

Cross-Party Group On Rural Policy

2nd October 2024



Background

Part of a long running story about renewable energy in the Isle of Lewis

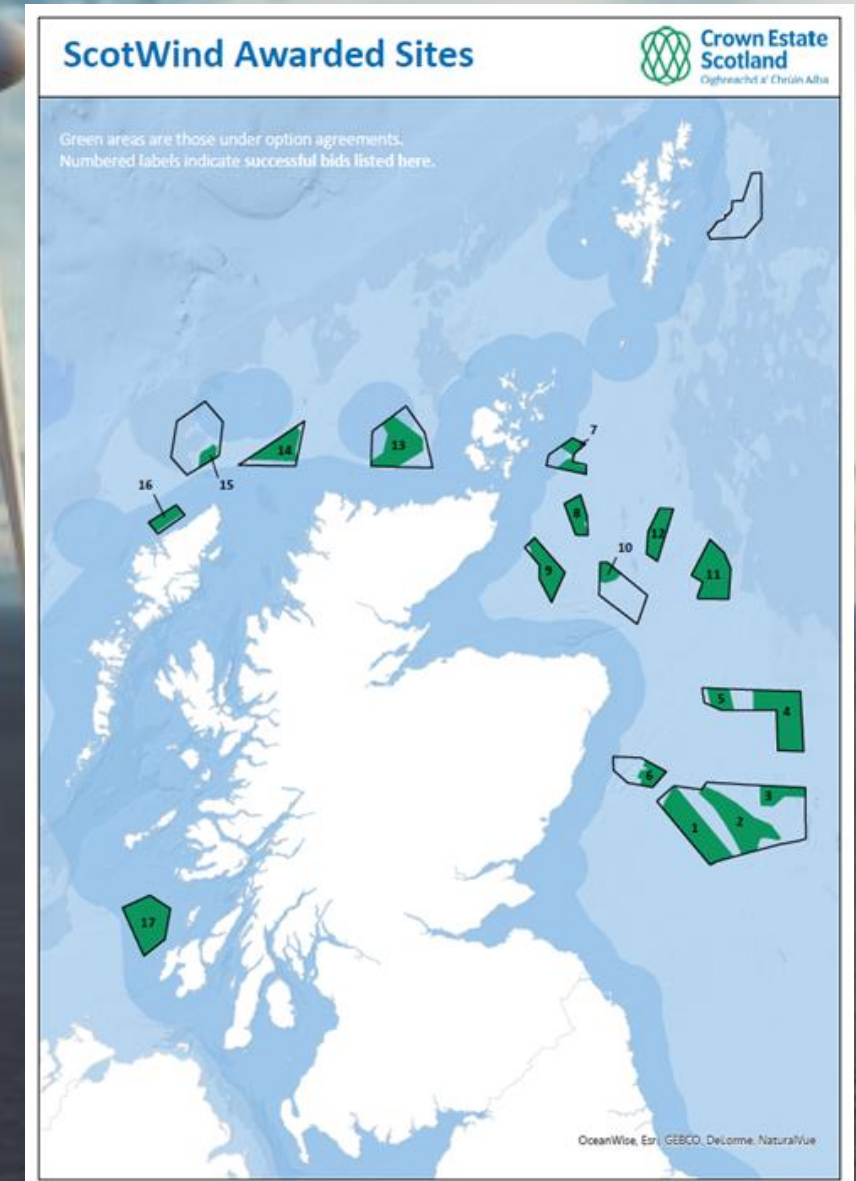
Widespread commercial onshore wind projects awaiting major grid investment

Previous interest from wave energy developers

Significant effort in community owned renewables across the island, linked to local ownership of estates

