Natura Impact Statement



Volume 2: Appendices

Appendix 1 Key Personnel









Appendix 1 – Key personnel expertise

Table 1.1 List of authors and relevant experience.

Author	Qualification and experience of authors
Jennifer Gibson	Jennifer Gibson is a Senior HRA Consultant at GoBe Consultants with 5 years' environmental consultancy experience. She gained a Masters in Ecological Management and Conservation Biology from Queens University Belfast. Jennifer had been lead author on a large number of Irish NISs for OWF construction and associated surveys.
Charles Stamp	Charles Stamp is a Senior HRA Consultant at GoBe Consultants with 6 years of ecological consultancy experience. Charles worked at Natural England for three years where he worked on and managed interaction with a variety of projects including NSIPs, residential housing developments, scientific research and use of strategic approaches to carrying out Habitat Regulation Assessments. He has a BSc in Zoology from Bangor University, Wales.
Glen Gillespie	Glen is an Associate Director and Head of HRA at GoBe Consultants. Glen was at Natural England for a total of thirteen years where he worked across a range of projects which included windfarms, residential housing developments, nuclear new builds, grid infrastructure and tidal lagoons. Following his departure from Natural England in 2016, Glen has worked in environmental consultancy at Senior, Principal and Associate Director levels, across a range of terrestrial and marine projects - including more than ten offshore wind farm projects across the UK and Ireland.
James Miles	James is a Principal Consultant and lead ornithologist at GoBe with expertise in marine ornithology, marine mammal science and freshwater ecology. His main skills are in animal behaviour and technical assessments (e.g. statistical analysis, PVA modelling, collision risk modelling). James has a PhD in Freshwater fish behaviour from the University of Southampton. During his time at GoBe he has managed several large-scale project EIA and HRA workstreams through all stages of pre-consent. His main expertise is in technical assessments and providing strategic advice to developers on all ornithological matters. He has also been involved in HRA derogation and compensation workstreams for many offshore windfarm projects across the UK and Ireland.
Phil New	Phil is a Principal environmental consultant with over 7 years commercial experience including project management, a background in marine biology and a strong track record in project management and environmental assessments.
	Phil's experience includes project management of EIA projects, the post-consent compliance for multiple wind farms in the Irish Sea and North Sea, and pre-application surveys alongside responsibility for the delivery of technical and introductory chapters for EIA for offshore wind farms. Phil has been responsible for the drafting of HRA reports for pre-application and post-consent projects,

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Author	Qualification and experience of authors
	covering topics ranging from marine mammals to intertidal habitats such as Salicornia and ornithological features. His experience of the production of post-consent compliance documentation includes drafting of pre-construction documents and environmental appraisals of revised construction methods to gain regulatory approval. His day to day responsibilities include client interaction, production of technical reports, liaison with stakeholders and management of subcontractors.
	Phil has practical experience of field work and statistical analysis of data, ecosystem modelling and seabed video and trawl analysis using GIS as well as having experience of sedimentary and taxonomic analyses. Phil has studied the impacts of a variety of activities on the marine environment including the ecosystem impacts of fisheries at different intensities and the adaptation of species to natural and anthropogenic pressures. Phil has a MSci (Hons) in Marine Biology (2:1 Upper Class) from the University of Southampton.
Simone Pfeifer	Simone is an experienced marine ecologist with specific knowledge of the diversity and structure of subtidal and deep-water benthic habitats and communities. Simone has experience in conducting HRA screening assessments and advising developers on the risk of causing injury or disturbance to marine European Protected Species. She has also been involved in the development of sampling protocols for Annex I habitats, monitoring options for deep-water benthic habitats, and guidelines to assess impacts on features protected in Natura 2000 sites and Marine Conservation Zones. Simone has a PhD in Benthic deep-water ecology from the University of Southampton.
Chris Nikitik	Chris Nikitik (MSc, BSc) is a marine ecologist with over 30 years' experience in both in the public and private sectors with specific knowledge of benthic community dynamics, sediment chemistry, invertebrate predator/prey relationships and biomagnification. He has been involved in projects related to offshore renewables, onshore power generation, port construction and maintenance, industrial developments and transport infrastructure with findings used to inform Environmental Statements or produced as standalone Environmental Impact Assessments or monitoring reports. Examples of drivers for recent work in which Chris has been involved include the North Irish Sea Array Windfarm, Dublin Array, Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind and Five Estuaries Offshore Windfarm.
Maeve Maher-McWilliams North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Ltd	Maeve is a Principal Ecologist for Woodrow. Maeve has worked for over ten years on complex environmental impact assessments and mitigation design for development projects across Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Maeve has been involved in projects across several sectors such as renewable energy; linear infrastructure; flood relief schemes and port developments; tourism and recreation; residential, pharmaceutical and data centre development. Providing advice and recommendations throughout project lifetime from inception and due diligence, right through the planning process and into post-planning compliance. As a project manager and field ecologist she carries out multidisciplinary surveys, habitat surveys, bat surveys, mammal surveys and specialises in ornithology surveys. North Irish Sea Array Offshore Wind Farm

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Author	Qualification and experience of authors
	She is also a skilled Ecological Clerk of Works. Maeve has been involved in the management of the project, reporting and review of the chapter.
SMRU Consulting	SMRU Consulting is a global leader in marine mammal research and consultancy, delivering innovative, robust and environmentally sound solutions since 2006. We have considerable experience with scoping and consenting offshore wind farm projects and have a solid understanding of the relevant environmental, conservation and legislation as it applies to marine mammal assessments. We work closely with partners to ensure project risks are identified and managed, from preconsenting through to the post installation monitoring and reporting, ensuring smooth sign-off of licence conditions.