

Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm

Offshore Transmission Development Area

Scoping Report – Volume 2

Habitats Regulations Appraisal Screening Report

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Glossary of Terminology

Term	Definition
Applicant	Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, the legal entity submitting a Marine Licence application for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area.
Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm (or the Bellrock Project)	An offshore wind farm capable of exporting up to 1.8 GW of renewable energy to the National Electricity Transmission System. The Wind Farm Development Area is located 120 km east of Stonehaven, and will connect to the National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed SSEN Transmission Hurlie substation, west of Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire. The Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm comprises of the following Development Areas: ▪ Wind Farm Development Area; ▪ Offshore Transmission Development Area; and ▪ Onshore Transmission Development Area.
Cable protection	Protective measure to minimise the effects of scour and hazards along the interconnector and offshore export cables, and protecting these cables at infrastructure crossing points.
Commencement of construction	Commencement of construction to install the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure as authorised by the Offshore Transmission Development Area Marine Licence (excluding site preparation works), which may include the earlier of: ▪ Intrusive pre-installation surveys including pre-lay grapnel runs; ▪ Placement on or installation in the seabed of export/inter-connector cables; or ▪ Placement of materials on or in the seabed, e.g. scour protection.
Construction works	Works to install the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure as authorised by the Offshore Transmission Development Area Marine Licence, such as: ▪ Pre-installation surveys (intrusive and/or non-intrusive); ▪ Offshore substation/offshore reactive compensation station installation and associated vessel activities; fixed foundation installation; scour protection installation; topside lifting, installation and integration; offshore lifting operations and testing and commissioning; ▪ Offshore export cable installation and associated vessel activities, landfall installation (seaward of Mean High Water Springs), cable lay and burial, installation of cable crossings, cable installation at offshore substation/offshore reactive compensation station, installation of terminations at the offshore substation/offshore reactive compensation station, installation of subsea joints, post-lay burial and cable protection installation; ▪ Final commissioning following cable connections and snagging; and ▪ Post-installation surveys.
Development Area	For consenting purposes, the area for which separate consents and/or Marine Licences will be sought by the Applicant, comprising: ▪ Wind Farm Development Area; ▪ Offshore Transmission Development Area; and ▪ Onshore Transmission Development Area.

Term	Definition
Fixed bottom substructure	A substructure that provides support for the offshore substation or offshore reactive compensation station by transferring loads to the seabed, and provides a conduit for interconnector cable(s) and/or offshore export cables.
Floating substructure	A floating structure which provides buoyancy and, in conjunction with the station keeping system, supports a superstructure (e.g. wind turbine generator or offshore substation), and maintaining its position within the structure's excursion limit.
Hurlie substation	SSEN Transmission's substation, which will receive renewable electricity from the Bellrock Project's onshore substation and allow supply of renewable electricity to the National Electricity Transmission System.
Inter-array cable	Armoured cable containing electrical and fibre optic cores, which link the wind turbine generators to each other and to the subsea cable hubs and/or the offshore substations and include dynamic inter-array cable and static inter-array cable sections.
Interconnector cable	Armoured cable containing electrical and fibre optic cores which link two or more offshore substations.
Landfall	The area in which the offshore export cables come ashore and transition between the offshore export cables and the onshore export cables. For the purpose of the Offshore Transmission Development Area, the landfall includes the area seaward of Mean High Water Springs.
Landfall Area of Search	The area within which the landfall site selection process is undertaken, and which reduces in size to as the landfall site selection process progresses.
Mean High Water Springs	The average over a year of the heights of two successive high waters during those periods of 24 hours (once every fortnight) when the range of the tide is greatest.
Mean Low Water Springs	The average over a year of the heights of two successive low waters during those periods of 24 hours (once every fortnight) when the range of the tide is greatest.
National Electricity Transmission System	The high-voltage electricity power transmission network serving Great Britain which receives electricity from generators (such as offshore wind farms) and transmits that electricity to anywhere on the National Electricity Transmission System to satisfy demand.
Offshore export cable	Armoured cable containing electrical and fibre optic cores between the offshore substation(s), offshore reactive compensation station(s) and the transition joint bay(s).
Offshore export cable corridor	The section of the Offshore Transmission Development Area within which the offshore export cable route will be located.
Offshore reactive compensation station	A fixed bottom substructure offshore platform located within the offshore export cable corridor that accommodates reactive compensation equipment used to control reactive power flows and maintain acceptable voltage levels in the high voltage alternating current transmission system.
Offshore substation	A fixed bottom substructure offshore platform which houses electrical equipment such as transformers, switchgear, and protection and control systems, enabling the wind farm's renewable electricity to be received via inter-array cables and exported via the offshore export cables.

Term	Definition
Offshore Transmission Development Area	The boundary within which the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned seaward of Mean High Water Springs (and overlaps with the whole of the Wind Farm Development Area and overlaps partially with the Onshore Development Area at landfall).
Offshore Transmission Infrastructure	Infrastructure located within the Offshore Transmission Development Area including fixed bottom offshore substation(s), fixed bottom offshore reactive compensation station(s) and associated scour protection; interconnector cables and associated cable protection; landfall (seaward of Mean High Water Springs), and offshore export cables and associated cable protection (including activities associated with the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning).
Onshore export cables	Electrical and fibre optic cables between the transition joint bay(s) at landfall to the onshore substation and onward to the Hurlie substation which may be laid directly within cable ducts or protective troughs.
Onshore substation	Onshore substation which will be fenced and house electrical equipment (such as transformers, reactive compensation equipment, harmonic filters, switchgear, and protection and control systems), thereby enabling renewable electricity from the wind farm to be received via the onshore export cables and exported to the National Electricity Transmission System.
Onshore Transmission Development Area	The boundary within which the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned (and overlaps partially with the Offshore Transmission Development Area at the landfall).
Onshore Transmission Infrastructure	Infrastructure located within the Onshore Transmission Development Area including transition joint bay(s); onshore export cables; onshore substation; temporary construction compounds; temporary working areas; environmental mitigation areas; drainage/irrigation infrastructure; access works; and any other associated infrastructure (including activities associated with the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning).
Operational life	The expected operational life of the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure from the Commercial Operation Date to the first component of the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure being decommissioned.
Project Design Envelope	Includes all relevant technical, spatial and temporal elements of the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, and the proposed methodology to be employed for construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning.
ScotWind	A Crown Estate Scotland leasing round for offshore wind projects in which the process enabled developers to apply for seabed rights to plan and build wind farms in Scottish waters.
Scour protection	Protective material positioned around fixed substructures to avoid sediment being eroded as a result of the flow of water.
Screening Boundary	The area considered at the scoping stage within which the relevant Development Area and its associated infrastructure is expected to be developed.
Site preparation works	Preparatory activities undertaken within the Offshore Transmission Development Area prior to the commencement of construction of the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, which may comprise (and which may require separate consents): ▪ Surveys, including geophysical surveys, geotechnical surveys and non-archaeological/archaeological diver/remotely operated vehicle surveys;

Term	Definition
	▪ Seabed preparation including sand wave levelling, boulder clearance, and pre-lay grapnel runs; ▪ Unexploded ordnance survey and/or clearance; ▪ Debris clearance; and ▪ Out of service cable/pipeline removal/ protection.
Station keeping systems	The system (including mooring lines and anchors) used to hold a floating offshore unit within its excursion limit and maintain the intended orientation of the floating offshore unit.
Subsea cable hub	A subsea device, with a gravel pad foundation, which allows the connection of multiple inter-array cables.
Temporary construction compound	Area within the Onshore Transmission Development Area used temporarily to support the construction and commissioning, which may include (but not limited to) trenchless crossing work areas, office, welfare and workshop facilities; vehicle parking; spoil, material and equipment laydown and/or storage; drainage infrastructure; wheel washing facilities; and lighting, fencing and security.
Transition joint bay	An underground structure at the landfall accessed by manhole or other means which accommodates the jointing of the offshore export cables and the onshore export cables. A fence may be installed around the access manhole for protection.
Trenchless technique	A subsurface construction method, such as horizontal directional drilling, used to install ducts and offshore export cables with no surface excavation between the entry and exit points.
Wind Farm Development Area	The boundary within which the Wind Farm Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned.
Wind Farm Infrastructure	Infrastructure located within the Wind Farm Development Area including wind turbine generators; floating substructures, station keeping systems and associated scour protection; inter-array cables and associated cable protection; subsea cable hubs; and ancillary infrastructure including buoys (including activities associated with the Wind Farm Infrastructure construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning).
Wind turbine generator	A wind turbine generator converts wind energy into electrical energy. The main components include rotor assembly (composed of three blades and a hub); nacelle (containing the generator, shaft and gearbox, power electronic converter and transformer); and a tower (containing lifting equipment and switchgear).

Glossary of Abbreviations

Term	Definition
AEoSI	Adverse Effects on Site Integrity
BDMPS	Biologically Defined Minimum Population Scales
CES	Coastal East Scotland
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMFs	Electromagnetic Fields
EU	European Union
FCS	Favourable Conservation Status
GNS	Greater North Sea
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
IAMMWG	Inter-agency Marine Mammal Working Group
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
IROPI	Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
MU	Management Units
N/A	Not Applicable
nm	Nautical Miles
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OfRCS(s)	Offshore Reactive Compensation Station(s)
OfSS(s)	Offshore Substation(s)
OfTDA	Offshore Transmission Development Area
OnTDA	Onshore Transmission Development Area
PDE	Project Design Envelope

Term	Definition
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SCI	Site of Community Interest
SD	Standard deviation
SPA	Special Protection Areas
SSCs	Suspended Sediment Concentrations
SSE	Scottish and Southern Energy
UK	United Kingdom
UWN	Underwater Noise
WFDA	Wind Farm Development Area
ZoI	Zone of Influence

1 Introduction

1.1 The Bellrock Project Overview

1. In January 2022, as part of the ScotWind leasing round managed by Crown Estate Scotland, Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited (the Applicant) was successfully awarded exclusivity of an area of seabed in the Central North Sea, off the coast of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, to develop the 1.8 gigawatts Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm (the Bellrock Project).
2. The Bellrock Project is a proposed floating offshore wind farm, which will generate and transmit renewable electricity and connect to the National Electricity Transmission System at Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission's proposed Hurlie substation in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The Bellrock Project comprises the following three Development Areas for which separate consents and/or licences will be sought by the Applicant (see **Section 1.2**).
3. Following the Bellrock WFDA Scoping Opinion (Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT), 2024), which included advice on Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) Screening, issued by MD-LOT in August 2024, the Applicant progressed the Bellrock WFDA through to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and HRA. A Section 36 Consent application and Marine Licence Application for the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure was submitted to MD-LOT in April 2026 (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2026). The application was accompanied by a Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) and Shadow Derogation Case, which provided information to support the competent authority's HRA of the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure.
4. This **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** accompanies the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**, which requests a formal Scoping Opinion from MD-LOT, acting on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA and associated Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure. This **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** presents Phase 1 of the HRA process (see **Section 2.2.1** for further detail) and identifies the European Sites and qualifying features requiring further consideration through HRA. The Applicant seeks comment from the relevant consultees on whether they agree with the HRA screening conclusions presented in this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report**.
5. A separate HRA Screening Report will also be prepared for the Bellrock OnTDA in relation to the proposed application for Planning Permission in Principle under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

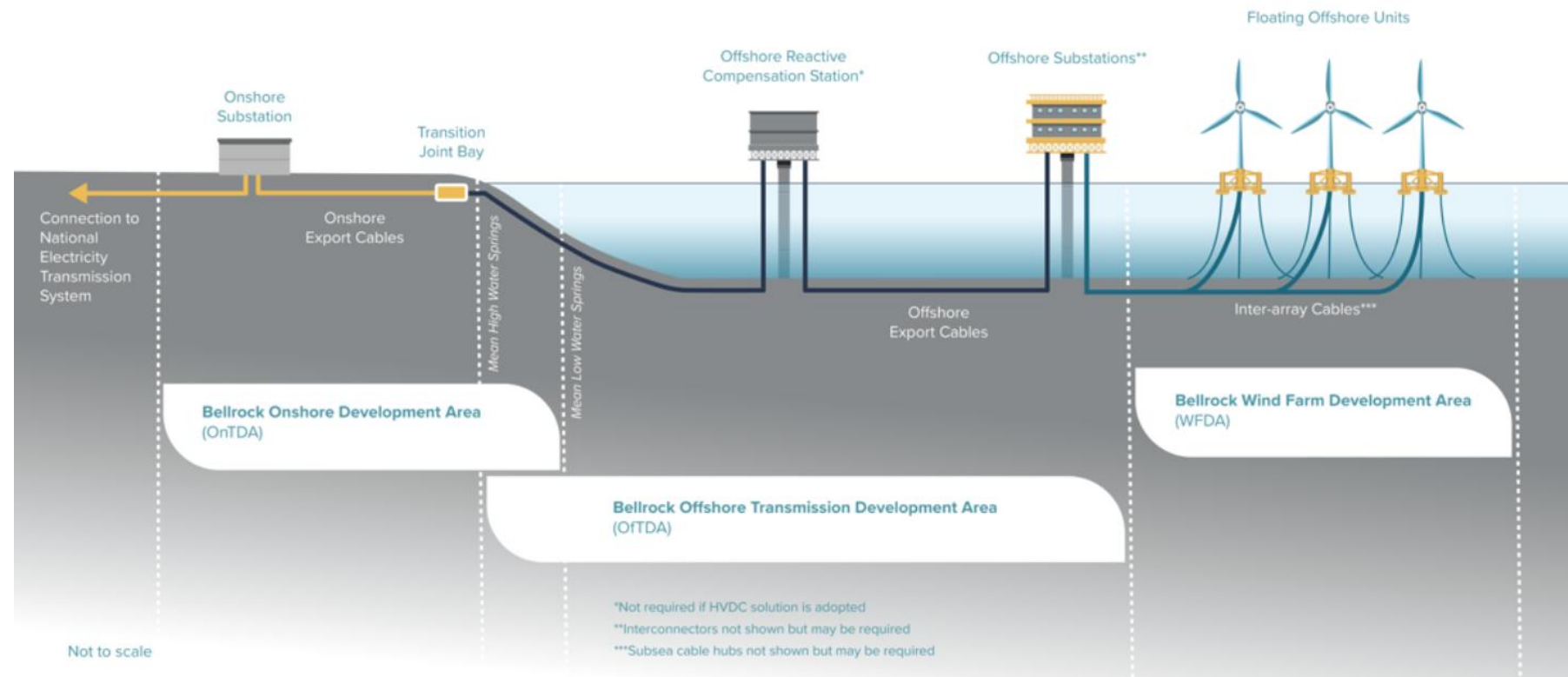
1.2 Development Areas

6. The Bellrock Project comprises the Bellrock OfTDA, the Bellrock WFDA, and the Bellrock OnTDA as discussed in **Section 1.1**.
7. The three Development Areas are shown schematically in **Plate 1.1**. The three Development Areas and the key infrastructure associated with each is presented in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1: Development Areas and Associated Infrastructure Definitions

Development Area	Definition	Associated Infrastructure	Definition
OfTDA	The boundary within which the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) (and overlaps with the whole of the WFDA and partially overlaps with the Onshore Development Area at landfall).	Offshore Transmission Infrastructure	Infrastructure located within the OfTDA including fixed bottom offshore substation(s) (OfSS(s)), fixed bottom offshore reactive compensation station(s) (OfRCS(s)) and associated scour protection; interconnector cable(s) and associated cable protection; landfall (seaward of MHWS), and offshore export cables and associated cable protection (including activities associated with the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure construction, operation and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning).
WFDA	The boundary within which the Wind Farm Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned.	Wind Farm Infrastructure	Infrastructure located within the WFDA including wind turbine generators; floating substructures, station keeping systems and associated scour protection; inter-array cables and associated cable protection; subsea cable hubs; and ancillary infrastructure including buoys (including activities associated with the Wind Farm Infrastructure construction, O&M, and decommissioning).
OnTDA	The boundary within which the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned (and overlaps partially with the Bellrock OfTDA at the landfall).	Onshore Transmission Infrastructure	Infrastructure located within the OnTDA including transition joint bay(s); onshore export cables; onshore substation; temporary construction compounds; temporary working areas; environmental mitigation areas; drainage/irrigation infrastructure; access works; and any other associated infrastructure (including activities associated with the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure construction, O&M, and decommissioning).

Plate 1.1: Overview of the Bellrock Project Development Areas



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1.3 Habitats Regulations Appraisal Overview

8. The requirements of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the Birds Directive) have been transposed into domestic law through a number of regulations (the Habitats Regulations), with those relevant to the Bellrock OfTDA being the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. The Habitats Regulations continue to provide the statutory basis for HRA following the United Kingdom's (UK) exit from the European Union (EU).
9. Under the Habitats Regulations, the Scottish Ministers, as the competent authority, must undertake an appropriate assessment before granting consent for any plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. In practice, HRA is applied as a staged process to determine whether an appropriate assessment is required. The HRA screening stage is undertaken to determine whether likely significant effects (LSE) on European Sites can be excluded. Where LSE cannot be excluded, an appropriate assessment is required.
10. For the purposes of HRA, European Sites comprise:
 - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), including candidate SACs; and
 - Special Protection Areas (SPA), including potential SPAs.
11. As fully detailed in **Section 2.1.2**, Ramsar sites are not, as a matter of law, afforded the same level of protection as European Sites under the Habitats Regulations. However, Scottish Government policy (Scottish Government, 2025) requires that they are afforded the same level of protection as European Sites in development decisions.
12. Further detail on the legislative and policy framework for HRA is provided in **Section 2**.

1.4 Purpose of this Habitats Regulations Appraisal Screening Report

13. This **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** presents the Phase 1 HRA screening assessment (see **Section 2.2.1** for further detail) for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure under the Habitats Regulations. The purpose of this screening assessment is to identify the European Sites and qualifying features which could be affected by the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and to determine whether the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, could result in LSE on those sites.
14. The screening assessment presented in this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** has been undertaken to inform the competent authority's determination as to whether appropriate assessment is required for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure under the Habitats

Regulations. Where LSE cannot be excluded based on objective information, the relevant European Sites and qualifying features are identified for further consideration through appropriate assessment. This **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** therefore also identifies the proposed scope of any subsequent appropriate assessment, where required.

15. This **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** has been prepared alongside the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)** and is based on the current understanding of the baseline environment and the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure. The screening assessment is informed by the Project Description presented in the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**, which is summarised in **Section 3** of this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report**, together with the best available site-specific information currently available for each receptor group.
16. The screening assessment presented in this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** reflects the current stage of project development. Any changes arising from further site-specific surveys, environmental assessment, consultation, and/or refinement of the Project Design Envelope (PDE) will be considered in subsequent HRA documentation, including any RIAA, where required (see **Section 3.2** for information on the future refinement of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary¹).

1.5 Structure of this Habitats Regulations Appraisal Screening Report

17. This **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** is structured as follows:
 - **Section 1: Introduction** – introduces the Bellrock Project and the Bellrock OfTDA, together with an overview of the HRA process, the purpose and structure of this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report**;
 - **Section 2: Habitats Regulations Appraisal** – describes the legislative and policy context relevant to HRA, the stages of the HRA process, and the screening methodology applied in this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report**;
 - **Section 3: Overview of the Bellrock OfTDA and Offshore Transmission Infrastructure** – provides an overview of the Bellrock OfTDA and the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, including key project timelines and activities;
 - **Section 4: Consultation** – summarises consultation undertaken to date relevant to HRA considerations for the Bellrock OfTDA; and
 - **Section 5: Habitats Regulations Appraisal Screening Assessment** – presents the Stage 3 HRA screening assessment for relevant European Sites and qualifying features. Screening is structured by receptor group and includes:
 - **Section 5.1: Intertidal and Benthic Ecology**;
 - **Section 5.2: Fish and Shellfish Ecology**;
 - **Section 5.3: Marine Mammal Ecology**;

¹ For the purposes of this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report (Volume 2)**, the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary refers to the same spatial boundary as the Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Boundary presented in the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**.

- **Section 5.4: Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology;** and
- **Section 5.5: Eurasian Otter Ecology.**

2 Habitats Regulations Appraisal

2.1 Legislative Context

2.1.1 The Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, and Habitats Regulations

18. The Habitats Directive was influenced by the Bern Convention and provides a binding EU framework to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed in Annex I and Annex II of the Habitats Directive at favourable conservation status (FCS). Protection to maintain or restore FCS is delivered through a combination of site designation and management measures, including the designation of SACs.
19. In parallel, the Birds Directive provides a framework for the conservation and management of wild birds in Europe. Annex I of the Birds Directive lists species requiring special conservation measures, for which member states shall designate SPAs. At the same time, the Birds Directive mandates that regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I also receive similar habitat protection (including via the designation of SPAs, where appropriate), especially in relation to breeding, moulting, wintering areas, and staging posts.
20. In Scotland, the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives are transposed into domestic law through legislation collectively referred to as the Habitats Regulations. For the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, the relevant Regulations are:
 - The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, which apply on land and in Scotland's inshore waters (out to 12 nautical miles (nm)); and
 - The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which apply in the offshore region (12 nm to 200 nm).
21. Under the Habitats Regulations, a HRA is required where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, having regard to the site's conservation objectives.

2.1.1.1 National Site Network

22. The network of nature conservation sites assessed through the HRA process was originally established under the Habitats Directive. European sites within EU Member States were collectively referred to as the Natura 2000 network, with each individual site known as a Natura 2000 site. However, following the UK's departure from the EU, UK European sites no longer form part of the Natura 2000 network, instead they collectively constitute the UK National Site Network. The UK National Site Network comprises European sites that existed in the UK on 31 December 2020 as well as any new sites designated under the Habitats Regulations via the post EU exit amended domestic process.

23. The UK National Site Network management objectives were established in the EU Exit Regulations and are referred to as the network objectives. The objectives in relation to the UK National Site Network are to:

- Maintain at, or where appropriate restore to, an FCS in their natural range (so far as it lies in the UK's territory, and so far, as is proportionate):
 - The habitat types listed in Annex I to the Habitats Directive; and
 - The species listed in Annex II to the Habitats Directive whose natural range includes any part of the UK's territory.
- Contribute to ensuring the survival and reproduction in their area of distribution of:
 - Species of birds listed in Annex I to the Birds Directive which naturally occur in the UK's territory; and
 - Regularly occurring migratory species of birds not listed in that Annex which naturally occur in the UK's territory.

2.1.2 The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention)

24. The Ramsar Convention was adopted in 1971 to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands globally; the UK ratified the Convention in 1976. The Convention's principal mechanisms include:

- The designation of wetlands of international importance as Ramsar sites;
- The promotion of the wise use of all wetlands in the territory of each country; and
- International cooperation with other countries to further the wise use of wetlands and their resources.

25. Ramsar sites are designated using a suite of nine internationally agreed criteria, which relate to the ecological, biological, and hydrological importance of wetlands.

26. Ramsar sites are not currently subject to the statutory assessment provisions of the Habitats Regulations. However, Scottish Government policy requires Ramsar sites to be afforded protection equivalent to that of European sites in development decisions. Accordingly, the notified natural features of Ramsar sites are considered alongside the qualifying features of European sites within this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** (Scottish Government, 2025).

2.2 The Habitats Regulations Appraisal Process

2.2.1 Overview

27. HRA is a structured and precautionary process used by competent authorities in Scotland to assess whether a plan or project could adversely affect the integrity of a European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. The HRA process is applied sequentially, progressing from initial screening through to appropriate assessment, where required, and, if necessary, consideration of derogation measures.
28. This **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** presents the HRA screening assessment for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and has been prepared in accordance with relevant NatureScot guidance (NatureScot, 2026), which sets out a nine stage HRA process. These nine stages can be grouped into three distinct phases:
- **Phase 1: Screening (Stages 1 to 3)** - identifying the plan or project, determining which European sites and qualifying features may be affected, and assessing whether LSE on those sites can be excluded, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. Phase 1 of the HRA process is addressed through this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report**;
 - **Phase 2: Appropriate Assessment (Stages 4 and 5)** - where LSE cannot be excluded, assessing the effects of the plan or project on the integrity of the relevant European sites in view of their conservation objectives, and determining whether adverse effects on site integrity (AEoSI) can be excluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt. Where required, Phase 2 of the HRA process will be addressed through a RIAA for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure; and
 - **Phase 3: Derogation (Stages 6 to 9)** - where AEoSI cannot be excluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, considering alternative solutions, whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), potential impacts on priority features, and the requirement for compensatory measures. If required, this phase will be addressed through the development of a derogation case for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure.
29. The nine stages are summarised in **Section 2.2.2** to **Section 2.2.4**.

2.2.2 Phase 1

2.2.2.1 Stage 1: What is the Plan or Project?

30. Sufficient information must be provided to the competent authority to enable it to undertake the HRA. This stage is considered in this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report**, and a description of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure is provided in **Section 3**.

2.2.2.2 Stage 2: Is the Plan or Project Directly Connected with or Necessary to Site Management for Nature Conservation?

31. This test is to identify and remove from further assessment those proposals which are clearly necessary to, or of value to, or inevitable as part of, management of the site for its qualifying features. All qualifying features should be considered.
32. The Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure is not directly connected with or necessary to site management for nature conservation of a European site. Therefore, consideration of the subsequent steps is required.

2.2.2.3 Stage 3: Is the Plan or Project (Either Alone or In-combination with Other Plans or Projects) Likely to Have a Significant Effect on a European Site?

33. This is essentially the screening stage to determine whether appropriate assessment is required. European sites are screened for LSE (alone and in-combination with other plans and projects). It is important to consider any connectivity between the proposal and each of the qualifying features, e.g. are there processes or pathways by which the proposal may influence the site's qualifying feature directly or indirectly? If there is doubt or a lot of detail is required, LSE should be concluded, and Stage 4 should be undertaken.
34. Upon determination that there is no potential for LSE to occur for qualifying features of a European site, that European site is 'screened out'.
35. Under the Habitats Regulations, a HRA must be carried out on all plans and projects that have LSE on European sites.
36. This stage is considered in this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report**.

2.2.3 Phase 2

2.2.3.1 Stage 4: Undertake an Appropriate Assessment of the Implications for the Site in View of its Conservation Objectives

37. Where a plan or project is considered to have an LSE on the qualifying features of a European site an appropriate assessment is required. The appropriate assessment determines whether the project alone or in-combination with other plans and projects has the potential to adversely affect the integrity of the European site in view of its individual conservation objectives.
38. If required, a RIAA for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will be prepared to support the competent authority in carrying out the appropriate assessment with advice from NatureScot. The competent authority will form its own conclusions based on the RIAA. In this instance, the competent authority will be the Scottish Ministers (with MD-LOT acting on their behalf).

2.2.3.2 Stage 5: Can it be Ascertained that the Proposal will Not Adversely Affect the Integrity of the Site?

39. For a plan or project to be consented, the appropriate assessment must ascertain that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site. Conclusions must be based on there being no reasonable scientific doubt as to the absence of adverse effects. The integrity of

the site only applies to the qualifying features and is directly linked to the conservation objectives for the site.

