There was an enquiry regarding what work has been done regarding the protection of seabirds because of the proposed development. The Project team pointed the individual towards ornithology chapters containing full details within our offshore environmental impact assessment which is currently being considered by the Scottish Government.

4. Conclusion & Next Steps

This Report on Public Consultation documents the Public Consultation which has been undertaken for the Cambois Connection of the Berwick Bank Wind Farm in September 2023. The exhibition was designed to engage with key stakeholder groups, including the local community and individual residents, in order to invite comments on the proposals. In the event of a positive planning decision The Project team have committed to hosting a follow-up event in 2024 ahead of the detailed design stage of the proposals.

5. Appendices

Materials presented at Public Exhibition

All materials and exhibition boards presented at the Public Exhibition can be accessed in the Library Downloads section of our project website (www.berwickbank.com) [here](#).

Advertisements issued in the press

The following advertisement was placed in both print and digital media:



Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm

Berwick Bank Wind Farm – Cambois Connection

Cambois Primary School, NE24 1RD

26th September 2023
13:00 – 19:00

Berwick Bank Wind Farm is the largest offshore Wind Farm currently in development in the UK. Situated 38km off the coast of East Lothian, Scotland we will have a grid connection in East Lothian, Scotland and Cambois, Northumberland.

Please visit our public exhibition to hear more about our proposals regarding our potential Cambois Connection.

Find out more at www.berwickbank.com

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Letters issued as part of maildrop

The following letter was sent to all properties within a 2.5 mile radius of NE24 1RD



SSE Renewables
1 Waterloo Street
Glasgow
G26AY

By Email

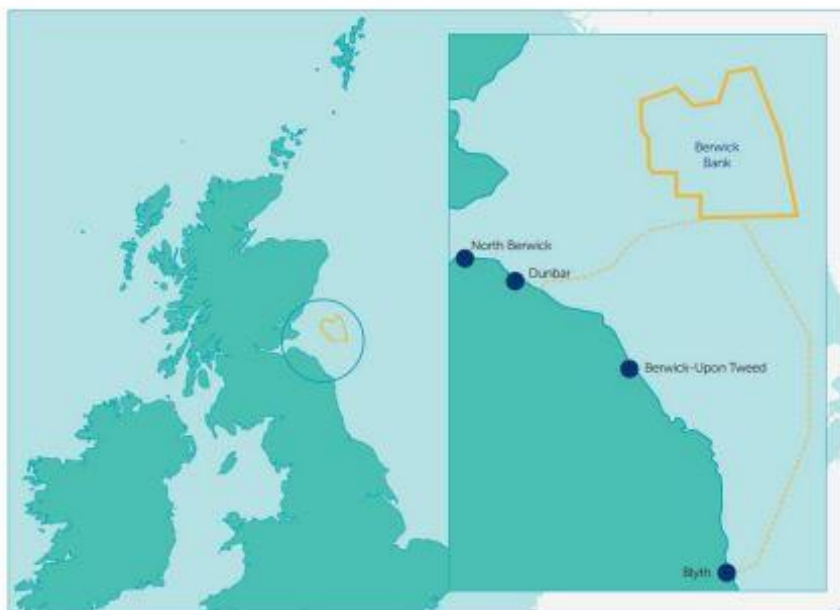
Dear Resident

Berwick Bank Wind Farm - Cambois Connection

I hope this letter finds you well, I am writing to make you aware of some exciting developments we have made to our proposals for Berwick Bank Wind Farm, situated in the outer Firth of Forth in Scotland.

At 4.1 GW, Berwick Bank Wind Farm represents the largest offshore wind farm currently in development in the UK and in December 2022 we submitted planning applications to the Scottish Government for approval for the offshore elements of our site and for our onshore elements regarding our first grid connection in Scotland.

This single site represents an opportunity capable of generating up to 4.1 GW of clean, renewable energy; with the ability of powering more than 5 million homes.



sse renewables.com

Following an initial consultation event held in May 2023. We are now carrying out additional consultation on our proposals. Details of which are below;

Date – Tuesday 26th September 2023

Time – 13:00 – 19:00

Location – Cambois Primary School, NE24 1RD.

We are extremely keen to discuss our proposals locally and gather feedback on our plans for the proposed Cambois Connection. If you would like to discuss this event in more detail, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Donlin

Head of Offshore Stakeholder Engagement, GB

E: gary.donlin@sse.com

M: (0)7384 798 101

