

Eskdalemuir Working Group – Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Eskdalemuir Working Group (EWG) will work collectively with the aim to develop an approach regarding efficient deployment of onshore wind resource within the 50km Consultation Zone recognising that Ministry of Defence (MoD) must maintain safeguarding requirements for the Eskdalemuir Seismic Array.

Membership

The reformed EWG would consist of a core membership with representatives from the following organisations/groups:

- Scottish Government
- UK Government
- Ministry of Defence
- Heads of Planning Scotland (HOPS)
- Industry bodies (i.e. Scottish Renewables, RenewableUK)
- Onshore Wind Strategic Leadership Group

Stakeholders and industry experts will be invited to participate in meetings and present relevant information on an ad-hoc basis where core members are in agreement there is merit in doing so.

Objectives

1. To enable effective engagement between core group members on the development of relevant approaches and policies.
2. To identify interactions between any new approach(es) or policies for deployment of wind energy in the area and MoD “noise budget” management approach or policy.
3. To reach consensus on best available science and relevant data; reviewing additional evidence and data where required.

The EWG will not consider specific individual projects, or the merits of particular developments.

Frequency of Meetings

It is proposed that EWG will meet on a quarterly basis, with additional ad-hoc meetings scheduled where required. Reflecting on the scope of work drafted, the following meeting schedule is proposed for the course of 2023:

Scope of Works Proposed Timetable	Date
Initial meeting – reformed EWG	18 th Apr
Quarterly meeting	18 th July

Ad-hoc Meeting #1	21 st /22 nd Aug
Quarterly meeting	w/c 2 nd Oct
Ad-hoc Meeting #2	w/c 13 th Nov
Quarterly meeting (excluding Xmas/NY)	w/c 15 th Jan 2024

Reporting

The Onshore Wind Strategic Leadership Group (OWSLG) was established following a commitment made in the refreshed Onshore Wind Policy Statement, published December 2022. The OWLG is jointly chaired by Scottish Government and Scottish Renewables and is aligned with other existing energy strategic leadership groups nested under the Scottish Energy Advisory Board.

Finding an enduring solution to the constrained wind resource within the Eskdalemuir Consultation Zone is a strategic priority which is being considered alongside other technical barriers by the OWSLG and forthcoming sector deal. EWG will therefore report in to the OWSLG via their representative on the group.

Transparency over the development of a solution is a key consideration and interest for the wider onshore wind industry and the two industry body representatives (Scottish Renewables and RenewableUK) will have responsibility for ensuring parties within their membership receive timely and accurate updates on progress.

Secretariat

The secretariat function will be provided by a Scottish Government representative. The Secretariat will liaise with EWG members on suitable meeting arrangements, will minute meetings and will maintain an audit trail of actions. We would ask that Scottish Renewables continue to host meeting minutes.