- 40. Stages 6 to 9 are only considered in circumstances where it cannot be ascertained, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site.
- 41. If required, the RIAA for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will provide information and a professional determination as to whether the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, will result in AEOsI. The final determination of AEOsI will be made by the competent authority.

2.2.4 Phase 3

2.2.4.1 Stage 6: Are there Alternative Solutions?

- 42. Stage 6 examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project that would avoid AEOsI on European sites, should avoidance or mitigation measures, considered as part of the appropriate assessment be unable to prevent AEOsI. If it cannot be ascertained beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of a European Site, it can only proceed if there are no alternative solutions and there are IROPI (see Stages 8 and 9). This requirement is set out in Regulation 49 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 and Regulation 29 of the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Guidance (NatureScot, 2026) suggests alternative solutions could include alternative locations or routes, different scales or designs of development, alternative processes, or other different, practicable approaches which would have a lesser impact.
- 43. If required, an assessment of alternative solutions will be undertaken as part of the derogation case for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure.

2.2.4.2 Stage 7: Would a Priority Habitat or Species be Adversely Affected?

- 44. Priority habitats that are qualifying features of SACs in Scotland are identified by NatureScot (NatureScot, 2026). These habitats are given a greater level of protection under Regulation 49 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 and Regulation 29 of the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Consideration needs to be given as to whether priority habitats in Scotland (or other relevant parts of the UK) would be adversely affected. There are no priority species (as defined in the Habitats Directive) in Scotland's SACs and the Birds Directive does not refer to 'priority' species. Therefore, this stage is only relevant to the HRA process where SACs with habitat qualifying features are under consideration.
- 45. If required, the potential for priority species and/or habitats to be affected will be considered as part of the derogation case for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure.

2.2.4.3 Stage 8 and 9: Are there Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest?

- 46. If no priority habitats are affected, but site integrity cannot be assured and no alternative solutions exist, the plan or project may only proceed for IROPI, with consultation required from the Scottish Ministers.

- 47. Where priority habitats would be affected, progression is only possible under specific IROPI reasons, limited to serious human health or safety issues, or benefits or primary importance to the environment.
- 48. Where a plan or project proceeds under IROPI the Scottish Ministers have a duty to secure any compensatory measures necessary to maintain the overall coherence of the UK National Site Network, as set out in Regulation 53 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 and Regulation 36 of the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- 49. If deemed necessary, without prejudice to the potential findings of the RIAA or the conclusions of the competent authority's appropriate assessment, the Applicant will progress the development of information to support HRA derogation during the pre-submission phase, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

2.3 Habitats Regulations Appraisal Screening Methodology

2.3.1 Approach to the Identification of European Sites and Qualifying Features

- 50. To support the identification of the European sites and qualifying features to be considered within the screening assessment for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, an initial pre-screening exercise has been undertaken. This approach is considered appropriate given the nature and scale of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and the wide-ranging nature of many of the qualifying features of European sites that may be affected.
- 51. The criteria applied to identify European sites and qualifying features for inclusion in the screening assessment are set out in **Table 2.1**. These criteria take account of the location of European sites, the anticipated Zone of Influence (Zol) of potential impacts, and the ecological characteristics and distribution of qualifying features.
- 52. Criterion 1 identifies European sites that directly overlap with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. These European sites are screened in for consideration of LSE.
- 53. Criterion 2 identifies European sites, not already screened in using Criterion 1, where the range or distribution of one or more qualifying feature overlaps with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. These European sites are screened in for consideration of LSE.
- 54. Criterion 3 identifies European sites, not already screened in by Criteria 1 or 2, where the predicted Zol of potential impacts associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure overlaps with a European site and/or its qualifying features. For ornithology receptors, consideration is also given to factors that inform the probable extent to which the different qualifying features will occur within the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. These European sites are screened in for consideration of LSE.

55. This initial pre-screening exercise identifies the European sites which can be excluded from further consideration in this **Bellrock O&TDA HRA Screening Report**, as there is no potential for LSE due to lack of overlap as defined by the criteria in **Table 2.1**. European sites identified as having a potential for LSE due to a potential overlap as defined by the criteria outlined in **Table 2.1** will be taken forward for assessment of LSE in **Section 5**.

Table 2.1: Criteria for Initial Identification of European Sites

Criterion	Definition for Identification of Relevant European Sites
1	The Bellrock O&TDA Screening Boundary overlaps with one or more European or Ramsar site.
2	European or Ramsar sites with mobile qualifying features (e.g. Annex I birds, Annex II marine mammals, migratory fish or shellfish) whose range (e.g. foraging, migratory, overwintering, breeding or natural habitat range) overlaps with the Bellrock O&TDA Screening Boundary.
3	European or Ramsar sites and/or qualifying features located within the potential ZoI of impacts associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure (e.g. physical disturbance and loss of seabed habitat).

2.3.2 Approach to Screening Assessment

56. The screening assessment is undertaken to determine whether LSE on European Sites and their qualifying features can be excluded. The screening assessment is underpinned by the source-pathway-receptor conceptual model, which provides a structured framework for identifying whether project-related impacts have the potential to affect European Sites and qualifying features. In this context:
- The source is the project activity giving rise to a potential impact, for example piling of fixed-bottom substructures during installation activities;
 - The pathway is the mechanism by which the impact is transmitted through the environment to the receptor, for example the propagation of underwater noise (UWN) through the water column resulting from piling activities; and
 - The receptor is the qualifying feature of a European Site that may be affected, for example marine mammal species.
57. The screening assessment considers whether a complete source-pathway-receptor linkage exists between the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and the qualifying feature of a European Site. Where no such linkage can be established, or where sufficient separation, attenuation, or other factors mean that effects are expected to be negligible, LSE can be excluded, and the relevant European site and qualifying feature are screened out of further assessment.
58. Where a source-pathway-receptor linkage is identified, the assessment considers whether project-related impacts could give rise to effects on European Sites and qualifying features such that LSE cannot be excluded, where this is the case, the relevant European Site and qualifying features are taken forward for further consideration in subsequent stages of the HRA process (see **Section 2.2.1** for further detail).

59. A precautionary approach is applied throughout the screening process. Where insufficient information is available to exclude LSE for a European Site or qualifying feature, it is screened in for further assessment. Where further information becomes available through ongoing design development/refinement, survey data, or consultation the screening conclusions presented in this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** will be reviewed and updated, as required. Where this results in changes to the European Sites or qualifying features screened in for further assessment, the Applicant will engage with MD-LOT and NatureScot to agree the scope of the subsequent RIAA for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure.

3 Overview of the Bellrock OfTDA and Offshore Transmission Infrastructure

3.1 Project Design Envelope Approach

60. At the current stage of project development, the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure remains subject to ongoing design refinement. Accordingly, this screening assessment has been undertaken using a parameter-based design envelope approach, based on the current PDE presented in **Chapter 3: Project Description** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)** and summarised in **Section 3** in this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report**.
61. At present, the PDE is intentionally broad to capture the range of potential design parameters, technologies, construction methods, and installation scenarios that may be taken forward as the project develops. The screening assessment therefore considers the realistic worst-case scenario currently available to determine whether LSE on European Sites and qualifying features can be excluded.
62. As project design progresses, the PDE will continue to be refined through ongoing engineering work, environmental assessment, consultation, and site-specific survey information. The PDE applied within the EIA and any subsequent RIAA for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure is therefore expected to represent a more refined project design than that considered at the EIA scoping and HRA screening stages.
63. The PDE approach allows for further detailed design development post-consent, provided that the final design remains within the parameters assessed through EIA and HRA. This ensures that post-consent design refinement does not invalidate the conclusions of the environmental assessment undertaken for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure.

3.2 Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary

64. The Screening Boundary presented within this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** is shown in **Figure A.1** and **Figure A.2 (Appendix A)**.
65. The Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary considers the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and associated activities located within the Bellrock OfTDA. This includes fixed bottom substructure OfSS(s), interconnector cable(s) and associated cable protection which will all be located within the area of the Bellrock OfTDA which overlaps with the Bellrock WFDA. It also considers the offshore export cables and associated cable protection connecting the OfSS(s) to the Bellrock OnTDA at landfall, and fixed bottom substructure (OfRCS(s)) and associated scour protection located along the offshore export cable corridor. The Bellrock OfTDA extends seaward

of MHWS, and therefore also overlaps with the Bellrock OnTDA which extends landward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS).

66. The site selection process for the Bellrock OfTDA is ongoing at the time of writing and is taking account of engineering and environmental considerations and constraints. The Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary has been defined for the purpose of this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** to include landfall at Cowie (north of Stonehaven) and offshore export cable corridor options that are still under consideration between the Bellrock WFDA and landfall. The Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary will be refined on completion of the site selection process to form the boundary of the Bellrock OfTDA. The Bellrock OfTDA RIAA will be based on the refined Bellrock OfTDA.
67. Accordingly, where project refinement results in changes that could alter connectivity with European Sites and qualifying features or the potential for LSE, the screening conclusions presented in this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** will be reviewed and updated, as required. Where this results in changes to the European Sites or qualifying features screened in for further assessment, the Applicant will engage with MD-LOT and NatureScot to agree the scope of the subsequent RIAA for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure.

3.3 Offshore Transmission Infrastructure

3.3.1 Overview of the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure

68. The Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure comprises:
- OfSS(s): up to six fixed bottom OfSS(s), all located within the area of the Bellrock OfTDA that overlaps with the Bellrock WFDA;
 - Interconnector cable(s): up to five high voltage alternating current interconnector cable(s), each approximately 25 km in length, located within the Bellrock WFDA, with associated cable protection where required;
 - Offshore export cables: up to six high voltage alternating current or high voltage direct current offshore export cable circuits, each approximately 200 km in length, with associated cable protection where required;
 - OfRCS(s): up to two fixed bottom OfRCS(s) located within the Bellrock OfTDA, located at least 25 km from the Scottish coastline;
 - Scour protection: for the OfSS(s) and the OfRCS(s);
 - Landfall: up to six trenchless ducts and offshore export cables installed below MHWS at Cowie, Aberdeenshire; and
 - Ancillary infrastructure including buoys.
69. A more detailed description of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure is provided in Section 3.4, **Chapter 3: Project Description** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**.

3.4 Project Timeline and Activities

3.4.1 Site Preparation Works

70. Site preparation works are any preparatory works undertaken within the Bellrock OfTDA prior to the commencement of construction, and may comprise:
- Surveys, including geophysical surveys, geotechnical surveys, and non-archaeological/archaeological diver/remotely operated vehicle surveys;
 - Seabed preparation including sand wave levelling, boulder clearance, and pre-lay grapnel runs;
 - Unexploded ordnance survey and/or clearance;
 - Debris clearance; and
 - Out of service cable/pipeline removal/protection.
71. A more detailed description of the site preparation works is provided in Section 3.5.2 of **Chapter 3: Project Description** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**. Site preparation works will be undertaken for up to one year before the commencement of construction, at which point they may continue albeit as construction works rather than site preparation works.

3.4.2 Construction Works

72. Construction of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure is expected to take up to six years, typically over the months of April to September (inclusive). However, this duration is indicative, and the final durations will be subject to a number of factors, such as but not limited to the number of OfSS(s), OfRCS(s) and offshore export cables being deployed and their energisation schedule; port availability; substructure installation methods; weather conditions; availability of resources; and supply chain arrangements. The construction activities outlined below will be developed and defined as the Bellrock OfTDA progresses:
- Construction of Landfall;
 - Construction of OfSS(s) and OfRCS(s); and
 - Installation of offshore export cables and interconnector cable(s).
73. Throughout both site preparation (**Section 3.4.1**) and construction a variety of vessel types are likely to be required, an indicative list of vessel types is provided in Section 3.5.3.4 of **Chapter 3: Project Description** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**.
74. A more detailed description of the construction works is provided in Section 3.5.3 of **Chapter 3: Project Description** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**.

3.4.3 Operation and Maintenance

- 75. The operational life of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure is anticipated to be up to 40 years. At this early stage of project development, the detailed O&M strategy has not yet been finalised.
- 76. Routine O&M activities are expected to include scheduled maintenance, mandatory inspections, condition and structural health monitoring, geophysical surveys, and minor repair works. Non-routine corrective maintenance activities may also be required in response to faults and failures and could include activities such as offshore export cable reburial, repair, and replacement.
- 77. A range of vessels is expected to be required throughout the O&M phase to support inspection, maintenance, and repair activities. Further detail on anticipated O&M activities and indicative vessel types is provided in Section 3.5.4 of **Chapter 3: Project Description** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**.

3.4.4 Decommissioning

- 78. At the end of operational life, the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will be decommissioned. Details of the decommissioning of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will be included in a Decommissioning Programme, which is a requirement under Section 105 of the Energy Act 2004 for developers of 'electric lines'. The Decommissioning Programme will be subject to approval by the Scottish Ministers.
- 79. The Decommissioning Programme will consider good industry practice, guidance and legislation for decommissioning works which includes anticipated costs and financial securities.
- 80. Further detail is provided in Section 3.5.5 of **Chapter 3: Project Description** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**.

4 Consultation

81. A Scoping Information Package for the Bellrock OfTDA was provided to MD-LOT, Marine Directorate Science Evidence Data and Digital, Marine Directorate Marine Analytical Unit, NatureScot and Aberdeenshire Council in May 2026. The Scoping Information Package provided an overview of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary and the associated Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, as well as information on the key potential impacts, and proposed assessment methodologies.
82. Whilst consultation was primarily undertaken to inform the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**, information relevant to the proposed HRA approach, including the HRA screening methodology and initial identification of European sites was also presented to consultees. Feedback received through this process has been used to inform the preparation of this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report**.
83. A summary of the consultation undertaken through the Scoping Information Package relevant to HRA considerations is presented in **Table 4.1**.

Table 4.1: Summary of Consultation Relevant to HRA and this Screening Assessment

Consultee	Date/Document	Comment	How Comment has been Addressed
NatureScot	12 June 2026 Formal response to the Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Information Package	<u>Protected areas – screening conclusions</u> Slide six notes that the bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> feature of the Moray Firth SAC has been screened in for further assessment. NatureScot welcome this, which is in-line with their previous advice on the Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Information Package (issued August 2024) whereby NatureScot advised that - as bottlenose dolphin from the Moray Firth SAC are regularly recorded transiting along the east coast, and until UWN modelling has been carried out, they should be screened in for further assessment.	Noted. As detailed in Section 5.3 (of this Bellrock OfTDA Screening Report), the Moray Firth SAC is the only European site with marine mammal qualifying features that has been screened in for further assessment in the Bellrock OfTDA RIAA.
NatureScot	12 June 2026 Formal response to the Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Information Package	<u>Question: Do you agree with the approach to determining the study area and connectivity?</u> Breeding season connectivity will be determined using Woodward et al (2019) in accordance with NatureScot's Guidance Note 3. NatureScot agree with the approach set out in slide 2, whereby non-breeding season connectivity will be determined using the Biologically Defined Minimum Population Scales Report (BDMPS) for all species except for guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> and herring gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> ; and NatureScot request that connectivity to all SPAs in the relevant BDMPS region (as per Appendix A of the BDMPS report) is considered.	Noted. As detailed in Section 5.4 (of this Bellrock OfTDA Screening Report) breeding season and non-breeding season connectivity has been determined for SPA qualifying features.
NatureScot	12 June 2026 Formal response to the Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Information Package	<u>Question: Do you agree with the proposed approach to the HRA?</u> The proposed approach to HRA remains as proposed within the 2024 Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Information Package, and NatureScot agree with this approach. However, NatureScot request further narrative and explanation in relation to the second bullet point – <i>“the scale of the initial connectivity screening necessitates a proportionate HRA approach to ensure that assessment effort is focused on SPAs with a realistic pathway for”</i> .	Noted. Initial screening connectivity is detailed in Section 5.4.1 , which identifies the European sites taken forward for LSE screening. The LSE screening assessment is presented in Section 5.4.2 (of this Bellrock OfTDA Screening Report) with the European sites proposed to be taken forward to the Bellrock OfTDA RIAA identified in Section 5.4.3 (of this Bellrock OfTDA Screening Report). The purpose of the LSE screening assessment is to identify the European sites and project impact pathways with the potential for LSE, ensuring that the Bellrock OfTDA RIAA is focused on those European sites and qualifying features for which there is a credible impact pathway and is therefore proportionate.

Consultee	Date/Document	Comment	How Comment has been Addressed
NatureScot	12 June 2026 Formal response to the Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Information Package	NatureScot advise that the Greater North Sea (GNS) and the Coastal East Scotland (CES) bottlenose dolphin populations should be assessed separately, using a population of 226 for the CES Management Unit (MU) for bottlenose dolphin. It is accepted that 52.5% of the 226 CES bottlenose dolphins typically frequent coastal areas south of the Moray Firth (Arso Civil et al., 2021). To calculate the density within this region, the 118 animals are divided by the area between Peterhead and the Farne Islands (assuming uniform spread across an area bounded by the 2-20 m depth contour; Quick et al., 2014), to give a density of 0.2 animals km². A separate assessment should be presented for the CES MU with a population of 226 and a density of 0.2 animals km² out to 5 km for the coastal strip along the Moray Firth, then using the SCANS density out to the remaining 12 nm of the CES MU boundary. This should also be run through Interim Population Consequences of Disturbance on a stable population trajectory and not combined with the GNS population.	For the purposes of the HRA screening, the assessment of potential effects on bottlenose dolphin, a qualifying feature of the Moray Firth SAC, will be based on the most precautionary density estimates available from SCANS-III (Hammond et al., 2021) and relevant advice provided by NatureScot in response to the Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Information Package. In accordance with NatureScot advice, a precautionary density of 0.2 individuals km² will be applied within a 5 km coastal strip of the Moray Firth to account for the higher occurrence of bottlenose dolphins in nearshore waters. However, further information on the derivation of this density estimate would be welcomed, as application of the information provided by NatureScot has not enabled replication of the stated value. For the remainder of the Moray Firth and offshore waters out to 12 nm, the assessment will utilise the density estimate derived from SCANS-III (Hammond et al., 2021).

5 Habitats Regulations Appraisal Screening Assessment

5.1 Intertidal and Benthic Ecology

84. This section presents the HRA screening assessment for European sites designated for Annex I benthic habitat qualifying features. The assessment first applies the pre-screening criteria described in **Section 2.3.1** to determine whether potential connectivity exists between the Bellrock OfTDA and any European site designated for Annex I benthic habitat qualifying features. Where connectivity is identified, a screening assessment is undertaken (**Section 2.3.2**) to determine whether LSE can be excluded.

5.1.1 Sites Designated for Annex I Habitat Features

85. This section presents the pre-screening exercise undertaken for European sites designated for Annex I benthic habitat qualifying features. The pre-screening exercise applies the three pre-screening criteria described in **Section 2.3.1** to identify European sites and qualifying features with potential connectivity to the Bellrock OfTDA and to determine whether further screening assessment for LSE is required.

5.1.1.1 Criterion 1 – The Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary Overlaps with One or More European Sites

86. Application of Criterion 1 identified no European sites designated for Annex I benthic qualifying features that overlap with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. Therefore, no European sites are taken forward for further consideration under Criterion 1.

5.1.1.2 Criterion 2 – The Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary Overlaps with the Ranges of Qualifying Mobile Species of One or More European Sites

87. Application of Criterion 2 identified no European sites designated for Annex I benthic habitat qualifying features for further consideration. Annex I benthic habitat features are not mobile; therefore, they do not have defined ranges beyond the boundaries of the European sites within which they occur. Therefore, no European sites are taken forward for further consideration under Criterion 2.

5.1.1.3 Criterion 3 – One or More European Sites and/or Their Qualifying Features are Located within the Potential Zone of Influence of Impacts Associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure

88. Application of Criterion 3 identified no European sites designated for Annex I benthic habitat qualifying features within the potential Zol of impacts associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure. A precautionary Zol of 10 km has been applied, which encompasses all potential impacts associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure relevant to intertidal and benthic ecology. Further detail on the potential impacts and the derivation of the Zol

is provided in Chapter 6: Benthic Ecology of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**. Therefore, no European sites are taken forward for further consideration under Criterion 3.

5.1.1.4 Conclusion of Pre-screening Assessment

89. Application of the pre-screening criteria (Criteria 1 to 3 (**Section 2.3.1**)) identified no European sites designated for Annex I benthic habitat qualifying features requiring further consideration. As such, no European sites are taken forward for a detailed screening assessment to determine LSE.

5.2 Fish and Shellfish Ecology

90. This section presents the HRA screening assessment for European sites designated for Annex II fish and shellfish qualifying features. The assessment first applies the pre-screening criteria described in **Section 2.3.1** to determine whether potential connectivity exists between the Bellrock OfTDA and any European site designated for Annex II fish and shellfish qualifying features. Where connectivity is identified, a screening assessment is undertaken (**Section 5.2.2**) to determine whether LSE can be excluded.

5.2.1 Sites Designated for Annex II Fish and Shellfish

91. This section presents the pre-screening exercise undertaken for European Sites designated for Annex II fish and shellfish qualifying features. The pre-screening exercise applies the three pre-screening criteria described in **Section 2.3.1** to identify European sites and qualifying features with potential connectivity to the Bellrock OfTDA and to determine whether further screening assessment for LSE is required.

5.2.1.1 Criterion 1 – The Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area Screening Boundary Overlaps with One or More European Sites

92. Application of Criterion 1 identified no European Sites designated for Annex II fish and shellfish qualifying features that overlap with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. Therefore, no European Sites are taken forward for further consideration under Criterion 1.

5.2.1.2 Criterion 2 – The Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area Screening Boundary Overlaps with the Ranges of Qualifying Mobile Species of One or More European Sites

93. Criterion 2 is addressed in conjunction with Criterion 3 below, as connectivity for Annex II fish and shellfish species associated with European sites is defined by wider movements within the marine environment rather than solely discrete spatial overlap with European sites. To avoid duplication, further consideration is provided under **Section 5.2.1.3**.

5.2.1.3 Criterion 3 – One or More European Sites and/or Their Qualifying Features are Located within the Potential Zone of Influence of Impacts Associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure

94. Application of Criteria 2 and 3 is undertaken within this section, as connectivity for Annex II fish species is defined by the presence, distribution, and movement of mobile populations through the marine environment.

95. A precautionary Zol of 60 km has been applied for Annex II fish and shellfish species, as set out in Section 7.4.6 in **Chapter 7: Fish and Shellfish Ecology** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**. Within this Zol, three European sites designated for Annex II diadromous fish qualifying features are identified: River Dee SAC (Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*), River South Esk SAC (Atlantic salmon), and River Tay SAC (Atlantic salmon, river lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, and sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*) (with the River Dee SAC and the River South Esk SAC also designated for freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*). In addition, other European sites designated for Annex II diadromous fish qualifying features are present within the wider Northern North Sea biogeographic region (UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy Community, 2010), as identified in Section 7.4.6 of **Chapter 7: Fish and Shellfish Ecology** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**.
96. Diadromous fish originating from these European sites are expected to utilise marine waters within the Zol during their life cycle, including during feeding and migratory movements between freshwater and marine environments. This establishes a potential pathway for impact with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure.
97. However, NatureScot advised, through their scoping advice for the Bellrock WFDA (MD-LOT, 2024a), that based on the evidence currently available, it is not possible to undertake an assessment of diadromous fish to the level of detail, and confidence, required under HRA and that diadromous fish species should therefore be assessed through EIA rather than HRA. This reflects the current understanding of the distribution and behaviour of diadromous fish in the marine environment, including uncertainties regarding marine movements and migration routes, which prevent robust attribution of at-sea individuals to specific European sites.
98. Notwithstanding this general position, NatureScot has advised in relation to the Bowdun offshore wind farm (MD-LOT, 2024b) that HRA consideration of individual diadromous fish SACs may be appropriate where there is clear ecological connectivity and a potential pathway for impact between a project and a specific SAC, for example due to the close proximity of offshore export cables or landfall infrastructure to the SAC and its qualifying features.
99. The mouth of the River Dee SAC is located approximately 6 km from the closest point of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. Given this proximity and taking account of NatureScot's advice on the potential for site-specific consideration of diadromous fish SACs where a clear pathway for impact may exist, a precautionary approach has been adopted. Accordingly, the River Dee SAC is screened in and taken forward to the screening assessment to determine whether LSE can be excluded.
100. In contrast, whilst the River South Esk SAC (approximately 40 km, measured as the fish swims to the landfall Area of Search and the closest point of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary), River Tay SAC (approximately 105 km as the fish swims to the landfall Area of Search and the closest point of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary), and other European sites designated for Annex II diadromous fish qualifying features within the wider Northern North Sea biogeographic region are recognised as having broad ecological connectivity with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, there is insufficient evidence to robustly attribute at-sea individuals to these specific sites for the purposes of HRA. Consistent with NatureScot advice, these sites are therefore not taken forward for further consideration under Criteria 2 and 3. Potential impacts on diadromous fish populations will instead be assessed through the EIA process, where consideration will also

be given to the relevant diadromous fish SACs (**Chapter 7: Fish and Shellfish Ecology** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**).

5.2.1.4 Conclusion of Pre-screening Assessment

101. Application of the pre-screening criteria (Criteria 1 to 3) has identified the River Dee SAC on a precautionary basis for further consideration within the screening assessment to determine whether LSE can be excluded.
102. No other European sites designated for Annex II fish and shellfish qualifying features are taken forward. Consistent with NatureScot advice, these features and their associated European sites will instead be considered through the EIA, as described in **Section 5.2.1.3**.

5.2.2 Determination of Likely Significant Effect for Annex II Fish and Shellfish Features

103. Based on the outcomes of the pre-screening assessment presented in **Section 5.2.1**, the River Dee SAC is the only European site designated for Annex II fish and shellfish qualifying features that has been taken forward for detailed consideration within this screening assessment.

5.2.2.1 River Dee Special Area of Conservation

5.2.2.1.1 Project Alone Screening Assessment

104. The River Dee SAC has been screened in for further consideration within this screening assessment, as set out in **Section 5.2.1**.
105. The River Dee SAC is designated for Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, and Eurasian otter *Lutra lutra* (hereafter referred to as otter). For the purposes of this screening assessment, Atlantic salmon is the primary qualifying feature considered, given its marine migratory behaviour and potential interaction with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure.
106. Freshwater pearl mussel are dependent on Atlantic salmon for completion of their life cycle, as salmonids act as the host species for larval glochidia. Therefore, the potential for LSE on freshwater pearl mussel is considered to be intrinsically linked to the outcome of the assessment for Atlantic salmon; where LSE on Atlantic salmon can be excluded, LSE on freshwater pearl mussel is also considered to be excluded.
107. Otter is considered further in **Section 5.5**; this section focuses solely on Annex II fish and shellfish species.
108. The following impact pathways associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure are considered to determine whether LSE on the River Dee SAC can be excluded in respect of the Atlantic salmon qualifying feature. These impact pathways are those considered capable of affecting the conservation objectives for the Atlantic salmon qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC:
 - Physical disturbance of seabed habitats;
 - Permanent habitat loss resulting from installation of Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure;

- Increased suspended sediment concentrations (SSCs) and sediment deposition;
- Remobilisation of existing contaminated sediments;
- Accidental release of pollutants;
- Introduction and/or spread of marine invasive non-native species (INNS);
- Colonisation of artificial hard substrates associated with installed infrastructure;
- Electromagnetic fields (EMFs) generated by energised subsea cables;
- UWN and vibration;
- Entanglement with subsea infrastructure; and
- Loss of artificial hard substrate habitat due to removal of infrastructure.

5.2.2.1.1.1 *Physical Disturbance of Seabed Habitats*

109. Temporary seabed disturbance may occur during all phases of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, including construction, O&M, and decommissioning. These effects would be localised to the immediate footprint of the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and would be short-term in duration, with recovery of seabed habitats expected following cessation of the activity. There is no spatial overlap between the River Dee SAC and the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary.
110. Atlantic salmon are highly mobile and migratory, moving between freshwater spawning areas and marine feeding grounds. During marine migration, individuals will not be solely dependent on seabed habitats within the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary, and temporary, localised disturbance to the seabed does not represent a significant constraint to food availability or a physical barrier/restriction to movement.
111. Given the limited spatial extent of disturbance to seabed habitats relative to the wider North Sea migratory environment, and the absence of any barrier effects, LSE on the Atlantic salmon qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC can be excluded and is therefore **screened out**.

5.2.2.1.1.2 *Permanent Habitat Loss Resulting from Installation of Seabed Infrastructure*

112. Permanent habitat loss may arise from the presence of the infrastructure on the seabed. This would be confined to the footprint of the infrastructure (i.e. cable protection (if required))² and would persist for the operational life of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure. There is no spatial overlap between the River Dee SAC and the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary.
113. A potential pathway for interaction exists during the marine migratory phase of Atlantic salmon, as individuals associated with the River Dee SAC may be present within the waters where permanent infrastructure would be located. However, the footprint of permanent habitat loss would be highly localised relative to the wider North Sea environment used during migration, and salmon are highly

² Note that although foundations for OfSS(s) and OfRCS(s) could be colonised, the OfSS(s), will be located within the area of the Bellrock OfTDA that overlaps with the Bellrock WFDA, approximately 120 km from the River Dee SAC, and the OfRCS(s), will be located at least 25 km from coast and to the southeast of the River Dee SAC

mobile and transient during this marine migratory phase, with no reliance on specific seabed habitats within the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary.

114. As such, the limited spatial extent of permanent habitat loss is not considered capable of resulting in LSE on Atlantic salmon associated with the River Dee SAC. LSE from permanent habitat loss can therefore be excluded and is therefore **screened out**.

5.2.2.1.1.3 Increased Suspended Sediment Concentrations and Sediment Deposition

115. Increased SSCs and sediment deposition may arise during the construction (and decommissioning) phase of the Bellrock OfTDA. During O&M this impact may occur intermittently during activities such as cable inspection, repair, replacement, and reburial.
116. This impact would be temporary in nature and largely confined to the immediate vicinity of the works and the surrounding areas influenced by tidal dispersion, with a precautionary worst-case dispersal distance of 10 km (**Section 5.1.1.3**). SSCs are expected to reduce rapidly with distance from the source, with deposition predominantly occurring close to the activity footprint.
117. The mouth of the River Dee SAC is located over 6 km from the nearest point of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. Given this separation distance, together with the localised and short-term nature of increased SSCs and sediment deposition, there is no realistic potential for effects of a scale that could significantly influence water quality conditions at the River Dee Estuary or within the SAC.
118. In addition, Atlantic salmon are highly mobile and predominantly utilise the upper water column during their marine migratory phase (Godfrey et al., 2014). As such, their exposure to near-bed sediment plumes, where SSC effects are most pronounced, is likely to be limited and transient during migration through the wider marine environment.
119. On this basis, LSE on the Atlantic salmon qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC can be excluded and is therefore **screened out**.

5.2.2.1.1.4 Remobilisation of Existing Contaminated Sediments

120. Remobilisation of existing contaminated sediments may occur during construction (and decommissioning) and, to a lesser extent, during O&M activities where seabed disturbance takes place. Any such impacts would be localised to the immediate footprint of works and subject to rapid dilution and dispersion within the surrounding marine environment (see **Chapter 5: Marine Geology, Oceanography, and Physical Processes** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)** for further detail).
121. The River Dee SAC is located over 6 km from the nearest point of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. Given this separation distance and the highly localised nature of sediment disturbance, there is no realistic potential for effects of a scale that could significantly influence water quality conditions at the River Dee Estuary or within the SAC.
122. Atlantic salmon are highly mobile and predominantly occupy the upper water column during their marine migratory phase, with limited and transient exposure to near-bed sediment plumes where contaminants would be most likely to be mobilised.

123. On this basis, LSE on the Atlantic salmon qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC can be excluded and is therefore **screened out**.

5.2.2.1.1.5 Accidental Release of Pollutants

124. Accidental releases of pollutants could occur during construction, O&M, and decommissioning activities associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure. However, such events would be managed through standard industry practice, including compliance with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) requirements and implementation of a Marine Pollution Contingency Plan.
125. Given the embedded mitigation measures that will be in place to prevent and respond to pollution incidents in general, LSE on the Atlantic salmon qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC can be excluded and is therefore **screened out**.

5.2.2.1.1.6 Introduction and/or Spread of Marine Invasive Non-native Species

126. The introduction and/or spread of marine INNS could occur through vessel movements and associated activities. However, all vessels will be required to comply with the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments and the International Maritime Organisation Guidelines for the Control and Management of Ships' Biofouling to Minimise the Transfer of Invasive Aquatic Species, substantially reducing the likelihood of introduction or spread.
127. Any effects of marine INNS on Atlantic salmon would be indirect and dependent upon a series of uncertain ecological interactions. Given the highly mobile and transient nature of Atlantic salmon in the marine environment, together with the embedded measures to minimise the risk of introduction/spread of marine INNS generally, this impact is not considered capable of resulting in LSE on the Atlantic salmon qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC.
128. On this basis, LSE can be excluded and is therefore **screened out**.

5.2.2.1.1.7 Colonisation of Artificial Hard Substrates Associated with Installed Infrastructure

129. Colonisation of artificial hard substrates (i.e. cable protection, if required) may occur during the O&M phase as marine species establish on installed infrastructure. Any changes to local ecological communities would be confined to the immediate vicinity of the infrastructure and represent a very small proportion of the wider marine environment.
130. Atlantic salmon are highly mobile and transient during their marine migratory phase and are not reliant on habitats within the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. As such, any localised changes in habitat or community composition associated with the colonisation of artificial hard substrates are not considered capable of resulting in LSE on the Atlantic salmon qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC.
131. On this basis, LSE can be excluded and is therefore **screened out**.

5.2.2.1.1.8 *Electromagnetic Fields Generated by Energised Subsea Cables*

132. EMFs will be generated by operational offshore export cables and interconnector cable(s). Atlantic salmon are known to be sensitive to magnetic fields and may utilise geomagnetic cues during migration.
133. However, EMF impacts are highly localised around the subsea cables and attenuate rapidly with distance from the source. In addition, offshore export cables will be buried where practicable and/or protected, reducing potential exposure. The Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure does not cross the mouth of the River Dee or the immediate river-sea interface, with the closest point of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary located over 6 km from the River Dee SAC.
134. Atlantic salmon associated with the River Dee SAC would only be exposed to EMF while moving through a limited section of their wider marine migration route. Furthermore, Atlantic salmon are predominantly surface orientated during their marine migratory phase (Godfrey et al., 2014), typically spending much of their time within the upper water column, while EMF associated with subsea cables would be localised at the seabed.
135. Given the highly localised nature of EMF effects, the separation distance between the River Dee SAC and the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary, and the transient nature of Atlantic salmon within the marine environment, this pathway is not considered capable of resulting in LSE on the Atlantic salmon qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC.
136. On this basis, LSE can be excluded and is therefore **screened out**.

5.2.2.1.1.9 *Underwater Noise and Vibration*

137. UWN will be generated during construction, primarily associated with installation activities for the OfSS(s), which will be located within the area of the Bellrock OfTDA that overlaps with the Bellrock WFDA, approximately 120 km from the River Dee SAC, and the OfRCS(s), which will be located at least 39 km from coast and to the southeast of the River Dee SAC. O&M phase UWN will be low-level and generally non-impulsive.
138. Atlantic salmon are classified as Group 2 fish, with swim bladders not directly involved in hearing. Sensitivity is therefore limited and primarily associated with particle motion rather than sound pressure, within a relatively narrow frequency range (Popper et al., 2014). Atlantic salmon are also highly mobile and transient in the marine environment and would only be present within the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary and precautionary 60 km ZoI for UWN for limited periods during wider migratory movements.
139. Given the separation distance, the limited scale and temporal extent of OfSS(s) and OfRCS(s) installation activities, and the limited sensitivity of Atlantic salmon to UWN, this impact is not considered capable of resulting in LSE.
140. On this basis, LSE can be excluded and is therefore **screened out**.

5.2.2.1.1.10 *Entanglement with Subsea Infrastructure*

141. The Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will not include floating substructures, with the OfSS(s) and OfRCS(s) comprising fixed bottom substructures only. As a result, there will be no mooring lines or other suspended infrastructure within the water column that could facilitate primary

entanglement or provide a pathway for the accumulation of marine debris and/or abandoned fishing gear that could result in secondary or tertiary entanglement. While there is a limited potential for marine debris and/or abandoned fishing gear to become snagged on fixed bottom substructures, this pathway is considered to be of very low likelihood and is not expected to result in LSE.

142. On this basis, LSE can be excluded and is therefore **screened out**.

5.2.2.1.1.11 Loss of Artificial Hard Substrate Habitat due to Removal of Infrastructure

143. This impact represents the reverse of the 'colonisation of artificial hard substrates associated with installed infrastructure' pathway assessed in **Section 5.2.2.1.1.7**, which was screened out on the basis of no LSE on the Atlantic salmon qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC.
144. As a result, LSE can be excluded and is therefore **screened out**.

5.2.2.1.2 In-combination Screening Assessment

145. The potential for LSE on the Atlantic salmon qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC has been considered in-combination with other plans and projects capable of affecting the Atlantic salmon qualifying feature of the SAC via the same impact pathways as the Bellrock Transmission Infrastructure.
146. The in-combination assessment has been undertaken with reference to the same impact pathways considered in the project-alone screening assessment: physical disturbance; permanent habitat loss; increased SSCs and sediment deposition; remobilisation of existing contaminated sediment; accidental release of pollutants; introduction and/or spread of marine INNS; colonisation of artificial hard substrate; EMFs generated by subsea cables; UWN and vibration; entanglement in infrastructure; and loss of artificial hard substrate. Across these pathways, impacts are typically localised in extent and spatially constrained around individual project footprints, resulting in limited overlap between the Zols of different projects.
147. In addition, comparable embedded design and mitigation measures are assumed across relevant projects, including measures such as cable burial where practicable, use of external cable protection where burial is not feasible, design measures to minimise EMF emissions, and standard good practice measures to mitigate impacts on water quality. These measures further reduce the potential for spatial interaction between projects.
148. Where wider-ranging pathways such as UWN are considered, Atlantic salmon are classified as Group 2 fish, with limited sensitivity primarily associated with particle motion rather than sound pressure. In addition, Atlantic salmon are highly mobile and transient within the marine environment and are not continuously present within the project-specific Zols. As a result, exposure is intermittent and limited to discrete periods during broader migratory movements, reducing the potential for meaningful cumulative interaction.
149. Overall, given the localised nature of most impacts, the limited spatial overlap between project Zols, and the consistent application of embedded design measures across projects, in-combination effects are not considered capable of altering the conclusions of the project-alone screening assessment.

150. On this basis, in-combination LSE on the Atlantic salmon qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC can be excluded and the River Dee SAC is **screened out** from further consideration via an appropriate assessment.

5.2.2.1.3 Screening Assessment Conclusion

151. For the project alone screening assessment, no impact pathways have been identified that would result in LSE on the Atlantic salmon qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC. Likewise, the in-combination screening assessment has not identified any pathways or mechanisms by which effects from other plans and projects, when considered alongside the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, would alter this conclusion.
152. As such, LSE on the Atlantic salmon qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC, both alone and in-combination, can be excluded. The River Dee SAC is therefore **screened out** from further consideration via appropriate assessment. Potential effects on diadromous fish features of designated sites will be considered as part of the Fish and Shellfish Ecology assessment in the **Bellrock OfTDA EIA Report (Volume 1)**.

5.3 Marine Mammal Ecology

153. This section presents the HRA screening assessment for European sites designated for Annex II marine mammal qualifying features and determines whether LSE can be excluded, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

5.3.1 Sites Designated for Annex II Marine Mammal Features

154. Four Annex II marine mammal species (two cetacean species and two seal species) are afforded protection through the designation of SACs in UK waters: harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*, bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*, grey seal *Halichoerus grypus*, and harbour seal *Phoca vitulina*. Based on a review of key desk-based sources undertaken for **Chapter 8: Marine Mammals** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)** and outputs from the Bellrock WFDA offshore aerial surveys (**Appendix C: Marine Mammal Existing Environment** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**), all four species are considered likely to occur within, or in vicinity of, the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary and are therefore considered in this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report**.
155. In addition, all species of cetacean occurring in UK waters are listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive as European Protected Species, which prohibits the deliberate killing, disturbance or the destruction of these species or their habitat. European Protected Species are considered further in the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**.

156. This HRA screening assessment considers any designated sites within the species' relevant MUs, and whether they are considered as a grade A, B or C feature (Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), 2009). These represent populations equivalent to the following:
- Grade A: excellent representativity;
 - Grade B: good representativity; and
 - Grade C: significant representativity.
157. As Grade D indicates a non-significant population, sites considered to be a Grade D feature have therefore not been considered further.
158. This section presents the pre-screening exercise undertaken for European sites designated for Annex II marine mammal qualifying features. The pre-screening exercise applies the three pre-screening criteria described in **Section 2.3.1** to identify European sites and qualifying features with potential connectivity to the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and to determine whether further screening assessment for LSE is required.

5.3.1.1 Criterion 1 – The Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary Overlaps with One or More European Sites

159. Application of Criterion 1 identified no European sites designated for Annex II marine mammal qualifying features that overlap with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. Therefore, no European sites are taken forward for further consideration under Criterion 1.

5.3.1.2 Criterion 2 – The Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary Overlaps with the Ranges of Qualifying Mobile Species of One or More European Sites

160. Criterion 2 is addressed in conjunction with Criterion 3 below, as connectivity with Annex II marine mammal qualifying features associated with European sites is defined by wider movements within the marine environment rather than solely discrete spatial overlap with European sites. As a result, qualifying features may occur both within the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary itself and within the Zols of project-related impacts extending beyond the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. To avoid duplication, further assessment is provided under **Section 5.3.1.3**.

5.3.1.3 Criterion 3 – One or More European Sites and/or Their Qualifying Features are Located within the Potential Zone of Influence of Impacts Associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure

5.3.1.3.1 Harbour Porpoise

161. Application of Criteria 2 and 3 is undertaken within this section, as connectivity with harbour porpoise is defined by the distribution and movements of individuals within the marine environment.
162. Harbour porpoise occurring within the eastern North Atlantic are generally considered to form part of a continuous biological population extending from the Bay of Biscay to northern Norway and Iceland (Tolley and Rosel, 2006; Fontaine et al., 2007; Fontaine et al., 2014; Inter-Agency Marine Mammal Working Group (IAMMWG), 2015). However, for conservation and management purposes, this population is divided into discrete MUs, which provide an indication of the spatial

scales over which potential effects should be considered (IAMMWG, 2015). Three harbour porpoise MUs occur within UK waters: the North Sea MU, the West of Scotland MU, and the Celtic and Irish Sea MU.

163. The Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary is located within the North Sea MU. Therefore, connectivity between the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and SACs designated for harbour porpoise is only considered potentially possible for SACs within the North Sea MU. SACs located within other harbour porpoise MUs are screened out from further consideration (**Table 5.3**). 126 harbour porpoise were recorded during HiDef offshore aerial surveys undertaken of the Bellrock WFDA plus 4 km buffer, between March 2022 and February 2024 (see **Appendix C** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**).
164. Harbour porpoise are highly mobile and wide-ranging within the North Sea MU, and individuals recorded within or in the vicinity of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary cannot be reliably attributed to any specific SAC. Therefore, as a precautionary approach, harbour porpoise occurring within or near the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary are assumed to be associated with the nearest SAC designated for harbour porpoise, the Southern North Sea SAC.
165. The Southern North Sea SAC is located approximately 150 km south of the closest point of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. Given this separation distance, connectivity between the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and the harbour porpoise qualifying feature of the SAC is limited. In addition, the Bellrock WFDA RIAA (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2026) concluded that the Bellrock WFDA, located approximately 154 km from the Southern North Sea SAC at its closest point, would not result in AEoSI on the SAC. The effects of construction, operation and decommissioning of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure would be of a much lower magnitude (given the relative amounts of infrastructure, construction duration, piling events etc.) than those of the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure, and on this basis, the Southern North Sea SAC is not taken forward for further consideration under Criteria 2 and 3.

5.3.1.3.2 Bottlenose Dolphin

166. Application of Criteria 2 and 3 is undertaken within this section, as connectivity with bottlenose dolphin is defined by the distribution and movements of individuals within the marine environment.
167. Two ecotypes of bottlenose dolphin occur within European waters: a coastal ecotype and a pelagic ecotype. These ecotypes are genetically and ecologically distinct (Louis et al., 2014; Oudejans et al., 2015; Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2022). In Scottish waters, bottlenose dolphins are predominantly associated with the coastal ecotype, with most records occurring within 10 km of the coast. The qualifying bottlenose dolphin population of the Moray Firth SAC comprises coastal ecotype animals, which are known to range along the east coast of Scotland as far south as the Firth of Forth, with occasional records further south (Cheney et al., 2013, Quick et al., 2014) along the east coast of England and into continental European waters (Hoekendijk et al., 2021; Cheney et al., 2024).
168. For conservation and management purposes, bottlenose dolphin is assessed within MUs, which provide an indication of the spatial scales over which potential effects should be considered (IAMMWG, 2015). The Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary lies within the GNS MU and adjacent to the CES MU. Connectivity between the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and SACs designated for bottlenose dolphin is therefore only considered potentially possible for SACs located

within these MUs. SACs designated for bottlenose dolphin outside the GNS and CES MUs are screened out of further consideration (**Table 5.3**).

169. Evidence from the Bellrock WFDA digital aerial surveys undertaken between March 2022 and February 2024 indicates that bottlenose dolphins are uncommon within the wider offshore area, with no confirmed records obtained during the surveys (**Appendix C: Marine Mammals Existing Environment** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**). Similarly, no bottlenose dolphin were recorded within SCANS-IV survey block NS-D, which overlaps with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (Gilles et al., 2023). However, incidental sightings of bottlenose dolphin were recorded during the Bellrock OfTDA intertidal overwinter bird survey on two occasions, comprising a pod of two individuals in October 2025 and a pod of five individuals in March 2026, with both sightings occurring within approximately 400 m of the coastline (**Appendix E: Intertidal Bird Survey Report** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**). These records are consistent with the predominantly coastal distribution of the species in east coast Scottish waters.
170. Given that the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary extends to the coast at the proposed landfall, and therefore through inshore waters, and recognising that bottlenose dolphin associated with the Moray Firth SAC are known to utilise coastal waters along the east coast of Scotland, there is the potential for connectivity between the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and the bottlenose dolphin qualifying feature of the Moray Firth SAC, particularly in relation to activities and impacts occurring within inshore waters.
171. As such, the Moray Firth SAC is taken forward for screening assessment under Criteria 2 and 3 to determine whether LSE can be excluded.

5.3.1.3.3 Grey Seal

172. Application of Criteria 2 and 3 is undertaken within this section, as connectivity with grey seal is defined by the distribution and movements of individuals within the marine environment.
173. Grey seals are highly mobile and may travel considerable distances between haul-out sites, breeding colonies, and foraging areas. Whilst foraging trips generally occur within 100 km of haul-out sites, individuals have been recorded travelling substantially greater distances and may move between regions and MUs (Russell et al., 2013; Russell, 2016; Special Committee on Seals, 2018; Special Committee on Seals, 2022; Carter et al., 2022). To account for the wide-ranging nature of the species, all SACs designated for grey seal within the North Sea area have been considered (**Table 5.3**). SACs outside this area are screened out of further consideration due to distance and therefore lack of connectivity with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure.
174. The Isle of May SAC and the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC are designated for grey seal breeding colonies. Although grey seal may forage over considerable distances, the conservation objectives for these SACs relate to the protection of breeding animals associated with the colonies. During the breeding season, particularly whilst females are caring for pups, grey seals typically remain much closer to breeding sites. Consistent with NatureScot's advice for the Bellrock WFDA (MD-LOT, 2024a), a connectivity distance of 20 km has therefore been applied for grey seal SACs designated for breeding colonies.

175. The Isle of May SAC and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC are located approximately 85 km and 100 km, respectively, from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary and are therefore well beyond the 20 km connectivity distance. In NatureScot's scoping advice for the Bellrock WFDA (MD-LOT, 2024a), they concluded that, given that the separation distance is greater than the recommended 20 km connectivity distance, there was no potential for LSE on these SACs.
176. However, Natural England advised that the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC should be considered; and the subsequent Bellrock WFDA RIAA (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2026) concluded that no AEOI would occur on this SAC. Given that the effects of construction, operation and decommissioning of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure would be of a much lower magnitude (given the relative amounts of infrastructure, construction duration, piling events etc.) than those of the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure, it is considered that there would likewise be no AEOI on the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC.
177. On this basis, the Isle of May SAC and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC are not taken forward for further consideration under Criteria 2 and 3.

5.3.1.3.4 Harbour Seal

178. Application of Criteria 2 and 3 is undertaken within this section, as connectivity with harbour seal is defined by the distribution and movements of individuals within the marine environment.
179. Harbour seals generally exhibit a more coastal distribution than grey seals and typically remain within approximately 50 km of haul-out sites. Although telemetry and genetic studies indicate that movements between MUs can occur, the species is generally considered to occur within discrete regional populations (Russell and McConnell, 2014; Carroll et al., 2020). To account for the distribution and movements of harbour seals, all SACs designated for harbour seal within the North Sea region were initially considered (**Table 5.3**). SACs outside of this region were screened out from further consideration due to distance and a lack of evidence of connectivity with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure.
180. Consistent with NatureScot's advice for the Bellrock WFDA (MD-LOT, 2024a), a connectivity distance of 50 km has been applied for harbour seal SACs. The nearest SAC designated for harbour seal is the Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC, which is located approximately 59 km from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary and therefore lies beyond the recommended connectivity distance.
181. In addition, data on harbour seal densities support this conclusion. Predicted harbour seal densities within the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary are 0.000003 individuals/km² and 0 individuals/km² based on Carter et al., (2022) and Carter et al., (2025), respectively. In comparison, harbour seal density within the Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC is estimated at 0.065911 individuals/km² Carter et al., (2025), indicating that the core distribution of harbour seals associated with the SAC is centred around the SAC.
182. On this basis, the Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC is not taken forward for further consideration under Criteria 2 and 3.

5.3.1.4 Conclusion of Pre-Screening Assessment

183. Following application of the pre-screening criteria (Criteria 1 to 3), **Table 5.1** summarises the SACs that have been taken forward for further consideration within the screening assessment to determine whether LSE can be excluded. **Figure A.3 (Appendix A)** shows the locations of the SACs listed in **Table 5.1**.

Table 5.1: Summary of Designated Sites Taken Forward to Screening Assessment for the Bellrock OFTDA

Designated Site	Qualifying Feature	Screening	Reason
Southern North Sea SAC	Harbour porpoise	Out	No potential for LSE given the approximately 150 km separation distance between the SAC and the Bellrock OFTDA Screening Boundary, together with the conclusion of no AEoSI for the SAC in the Bellrock WFDA RIAA.
Moray Firth SAC	Bottlenose dolphin	In	Potential for connectivity.
Isle of May SAC	Grey seal	Out	No potential connectivity given the foraging ranges noted in Section 5.3.1.3.3 .
Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC	Grey seal	Out	No potential connectivity given the foraging ranges noted in Section 5.3.1.3.3 .
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC	Harbour seal	Out	No potential connectivity given the foraging ranges noted in Section 5.3.1.3.4 .

5.3.2 Determination of Likely Significant Effect for Annex II Marine Mammal Features

184. Following application of the pre-screening criteria described in **Section 2.3.1**, the Moray Firth SAC is the only European site designated for an Annex II marine mammal qualifying feature that has been taken forward for screening assessment (see **Section 5.3.1.4**). The screening assessment focuses on the bottlenose dolphin qualifying feature of the Moray Firth SAC and considers whether LSE, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded.

185. The screening assessment considers the following project-related impacts as having potential to affect bottlenose dolphin:

- UWN;
- Collision risk with vessels;
- Changes to prey availability;
- Changes to water quality;
- Entanglement in subsea infrastructure; and
- EMF generated by energised subsea cables.

5.3.2.1 Project Alone Screening Assessment

5.3.2.1.1 Underwater Noise

186. UWN may be generated during all phases of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure. During construction, potential sources of UWN include UXO clearance, geophysical surveys, and piling associated with the installation of fixed bottom substructures for OfSS(s) and OfRCS(s). Additional UWN may arise from construction activities including boulder clearance, cable installation, cable protection installation, and associated vessel activity. During O&M, UWN may arise from geophysical surveys, planned and unplanned maintenance activities, and vessel activity, including vessel transit to and from the Bellrock OfTDA. Decommissioning activities are expected to generate similar sources of UWN to the construction phase, except for piling activities. Behavioural disturbance may also arise from the presence and movement, including through visual stimuli, of project vessels undertaking a variety of activities across construction, O&M, and decommissioning. As UWN generated by vessel activity and vessel presence and movement are intrinsically linked and may act together to elicit behavioural responses, they are considered together, as a single impact pathway.
187. UWN has the potential to result in physiological and behavioural effects on bottlenose dolphin, including temporary or permanent auditory injury and behavioural disturbance (Bailey et al., 2010; Madsen et al., 2006; Southall, 2021; Stöber and Thomsen, 2019). Given the large ZoI associated with UWN and the wide-ranging nature of bottlenose dolphin, a source-pathway-receptor linkage between the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and the bottlenose dolphin qualifying feature of the Moray Firth SAC cannot be excluded.
188. As such, LSE on the bottlenose dolphin qualifying feature of the Moray Firth SAC cannot be excluded in relation to UWN across all phases, and this impact is **screened in** for further assessment. The following UWN related impacts will be assessed in the Bellrock OfTDA RIAA:
- UWN during UXO clearance;
 - UWN during geophysical surveys;
 - UWN during impact piling; and
 - UWN and disturbance from other activities and the presence of associated vessels.

5.3.2.1.2 Collision Risk with Vessels

189. As described for disturbance from transiting vessels, project vessel movements during construction, O&M, and decommissioning may occur within, or in close proximity to the Moray Firth SAC. Consequently, there is potential for interaction between project vessels and bottlenose dolphin associated with the SAC.
190. LSE cannot be excluded in relation to collision risk with vessels across all phases, and this impact is therefore **screened in** for further assessment.

5.3.2.1.3 Changes to Prey Availability

191. Changes to prey availability may occur during construction, O&M, and decommissioning as a result of activities that affect seabed habitats, sediment processes, and fish and shellfish receptors, including installation, inspection, maintenance repair, replacement, and decommissioning of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, as well as UWN generated during these activities.
192. Any impacts on prey species are expected to be highly localised and limited to the immediate vicinity of the activity or infrastructure footprint. The Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary is located a considerable distance from the Moray Firth SAC and would not affect prey availability within the SAC. In addition, bottlenose dolphin associated with the Moray Firth SAC are predominantly coastal in distribution, whereas the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure spans both inshore and offshore environments, with the OfSS(s) and OfRCS(s) to be located in the offshore environment.
193. Whilst localised changes to prey availability may occur, bottlenose dolphin are highly mobile marine predators capable of foraging across large areas and are not dependent on prey resources within the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. Consequently, any reduction in prey availability would be temporary, localised, and not of a scale capable of resulting in LSE on the bottlenose dolphin qualifying feature of the Moray Firth SAC.
194. As such, this impact is **screened out**, across all three phases, and is therefore not considered further.

5.3.2.1.4 Changes to Water Quality

195. Changes to water quality may occur during construction, O&M, and decommissioning as a result of activities that disturb the seabed, including installation, inspection, maintenance, repair, replacement, and removal of infrastructure. These activities have the potential to result in temporary increases in SSCs and sediment deposition and remobilising existing contaminated sediments.
196. Any changes to water quality are expected to be temporary and localised, primarily occurring within the immediate vicinity of the activity, with standard industry good practice measures implemented to minimise sediment disturbance where practicable. The Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary is located a considerable distance from the Moray Firth SAC and would not result in changes to water quality within the SAC.
197. Whilst temporary and localised changes to water quality may occur within the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary, where the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will be installed, bottlenose dolphin are highly mobile and wide-ranging marine mammals and are unlikely to be significantly affected by such limited and short-term changes. As such, any effects would not be of a scale capable of resulting in LSE on the bottlenose dolphin qualifying feature of the Moray Firth SAC.
198. Therefore, LSE can be excluded, and the impact is **screened out** of further consideration.

5.3.2.1.5 Entanglement in Subsea Infrastructure

199. Entanglement risk during the O&M phase is not considered to represent a credible impact pathway for marine mammal receptors. The Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will not include floating substructures, with the OfSS(s) and OfRCS(s) comprising fixed bottom substructures only. As a result, there will be no mooring lines or other suspended infrastructure within the water column that could facilitate primary entanglement or provide a pathway for the accumulation of marine debris and/or abandoned fishing gear resulting in secondary or tertiary entanglement. While there is a limited potential for marine debris and/or abandoned fishing gear to become snagged on fixed bottom substructure, this pathway is considered to be of very low likelihood and is not expected to result in LSE.
200. On this basis, LSE can be excluded, and is therefore **screened out**.

5.3.2.1.6 Electromagnetic Fields Generated by Energised Subsea Cables

201. EMF will be generated during the operation of energised offshore export cables and interconnector cable(s). EMF strength, particularly the magnetic field component, decreases rapidly with distance from the cable and attenuation is further increased where cables are buried. Offshore export cables and interconnector cable(s) associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure are expected to be buried where practicable, with external cable protection to be used where burial is not feasible. In addition, cable design and installation methods will inherently minimise EMF emissions in accordance with industry standards. No dynamic cables are included in the PDE.
202. Whilst it has been suggested that marine mammals may be capable of detecting magnetic fields, there is currently no direct evidence demonstrating behavioural effects or disruption to cetacean movements because of EMF exposure. Furthermore, there are currently no regulatory thresholds or accepted guidance defining acceptable EMF levels in the marine environment for marine mammals.
203. Any EMF impacts would be highly localised and limited to the immediate vicinity of the energised cables. The Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary is located a considerable distance from the Moray Firth SAC, as such, EMF exposure within the SAC is not possible. In addition, bottlenose dolphin are highly mobile and wide-ranging marine mammals and are unlikely to be significantly affected by localised EMF fields associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure.
204. LSE can therefore be excluded, and this impact is **screened out** of further consideration.

5.3.2.1.7 Summary of LSE Screening

205. **Table 5.2** presents a summary of the potential impacts during construction, O&M, and decommissioning considered in the screening of LSE for bottlenose dolphin from the Moray Firth SAC.

Table 5.2: Summary of LSE Screening for Bottlenose Dolphin of the Moray Firth SAC

Potential Impacts	Construction	O&M	Decommissioning
UWN (during UXO clearance)	✓	X	X
UWN (during geophysical surveys)	✓	✓	X
UWN (during impact piling)	✓	X	X
UWN (and disturbance from other activities and the presence of associated vessels)	✓	✓	✓
Collision risk with vessels	✓	✓	✓
Changes to prey availability	X	X	X
Changes to water quality	X	X	X
Entanglement with subsea infrastructure	X	X	X
EMF generated by energised subsea cables	X	X	X

5.3.3 In-combination Assessment

206. The potential for LSE on the bottlenose dolphin qualifying feature of the Moray Firth SAC has been considered in-combination with other plans and projects capable of affecting the bottlenose dolphin qualifying feature of the SAC via the same impact pathways as the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure.
207. The in-combination screening assessment has been undertaken with reference to the same impact pathways considered in the project-alone screening assessment. These comprise UWN, disturbance from transiting vessels, collision risk with vessels, changes to prey availability, changes to water quality, entanglement in subsea infrastructure, and EMF generated by energised subsea cables.
208. Impacts associated with changes in prey availability, changes to water quality, entanglement in subsea infrastructure, and EMF are localised in extent and are not expected to result in effects of a scale likely to result in LSE on the bottlenose dolphin qualifying feature of the Moray Firth SAC. Accordingly, in-combination LSE can be excluded, and these impact pathways remain screened out.
209. UWN, disturbance from transiting vessels, and collision risk with vessels were screened in through the project-alone assessment and are therefore already being taken forward for further consideration through appropriate assessment. Consideration of other plans and projects does not

alter this conclusion. The potential for in-combination effects associated with these impact pathways will be considered as part of the appropriate assessment.

5.3.4 Summary of Screening of Sites for Annex II Marine Mammal Features

- 210. Of all the designated sites initially considered in the HRA screening for marine mammals presented in **Table 5.3**, one SAC (the Moray Firth SAC) has been **screened in** for further assessment to determine the potential for any adverse effects on the integrity of the sites in relation to the conservation objectives as a result of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure alone or in-combination with other projects and activities.
- 211. All other SACs are **screened out** of the Bellrock OfTDA RIAA because there is no potential for connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA, noted in **Section 5.3.1**.
- 212. **Table 5.3** provides the screening assessment for all designated sites in the North Sea area, with either harbour porpoise, bottlenose dolphin, grey seal or harbour seal listed as a qualifying feature with a population grade of A, B, or C, within the relevant screening areas.

Table 5.3: Screening of Designated Sites with Bottlenose Dolphin, Harbour Porpoise, Grey Seal or Harbour Seal as a Qualifying Feature in the North Sea

Site Code	Country	Designation name	Qualifying Feature	Distance (km)	Screened In/Out	Rationale
BEMNZ0001	Belgium	Vlaamse Banken SAC	Harbour porpoise	604	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Harbour seal			
			Grey seal			
BEMNZ0002	Belgium	SBZ 1/ZPS 1 SPA	Harbour seal	640	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
BEMNZ0005	Belgium	Vlakte van de Raan Site of Community Importance (SCI)	Harbour porpoise	616	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
DK00EY133	Denmark	Agger Tange, Nissum Bredning, Skibsted Fjord Og Agerø SAC	Harbour seal	481	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
DK00FX122	Denmark	Ålborg Bugt, Randers Fjord og Mariager Fjord SAC	Harbour seal	597	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
DK00DX146	Denmark	Anholt Og Havet Nord For SAC	Harbour seal	670	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			

Site Code	Country	Designation name	Qualifying Feature	Distance (km)	Screened In/Out	Rationale
DK00EX026	Denmark	Dråby Vig SAC	Harbour seal	517	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
DK00VA259	Denmark	Gule Rev SAC	Harbour porpoise	459	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
DK00FX257	Denmark	Havet Omkring Nordre Rønner SAC	Harbour seal	635	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
DK003X202	Denmark	Hesselø Med Omliggende Stenrev SAC	Harbour seal	701	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
DK00FX113	Denmark	Hirsholmene, Havet Vest Herfor Og Ellinge Å's Udløb SAC	Harbour seal	614	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
DK00EY124	Denmark	Løgstør Bredning, Vejlerne Og Bulbjerg SAC	Harbour seal	514	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
DK00EY134	Denmark	Lovns Bredning, Hjarbæk Fjord Og Skals, Simsted Og Nørre Ådal, Samt Skravad Bæk SAC	Harbour seal	539	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.

Site Code	Country	Designation name	Qualifying Feature	Distance (km)	Screened In/Out	Rationale
DK00FX123	Denmark	Nibe Bredning, Halkær Ådal Og Sønderup Ådal SAC	Harbour seal	551	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
DK00FX112	Denmark	Skagens Gren og Skagerrak SAC	Harbour porpoise	582	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
DK00FX010	Denmark	Strandenge På Læsø Og Havet Syd Herfor SAC	Harbour seal	632	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
DK00VA258	Denmark	Store Rev SAC	Harbour porpoise	539	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
DK00VA347	Denmark	Sydlige Nordsø SAC	Harbour porpoise	423	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
DK00AY176	Denmark	Vadehavet med Ribe Å, Tved Å og Varde Å vest for Varde SAC	Harbour porpoise	495	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			

Site Code	Country	Designation name	Qualifying Feature	Distance (km)	Screened In/Out	Rationale
DK00CY040	Denmark	Venø, Venø Sund SAC	Harbour seal	505	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
FR5300017	France	Abers - Côtes Des Legendes SAC	Grey seal	924	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
FR3102005	France	Baie de Canche et couloir des trois estuaires SAC	Harbour porpoise	696	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
FR5300015	France	Baie De Morlaix SAC	Grey seal	903	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
FR2502020	France	Baie de Seine occidentale SAC	Harbour porpoise	802	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Harbour seal			
FR2502021	France	Baie de Seine orientale SAC	Harbour porpoise	815	Out	The distance between the potential impact range of the Bellrock OfTDA and the site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Harbour seal			
FR2500077	France	Baie Du Mont Saint-Michel SAC	Harbour seal	890	Out	The distance between the potential impact range of the Bellrock OfTDA and the site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects.
			Grey seal			

Site Code	Country	Designation name	Qualifying Feature	Distance (km)	Screened In/Out	Rationale
FR3102002	France	Bancs des Flandres SAC	Harbour porpoise	622	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
FR5300020	France	Cap Sizun SAC	Grey seal	987	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
FR2500079	France	Chausey SAC	Grey seal	869	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
FR5302007	France	Chaussée de Sein SAC	Grey seal	995	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
FR5300009	France	Cote De Granit Rose-Sept-Iles SAC	Grey seal	872	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
FR5302006	France	Cotes de Crozon SAC	Grey seal	964	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
FR3100482	France	Dunes de l'Authie et Mollieres de Berck SAC	Harbour seal	716	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects.

Site Code	Country	Designation name	Qualifying Feature	Distance (km)	Screened In/Out	Rationale
FR3100474	France	Dunes De La Plaine Maritime Flamande SAC	Harbour seal	656	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects.
FR3100480	France	Estuaire De La Canche, Dunes Picardes Plaquees Sur L'ancienne Falaise, Foret D'hardelot Et Falaise D'equihen SAC	Harbour seal	650	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
FR2300121	France	Estuaire de la Seine SAC	Harbour seal	810	Out	The distance between the potential impact range of the Bellrock OfTDA and the site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
FR2200346	France	Estuaires et littoral picards (baies de Somme et d'Authie) SAC	Grey seal	717	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Harbour seal			
FR3100478	France	Falaises du Cran aux Oeufs et du Cap Gris-Nez, Dunes du Chatelet,	Harbour porpoise	662	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is
			Grey seal			

Site Code	Country	Designation name	Qualifying Feature	Distance (km)	Screened In/Out	Rationale
		Marais de Tardinghen et Dunes de Wissant SAC	Harbour seal			beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
FR5300018	France	Ouessant-Molene SAC	Grey seal	948	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
FR2500088	France	Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin - Baie Des Veys SAC	Grey seal	808	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Harbour seal			
FR5300019	France	Presqu'île De Crozon SAC	Grey seal	964	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
FR2500085	France	Récifs et Marais Arrière-Littoraux du Cap Lévi À la Pointe de Saire SAC	Grey seal	786	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Harbour seal			

Site Code	Country	Designation name	Qualifying Feature	Distance (km)	Screened In/Out	Rationale
FR3102003	France	Recifs Gris-Nez Blanc-Nez SAC	Harbour porpoise	651	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
FR3102004	France	Ridens et dunes hydrauliques du detroit du Pas-de-Calais SAC	Harbour porpoise	653	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Harbour seal			
			Grey seal			
FR5300010	France	Tregor Goëlo SAC	Grey seal	872	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
DE2104301	Germany	Borkum-Riffgrund SCI	Harbour porpoise	478	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
DE1003301	Germany	Doggerbank SCI	Harbour porpoise	241	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Harbour seal			
DE1115391	Germany	Dünenlandschaft Süd-Sylt SAC	Grey seal	542	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
DE2016301	Germany		Harbour porpoise	589	Out	

Site Code	Country	Designation name	Qualifying Feature	Distance (km)	Screened In/Out	Rationale
		Hamburgisches Wattenmeer SAC	Grey seal			The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Harbour seal			
DE1813391	Germany	Helgoland mit Helgolander Felssockel SAC	Harbour porpoise	552	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
DE2507301	Germany	Hund und Paapsand SCI	Harbour seal	562	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
DE1315391	Germany	Küsten- und Dünenlandschaften Amrums SAC	Grey seal	552	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
DE2424302	Germany	Muhlenberger Loch/Nesssand SAC	Harbour seal	698	Out	The distance between the potential impact range of the Bellrock OfTDA and the site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
DE2306301	Germany	Nationalpark Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer SAC	Harbour porpoise	522	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
DE0916391	Germany	NTP S-H Wattenmeer und angrenzende Küstengebiete SAC	Harbour porpoise	517	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is
			Grey seal			

Site Code	Country	Designation name	Qualifying Feature	Distance (km)	Screened In/Out	Rationale
			Harbour seal			beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
DE2323392	Germany	Schleswig-Holsteinisches Elbastuar und angrenzende Flächen SAC	Harbour seal	618	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
DE1011401	Germany	SPA Ostliche Deutsche Bucht SPA	Harbour porpoise	462	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
DE1714391	Germany	Steingrund SAC	Harbour porpoise	558	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
DE1209301	Germany	Sylter Außenriff SCI	Harbour porpoise	427	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
DE2018331	Germany	Unternelbe SAC	Harbour porpoise	620	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Harbour seal			
DE2507331	Germany	Unterems und Aussenems SAC	Harbour seal	561	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.

Site Code	Country	Designation name	Qualifying Feature	Distance (km)	Screened In/Out	Rationale
NL2008001	Netherlands	Doggersbank SAC	Harbour porpoise	233	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
NL3009005	Netherlands	Duinen Ameland SAC	Grey seal	502	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
NL2003060	Netherlands	Duinen en Lage Land Texel SAC	Grey seal	496	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
NL9801079	Netherlands	Duinen Goeree & Kwade Hoek SAC	Grey seal	601	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Harbour seal			
NL2003059	Netherlands	Duinen Terschelling SAC	Grey seal	490	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
NL2003061	Netherlands	Duinen Vlieland SAC	Grey seal	492	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
NL4000021	Netherlands	Grevelingen SAC	Grey seal	604	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Harbour seal			

Site Code	Country	Designation name	Qualifying Feature	Distance (km)	Screened In/Out	Rationale
NL2008002	Netherlands	Klaverbank SAC	Harbour porpoise	320	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
NL9802001	Netherlands	Noordzeekustzone SAC	Harbour porpoise	484	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
NL3009016	Netherlands	Oosterschelde SPA and SAC	Harbour porpoise	614	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
NL2008003	Netherlands	Vlakte van de Raan SAC	Harbour porpoise	616	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
NL4000017	Netherlands	Voordelta SAC and SPA	Harbour porpoise	611	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
NL1000001	Netherlands	Waddenzee SAC	Harbour porpoise	492	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is
			Grey seal			

Site Code	Country	Designation name	Qualifying Feature	Distance (km)	Screened In/Out	Rationale
			Harbour seal			beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
NL9803061	Netherlands	Westerschelde & Saeftinghe SAC	Harbour porpoise	622	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
			Harbour seal			
SE0510050	Sweden	Balgö SAC	Harbour seal	710	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
SE0520171	Sweden	Gullmarsfjorden SAC	Harbour seal	672	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
SE0420002	Sweden	Hallands Vadero SAC	Harbour seal	748	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
SE0520170	Sweden	Kosterfjorden-Väderöfjorden SAC	Harbour porpoise	656	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Harbour seal			
SE0510058	Sweden	Kungsbackafjorden 2011	Harbour seal	702	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.

Site Code	Country	Designation name	Qualifying Feature	Distance (km)	Screened In/Out	Rationale
SE0510084	Sweden	Nidingen 2011	Harbour seal	700	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
SE0520057	Sweden	Malmöfjord SAC	Harbour seal	672	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
SE0520058	Sweden	Måseskär SAC	Harbour seal	671	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
SE0520043	Sweden	Nordre Älvs Estuarium SAC	Harbour seal	687	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
SE0420360	Sweden	Nordvästra Skånes havsområde SCI	Harbour seal	724	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
			Grey seal			
SE0520176	Sweden	Pater Noster-Skärgården SAC	Harbour seal	676	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
SE0520036	Sweden	Sälöfjorden SAC	Harbour seal	681	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.

Site Code	Country	Designation name	Qualifying Feature	Distance (km)	Screened In/Out	Rationale
SE0520188	Sweden	Soteskär SAC	Harbour seal	668	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
SE0520001	Sweden	Vrångöskärgården SAC	Harbour seal	689	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
UK0017072	UK	Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC	Grey seal	101	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
UK0019808	UK	Moray Firth SAC	Bottlenose dolphin	104	In	This SAC has been identified to have the potential for disturbance and collision risk effects from transiting vessels, therefore has been screened in for further consideration in the Bellrock OfTDA RIAA.
UK0019806	UK	Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC	Harbour seal	137	Out	Individuals from this SAC have not been identified to have the potential for connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA, or with any potential direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
UK0017096	UK	Faray and Holm of Faray SAC	Grey seal	237	Out	Individuals from this SAC have not been identified to have the potential for connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA, or with any potential direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
UK0030311	UK	Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC	Harbour seal	59	Out	Individuals from this SAC have not been identified to have the potential for connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA, or with any potential direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.

Site Code	Country	Designation name	Qualifying Feature	Distance (km)	Screened In/Out	Rationale
UK0030170	UK	Humber Estuary SAC	Grey seal	350	Out	Individuals from this SAC have not been identified to have the potential for connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA, or with any potential direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
UK0030172	UK	Isle of May SAC	Grey seal	85	Out	The distance between the potential effect range of the Bellrock OfTDA and this designated site is beyond that of potential for direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
UK9002361	UK	Mousa SAC	Harbour seal	313	Out	Individuals from this SAC have not been identified to have the potential for connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA, or with any potential direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
UK0030069	UK	Sanday SAC	Harbour seal	235	Out	Individuals from this SAC have not been identified to have the potential for connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA, or with any potential direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
UK0012687	UK	Yell Sound Coast SAC	Harbour seal	358	Out	Individuals from this SAC have not been identified to have the potential for connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA, or with any potential direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.
UK0030395	UK	Southern NS SAC	Harbour porpoise	151	Out	Individuals from this SAC have not been identified to have the potential for connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA, or with any potential direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination. Full assessment on potential effects on harbour porpoise will be undertaken in the EIA.
UK0017075	UK	The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC	Harbour seal	405	Out	Individuals from this SAC have not been identified to have the potential for connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA, or with any potential direct or indirect effects, alone or in-combination.

5.4 Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology

213. This section presents the HRA screening assessment for European sites designated for Annex I ornithological qualifying features and determines whether LSE can be excluded, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

5.4.1 Sites Designated for Annex I Intertidal and Offshore Ornithological Features

214. This section presents the pre-screening exercise undertaken for European sites designated for Annex I intertidal and offshore ornithological qualifying features. The pre-screening exercise applies the three pre-screening criteria described in **Section 2.3.1** to identify European sites and qualifying features with potential connectivity to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary and to determine whether further screening assessment for LSE is required.

215. The assessment has taken into account advice already provided by NatureScot in their scoping and screening advice for Bellrock WFDA (Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT), 2024), and for the assessment of the Bellrock WFDA (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2026), as well as other submitted Scottish offshore wind farm projects.

5.4.1.1 Criterion 1 – The Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area Screening Boundary Overlaps with One or More European Site(s)

216. As there are no SPAs or Ramsar sites with relevant seabird species as qualifying features which overlap with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary, no sites are screened in for further consideration for seabirds on the basis of this criterion.

5.4.1.2 Criterion 2 – European Site(s) with Ornithological Qualifying Features whose Breeding and/or Non-breeding Season Ranges Overlap with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area Screening Boundary

217. Criterion 2 is addressed in conjunction with Criterion 3 below, as connectivity for Annex I intertidal and offshore ornithological features associated with European sites is defined by wider movements within the marine environment rather than solely discrete spatial overlap with European sites. To avoid duplication, further assessment is provided under **Section 5.4.1.3**.

5.4.1.3 Criterion 3 – One or More European Site(s) and/or Their Qualifying Features are Located within the Potential Zone of Influence of Impacts Associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure

218. Application of Criteria 2 and 3 is undertaken within this section, as connectivity for Annex I intertidal and offshore ornithological features is defined by the presence, distribution, and movement of mobile populations through the marine environment.
219. Birds present in inshore and offshore waters, and potentially affected by the construction, O&M, and decommissioning of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, will be predominantly seabirds (defined in this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** as auks, gulls, terns, gannets, skuas, shearwaters, petrels, cormorants) and waterfowl (defined as seaducks, divers, geese and grebes). These species have the potential to be present within, or in the vicinity, of the Bellrock

OfTDA Screening Boundary during the breeding and non-breeding seasons (including the spring and autumn passage periods).

220. Based on Criteria 2 and 3, it is considered that the SPAs and Ramsar sites which have the potential to be affected by the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure are those which include seabird and waterfowl qualifying features that may use the waters in and around the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (e.g. for foraging).
221. For all inshore wintering waterfowl qualifying features of marine SPAs, the NatureScot guidance is that impact pathways need to be considered within 15 km of marine SPAs for the determination of LSE (NatureScot, 2023a). If this criterion is applied to estuarine and coastal SPAs with inshore wintering waterfowl qualifying features, as well as to marine SPAs, it is met only by the Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA, and in this case only in relation to the marine extension of the SPA. Furthermore, when considering the potential impact pathways associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure (see **Section 5.4.2**), it is clear there is no basis for considering distances beyond 15 km from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary in terms of the potential for effects on inshore wintering waterfowl qualifying features. The exception to this is in relation to the potential for vessels to pass through marine SPAs as they transit between the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary and ports. Thus, under Criteria 2 and 3, it is only those breeding seabird colony SPAs determined as having potential connectivity to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary plus the inshore wintering waterfowl qualifying feature of the Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA for which the potential for LSE is assessed.
222. It is expected that the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary will fully encompass the final refined location of the Bellrock OfTDA, including any precautionary buffers that might be appropriate to apply around the offshore export cable corridor and other infrastructure (e.g. in relation to noise and visual disturbance during cable laying). In the unlikely event that any part of the buffer associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, as determined for the purposes of Phase Two of the HRA assessment (**Section 2.2**), lies outside the current Screening Boundary, the connectivity of SPAs/Ramsar sites will be reassessed for those specific sections.
223. The SPAs and Ramsar sites which meet the above criteria are outlined below under the categories of:
- Breeding seabird colony SPAs and Ramsar Sites;
 - Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA and Ramsar site on the basis of its inshore waterfowl qualifying features; and
 - Marine SPAs.

5.4.1.3.1 Breeding Seabird Colony SPAs

224. The methodology by which this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** identifies connectivity to designated sites for breeding seabirds is consistent with that taken for the Bellrock WFDA HRA Screening Report (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2024) and subsequently agreed by NatureScot in both their scoping representation regarding the Bellrock WFDA (MD-LOT, 2024a) and pre-scoping advice regarding the Bellrock OfTDA (**Section 4**). To determine the breeding seabird colony SPAs which may have connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary,

those SPAs on the east coast of Scotland and in the north of Scotland (including Orkney and Shetland) were considered in terms of having the highest potential for connectivity during the breeding season.

225. Breeding seabird colony SPAs in the west of Scotland, where northern gannet *Morus bassanus* (hereafter referred to as gannet), northern fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* (hereafter referred to as fulmar), great skua *Stercorarius skua*, Leach's storm petrel *Hydrobates leucorhous* or Manx shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* are listed as breeding qualifying features (or named assemblage components) were also included for consideration on the basis that the foraging ranges of these species may be sufficiently large to have potential to overlap with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (Woodward et al., 2019; NatureScot, 2023b, **Table 5.4**). These sites are:

- Handa SPA (great skua, fulmar);
- Shiant Isles SPA (fulmar);
- Flannan Isles SPA (Leach's storm petrel, fulmar);
- St Kilda SPA (Leach's storm petrel, gannet, great skua, Manx shearwater, fulmar);
- Rum SPA (Manx shearwater); and
- Mingulay and Berneray SPA (fulmar).

226. In addition, SPAs on the coasts or islands of England, Wales and Northern Ireland and with the potential for breeding season connectivity based on foraging range data (Woodward et al., 2019; NatureScot, 2023b, **Table 5.4**) were also included for consideration.

227. Connectivity during the breeding periods, for most species, is based on whether the SPA lies within mean maximum foraging range +1 standard deviation (SD) from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary, according to foraging range data in Woodward et al. (2019). NatureScot Guidance Note 3 (NatureScot, 2023b) advises several exceptions to this general approach, relating to some SPA populations of gannet, guillemot and razorbill *Alca torda*, as well as to those species for which there is insufficient data to calculate the mean maximum foraging range +1 SD. This guidance has been followed in determining potential connectivity in this section. In terms of connectivity during the non-breeding periods, for the majority of species, consideration extends to all UK breeding seabird colony SPAs (given the potential for birds to disperse more widely when not constrained by the location of their breeding sites), although for some it is assumed that the populations remain in the same regions as used during the breeding season (**Section 5.4.1.3.1.3**). Further consideration of connectivity in the breeding and non-breeding seasons is provided below.

5.4.1.3.1.1 Existing baseline

228. The **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)** provides a review of the seabird species likely to occur in the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary³ during their respective breeding and non-breeding periods. As there is no site-specific survey data for the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary, as a whole, this is based on data collected from the Bellrock WFDA aerial survey area,

³ For the purposes of this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report (Volume 2)**, the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary refers to the same spatial boundary as the Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Boundary presented in the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**.

presented in the Offshore Ornithology Digital Aerial Survey Baseline Report which covered the period from March 2022 to February 2024 (Appendix 10.1 of the **Bellrock WFDA EIA Report** (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2026)), Ossian Array aerial survey area (Ossian Offshore Windfarm Limited, 2024) during their respective two years of baseline surveys, Bowdun Array aerial survey area (Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2026), and Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) Regional aerial survey data (HiDef, 2023). Baseline aerial survey data for the Bellrock WFDA overlaps with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary to the east (where the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary overlaps with the Bellrock WFDA and where the OfSS(s) will be located), the Ossian aerial survey area overlaps with the southeastern portion of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary, while Bowdun aerial survey area overlaps with western parts of the offshore and inshore parts of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. The SSE Regional data also includes part of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. Additional sources of information were drawn from the Wetland Bird Survey, including peak counts and five-year mean counts for the StCyrus to Stonehaven Wetland Bird Survey site. Further evidence was obtained from assessments of wintering diver, seaduck and grebe populations in Scotland's inshore marine waters, encompassing areas overlapping the Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA and the Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA. In addition, tracking data for black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (hereafter referred to as kittiwake), guillemot, razorbill and Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica* (hereafter referred to as puffin) derived from studies undertaken in support of offshore wind farm developments in the Forth and Tay region were utilised (Bogdanova et al., 2025). Supplementary tracking data for kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill were also sourced from reports prepared for Ørsted and the North East and East Ornithology Group (Johnston et al., 2024; Bennett et al., 2025).

229. During the breeding season (as defined by NatureScot, 2020), the most abundant species likely to occur within the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (from highest to lowest combined peak abundance across both survey areas) are:

- Guillemot;
- Razorbill;
- Kittiwake;
- Fulmar;
- Puffin; and
- Gannet.

230. Other seabird species recorded less frequently during their respective breeding seasons (as defined by NatureScot (2020)) were Arctic skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*, Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea*, common gull *Larus canus*, common tern *Sterna hirundo*, European storm petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, great black-backed gull *Larus marinus*, great skua, herring gull *Larus argentatus*, Leach's storm petrel, lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*, Manx shearwater, red-throated diver *Gavia stellata*, and Sandwich tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*. These species may also occur within the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary but are expected to be present in significantly lower numbers than the six species listed above. Red-throated diver was recorded sporadically in the Bowdun Array aerial survey area, the SSE Regional aerial survey area, and the

Bellrock WFDA offshore aerial survey area. No other diver species were recorded in any of the aerial survey areas during the breeding season.

231. During the non-breeding periods (as defined by NatureScot, 2020), the most abundant species likely to occur within the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (from highest to lowest combined peak abundance) are:
- Guillemot;
 - Fulmar;
 - Kittiwake;
 - Puffin;
 - Gannet; and
 - Razorbill.
232. Other seabird species recorded less frequently during their respective non-breeding seasons (as defined by NatureScot (2020)) were common gull, great black-backed gull, herring gull, little auk *Alle alle*, and red-throated diver. Little gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* was also recorded in the Ossian Array aerial survey area in June 2021, outside of the NatureScot defined seasons for the species. These species may also occur within the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary but are expected to be present in significantly lower numbers than the six species listed above. No grebes or sea ducks were recorded during the non-breeding season in any of the four aerial survey areas, other than small numbers of common scoter *Melanitta nigra*, common eider *Somateria mollissima*, and long-tailed duck *Clangula hyemalis*. There were just isolated records of red-throated diver (Ossian Array aerial survey area, Bowdun Array aerial survey area, and the SSE Regional aerial survey area).
233. For both breeding and non-breeding seasons, guillemot is likely to be the most abundant species at the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary.

5.4.1.3.1.2 Connectivity in the Breeding Season

234. The initial stage of establishing potential connectivity during the breeding season involved determining whether the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary is within the mean maximum foraging range +1 SD (as determined by Woodward et al., 2019) of each qualifying feature (or named component of an assemblage feature) from each of the SPAs (**Table 5.4**), but with exceptions applied as detailed in the NatureScot (2023b) Guidance Note 3. To provide further context, this is also determined in relation to the mean maximum foraging range of each seabird species. The potential connectivity is established based on the 'by-sea' distance, which represents the shortest distance using a route around, as opposed to across, land masses and assumes that seabirds will generally avoid flying over larger land masses. The straight-line distance between each SPA and the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary is also presented, but only for context.
235. 40 of the 46 breeding seabird colony SPAs identified in **Table 5.5** have potential connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary during the breeding season. Thus, five SPAs are considered to lack potential connectivity because none of the qualifying features are within the

advised breeding season foraging range (**Table 5.4**) of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary when the 'by-sea' distance is considered.

Table 5.4: The Advised Foraging Ranges of Breeding Seabirds

Species	Foraging Range (km) $\pm$ 1 SD (Where Available for the Mean Maximum Value) ¹
Red-throated diver	9.0 ²
European storm petrel	336.0 ²
Leach's storm petrel	657.0 ³
Northern fulmar	542.3 $\pm$ 657.9
Manx shearwater	1346.0 $\pm$ 1018.7
Northern gannet • Forth Islands SPA; • St Kilda SPA; • Grassholm SPA; and • All other SPAs.	590.0 ⁴ 709.0 ⁴ 516.7 ⁴ 315.2 $\pm$ 194.2
European shag <i>Gulosus aristotelis</i> (hereafter referred to as shag)	13.2 $\pm$ 10.5
Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	25.6 $\pm$ 8.3
Black-legged kittiwake	156.1 $\pm$ 144.5
Black-headed gull	18.5 ²
Common gull	50.0 ²
Great black-backed gull	73.0 ²
Herring gull	58.8 $\pm$ 26.8
Lesser black-backed gull	127.0 $\pm$ 109
Sandwich tern	34.3 $\pm$ 23.2
Little tern	5.0 ²
Roseate tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>	12.6 $\pm$ 10.6
Common tern	18.0 $\pm$ 8.9
Arctic tern	25.7 $\pm$ 14.8
Great skua	443.3 $\pm$ 487.9
Arctic skua	2 $\pm$ 0.7 ³

Species	Foraging Range (km) $\pm$ 1 SD (Where Available for the Mean Maximum Value) ¹
Common guillemot	
SPAs north of Pentland Firth (inclusive of Fair Isle data)	73.2 $\pm$ 80.5
SPAs south of Pentland Firth (excluding Fair Isle data)	55.5 $\pm$ 39.7
Razorbill	
SPAs north of Pentland Firth (inclusive of Fair Isle data)	88.7 $\pm$ 75.9
SPAs south of Pentland Firth (excluding Fair Isle data)	73.8 $\pm$ 48.4
Black guillemot	4.8 $\pm$ 4.3
Atlantic puffin	137.1 $\pm$ 128.3
Notes: ¹ Values are the mean maximum $\pm$ 1 SD unless otherwise indicated (from Woodward et al., 2019), as advised by NatureScot (2023b) Guidance Note 3. ² Mean maximum value only – no SD available. ³ Mean value – no mean maximum or maximum values available. ⁴ SPA site-specific maximum values.	

Table 5.5: European Sites Designated for Intertidal and Offshore Ornithological Features with Potential Connectivity to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary

ID	European Site	Site Code	Straight Line Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ¹	'By-Sea' Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ²	Relevant Qualifying Features ³	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range +1SD ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season
Breeding Seabird Colony SPA							
1	Fowlsheugh SPA	UK9002271	0.0	0.0	Kittiwake	Y	Y
					Guillemot	Y ⁶	Y ⁶
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
					▪ Herring gull	Y	Y
					▪ Razorbill	Y ⁶	Y ⁶
2	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA (and Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site)	UK9002221 UK13061	6.4	6.3	Sandwich tern (breeding)	Y	Y
					Common tern (breeding)	Y	Y
					Little tern (breeding)	N	N
3	Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA	UK9002491	22.2	23.8	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Kittiwake	Y	Y
					▪ Herring gull	Y	Y

ID	European Site	Site Code	Straight Line Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ¹	'By-Sea' Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ²	Relevant Qualifying Features ³	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range +1SD ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season
					▪ Guillemot	N ⁶	Y ⁶
					▪ Shag	N	N
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
4	Loch of Strathbeg SPA (and Ramsar site)	UK900221 UK13041	52.9	57.7	Sandwich tern (breeding)	N	N
5	Troup, Pennan and Lion's Heads SPA	UK9002471	63.5	79.0	Kittiwake (breeding)	Y	Y
					Guillemot (breeding)	N ⁶	N ⁶
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
					▪ Herring gull	N	Y
					▪ Razorbill	N ⁶	Y ⁶
6	Forth Islands SPA	UK9004171	82.6	83.1	Arctic tern (breeding)	N	N
					Common tern (breeding)	N	N
					Roseate tern (breeding)	N	N
					Sandwich tern (breeding)	N	N

ID	European Site	Site Code	Straight Line Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ¹	'By-Sea' Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ²	Relevant Qualifying Features ³	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range +1SD ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season
					Gannet (breeding)	Y ⁸	Y ⁸
					Shag (breeding)	N	N
					Lesser black-backed gull (breeding)	Y	Y
					Puffin (breeding)	Y	Y
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Guillemot	N ⁶	Y ⁶
					▪ Razorbill	Y ⁶	Y ⁶
					▪ Kittiwake	Y	Y
					▪ Herring gull	N	Y
					▪ Cormorant	N	N
7	St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA	UK9004271	102.1	105.4	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Guillemot	N ⁶	N ⁶
					▪ Herring gull	N	N

ID	European Site	Site Code	Straight Line Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ¹	'By-Sea' Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ²	Relevant Qualifying Features ³	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range +1SD ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season
					▪ Kittiwake	Y	Y
					▪ Razorbill	N ⁶	Y ⁶
					▪ Shag	N	N
8	Farne Islands SPA	UK9006021	129.1	129.1	Arctic tern (breeding)	N	N
					Common tern (breeding)	N	N
					Roseate tern (breeding)	N	N
					Sandwich tern (breeding)	N	N
					Guillemot (breeding)	N ⁶	N ⁶
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components (* = advised by Natural England within Berwick Bank Wind Farm Scoping Opinion):		
					▪ Kittiwake	Y	Y
					▪ Shag	N	N
					▪ Cormorant	N	N
					▪ Puffin	Y	Y

ID	European Site	Site Code	Straight Line Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ¹	'By-Sea' Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ²	Relevant Qualifying Features ³	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range +1SD ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season
					▪ Fulmar*	Y	Y
					▪ Black-headed gull*	N	Not applicable (N/A)
					▪ Great black-backed gull*	N	N/A
					▪ Lesser black-backed gull*	N	Y
					▪ Herring gull*	N	N
					▪ Razorbill*	N ⁶	N ⁶
9	Imperial Dock Lock SPA	UK9004451	124.6	129.8	Common tern (breeding)	N	N
10	Coquet Island SPA	UK9006031	163.9	163.9	Arctic tern (breeding)	N	N
					Common tern (breeding)	N	N
					Roseate tern (breeding)	N	N
					Sandwich tern (breeding)	N	N
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Puffin	N	Y
					▪ Black-headed gull	N	N/A

ID	European Site	Site Code	Straight Line Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ¹	'By-Sea' Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ²	Relevant Qualifying Features ³	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range +1SD ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
					▪ Herring gull	N	N
					▪ Lesser black-backed gull	N	Y
					▪ Kittiwake	N	Y
11	East Caithness Cliffs SPA	UK9001182	146.9	165.5	Guillemot (breeding)	N ⁶	N ⁶
					Razorbill (breeding)	N ⁶	N ⁶
					Herring gull (breeding)	N	N
					Kittiwake (breeding)	N	Y
					Shag (breeding)	N	N
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Great black-backed gull	N	N/A
					▪ Cormorant	N	N
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
12		UK9001181	174.1	183.6	Guillemot (breeding)	N ⁶	N ⁶

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	North Caithness Cliffs SPA				Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
					▪ Kittiwake	N	Y
					▪ Razorbill	N ⁶	N ⁶
					▪ Puffin	N	Y
13	Pentland Firth Islands SPA	UK9001131	183.8	190.1	Arctic Tern (breeding)	N	N
14	Copinsay SPA	UK9002151	199.7	205.9	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Guillemot	N	N
					▪ Kittiwake	N	Y
					▪ Great black-backed gull	N	N/A
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
15	Hoy SPA	UK9002141	198.1	209.4	Red-throated diver (breeding)	N	N/A
					Great skua (breeding)	Y	Y

ID	European Site	Site Code	Straight Line Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ¹	'By-Sea' Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ²	Relevant Qualifying Features ³	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range +1SD ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Puffin	N	Y
					▪ Kittiwake	N	Y
					▪ Arctic skua	N	N
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
					▪ Great black-backed gull	N	N/A
					▪ Guillemot	N	N
16	Auskerry SPA	UK9002381	215.5	221.5	European storm petrel (breeding)	Y	N/A
					Arctic tern (breeding)	N	N
17	Calf of Eday SPA	UK9002431	237.3	244.2	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Cormorant	N	N
					▪ Great black-backed gull	N	N/A
					▪ Guillemot	N	N

ID	European Site	Site Code	Straight Line Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ¹	'By-Sea' Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ²	Relevant Qualifying Features ³	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range +1SD ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
					▪ Kittiwake	N	Y
18	Rousay SPA	UK9002371	235.0	242.9	Arctic tern (breeding)	N	N
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Arctic skua	N	N
					▪ Kittiwake	N	Y
					▪ Guillemot	N	N
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
19	Fair Isle SPA	UK9002091	257.8	260.5	Arctic tern (breeding)	N	N
					Guillemot (breeding)	N ⁷	N ⁷
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Puffin	N	Y
					▪ Razorbill	N ⁷	N ⁷
					▪ Kittiwake	N	Y

ID	European Site	Site Code	Straight Line Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ¹	'By-Sea' Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ²	Relevant Qualifying Features ³	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range +1SD ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season
					▪ Great skua	Y	Y
					▪ Arctic skua	N	N
					▪ Shag	N	N
					▪ Gannet	Y	Y
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
20	West Westray SPA	UK9002101	246.0	253.9	Arctic tern (breeding)	N	N
					Guillemot (breeding)	N ⁷	N ⁷
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Razorbill	N ⁷	N ⁷
					▪ Kittiwake	N	Y
					▪ Arctic skua	N	N
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
21	Marwick Head SPA	UK9002121	234.6	244.8	Guillemot (breeding)	N ⁷	N ⁷
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		

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					Kittiwake	N	Y
22	Papa Westray (North Hill and Holm SPA)	UK9002111	253.9	261.5	Arctic skua (breeding)	N	N
					Arctic tern (breeding)	N	N
23	Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA	UK9006101	279.2	280.9	Gannet (breeding)	Y	Y
					Kittiwake (breeding)	N	Y
					Guillemot (breeding)	N ⁶	N ⁶
					Razorbill (breeding)	N ⁶	N ⁶
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					Fulmar	Y	Y
					Puffin	N	N
					Herring gull	N	N
					Shag	N	N
					Cormorant	N	N

ID	European Site	Site Code	Straight Line Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ¹	'By-Sea' Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ²	Relevant Qualifying Features ³	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range +1SD ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season
24	Sumburgh Head SPA	UK9002511	296.0	297.0	Arctic tern (breeding)	N	N
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Guillemot	N	N
					▪ Kittiwake	N	Y
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
25	Sule Skerry and Sule Stack SPA	UK9002181	256.9	281.6	European storm petrel (breeding)	Y	N/A
					Leach's storm petrel (breeding)	Y	N/A
					Gannet (breeding)	Y	Y
					Puffin (breeding)	N	N
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Guillemot	N	N
					▪ Shag	N	N

ID	European Site	Site Code	Straight Line Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ¹	'By-Sea' Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ²	Relevant Qualifying Features ³	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range +1SD ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season
26	Cape Wrath SPA	UK9001231	234.1	294.5	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Kittiwake	N	N
					▪ Guillemot	N ⁶	N ⁶
					▪ Razorbill	N ⁶	N ⁶
					▪ Puffin	N	N
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
27	Mousa SPA	UK9002361	313.6	314.8	European storm petrel (breeding)	Y	N/A
					Arctic tern (breeding)	N	N
28	Noss SPA	UK9002081	327.6	330.0	Gannet (breeding)	N	Y
					Great skua (breeding)	Y	Y
					Guillemot (breeding)	N ⁷	N ⁷
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y

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29	Foula SPA	UK9002061	326.8	332.4	▪ Kittiwake	N	N
					▪ Puffin	N	N
					Arctic tern (breeding)	N	N
					Leach's storm petrel (breeding)	Y	N/A
					Red-throated diver (breeding)	N	N/A
					Great skua (breeding)	Y	Y
					Guillemot (breeding)	N ⁷	N ⁷
					▪ Puffin (breeding)	N	N
					Shag (breeding)	N	N
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Kittiwake	N	N
					▪ Razorbill	N ⁷	N ⁷
					▪ Arctic skua	N	N
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y

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30	Handa SPA	UK9001241	233.2	331.3	Guillemot	N ⁶	N ⁶
					Razorbill	N ⁶	N ⁶
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Great skua	Y	Y
					▪ Kittiwake	N	N
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
31	Papa Stour SPA	UK9002051	350.6	354.3	Arctic tern (breeding)	N	N
32	Fetlar SPA	UK9002031	375.7	378.7	Arctic tern (breeding)	N	N
					Great skua (breeding)	Y	Y
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Arctic skua	N	N
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
33	North Rona and Sula Sgeir SPA	UK9001011	314.3	359.8	Gannet (breeding)	N	Y
					Fulmar (breeding)	Y	Y

ID	European Site	Site Code	Straight Line Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ¹	'By-Sea' Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ²	Relevant Qualifying Features ³	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range +1SD ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Great black-backed gull	N	N/A
					▪ Kittiwake	N	N
					▪ Razorbill	N ⁷	N ⁷
					▪ Puffin	N	N
34	Ronas Hill – North Roe and Tingon SPA and Ramsar site	UK9002041 UK13054	371.3	373.0	Red-throated diver (breeding)	N	N/A
					Great skua (breeding)	Y	Y
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Arctic skua	N	N
					▪ Black guillemot	N	N
35	Ramna Stacks and Gruney SPA	UK9002021	387.1	389.3	Leach's storm petrel (breeding)	Y	N/A

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36	Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field SPA	UK9002011	295.3	399.2	Red-throated diver (breeding)	N	N/A
					Gannet (breeding)	N	Y
					Great skua (breeding)	Y	Y
					Puffin (breeding)	N	N
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
					▪ Shag	N	N
					▪ Guillemot	N	N
					▪ Kittiwake	N	N
37	Shiant Isles SPA	UK9002091	264.6	415.1	Shag (breeding)	N	N
					Razorbill (breeding)	N ⁶	N ⁶
					Puffin (breeding)	N	N
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		

ID	European Site	Site Code	Straight Line Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ¹	'By-Sea' Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ²	Relevant Qualifying Features ³	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range +1SD ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
					▪ Guillemot	N ⁶	N ⁶
					▪ Kittiwake	N	N
38	Flannan Isles SPA	UK9001021	348.4	461.5	Leach's storm petrel (breeding)	Y	N/A
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Guillemot	N ⁶	N ⁶
					▪ Razorbill	N ⁶	N ⁶
					▪ Puffin	N	N
					▪ Fulmar	Y	Y
					▪ Kittiwake	N	N
39	Rum SPA	UK9001341	240.9	518.1	Red-throated diver (breeding)	N	N/A
					Manx shearwater (breeding)	Y	Y
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		

ID	European Site	Site Code	Straight Line Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ¹	'By-Sea' Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ²	Relevant Qualifying Features ³	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range +1SD ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season
40	St Kilda SPA	UK9001031	384.5	528.8	▪ Guillemot	N ⁶	N ⁶
					▪ Kittiwake	N	N
					European storm petrel (breeding)	N	N/A
					Leach's storm petrel (breeding)	Y	N/A
					Gannet (breeding)	Y ⁸	Y ⁸
					Great skua (breeding)	N	Y
					Puffin (breeding)	N	N
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Guillemot	N ⁶	N ⁶
					▪ Razorbill	N ⁶	N ⁶
					▪ Kittiwake	N	N
					▪ Manx shearwater	Y	Y
					▪ Fulmar	N	Y

ID	European Site	Site Code	Straight Line Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ¹	'By-Sea' Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ²	Relevant Qualifying Features ³	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range +1SD ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season
41	Mingulay and Berneray SPA	UK9001121	327.1	557.7	Razorbill (breeding)	N ⁶	N ⁶
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Fulmar	N	Y
					▪ Guillemot	N ⁶	N ⁶
					▪ Kittiwake	N	N
					▪ Puffin	N	N
					▪ Shag	N	N
42	Rathlin Island SPA	UK9020011	284.4	710.8	Guillemot (breeding)	N ⁶	N ⁶
					Razorbill (breeding)	N ⁶	N ⁶
					Kittiwake (breeding)	N	N
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Fulmar	N	Y
					▪ Common gull	N	N/A
					▪ Lesser black-backed gull	N	N

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					▪ Herring gull	N	N
					▪ Puffin	N	N
43	Copeland Islands SPA	UK9020291	301.6	787.0	Manx shearwater (breeding)	Y	Y
					Arctic tern (breeding)	N	N
44	Glannau Aberdaron ac Ynys Enlli/Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island SPA	UK9013121	483.1	1003.0	Manx shearwater (breeding)	Y	Y
45	Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire/Sg omer Sgogwm a Moroedd Penfro SPA	UK9014051	606.2	1114.2	Manx shearwater (breeding)	Y	Y
					Puffin (breeding)	N	N
					European storm petrel (breeding)	N	N/A
					Lesser black-backed gull (breeding)	N	N
					Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:		
					▪ Razorbill	N ⁶	N ⁶

ID	European Site	Site Code	Straight Line Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ¹	'By-Sea' Distance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (km) ²	Relevant Qualifying Features ³	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season	Within Mean Maximum Foraging Range +1SD ^{4,5} in the Breeding Season
					▪ Guillemot	N ⁶	N ⁶
					▪ Kittiwake	N	N
					▪ Shag (breeding)	N	N
46	Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA	UK9004121	61.5	62.0	Little tern (breeding)	N	N

5.4.1.3.1.3 Connectivity in the Non-breeding Season

236. The methodology by which this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report** identifies non-breeding season connectivity to SPAs and Ramsar sites for breeding seabirds is consistent with that taken for the Bellrock WFDA HRA Screening Report (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2024) and subsequently agreed by NatureScot in their scoping representation (MD-LOT, 2024a), further consultations regarding the Bellrock WFDA (Chapter 10: Offshore Ornithology of the **Bellrock WFDA EIA Report** (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2026), and consultation on the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (**Section 4**).
237. Outside the breeding season seabirds are not constrained by the requirement to attend nests and may disperse over greater distances than during the breeding season. As such, there is potential for connectivity with a greater range of qualifying features from breeding seabird colony SPAs during the non-breeding season. NatureScot (2023a) Guidance Note 4 advises that consideration of the potential for non-breeding season effects on the qualifying features from breeding seabird colony SPAs should be based upon the BDMPS approach (Furness, 2015) for all species except for guillemot. However, it is also noted that NatureScot has advised further exceptions in this regard for herring gull and puffin. For these three species it is assumed that connectivity in the non-breeding season is determined as follows:
- **Guillemot:** Considered not to disperse as widely from the breeding areas as several other seabird species during the non-breeding season (following Buckingham et al., 2022), so that connectivity is based on the breeding season foraging range (and connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary during the non-breeding period is as determined for the breeding season);
 - **Puffin:** Puffin disperse widely during the non-breeding period and, on the same basis as was determined for the Bellrock WFDA, no assessment is required for the non-breeding season. This is in accordance with recent advice provided by NatureScot to the Bellrock Project⁴; and
 - **Herring gull:** As for guillemot, herring gull are considered not to disperse as widely as several other seabird species during the non-breeding season, so that connectivity is based on the breeding season foraging range (and connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary during the non-breeding period is as determined for the breeding season)⁵.
238. For most seabird species there are only two BDMPS regions defined within UK waters (with the main division being between the North Sea and western waters), although there are up to five for some species (Furness, 2015). For almost all species, the BDMPS of relevance to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary is defined as the UK North Sea and Channel or the UK North Sea (although for red-throated diver, shag and cormorant it is the northwest North Sea and for roseate

⁴ Advice received from NatureScot via email 19th July 2024 in respect of the Bellrock WFDA: “We can now confirm that a non-breeding season assessment should be undertaken quantitatively through the EIA assessment, i.e. using an annual mortality (breeding season plus non-breeding season) with a regional population. Given the current evidence available, we advise that this would not be required to be undertaken quantitatively within the HRA. However, we recommend that this is addressed qualitatively within the conclusions for puffin.”

⁵ This was advised by NatureScot in respect of the Bellrock WFDA in the Bellrock WFDA Scoping Workshop of 30th October 2023 – see Table 9.2 in Chapter 9: Offshore Ornithology of the Bellrock WFDA Scoping Report (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2024).

tern it is the East Coast and Channel). Within these large expanses of offshore waters, it is generally assumed that there is even mixing of birds from the different 'source' populations (from the UK and elsewhere), as well as amongst the different age classes, during passage and other non-breeding periods (Furness, 2015).

239. The four aerial survey datasets (see **Section 5.4.1.3.1.1**) recorded guillemot, fulmar, kittiwake, puffin, gannet and razorbill in highest abundance (in descending order), and included records of herring gull, common gull, great black-backed gull, great skua, and red-throated diver which are qualifying features of breeding seabird colony SPAs and Ramsar sites in the search region. Fulmar, kittiwake, gannet, razorbill, great black-backed gull and red-throated diver features of designated sites are considered to have connectivity in the non-breeding season where breeding season connectivity is established or if the number of adult birds contributes at least 1% of the adult birds within the BDMPS population (**Table 5.6**). This follows the same approach as taken for the HRA screening for the Bellrock WFDA (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2024). Guillemot and herring gull features of designated sites are assessed in line with NatureScot advice as above, while puffin is screened out for non-breeding season assessment in line with NatureScot advice as above. Common gull is a qualifying feature of a single SPA in northern Scotland and is screened in for connectivity on a precautionary basis. Little gull, little auk and common scoter, recorded within the aerial datasets, are not qualifying features of seabird colony SPAs and Ramsar sites contributing to the relevant BDMPS population and are not considered further in this section.
240. Among species which are qualifying feature species of breeding seabird colony SPAs and Ramsar sites in the search region but were not reported in the four aerial survey datasets, it is considered that potential connectivity with SPA breeding populations during the non-breeding period cannot be excluded for Arctic skua, lesser black-backed gull, common tern, Arctic tern, little tern, roseate tern and Sandwich tern. Non-breeding season connectivity for SPA populations of these species is determined as described above for species such as fulmar and kittiwake (**Table 5.6**).
241. It is considered that potential connectivity during the non-breeding period can be excluded for the following qualifying feature species of breeding seabird colony SPAs and Ramsar sites in the search region or wider UK waters which were not reported in the three aerial survey datasets, based on other evidence as follows:
- **Manx shearwater:** None of the UK SPA breeding Manx shearwater populations are considered to contribute to the UK North Sea BDMPS (Furness, 2015), so there is no potential for connectivity with SPA populations of this species during the non-breeding period;
 - **European storm petrel:** The available distributional data show an absence or scarcity of this species from the waters in the region of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary during the non-breeding period, and an apparent absence (or near absence) from UK waters between December and April (Stone et al., 1995; Waggitt et al., 2020). Therefore, it is considered that there is no potential for connectivity with SPA breeding populations during the non-breeding period; and
 - **Leach's storm petrel:** The available distributional data shows an absence or scarcity of this species from the waters in the region of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary during the non-breeding period, and an apparent absence from Scottish waters between December and April (Stone et al., 1995; Deakin et al., 2022). Therefore, it is considered that there is no potential for connectivity with SPA breeding populations during the non-breeding period.

242. For species assessed for non-breeding season connectivity by the BDMPS approach, it is assumed that there is the potential for non-breeding season connectivity for any of the SPA populations for which breeding season connectivity is established (as determined from the species' advised breeding season foraging range in **Table 5.4** – see **Table 5.5** and associated text above). The potential for connectivity with other SPA populations of these species during the non-breeding season is determined based on the contribution of these SPA (adult) populations to the relevant BDMPS (adult) population (greater than or equal to 1% of BDMPS adult population, where highlighted in **Table 5.6**). The total number of adult birds and birds of all age classes in the BDMPS population for each species included in **Table 5.6** is shown in **Table 5.7**.
243. The data in **Table 5.6** and **Table 5.7** demonstrate that many of the SPA populations beyond the advised breeding season foraging range from the Bellrock OFTDA Screening Boundary (and, hence, with no potential connectivity during the breeding season) generally constitute a small part of the overall BDMPS population of the species. Limiting consideration to the adult age class, these SPA populations often comprise less than 1% of the wider BDMPS population, even when this percentage contribution is calculated in relation to the adult component of the BDMPS population (**Table 5.6**), as opposed to the total BDMPS population. Given the assumption of even mixing of birds from different populations (and age classes), it is highly unlikely that there could be any substantive degree of connectivity between most of these SPA populations and the Bellrock OFTDA Screening Boundary during the non-breeding season due to the low likelihood that the birds using the area will derive from these populations. Therefore, for the SPA populations of these 16 species which do not have potential connectivity in the breeding season, it is considered that the potential for connectivity is limited to those SPA populations which comprise 1% or more of the adult component of the relevant BDMPS population. On this basis, potential connectivity in the non-breeding season only is limited to the following SPA populations:
- **Razorbill:** East Caithness Cliffs SPA, North Caithness Cliffs SPA, Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA, Mingulay and Berneray SPA, and Rathlin Island SPA;
 - **Great black-backed gull:** East Caithness Cliffs SPA, Copinsay SPA, and Calf of Eday SPA;
 - **Red-throated diver:** Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA (and Ramsar site), Hoy SPA, Orkney Mainland Moors SPA, Foula SPA, Ronas Hill – North Roe and Tingon SPA, Otterswick and Graveland SPA, and Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field SPA;
 - **Arctic skua:** Hoy SPA, Rousay SPA, Fair Isle SPA, West Westray SPA, Papa Westray (North Hill and Holm) SPA, Foula SPA, and Fetlar SPA;
 - **Lesser black-backed gull:** Bowland Fells SPA, Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA, Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA, and Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire/Sgomer Sgogwm a Moroedd Penfro SPA;
 - **Common tern:** Imperial Dock Lock SPA and Coquet Island SPA;
 - **Arctic tern:** Auskerry SPA, Papa Stour SPA, Farne Islands SPA, and Coquet Island SPA;
 - **Little tern:** Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA, Northumbria Coast SPA, Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA, Humber Estuary SPA, North Norfolk Coast SPA, Minsmere-Walberswick SPA, Benacre to Easton Bavents SPA Blackwater Estuary SPA, Hamford Water SPA, Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA, and Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA;

- **Roseate tern:** Forth Islands SPA and Coquet Island SPA;
- **Sandwich tern:** Farne Islands SPA, Coquet Island SPA, and North Norfolk Coast SPA;
- **Cormorant:** Calf of Eday SPA, East Caithness Cliffs SPA, and Forth Islands SPA; and
- **Shag:** Foula SPA, Fair Isle SPA, East Caithness Cliffs SPA, Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA, Forth Islands SPA, St Abb's Head to Fast Castle, and Farne Islands SPA.

244. For common gull, which was recorded during the species' non-breeding season within the four aerial surveys but is not assessed by Furness (2015), the Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA breeding population qualifying feature is screened in on a precautionary basis due to it being located in the search region i.e. eastern Scotland.

245. The above process for identifying breeding seabird SPAs with the potential for connectivity to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary in the non-breeding season adds a further 20 sites to the 40 such SPAs which were concluded to have potential connectivity during the breeding season. These are:

- Imperial Dock Lock SPA;
- Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA;
- Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA;
- Orkney Mainland Moors SPA;
- Papa Westray (North Hill and Holm) SPA;
- Otterswick and Graveland SPA;
- Papa Stour SPA;
- Northumbria Coast SPA;
- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA;
- Humber Estuary SPA;
- North Norfolk Coast SPA;
- Minsmere-Walberswick SPA;
- Benacre to Easton Bavents SPA;
- Blackwater Estuary SPA;
- Hamford Water SPA;
- Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA;
- Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA;
- Bowland Fells SPA;
- Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA; and
- Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA.

Table 5.6: The Percentage Contribution of Different SPA Populations to the BDMPS Population Relevant to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (based on adult birds only). Highlighted cells indicate where the contribution of adult SPA birds to the total number of adult birds in the BDMPS population is $\geq 1\%$

Site Name	Percentage Contribution to the BDMPS Population (%)															
	Fulmar	Great skua	Arctic skua	Lesser black-backed gull	Great black-backed gull	Kittiwake	Common tern	Arctic tern	Little tern	Roseate tern	Sandwich tern	Gannet	Razorbill	Red-throated diver	Cormorant	Shag
Fowlsheugh SPA	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	3.03	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.67
Loch of Strathbeg SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Troup, Pennan and Lion's Heads SPA	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.08	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Forth Islands SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	-	0.04	0.46	N/A	3.51	0.00	-	-	N/A	3.53	9.42
St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	1.77
Lindisfarne SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.61	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Farne Islands SPA	-	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	-	0.15	3.31		0.00	6.44	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.01	1.94

Site Name	Percentage Contribution to the BDMPS Population (%)															
	Fulmar	Great skua	Arctic skua	Lesser black-backed gull	Great black-backed gull	Kittiwake	Common tern	Arctic tern	Little tern	Roseate tern	Sandwich tern	Gannet	Razorbill	Red-throated diver	Cormorant	Shag
Imperial Dock Lock SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.30	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Coquet Island SPA	-	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	1.65	2.11	N/A	91.2	5.24	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Northumbria Coast SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.88	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
East Caithness Cliffs SPA	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.09	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.27	N/A	3.82	11.71
North Caithness Cliffs SPA	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.07	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cromarty Firth SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.11	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Copinsay SPA	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.36	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pentland Firth Islands SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Inner Moray Firth SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Auskerry SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.16	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.22	N/A	N/A

Site Name	Percentage Contribution to the BDMPS Population (%)															
	Fulmar	Great skua	Arctic skua	Lesser black-backed gull	Great black-backed gull	Kittiwake	Common tern	Arctic tern	Little tern	Roseate tern	Sandwich tern	Gannet	Razorbill	Red-throated diver	Cormorant	Shag
Hoy SPA	-	-	1.01	N/A	0.37	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.51	N/A	N/A
Orkney Mainland Moors SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.57	N/A	N/A
Fair Isle SPA	-	-	1.52	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	0.04	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	0.57	N/A	N/A	2.26
Papa Westray SPA	N/A	N/A	1.82	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.27	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Calf of Eday SPA	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.75	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.31	N/A
Rousay SPA	-	N/A	3.03	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	0.09	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marwick Head SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.37	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	6.62	N/A	N/A	N/A
Humber Estuary SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gibraltar Point SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.91	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
West Westray SPA	-	N/A	2.22	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	0.78	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.35	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sumburgh Head SPA	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.07	N/A	0.31	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Site Name	Percentage Contribution to the BDMPS Population (%)															
	Fulmar	Great skua	Arctic skua	Lesser black-backed gull	Great black-backed gull	Kittiwake	Common tern	Arctic tern	Little tern	Roseate tern	Sandwich tern	Gannet	Razorbill	Red-throated diver	Cormorant	Shag
Sule Skerry and Sule Stack SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Noss SPA	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.16	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cape Wrath SPA	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.06	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.39	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mousa SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.03	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Papa Stour SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.82	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Foula SPA	-	-	2.83	N/A	N/A	0.10	N/A	0.03	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.24	1.10	N/A	2.91
Fetlar SPA	-	-	6.67	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.03	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Handa SPA	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.01	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.97	N/A	N/A	N/A
The Wash SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.35	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Norfolk Coast SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.31	N/A	31.01	0.00	32.31	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Rona and Sula Sgeir SPA	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.01	0.01	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	0.21	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ronas Hill – North Roe and Tingon SPA	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.59	N/A	N/A

Site Name	Percentage Contribution to the BDMPS Population (%)															
	Fulmar	Great skua	Arctic skua	Lesser black-backed gull	Great black-backed gull	Kittiwake	Common tern	Arctic tern	Little tern	Roseate tern	Sandwich tern	Gannet	Razorbill	Red-throated diver	Cormorant	Shag
Otterswick and Graveland SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.30	N/A	N/A
Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field SPA	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.12	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	1.47	N/A	0.60
Breydon Water SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.15	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shiant Isles SPA	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.08	N/A	N/A	N/A
Flannan Isles SPA	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.01	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.02	N/A	N/A	N/A
Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.38	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Minsmere-Walberswick SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.27	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Benacre to Easton Bavents SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.41	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alde-Ore Estuary SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.89	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	0.02	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Canna and Sanday SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rum SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
St Kilda SPA	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.01	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	0.32	N/A	N/A	N/A

Site Name	Percentage Contribution to the BDMPS Population (%)															
	Fulmar	Great skua	Arctic skua	Lesser black-backed gull	Great black-backed gull	Kittiwake	Common tern	Arctic tern	Little tern	Roseate tern	Sandwich tern	Gannet	Razorbill	Red-throated diver	Cormorant	Shag
Mingulay and Berneray SPA	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.01	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Colonsay and Western Cliffs SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.03	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Foulness SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.04	N/A	0.00	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.13	N/A	0.83	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Blackwater Estuary SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.51	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Colne Estuary SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hamford Water SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.41	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.44	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.55	N/A	0.05	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pagham Harbour SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.45	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Poole Harbour SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.26	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Site Name	Percentage Contribution to the BDMPS Population (%)															
	Fulmar	Great skua	Arctic skua	Lesser black-backed gull	Great black-backed gull	Kittiwake	Common tern	Arctic tern	Little tern	Roseate tern	Sandwich tern	Gannet	Razorbill	Red-throated diver	Cormorant	Shag
Solent and Southampton Water SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.44	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Glas Eileanan SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ailsa Craig SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.13	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rathlin Island SPA	-	N/A	N/A	0.07	N/A	0.04	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.45	N/A	N/A	N/A
Carlingford Lough SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.03	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Larne Lough SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.05	N/A	N/A	0.00	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.34	N/A	N/A	0.02	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Outer Ards SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Strangford Lough SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.08	0.00	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bowland Fells SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.18	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.46	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.74	N/A	N/A	0.02	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Site Name	Percentage Contribution to the BDMPS Population (%)															
	Fulmar	Great skua	Arctic skua	Lesser black-backed gull	Great black-backed gull	Kittiwake	Common tern	Arctic tern	Little tern	Roseate tern	Sandwich tern	Gannet	Razorbill	Red-throated diver	Cormorant	Shag
The Dee Estuary SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.04	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Anglesey Terns SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.04	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire/Sgomer Sgogwm a Moroedd Penfro SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.02	N/A	0.01	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.57	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grassholm SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Isles of Scilly SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.47	0.06	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Abberton Reservoir SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sheep Island SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Puffin Island SPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Notes:

SPA breeding populations are included for those species with potential connectivity to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary during the non-breeding season but for which the SPA population does not have breeding season connectivity (see text). For species with multiple non-breeding periods (e.g. spring and autumn passage), the maximum percentage contribution to the BDMPS population is presented.

'N/A' indicates that the species is not a qualifying feature of the SPA. '–' indicates that the SPA population has breeding season connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (so that non-breeding season connectivity is assumed).

Table 5.7: The Total BDMPS Populations Relevant to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary

BDMPS Ref.	Fulmar	Great skua	Arctic skua	Lesser black-backed gull	Great black-backed gull	Kittiwake	Common tern	Arctic tern	Little tern	Roseate tern	Sandwich tern	Gannet	Razorbill	Red-throated diver	Cormorant²	Shag³
Numbers of adult birds in BDMPS population ¹	408,80 – 573,641	125 – 11,436	990 – 3,872	37,302 – 144,012	32,070	375,815 – 480,815	88,154	115,968	2,638	171	25,594	163,70 – 284,747	106,18 – 302,314	1,089 – 6,742	2,719	18,033
Numbers of all birds (adults and immatures) in BDMPS population ¹	568,73 – 957,502	143 – 19,556	1,227 – 6,427	39,314 – 209,007	91,399	627,816 – 829,937	144,911	163,930	3,524	251	38,051	248,38 – 534,632	218,62 – 591,874	1,523 – 13,277	6,012	41,503
Notes: ¹ A range is given for species with multiple non-breeding periods, encompassing the minimum and maximum BDMPS population size. ² 'Non-breeding season' BDMPS (September to March) ³ 'Non-breeding season' BDMPS (September to January)																

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5.4.1.3.2 Marine Special Protection Areas and Special Protection Areas with Marine Extensions

246. The Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex SPA lies approximately 65 km south of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary, whilst the Moray Firth SPA lies approximately 80 km north of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary, both SPAs are therefore well beyond the 15 km proximity 'threshold' for which connectivity based on direct in-situ effects is considered likely (NatureScot, 2023a). However, both SPAs are not screened out for LSE due to potential for project-related activities to occur within, or close to, the SPAs, specifically vessels transiting the SPAs between port(s) and the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary, during the construction, O&M, or decommissioning phases.
247. The marine component of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA with marine extension is located within the 15 km buffer, and on this basis the site is screened in for potential LSE on non-breeding waterfowl features. Out of the following qualifying features of the SPA: redshank *Tringa totanus*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, pink-footed goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* and eider, only eider utilise the marine extension area of the SPA, therefore, potential LSE is considered for the eider qualifying feature of the SPA only.

5.4.1.4 Sites Taken Forward for Determination of Likely Significant Effect

248. As detailed above, the initial screening process to determine the potential for connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary identifies 62 European sites with seabirds or other marine bird species as qualifying features to be taken forward for detailed determination of LSE in **Section 5.4.2** of this **Bellrock OfTDA HRA Screening Report**. These sites are identified, together with the qualifying features of relevance, in **Table 5.8**. The locations of the sites in **Table 5.8** taken forward for further consideration of potential for LSE in **Section 5.4.3** are shown in **Figure A.4 (Appendix A)**.

Table 5.8: The Special Protection Areas and Ramsar Sites Taken Forward for Determination of Likely Significant Effects, with Details of the Associated Qualifying Features

European Site	Relevant Qualifying Features ¹
Breeding Seabird Colony SPA	
Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA and Ramsar site	Sandwich tern (breeding)
	Common tern (breeding)
	Little tern (breeding) ³
	Waterfowl assemblage, (non-breeding), including component:
	Eider
Fowlsheugh SPA	Kittiwake (breeding)
	Guillemot (breeding)
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	Fulmar

European Site	Relevant Qualifying Features ¹
	Herring gull
	Razorbill
Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	Kittiwake
	Herring gull
	Fulmar
	Shag
Troup, Pennan and Lion's Heads SPA	Kittiwake (breeding)
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	Fulmar
	Herring gull
	Razorbill
Forth Islands SPA	Gannet (breeding)
	Lesser black-backed gull (breeding)
	Roseate tern (breeding) ³
	Puffin (breeding) ²
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	Guillemot
	Razorbill
	Kittiwake
	Shag
	Cormorant
	Herring gull
St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	Kittiwake
	Shag
	Razorbill
Farne Islands SPA	Arctic tern (breeding) ³

European Site	Relevant Qualifying Features ¹
	Sandwich tern (breeding) ³
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components (* = advised by Natural England within Berwick Bank Wind Farm Scoping Opinion):
	▪ Kittiwake
	▪ Puffin ²
	▪ Lesser black-backed gull
	▪ Shag
	▪ Cormorant
	▪ Fulmar
Imperial Dock Lock SPA	Common tern (breeding) ³
Coquet Island SPA	Arctic tern (breeding) ³
	Common tern (breeding) ³
	Roseate tern (breeding) ³
	Sandwich tern (breeding) ³
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	▪ Puffin ²
	▪ Fulmar
	▪ Lesser black-backed gull
Northumbria Coast SPA	▪ Kittiwake
	Little tern (breeding) ³
East Caithness Cliffs SPA	Razorbill (breeding) ³
	Kittiwake (breeding)
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	▪ Great black-backed gull ³
	▪ Shag
	▪ Cormorant
	▪ Fulmar

European Site	Relevant Qualifying Features ¹
Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA and Ramsar site	Red-throated diver (breeding) ³
Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA	Common gull (breeding) ³
North Caithness Cliffs SPA	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	▪ Fulmar
	▪ Kittiwake
	▪ Razorbill ³
	▪ Puffin ²
Copinsay SPA	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	▪ Kittiwake
	▪ Great black-backed gull ³
	▪ Fulmar
Hoy SPA	Red-throated diver (breeding) ³
	Great skua (breeding)
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	▪ Puffin ²
	▪ Kittiwake
	▪ Arctic skua ³
	▪ Fulmar
Auskerry SPA	Storm petrel (breeding) ²
	Arctic tern (breeding) ³
Orkney Mainland Moors SPA	Red-throated diver (breeding) ³
Calf of Eday SPA	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	Great black-backed gull ³
	Cormorant
	Fulmar
	Kittiwake
Rousay SPA	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:

European Site	Relevant Qualifying Features ¹
	Arctic skua³
	Kittiwake
	Fulmar
Fair Isle SPA	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	Kittiwake
	Great skua
	Arctic skua³
	Gannet
	Puffin
	Shag
	Fulmar
West Westray SPA	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	Arctic skua (breeding)³
	Kittiwake
	Fulmar
Marwick Head SPA	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	Kittiwake
Papa Westray (North Hill and Holm) SPA	Arctic skua (breeding) ³
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA	Little tern (breeding) ³
Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA	Gannet (breeding)
	Kittiwake (breeding)
	Razorbill (breeding) ³
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	Fulmar
Humber Estuary SPA	Little tern (breeding) ³
Sumburgh Head SPA	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	Kittiwake
	Fulmar

European Site	Relevant Qualifying Features ¹
Sule Skerry and Sule Stack SPA	Gannet (breeding)
	European storm petrel (breeding) ²
	Leach's storm petrel (breeding) ²
	Seabird assemblage (breeding)
Cape Wrath SPA	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	▪ Fulmar
Mousa SPA	European storm petrel (breeding) ²
Noss SPA	Gannet (breeding)
	Great skua (breeding)
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	▪ Fulmar
Foula SPA	Red-throated diver (breeding) ³
	Great skua (breeding)
	Leach's storm petrel (breeding) ²
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	▪ Arctic skua ³
	▪ Shag
	▪ Fulmar
Handa SPA	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	▪ Great skua
	▪ Fulmar
Papa Stour SPA	Arctic tern (breeding) ³
Otterswick and Graveland SPA	Red-throated diver (breeding) ³
Fetlar SPA	Great skua (breeding)
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	▪ Fulmar
	▪ Arctic skua ³
North Rona and Sula Sgeir SPA	Gannet (breeding)

European Site	Relevant Qualifying Features ¹
	Fulmar (breeding)
	Seabird assemblage (breeding)
Ronas Hill – North Roe and Tington SPA and Ramsar site	Red-throated diver (breeding) ³
	Great skua (breeding)
	Seabird assemblage (breeding)
Ramna Stacks and Gruney SPA	Leach's storm petrel (breeding) ²
Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field SPA	Red-throated diver (breeding) ³
	Gannet (breeding)
	Great skua (breeding)
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	▪ Fulmar
Shiant Isles SPA	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	▪ Fulmar
Flannan Isles SPA	Leach's storm petrel (breeding) ²
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	▪ Fulmar
Rum SPA	Manx shearwater (breeding) ²
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the above components ²
St Kilda SPA	Gannet (breeding)
	Great skua (breeding)
	Leach's storm petrel (breeding) ²
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	▪ Manx shearwater ²
	▪ Fulmar
Mingulay and Berneray SPA	Razorbill (breeding) ³
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	▪ Fulmar

European Site	Relevant Qualifying Features ¹
Rathlin Island SPA	Razorbill (breeding) ³
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the components:
	▪ Fulmar
Copeland Islands SPA	Manx shearwater (breeding) ²
North Norfolk Coast SPA	Sandwich tern (breeding) ³
	Little tern (breeding) ³
Minsmere-Walberswick SPA	Little tern (breeding) ³
Benacre to Easton Bavents SPA	Little tern (breeding) ³
Blackwater Estuary SPA	Little tern (breeding) ³
Hamford Water SPA	Little tern (breeding) ³
Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA	Little tern (breeding) ³
Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA	Little tern (breeding) ³
Bowland Fells SPA	Lesser black-backed gull (breeding) ³
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA	Lesser black-backed gull (breeding) ³
Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA	Lesser black-backed gull (breeding) ³
Glannau Aberdaron ac Ynys Enlli/Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island SPA	Manx shearwater (breeding) ²
Skomer, Skokholm and Seas off Pembrokeshire/Sgomer, Sgogwm a Moroedd Penfro SPA	Lesser black-backed gull (breeding) ³
	Manx shearwater (breeding) ²
	Seabird assemblage (breeding) including the above components
Marine SPAs	
Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex SPA	Red-throated diver (non-breeding)
	Slavonian grebe (non-breeding)
	Eider (non-breeding)
	Long-tailed duck (non-breeding)
	Common scoter (non-breeding)
	Velvet scoter (non-breeding)

European Site	Relevant Qualifying Features ¹
	Goldeneye (non-breeding)
	Red-breasted merganser (non-breeding)
	Arctic tern (breeding)
	Common tern (breeding)
	Shag (breeding)
	Shag (non-breeding)
	Gannet (breeding)
	Puffin (breeding)
	Kittiwake (breeding)
	Kittiwake (non-breeding)
	Manx shearwater (breeding)
	Guillemot (breeding)
	Guillemot (non-breeding)
	Razorbill (non-breeding)
	Herring gull (breeding)
	Herring gull (non-breeding)
	Little gull (non-breeding)
	Black-headed gull (non-breeding)
	Common gull (non-breeding)
Moray Firth SPA	Great northern diver (non-breeding)
	Red-throated diver (non-breeding)
	Slavonian grebe (non-breeding)
	Greater scaup (non-breeding)
	Eider (non-breeding)
	Long-tailed duck (non-breeding)
	Common scoter (non-breeding)
	Velvet scoter (non-breeding)
	Goldeneye (non-breeding)

European Site	Relevant Qualifying Features ¹
	Red-breasted merganser (non-breeding)
	Shag (breeding)
Notes: ¹. The named components of the assemblage features which are listed exclude those which are also qualifying features in their own right and include only those which are deemed to have potential connectivity. ². Breeding seabird qualifying features which are included on the basis of potential connectivity during the breeding season only. ³. Breeding seabird qualifying features which are included on the basis of potential connectivity during the non-breeding season only.	

5.4.2 Determination of Likely Significant Effect for Annex I Marine Ornithological Features

249. Following application of the pre-screening criteria described in **Section 2.3.1**, a total of 62 European sites designated for Annex I bird qualifying features have been taken forward for screening assessment (see **Section 5.4.1.4**). Many of the European sites screened in include an assemblage qualifying feature, with the named components of each of these assemblage features also being identified in **Table 5.9** to **Table 5.70**. The screening assessment focuses on the qualifying features of the screened in European sites and considers whether LSE, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded. For the purposes of screening for LSE, these named components are treated as if they are individual qualifying features (with the potential impacts also considered for the overall assemblage feature).
250. The screening assessment considers the following project-related impact pathways as having potential for LSE:
- Disturbance and displacement from project activity;
 - Disturbance and displacement associated with the presence of Offshore Transmission Infrastructure;
 - Disturbance and attraction associated with artificial lighting;
 - Changes to prey availability;
 - Entanglement risk with subsea infrastructure;
 - Barrier effects associated with surface-piercing Offshore Transmission Infrastructure;
 - Collision risk with surface-piercing Offshore Transmission Infrastructure; and
 - Accidental pollution.

5.4.2.1 Project Alone Screening Assessment

5.4.2.1.1 Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity

251. Disturbance and displacement of seabirds may occur during construction, O&M, and decommissioning because of the presence and movement of vessels, helicopters, and other project-related activities. Disturbance and displacement may reduce access to foraging habitat and increase energy expenditure, with the potential to affect survival and/or productivity.
252. The potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for red-throated diver, kittiwake, puffin, guillemot, razorbill, and seabird assemblage features of breeding seabird SPAs, together with relevant qualifying seabird and waterfowl features of marine SPAs and marine extensions of SPAs where connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary has been identified. Accordingly, this impact pathway is **screened in** for further assessment.

5.4.2.1.2 Disturbance and Displacement Associated with the Presence of Offshore Transmission Infrastructure

253. Surface-piercing Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, including the OfSS(s) and OfRCS(s), has the potential to result in disturbance and displacement of seabirds and waterfowl. However, the potential for disturbance and displacement is considered limited due to the relatively small number and localised nature of the OfSS(s) and OfRCS(s). Up to six OfSS(s) may be installed within the area of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary that overlaps with the Bellrock WFDA, where up to 132 wind turbine generators are already proposed (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2026), and therefore the addition of the OfSS(s) is unlikely to materially alter the potential for disturbance and/or displacement. In addition, up to two co-located OfRCS(s) may be installed along the offshore export cable corridor, at least 25 km from coast, representing isolated and localised structures that would be unlikely to result in displacement and/or avoidance.
254. As such, LSE can be excluded for seabird and waterfowl qualifying features and this impact is **screened out** of further consideration.

5.4.2.1.3 Disturbance and Attraction Associated with Artificial Lighting

255. Artificial lighting associated with construction, O&M, and decommissioning vessels, and the presence of surface-piercing infrastructure (OfSS(s) and OfRCS(s)) has the potential to influence the behaviour of light-sensitive species, such as Manx shearwater, European storm petrel, and Leach's petrel, through attraction, disorientation, and/or avoidance responses. However, whilst artificial lighting may be visible over a wider area, the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure would introduce a relatively small number of discrete light sources. Vessel-related lighting would be temporary, transient and reversible, whilst permanent lighting would be limited to up to six OfSS(s) within the area of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary that overlaps with the Bellrock WFDA and up to two OfRCS(s) along the offshore export cable corridor. Consequently, the extent of additional anthropogenic lighting within the marine environment would be limited and would not result in a substantial illuminated area or a continuous illuminated corridor.
256. Given the limited scale and extent of artificial lighting associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure relative to the extensive range of marine habitats utilised by these species, LSE can be excluded. As such, this impact is **screened out** from further assessment.

5.4.2.1.4 Changes to Prey Availability

257. Changes to prey availability may occur as a result of activities that temporarily disturb or alter prey-supporting habitats (NatureScot, 2023c), affect prey distribution or abundance, or increase UWN. However, any impacts on prey availability are expected to be temporary, highly localised, and largely restricted to the immediate vicinity of the activity or infrastructure footprint.
258. For most SPA qualifying features, the distance between the SPA and the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary and/or the extensive foraging ranges of the species mean that any localised changes to prey availability within the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary would represent a negligible proportion of the prey resources available to the wider SPA population. Consequently, any reduction in prey availability would not occur at a scale capable of resulting in LSE.
259. An exception applies to the common eider, common tern, little tern, and Sandwich tern qualifying features of the Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA. Given the relative proximity of this SPA to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary and the more restricted foraging ranges of terns during the breeding season, and the presence of eiders during non-breeding season, the potential for LSE cannot be excluded. As such, this impact is **screened in** for these qualifying features and **screened out** for all other SPA qualifying features.

5.4.2.1.5 Entanglement Risk with Subsea Infrastructure

260. The Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will not include floating substructures, with the OfSS(s) and OfRCS(s) comprising fixed bottom substructures only. As a result, there will be no mooring lines or other suspended infrastructure within the water column that could facilitate primary entanglement, accumulation of marine debris or abandoned fishing gear resulting in secondary entanglement, or tertiary entanglement pathways.
261. As such, LSE can be excluded for seabird and waterfowl qualifying features and this impact is **screened out** of further consideration.

5.4.2.1.6 Barrier Effects Associated with Surface-piercing Offshore Transmission Infrastructure

262. Surface-piercing Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, including the OfSS(s) and OfRCS(s), has the potential to result in barrier effects through alteration of movement or flight pathways. However, the potential for barrier effects is considered limited due to the relatively small number and localised nature of the OfSS(s) and OfRCS(s). Up to six OfSS(s) may be installed within the area of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary that overlaps with the Bellrock WFDA, where up to 132 wind turbine generators are already proposed (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2026), and therefore the addition of the OfSS(s) is unlikely to materially alter the potential for barrier effects. In addition, up to two co-located OfRCS(s) may be installed along the offshore export cable corridor, at least 25 km from coast, representing isolated and localised structures that would not form an extensive barrier to movement.
263. As such, LSE can be excluded for seabird and waterfowl qualifying features and this impact is **screened out** of further consideration.

5.4.2.1.7 Collision Risk with Surface-piercing Offshore Transmission Infrastructure

264. As described for barrier effects in **Section 5.4.2.1.6**, the number and spatial extent of surface-piercing Offshore Transmission Infrastructure within the Bellrock OfTDA will be limited. In addition, the OfSS(s) and the OfRCS(s) are static surface-piercing structures and do not include moving components such as rotating turbine blades, which are typically associated with increased collision risk for seabirds and waterfowl.
265. As such, the LSE can be excluded for seabird and waterfowl qualifying features, and this impact pathway is **screened out** of further consideration.

5.4.2.1.8 Accidental pollution

266. Accidental pollution events during construction, O&M, and decommissioning have the potential to affect seabirds and waterfowl directly through contamination (e.g. oiling or exposure during loafing, diving, or foraging), and indirectly through effects on prey availability. However, the risk and potential consequences of pollution incidents will be reduced through implementation of standard good practice measures, including development and implementation of a Marine Pollution Contingency Plan and adherence to the MARPOL requirements.
267. As such, in view of these standard good practice measures that will be in place, LSE can be excluded and this impact is **screened out** of further consideration. This approach is consistent with the approach adopted by the Bellrock WFDA HRA Screening Report (Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, 2024).

5.4.2.2 In-Combination Assessment

268. The potential for LSE arising from the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure in-combination with other relevant plans and projects has been considered, as detailed in **Section 2.2**.
269. Impacts for which LSE could not be excluded in the project-alone screening assessment (**Section 5.4.2.1**) have been screened in for further consideration through appropriate assessment and therefore do not require further in-combination screening. The potential for in-combination effects associated with these impacts will be considered as part of the appropriate assessment.
270. The in-combination screening assessment has therefore focused on impacts for which LSE was excluded in the project-alone assessment (**Section 5.4.2.1**). For these impacts the project-alone conclusions remain unchanged. This is because the impacts are either inherently localised and temporary in nature or are subject to standard industry good practice and embedded mitigation measures that are expected to be implemented across relevant plans and projects. Consequently, consideration of other plans and projects does not identify any additional impacts through which LSE could arise.
271. The in-combination screening assessment has not identified any additional European sites or qualifying features beyond those identified through the project-alone screening assessment. As such, the same 62 European sites screened in through the project-alone assessment are taken forward for appropriate assessment, including consideration of in-combination effects for the impacts screened in for further assessment.

5.4.3 Summary of Screening of Sites for Annex I Marine Ornithological Features

272. **Table 5.9 to Table 5.70** present the conclusions of the LSE screening assessment for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure. Separate LSE screening tables are presented for each of the 62 SPAs (including relevant Ramsar sites) listed in **Table 5.8** and taken forward for LSE screening following the pre-screening exercise in **Section 5.4.1**, which determined potential connectivity, and the subsequent assessment in **Section 5.4.2**, which considered whether the relevant impact pathways have the potential to result in LSE. The designated sites are presented in the same order as **Table 5.8**, with breeding seabird colony SPAs shown in **Table 5.9 to Table 5.67** and marine SPAs shown in **Table 5.68 to Table 5.70**. For each SPA, only qualifying features with breeding season and/or non-breeding season connectivity to the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary are included in the screening tables. Qualifying features for which no connectivity has been identified are not included, as no source-pathway-receptor linkage exists and therefore there is no potential for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure to result in LSE. For the qualifying features included the conclusion on whether LSE can be excluded is presented for each relevant impact pathway. The following letters, colours, and symbols are used in **Table 5.9 to Table 5.70**:

- C = Construction;
- O&M = Operation and Maintenance;
- D = Decommissioning;
- ✓ (blue) = Potential for LSE; and
- × (green) = No Potential for LSE.

273. The notes to these tables briefly outline the rationale for the conclusion in relation to LSE for each qualifying feature.

274. Based on their potential for connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary, the 62 designated sites screened in for consideration of potential LSE are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ▪ Fowlsheugh SPA; | ▪ Imperial Dock Lock SPA; |
| ▪ Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA and Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site; | ▪ Coquet Island SPA; |
| ▪ Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA; | ▪ Northumbria Coast SPA; |
| ▪ Troup, Pennan and Lion's Heads SPA; | ▪ East Caithness Cliffs SPA; |
| ▪ Forth Islands SPA; | ▪ Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA and Ramsar site; |
| ▪ St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA; | ▪ Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA; |
| ▪ Farne Islands SPA; | ▪ North Caithness Cliffs SPA; |
| | ▪ Copinsay SPA; |
| | ▪ Hoy SPA; |

- Aukerry SPA;
- Orkney Mainland Moors SPA;
- Calf of Eday SPA;
- Rousay SPA;
- Fair Isle SPA;
- West Westray SPA;
- Marwick Head SPA;
- Papa Westray (North Hill and Holm) SPA;
- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA;
- Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA;
- Humber Estuary SPA;
- Sumburgh Head SPA;
- Sule Skerry and Sule Stack SPA;
- Cape Wrath SPA;
- Mousa SPA;
- Noss SPA;
- Foula SPA;
- Handa SPA;
- Papa Stour SPA;
- Otterwick and Graveland SPA;
- Fetlar SPA;
- North Rona and Sula Sgeir SPA;
- Ronas Hill – North Roe and Tingon SPA and Ramsar site;
- Ramna Stacks and Gruney SPA;
- Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field SPA;
- Shiant Isles SPA;
- Flannan Isles SPA;
- Rum SPA;
- St Kilda SPA;
- Mingulay and Berneray SPA;
- Rathlin Island SPA;
- Copeland Islands SPA;
- North Norfolk Coast SPA;
- Minsmere-Walberswick SPA;
- Benacre to Easton Bavents SPA;
- Blackwater Estuary SPA;
- Hamford Water SPA;
- Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA;
- Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA;
- Bowland Fells SPA;
- Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA;
- Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA;
- Glannau Aberdaron ac Ynys Enlli/Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island SPA;
- Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire/Sgomer, Sgogwm a Moroedd Penfro SPA;
- Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex SPA; and
- Moray Firth SPA.

275. Of the sites considered in **Table 5.5**, the following have been screened out because there is no potential for connectivity with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary:

- Loch of Strathbeg SPA and Ramsar site; and
- Pentland Firth Islands SPA.

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Table 5.9: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Sandwich tern (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	✓b	✓b	✓b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Common tern (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	✓b	✓b	✓b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Little tern (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	✓b	✓b	✓b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding	✓a	✓a	✓a	✓b	✓b	✓b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Eider (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	✓b	✓b	✓b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying breeding features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as Sandwich tern, common tern, and little tern are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Eiders are especially vulnerable to disturbance at sea during post-breeding moult period between July to mid-September (Cramp and Simmons, 2004) and are frequently recorded taking evasive flights in association with vessel movements (Jarret et al., 2018). Therefore, there is potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for the non-breeding waterfowl features of the SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to indirect effects resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species. The potential for indirect effects on Sandwich tern and little tern concerns breeding and non-breeding season because the species are identified as having the potential for connectivity during both periods while on common tern it concerns only breeding season. Eider populations are vulnerable to changes in availability of favoured bivalve prey (Cervencil et al., 2015; Mendel et al., 2008) LSE cannot be excluded for the non-breeding features of the SPA as eiders. c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects.									

Table 5.10: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Fowlsheugh SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Guillemot (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Razorbill (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Herring gull (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c

Notes:

a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase whilst herring gull are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal, and herring gull is considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the guillemot, razorbill, kittiwake and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA.

b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (**Table 5.9**) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see **Section 5.4.2.1.4**).

c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar and herring gull, for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).

Table 5.11: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Guillemot (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a
Herring gull (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Shag	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c

Notes:

a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– guillemot, herring gull, kittiwake and shag from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the guillemot, herring gull, kittiwake, shag, and the seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA.

b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (**Table 5.9**) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see **Section 5.4.2.1.4**).

c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar, for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).

Table 5.12: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Troup, Pennan and Lion's Heads SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Razorbill (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Herring gull (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– kittiwake and razorbill from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Herring gull is considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects based on the low sensitivity index assigned to this species by Fliessbach et al., (2019) who reviewed sensitivity to vessel traffic across seabird taxa. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the kittiwake, razorbill and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar and herring gull for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.13: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Forth Islands SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance/Displacement			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Gannet (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Puffin (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Razorbill (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Guillemot (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Lesser black-backed gull (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Roseate tern (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Herring gull (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Cormorant	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Shag	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– kittiwake, cormorant, shag, puffin, guillemot, and razorbill from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase whilst gannet, herring gull, lesser black-backed gull and roseate tern are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the kittiwake, puffin, guillemot, razorbill and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects of disturbance and displacement on puffin is limited to the breeding season because the species is identified as having the potential for connectivity during this period only. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites									

this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see **Section 5.4.2.1.4**).

c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects.

Table 5.14: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Razorbill (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Shag	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– kittiwake, shag, and razorbill from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the kittiwake, razorbill and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects.									

Table 5.15: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Farne Islands SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Puffin (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Lesser black-backed gull (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Arctic tern (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Sandwich tern (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Cormorant	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Shag	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– kittiwake and puffin, cormorant and shag from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase whilst lesser black-backed gull, Arctic tern and Sandwich tern are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the kittiwake, puffin and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects of disturbance and displacement on puffin (and therefore the seabird assemblage) is limited to the breeding season because the species is identified as having the potential for connectivity during this period only. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4).									

c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar, lesser black-backed gull, Arctic, and Sandwich tern for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).

Table 5.16: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Imperial Dock Lock SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Common tern (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as common tern is considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.17: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Coquet Island SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Puffin (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Lesser black-backed gull (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Arctic tern (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Common tern (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Roseate tern (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Sandwich tern (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– kittiwake and puffin from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase whilst lesser black-backed gull, Arctic tern, common tern, roseate tern and Sandwich tern are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the kittiwake, puffin and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects of disturbance and displacement on puffin (and therefore the seabird assemblage) is limited to the breeding season because the species is identified as having the potential for connectivity during this period only. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4).									

c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects for: puffin, kittiwake, and breeding seabird assemblage.

Table 5.18: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Northumbria Coast SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance/Displacement			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Little tern (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as little tern are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.19: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the East Caithness Cliffs SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Razorbill (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Great black-backed gull (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Cormorant	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Shag	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c

Notes:

a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– kittiwake, cormorant, shag and razorbill from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase whilst great black-backed gull are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the kittiwake, razorbill and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects of disturbance and displacement on razorbill, cormorant and shag (and therefore the seabird assemblage) is limited to the non-breeding season because the species is identified as having the potential for connectivity during this period only.

b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (**Table 5.9**) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see **Section 5.4.2.1.4**).

c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar, and great black-backed gull for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).

Table 5.20: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance/Displacement			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Red-throated diver (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– red-throated diver from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the red-throated diver qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects on red-throated diver is limited to the non-breeding seasons (migration and winter seasons) because the species is identified as having the potential for connectivity during this period only. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects.									

Table 5.21: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Common gull (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as common gull are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.22: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the North Caithness Cliffs SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Razorbill (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Puffin (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– kittiwake, razorbill and puffin from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the kittiwake, razorbill, puffin and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects of disturbance and displacement on puffin is limited to the breeding season and potential for effects on razorbill is limited to the non-breeding season because the species are identified as having the potential for connectivity during these periods only. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar, for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.23: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Copinsay SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Great black-backed gull (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity–kittiwake from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase, whilst great black-backed gull are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the kittiwake and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar and great black-backed gull for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.24: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Hoy SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Red-throated diver (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Fulmar (breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Puffin (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Great skua (breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Arctic skua (breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c

Notes:

a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– red-throated diver, kittiwake and puffin from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase whilst great skua and Arctic skua are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the red-throated diver, kittiwake, puffin and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects of disturbance and displacement on puffin is limited to the breeding season and potential for effects on red-throated diver is limited to the non-breeding seasons (migration and winter seasons) because the species are identified as having the potential for connectivity during these periods only.

b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (**Table 5.9**) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see **Section 5.4.2.1.4**).

c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar, great and Arctic skua for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).

Table 5.25: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Aukerry SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
European storm petrel (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Arctic tern (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as European storm petrel and Arctic tern are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.26: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Orkney Mainland Moors SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Red-throated diver (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– red-throated diver from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the red-throated diver qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects on red-throated diver is limited to the non-breeding seasons (migration and winter seasons) because the species is identified as having the potential for connectivity during this period only. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar, for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.27: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Calf of Eday SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Great black-backed gull (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Cormorant	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– kittiwake and cormorant from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase, whilst great black-backed gull are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the kittiwake and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar and great black-backed gull for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.28: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Rousay SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Arctic skua (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c

Notes:

a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– kittiwake from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase, whilst Arctic skua are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the kittiwake and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA.

b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (**Table 5.9**) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see **Section 5.4.2.1.4**).

c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar and Arctic skua for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).

Table 5.29: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Fair Isle SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Gannet (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Puffin (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓d	✓d	✓d
Fulmar (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓d	✓d	✓d
Great skua (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Arctic skua (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Shag	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓d	✓d	✓d
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓d	✓d	✓d

Notes:

a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– puffin, shag and kittiwake from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase whilst gannet, great skua and Arctic skua are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for puffin, kittiwake, and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects of disturbance and displacement on puffin is limited to the breeding season because the species is identified as having the potential for connectivity during this period only.

b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (**Table 5.9**) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see **Section 5.4.2.1.4**).

c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is gannet, fulmar, great and Arctic skua for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).

Table 5.30: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the West Westray SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance/Displacement			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Arctic skua (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– kittiwake from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase, whilst Arctic skua are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the kittiwake and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar and Arctic skua for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.31: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Marwick Head SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– kittiwake from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the kittiwake and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects.									

Table 5.32: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Papa Westray (North Hill and Holm) SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Arctic skua (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as Arctic skua is considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.33: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance/Displacement			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Little tern (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as little tern is considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.34: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Gannet (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Fulmar (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Razorbill (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓ _a	✓ _a	✓ _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	✓ _c	✓ _c	✓ _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– kittiwake and razorbill from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OFTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase whilst gannet is considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OFTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the kittiwake, razorbill and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects of disturbance and displacement on razorbill (and therefore the seabird assemblage) is limited to the non-breeding season because the species is identified as having the potential for connectivity during this period only. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OFTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OFTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar and gannet, for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OFTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.35: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Humber Estuary SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Little tern (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as little tern is considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.36: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Sumburgh Head SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×d	×d	×d
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓d	✓d	✓d
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓d	✓d	✓d
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– kittiwake is a qualifying feature from this SPA that may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. For fulmar, particularly large foraging range means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. It is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the kittiwake b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar, for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.37: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Sule Skerry and Sule Stack SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Gannet (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
European storm petrel (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Leach's storm petrel (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as gannet, European storm petrel and Leach's storm petrel are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.38: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Cape Wrath SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– kittiwake is a qualifying feature from this SPA that may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. For fulmar, particularly large foraging range means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. It is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the kittiwake b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar, for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.39: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Mousa SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
European storm petrel (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as European storm petrel is considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.40: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Noss SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Gannet (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Fulmar (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Great skua (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features of this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal, while gannet and great skua are considered relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this effect for qualifying features of this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.41: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Foula SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Red-throated diver (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Fulmar (breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Leach's storm petrel (breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Great skua (breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Arctic skua (breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Shag	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c

Notes:

a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– red-throated diver and shag from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase whilst European storm petrel, Leach's storm petrel, great skua and Arctic skua are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the red-throated diver, shag and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects of disturbance and displacement on red-throated diver and shag (and therefore the seabird assemblage) is limited to the non-breeding season because the species are identified as having the potential for connectivity during this period only.

b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (**Table 5.9**) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see **Section 5.4.2.1.4**).

c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects for red-throated diver, shag, and breeding seabird assemblage.

Table 5.42: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Handa SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Great skua (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features of this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal, while great skua are considered relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this effect for qualifying features of this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.43: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Papa Stour SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Arctic tern (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as Arctic tern are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.44: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Otterswick and Graveland SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Red-throated diver (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– red-throated diver from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the red-throated diver qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects on red-throated diver is limited to the non-breeding seasons (migration and winter seasons) because the species is identified as having the potential for connectivity during this period only. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects.									

Table 5.45: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Fetlar SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Great skua (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Arctic skua (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features of this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal, while great skua and Arctic skua are considered relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this effect for qualifying features of this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.46: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the North Rona and Sula Sgeir SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Gannet (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Fulmar (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features of this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal, while gannet are considered relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this effect for qualifying features of this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.47: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Ronas Hill – North Roe and Tingon SPA

European Feature	Site	Qualifying	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
			C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Red-throated diver (breeding)			✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Great skua (breeding)			xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Seabird assemblage (breeding)			✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c

Notes:

a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– red-throated diver from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase whilst great skua are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the red-throated diver and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects of disturbance and displacement on red-throated diver (and therefore the seabird assemblage) is limited to the non-breeding season because the species is identified as having the potential for connectivity during this period only.

b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (**Table 5.9**) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see **Section 5.4.2.1.4**).

c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects, with exception of great skua for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA.

Table 5.48: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Ramna Stacks and Gruney SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Leach's storm petrel (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as Leach's storm petrel are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.49: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Red-throated diver (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Gannet (breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Fulmar (breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Great skua (breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c

Notes:

a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– red-throated diver from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase whilst gannet and great skua are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the red-throated diver and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects of disturbance and displacement on red-throated diver (and therefore the seabird assemblage) is limited to the non-breeding season because the species is identified as having the potential for connectivity during this period only.

b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (**Table 5.9**) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see **Section 5.4.2.1.4**).

c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is gannet, fulmar, and breeding seabird assemblage for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).

Table 5.50: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Shiant Isles SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.51: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Flannan Isles SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Leach's storm petrel (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features of this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.52: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Rum SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Manx shearwater (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as Manx shearwater are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.53: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the St Kilda SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Gannet (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Fulmar (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Great skua (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Leach's storm petrel (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Manx shearwater (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal, whilst gannet, great skua, Leach's storm petrel, and Manx shearwater are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, it is considered that there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.54: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Mingulay and Berneray SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Razorbill (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– razorbill from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the razorbill and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects of disturbance and displacement on razorbill is limited to the non-breeding season because the species are identified as having the potential for connectivity during these periods only. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar, for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.55: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Rathlin Island SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Fulmar (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Razorbill (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	×b	×b	×b	✓c	✓c	✓c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– razorbill from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. The particularly large foraging range of fulmar means that any effects of disturbance within, or displacement from, the Bellrock OfTDA are likely to be minimal. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the razorbill and seabird assemblage qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects of disturbance and displacement on razorbill is limited to the non-breeding season because the species are identified as having the potential for connectivity during these periods only. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects. The exception in this regard is fulmar, for which no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.56: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Copeland Islands SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Manx shearwater (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as Manx shearwater is considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.57: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the North Norfolk Coast SPA

Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Sandwich tern (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Little tern (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as Sandwich tern and little tern are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.58: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Minsmere-Walberswick SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Little tern (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as little tern is considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.59: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Benacre to Easton Bavents SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Little tern (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c

Notes:

a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as little tern is considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA.

b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (**Table 5.9**) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see **Section 5.4.2.1.4**).

c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).

Table 5.60: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Blackwater Estuary SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Little tern (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as little tern is considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.61: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Hamford Water SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Little tern (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as little tern is considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.62: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Little tern (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as little tern is considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.63: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Little tern (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as little tern is considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.64: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Bowland Fells SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Lesser black-backed gull (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as lesser black-backed gull are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.65: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Lesser black-backed gull (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as lesser black-backed gull are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.66: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Lesser black-backed gull (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as lesser black-backed gull are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.67: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Glannau Aberdaron ac Ynys Enlli/Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Manx shearwater (breeding)	×a	×a	×a	×b	×b	×b	×c	×c	×c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as Manx shearwater are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.68: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire/Sgomer, Sgogwm a Moroedd Penfro SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Lesser black-backed gull (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Manx shearwater (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Seabird assemblage (breeding)	x _a	x _a	x _a	x _b	x _b	x _b	x _c	x _c	x _c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– no qualifying features from this SPA are affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase as lesser black-backed gull and Manx shearwater are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, there is no potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway for this SPA. b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – no impact pathways to LSE are identified in relation to the Bellrock OfTDA (so that there is no potential to contribute to in-combination effects).									

Table 5.69: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Red-throated diver (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Slavonian grebe (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Eider (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Long-tailed duck (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Common scoter (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Velvet scoter (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Goldeneye (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Red-breasted merganser (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Arctic tern (breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Common tern (breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Shag (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Shag (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Gannet (breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Puffin (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Kittiwake (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Kittiwake (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Manx shearwater (breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Guillemot (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Guillemot (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Razorbill (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Herring gull (breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Herring gull (non-breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Little gull (non-breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Black-headed gull (non-breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc
Common gull (non-breeding)	xa	xa	xa	xb	xb	xb	xc	xc	xc

Notes:

a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– duck, grebe, diver, shag, kittiwake and auk species from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OFTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase whilst tern, gannet, gull and shearwater species are considered to be relatively insensitive to such effects. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for the red-throated diver, Slavonian grebe, eider, long-tailed duck, common scoter, velvet scoter, goldeneye, red-breasted merganser, shag, kittiwake, puffin, guillemot and razorbill qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects on puffin is limited to the breeding season because the species is present as a qualifying feature of the SPA during this period only. The potential for effects on red-throated diver, Slavonian grebe, eider, long-tailed duck, common scoter, velvet scoter, goldeneye, red-breasted merganser and razorbill is limited to the non-breeding season because the species are present as a qualifying feature of the SPA during this period only.

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (Table 5.9) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see Section 5.4.2.1.4). c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects.									

Table 5.70: LSE Matrix for Marine Ornithological Features of the Moray Firth SPA

European Site Qualifying Feature	Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity			Changes to Prey Availability			In-combination Effects		
	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D	C	O&M	D
Great northern diver (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Red-throated diver (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Slavonian grebe (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Greater scaup (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Eider (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Long-tailed duck (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Common scoter (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Velvet scoter (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Goldeneye (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Red-breasted merganser (non-breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Shag (breeding)	✓a	✓a	✓a	xb	xb	xb	✓c	✓c	✓c
Notes: a: Disturbance and Displacement from Project Activity– duck, grebe, diver and shag species from this SPA may be affected by disturbance and displacement from the Bellrock OfTDA in the construction, O&M and decommissioning phase. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for LSE in relation to this impact pathway cannot be excluded for any qualifying features of this SPA. The potential for effects on shag is limited to the breeding season because the species is present as a qualifying feature of the SPA during this period only. The potential for effects on all other species is limited to the non-breeding season because the species are present as a qualifying feature of the SPA during this period only.									

b: Changes to Prey Availability – the potential for LSE resulting from effects on the availability or abundance of prey species is excluded for all features with exception of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA/Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site (**Table 5.9**) given close proximity to the SPA. For all other features of all other sites this impact pathway is unlikely to be important because of the particularly large foraging ranges and/or large distances of the SPAs from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (see **Section 5.4.2.1.4**).

c: In-combination effects – other plans or projects which have the potential to cause effects on the qualifying features of this SPA may combine with potential effects associated with the Bellrock OfTDA, so that the potential for LSE cannot be excluded in relation to in-combination effects.

5.5 Eurasian Otter Ecology

276. This section presents the HRA screening assessment for European sites designated for Annex II otter qualifying features. The assessment first applies the pre-screening criteria described in **Section 2.3.1** to determine whether potential connectivity exists between the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and any European site designated for Annex II otter qualifying features. Where connectivity is identified, a screening assessment is undertaken (**Section 2.3.2**) to determine whether LSE can be excluded.
277. Additionally, a separate HRA screening assessment will be undertaken for the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (landward of MLWS) within the Bellrock OnTDA HRA Screening Report, this will consider all impacts relevant to the Bellrock Onshore Transmission Infrastructure.

5.5.1 Sites Designated for Annex II Otter

278. This section presents the pre-screening exercise undertaken for European sites designated for Annex II otter qualifying features. The pre-screening exercise applies the three pre-screening criteria described in **Section 2.3.1** to identify European sites and qualifying features with potential connectivity to the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and to determine whether further screening assessment for LSE is required.

5.5.1.1 Criterion 1 – The Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area Screening Boundary Overlaps with One or More European Sites

279. Application of Criterion 1 identified no European sites designated for Annex II otter qualifying features that overlap with the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. Therefore, no European sites are taken forward for further consideration under Criterion 1.

5.5.1.2 Criterion 2 – The Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area Screening Boundary Overlaps with the Ranges of Qualifying Mobile Species of One or More European Sites

280. Criterion 2 is addressed in conjunction with Criterion 3 below, as connectivity for Annex II otter associated with European sites is defined by wider movements within the freshwater and marine environment rather than solely discrete spatial overlap with European sites. To avoid duplication, further assessment is provided under **Section 5.5.1.3**.

5.5.1.3 Criterion 3 – One or More European Sites and/or Their Qualifying Features are Located within the Potential Zone of Influence of Impacts Associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure

281. Application of Criteria 2 and 3 is undertaken within this section, as connectivity for Annex II otter is defined by the presence, distribution, and movement of mobile populations through the marine environment.
282. A precautionary ZoI of 40 km has been applied for Annex II otter (see **Section 5.5.2.1** for details of range of otters from SAC populations in the vicinity of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary). Within this ZoI, two European sites designated for Annex II otter qualifying features are identified: River Dee SAC and Glen Tanar SAC.

283. The minimum straight-line distance between the River Dee SAC and the offshore section of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary is approximately 6 km. However, where the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary adjoins MHWS, the minimum straight-line distance is approximately 17 km. Glen Tanar SAC is located 37 km from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. The Glen Tanar SAC adjoins the River Dee SAC and, as otter are mobile animals, it is likely that individuals move between these SACs through functionally linked habitat and therefore the SACs have been considered together.
284. As such, the River Dee SAC and Glen Tanar SAC are taken forward for further consideration under Criteria 2 and 3 in respect of Annex II otter qualifying features.

5.5.1.4 Conclusion of Pre-screening Assessment

285. Application of the pre-screening criteria (Criteria 1 to 3) has identified the River Dee SAC and Glen Tanar SAC designated for Annex II otter qualifying features requiring further consideration as to whether LSE can be excluded.

5.5.2 Determination of Likely Significant Effect for Annex II Otter Features

286. Based on the outcomes of the pre-screening assessment presented in **Section 5.5.1**, the River Dee SAC and Glen Tanar SAC are the only European sites designated for Annex II otter qualifying features that have been taken forward for detailed consideration within this screening assessment.

5.5.2.1 River Dee and Glen Tanar Special Areas of Conservation

287. The River Dee SAC and Glen Tanar SAC have been screened in for further consideration within this screening assessment, as set out in **Section 5.5.1**.
288. The River Dee SAC is designated for otter, Atlantic salmon and freshwater pearl mussel. For the purposes of this screening assessment, otter is the primary qualifying feature considered, given its habitat includes the marine and coastal environment and potential interaction with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure. Salmon and freshwater pearl mussel are considered in **Section 5.2**. Glen Tanar SAC is designated for otter. It is also designated for blanket bog, Caledonian forest, European dry heaths and Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*, for which there is no pathway for impact with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure and these features are not considered further. Potential impacts to otters from the Bellrock Onshore Transmission Infrastructure will be fully considered within the Bellrock OnTDA Scoping Report and Bellrock OnTDA HRA Screening Report.
289. The Annex II species otter is a semi-aquatic mammal and can occur in rivers, estuaries, and shallow coastal environments where prey availability is high and suitable resting sites (holts and couches) are accessible (Kruuk, 2006; Chanin, 2003). In coastal environments, otters primarily forage in shallow inshore waters, feeding predominantly on fish and crustaceans, while maintaining access to terrestrial habitats and freshwater sources for resting and grooming (JNCC, 2026; NatureScot, 2024). Coastal otters typically occupy relatively small, linear home ranges, usually extending approximately 4 to 5 km along the coastline, reflecting high prey availability in marine habitats (NatureScot, 2024; Couzens et al., 2017). However, individuals are highly mobile within

these ranges and may exploit wider areas, with otters generally capable of ranging over tens of kilometres across connected habitats where required (Thomson Ecology, 2017; Wilson, 2017).

290. SACs designated for otters are intended to protect key populations and their supporting habitats (e.g. breeding and resting sites); however, individuals frequently forage beyond SAC boundaries and utilise the wider coastal environment (JNCC, 2026).
291. The otter population at the River Dee SAC is classed as favourable (declining). It is reliant on suitable habitat in the surrounding wider terrestrial countryside, including the adjoining Ballochbuie SAC, Cairngorms SAC, Muir of Dinnet SAC and Glen Tanar SAC and is unlikely to be viable (capable of being self-sustaining) in isolation. The Glen Tanar SAC population of otter is classed as favourable (maintained). The home range of an otter will vary depending on their sex, habitat quality and food availability. It will also vary between freshwater and coastal environments. At the River Dee SAC some otters that have parts of their territories within the site may also feed in coastal waters that lie outside the boundary of the site (for example in Greyhope Bay at the mouth of the River Dee, and Nigg Bay immediately south of the river mouth) (NatureScot, 2025). Males living in rivers and streams can have a mean linear range size of around 40 km and females living in the same habitat can have a linear home range of 20 km. Ranges are thought to have some degree of overlap and males have been known to range as far as 80 km (NatureScot, 2025). On the Dee specifically, studies have shown that most female otter activity was on the tributaries and lochs, rather than on the main stem of the river or coastally. National Biodiversity Network Atlas shows records of otter along Cowie Water and Carron Water – two rivers which flow through Stonehaven and discharge within the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary (National Biodiversity Network Atlas Partnership, 2025).
292. The following impact pathways associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure are considered in order to determine whether LSE on the River Dee SAC can be excluded:
- Damage or disturbance to holts or resting sites;
 - Accidental release of pollutants;
 - Increased SSC or mobilisation of contaminants;
 - Collision with vessels; and
 - UWN.

5.5.2.1.1 Project Alone Screening Assessment

5.5.2.1.1.1 Damage or Disturbance to Holts or Resting Sites

293. Although the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary extends up to MHWS, there will be no access restrictions or works undertaken on the beach during any phase, due to the use of trenchless techniques for the installation of ducts at landfall, and all works for the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will be beyond 850 m from the shore. In addition, the minimum straight-line distance between the River Dee SAC and the offshore section of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary is approximately 6 km. However, where the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary adjoins MHWS, the minimum straight-line distance is approximately 17 km. Consequently, there will be no disturbance of any holts or resting sites, and LSE on the River Dee SAC or Glen Tanar SAC (which

is located further from the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary than the River Dee SAC) from disturbance of otter is **screened out**.

5.5.2.1.1.2 Accidental Release of Pollutants

294. Accidental releases of pollutants could occur during construction, O&M, and decommissioning activities associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure. However, such events would be managed through standard industry practice, including compliance with the MARPOL requirements and implementation of a Marine Pollution Contingency Plan.
295. Given the embedded mitigation measures that will be in place to prevent and respond to pollution incidents in general, LSE on the otter qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC or Glen Tanar SAC can be excluded and is therefore **screened out** from further consideration.

5.5.2.1.1.3 Increased Suspended Sediment Concentrations or Mobilisation of Contaminants

296. Increased SSCs or mobilisation of existing contaminated sediments may arise during the construction (and decommissioning) phase of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure. During O&M this impact may occur intermittently during activities such as cable inspection, repair, replacement, and reburial.
297. This impact would be temporary in nature and largely confined to the immediate vicinity of the works and the surrounding areas influenced by tidal dispersion, with a precautionary worst-case dispersal distance of SSCs of 10 km. SSCs are expected to reduce rapidly with distance from the source, with deposition predominantly occurring close to the activity footprint.
298. The mouth of the River Dee SAC is located over 6 km from the nearest point of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary; however, the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary will be refined on completion of the site selection process to form the boundary of the Bellrock OfTDA, which may have a greater separation distance from the SAC than the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary. Given this separation distance, together with the localised and short-term nature of increased SSCs, and highly localised nature of sediment disturbance, there is no realistic potential for effects of a scale that could significantly influence water quality conditions at the River Dee Estuary or within the SAC.
299. In addition, otters are highly mobile and would forage in a wide range of terrestrial and coastal areas. As such, their exposure to near-bed sediment plumes, where SSC and contaminant effects are most pronounced, is likely to be limited and transient during any time foraging in the wider marine environment. On this basis, LSE on the River Dee SAC or Glen Tanar SAC from increased SSCs or mobilisation of existing contaminants in relation to otter is **screened out**.

5.5.2.1.1.4 Collision with Vessels

300. There is potential for otters foraging or commuting within coastal waters to interact with project vessels during all phases of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure. However, the coastline already experiences regular vessel traffic (**Chapter 11: Shipping and Navigation** of the **Bellrock OfTDA Scoping Report (Volume 1)**), and otters in the area are therefore likely to be habituated to existing levels of vessel activity. In addition, project vessels operating in the vicinity of the coast would typically be operating at low speeds, further reducing the likelihood of collision

or disturbance. As semi-aquatic animals, otters will be unlikely to venture far from the shore and are therefore unlikely to interact with vessels associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure during any phase therefore there will be no LSE on the River Dee SAC or Glen Tanar SAC from vessel collision and is **screened out**.

5.5.2.1.1.5 Underwater Noise

301. The Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary is located within both inshore and offshore waters, with all surface piercing infrastructure (i.e. the OfSS(s) and the OfRCS(s)) located a minimum 25 km from the shore. With no piling occurring within 25 km of the coast, the only noise sources within the inshore section of the Bellrock OfTDA Screening Boundary will be temporary dredging, drilling, rock placement, and increased vessel activity. These activities are considered unlikely to result in significant disturbance to otters; therefore, LSE on the River Dee SAC or Glen Tanar SAC is not anticipated from noise impacts.
302. However, if impulsive noise sources were to occur in the coastal region, for example unexploded ordnance clearance, otters will be assessed appropriately within the Marine Licence Application. On this basis, it is proposed potential effects arising from UWN generated from activities associated with the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure are **screened out** and will not be taken forward for further consideration in the Bellrock OfTDA RIAA.

5.5.2.1.2 In-combination Screening Assessment

303. The potential for LSE on the otter qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC and Glen Tanar SAC has been considered in-combination with other plans and projects capable of affecting the otter qualifying feature of the SACs via the same impact pathways as the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure.
304. The in-combination assessment has been undertaken with reference to the same impact pathways considered in the project-alone screening assessment: damage or disturbance of holts or resting sites; accidental release of pollutants; increase in SSCs; mobilisation of contaminants; collision with vessels and UWN. Across these pathways, impacts are typically localised in extent and spatially constrained around individual project footprints, resulting in limited overlap between the Zols of different projects.
305. In addition, comparable embedded design and mitigation measures are assumed across relevant projects, including implementing standard good practice measures to mitigate impacts on water quality. These measures further reduce the potential for spatial interaction between projects.
306. Overall, given the localised nature of most impacts, the limited spatial overlap between project Zols, and the consistent application of embedded design measures across projects, in-combination effects are not considered capable of altering the conclusions of the project-alone screening assessment.
307. On this basis, in-combination LSE on the otter qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC and Glen Tanar SAC can be excluded and the River Dee SAC and Glen Tanar SAC are **screened out** from further consideration via an appropriate assessment.

5.5.2.1.3 Screening Assessment Conclusion

308. For the project-alone screening assessment, construction, O&M and decommissioning phases of the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure are not anticipated to injure or kill otter, disturb holts or resting sites, restrict or fragment feeding grounds or inhibit the movement of otters commuting or foraging along the coast. Therefore, no impact pathways have been identified that would result in LSE on the otter qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC or Glen Tanar SAC. Likewise, the in-combination screening assessment has not identified any pathways or mechanisms by which effects from other plans and projects, when considered alongside the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure, would alter this conclusion.
309. As such, LSE on the otter qualifying feature of the River Dee SAC and Glen Tanar SAC, both alone and in-combination, can be excluded. The River Dee SAC and Glen Tanar SAC are therefore **screened out** from further consideration via appropriate assessment.
310. A separate HRA screening will be undertaken for the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (landward of MLWS) within the Bellrock OnTDA HRA Screening Report.

6 Screening Questions for Consultees

311. The following questions are posed to consultees to help them frame and focus their response to the HRA screening exercise, which will in turn inform the Bellrock OfTDA RIAA:
- Do you agree with the European sites and qualifying features identified for further consideration following the connectivity screening?
 - Do consultees agree with the conclusions of the LSE screening assessment (both alone and in-combination), including the European sites, qualifying features and impact pathways proposed to be taken forward to the Bellrock OfTDA RIAA?
 - Do consultees agree that connectivity should be reviewed following refinement of the Bellrock OfTDA, with sites and qualifying features for which connectivity no longer exists not taken forward to the Bellrock OfTDA RIAA?
 - Are consultees aware of any additional information that should be considered in the Bellrock OfTDA RIAA?

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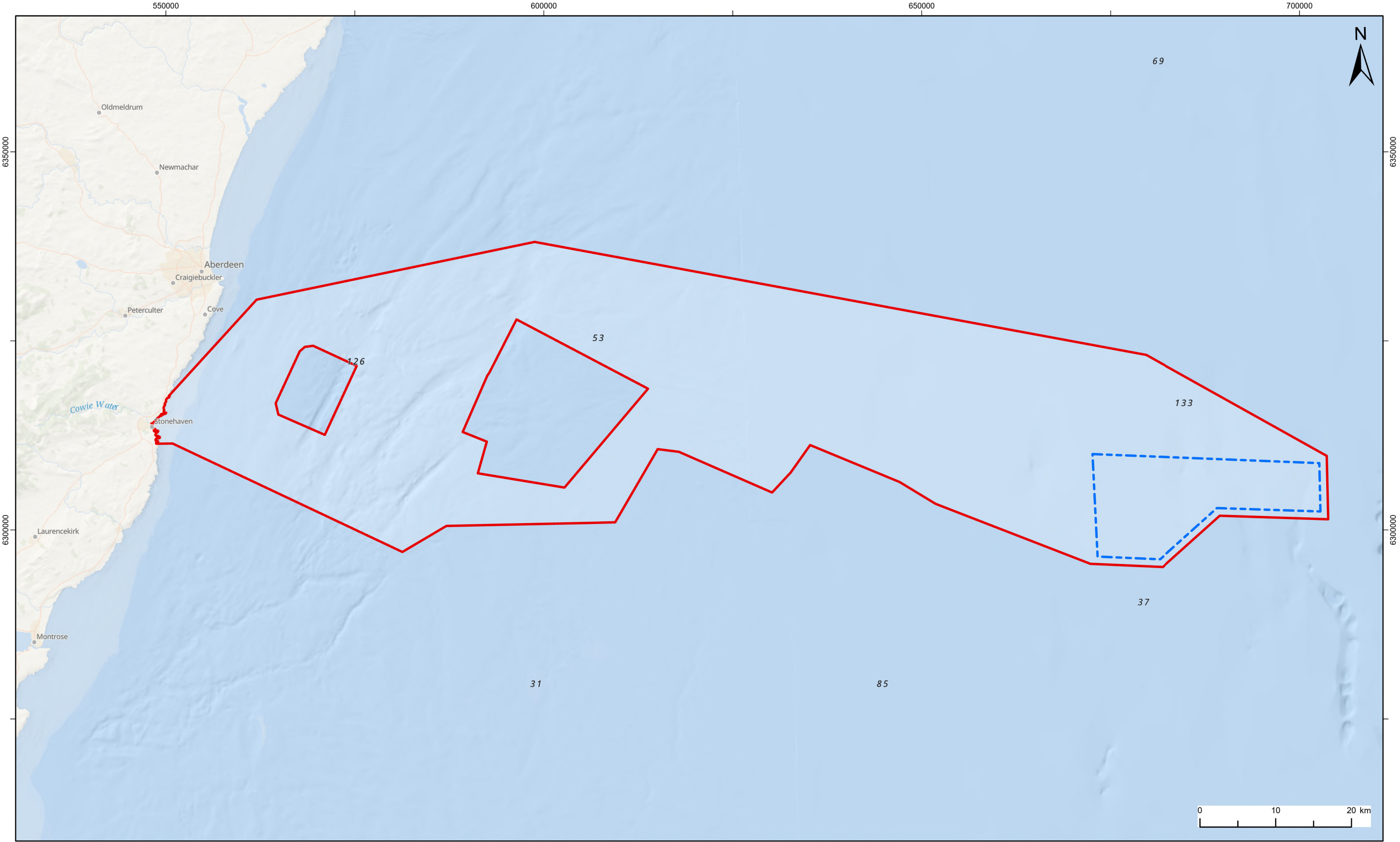
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Appendix A: Figures

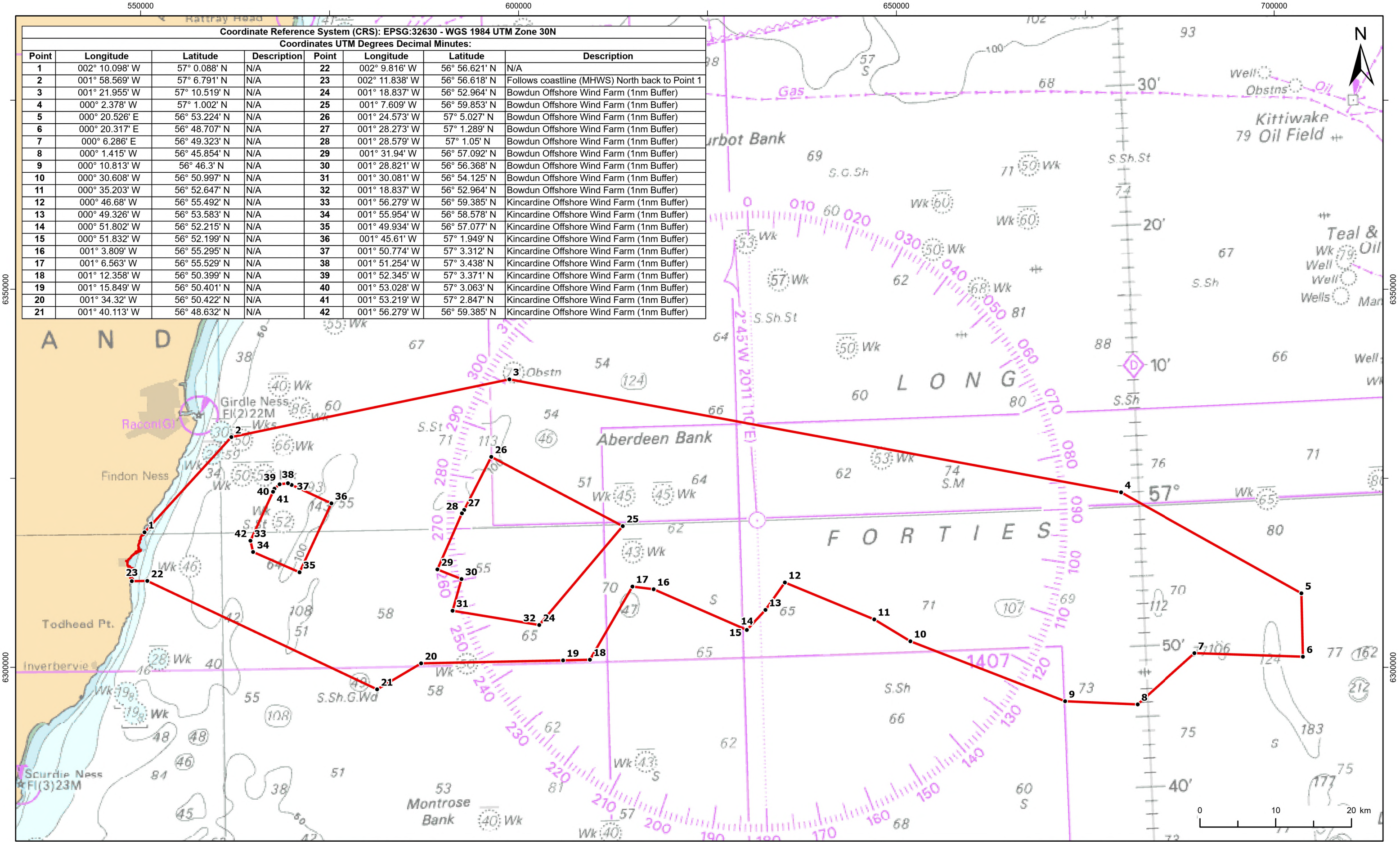
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- Legend:
- Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OFTDA) Screening Boundary
 - Bellrock Wind Farm Development Area

1	12/06/2026	Final	DL	SA	BMcG
REV	DATE	STATUS	DRW	CHK	APR
Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 30N			Scale @ A3		
Source: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, GEBCO, National Geographic, NOAA, and the GIS User Community, OceanWise, Esri, Garmin, NaturalVue, © Haskoning UK Ltd, 2026.			1:450,000		

Figure Title: Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area Screening Boundary		
Project: Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OFTDA)	Report: Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area HRA Screening Report	
Drawing No.: RHDV_BEL_CST_FGR_0067	Figure A.1	



Legend:

- Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OFTDA) Screening Boundary
- Bellrock OFTDA Screening Boundary Coordinate Points

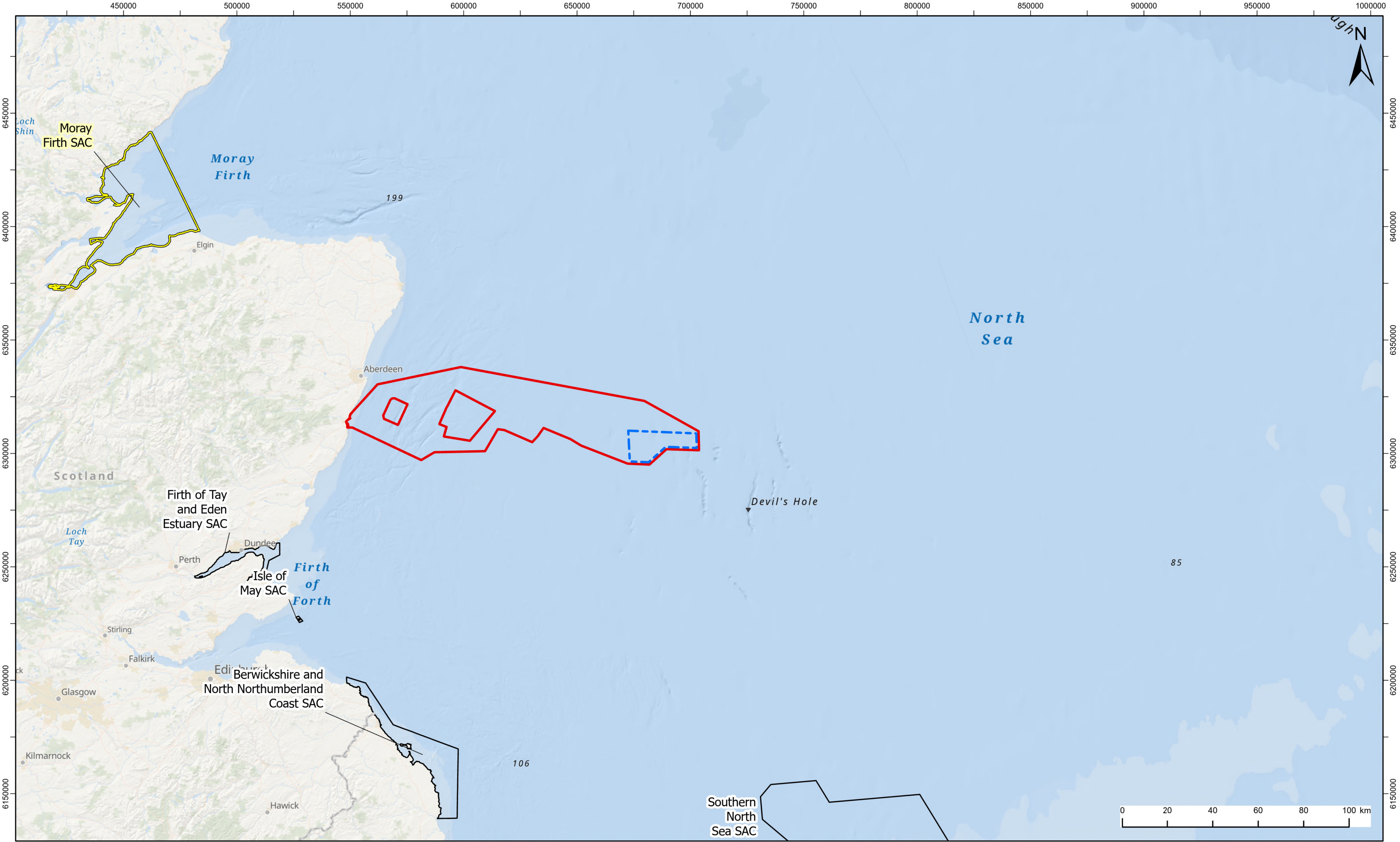
1	12/06/2026	Final	DL	SA	BMCG
REV	DATE	STATUS	DRW	CHK	APR
Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 30N			Scale @ A3		
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, © Haskoning UK Ltd, 2026. © Crown Copyright 2026. UK Hydrographic Office.			1:450,000		

Figure Title:

Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area Screening Boundary Coordinates

Project:	Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OftDA)	Report:	Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area HRA Screening Report
Drawing No.:	RHDV_BEL_CST_FGR_0068		

Figure A.2



- Legend:
- Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OFTDA) Screening Boundary
 - Bellrock Wind Farm Development Area
 - Marine Mammal SACs Screened Out at Pre-screening
 - Marine Mammal SAC Taken Forward for LSE Screening

1	11/06/2026	Final	DL	SA	BMcG
REV	DATE	STATUS	DRW	CHK	APR
Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 30N			Scale @ A3		
Source: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, GEBCO, National Geographic, NOAA, and the GIS User Community, OceanWise, Esri, GEBCO, Garmin, NaturalVue, © Haskoning UK Ltd, 2026.			1:1,500,000		

Figure Title: Marine Mammal SACs Considered during Pre-screening and the Site Taken Forward to Likely Significant Effect Screening		
Project: Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OFTDA)	Report: Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area HRA Screening Report	
Drawing No.:	RHDV_BEL_CST_FGR_0069	Figure A.3



- Legend:
- Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OFTDA) Screening Boundary
 - Bellrock Wind Farm Development Area
 - Special Protection Areas (SPA)

1	11/06/2026	Final	DL	SA	BMCG
REV	DATE	STATUS	DRW	CHK	APR
Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 30N					
Source:			Scale @ A3 1:5,000,000		
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, GEBCO, National Geographic, NOAA, and the GIS User Community, OceanWise, Esri, GEBCO, Garmin, NaturalVue, © Haskoning UK Ltd, 2026.					

Figure Title:	
SPAs taken forward for further consideration of potential for LSE of Bellrock OFTDA	
Project:	Report:
Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OFTDA)	Bellrock Offshore Transmission Screening Report
Drawing No.: RHDV_BEL_CST_FGR_0233	Figure A.4

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