Scotwind is the latest chapter in the story

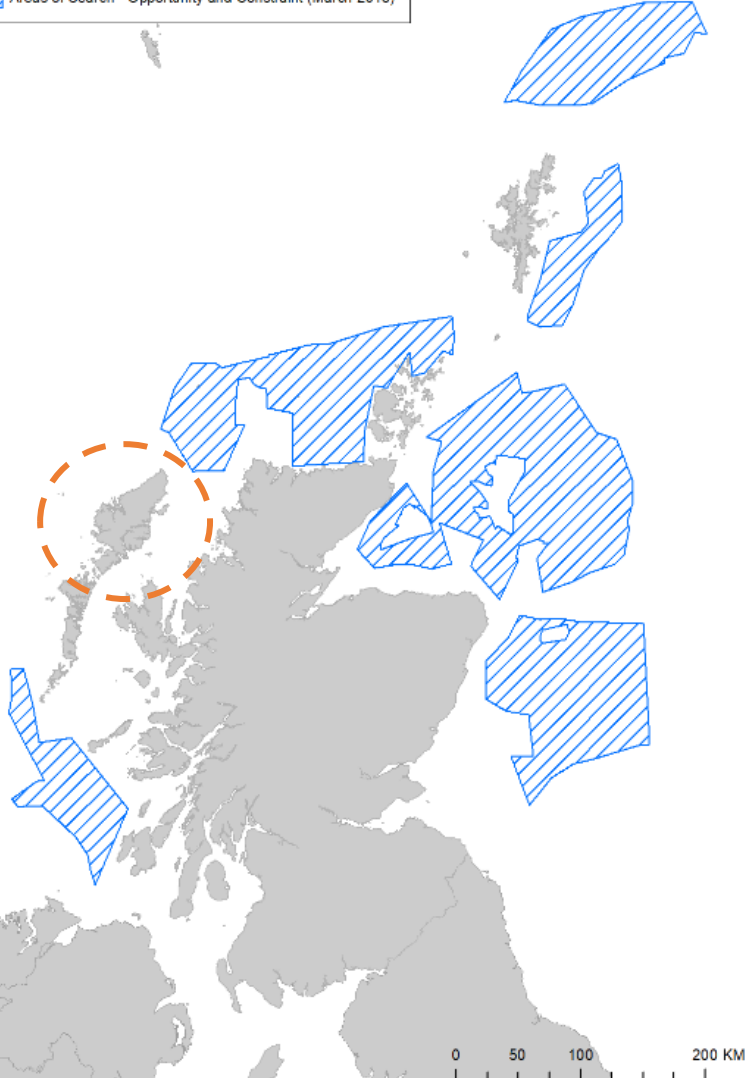
- Minimal consultation/low public awareness
- N4 (Spiorad na Mara) unusually close to shore at 5km
- N2 and N3 more consistent with rest of UK/Scottish sites



Scottish Government Marine Planning

Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind - Areas of Search

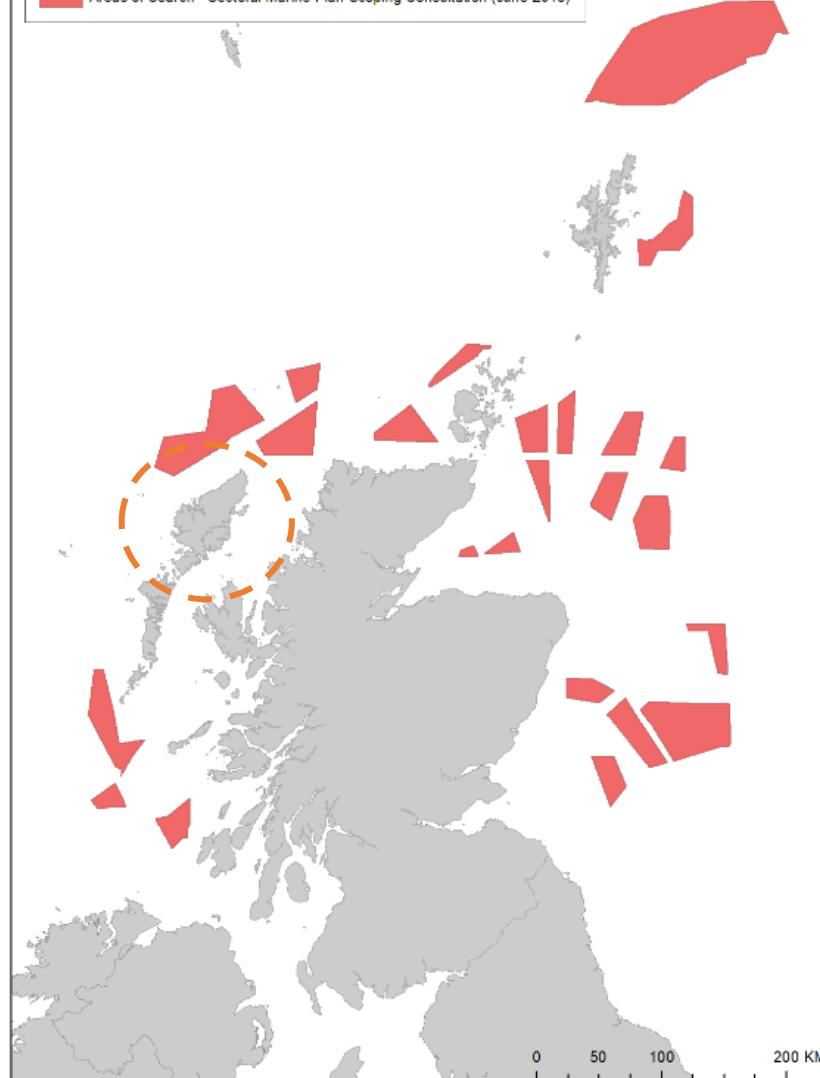
Areas of Search - Opportunity and Constraint (March 2018)



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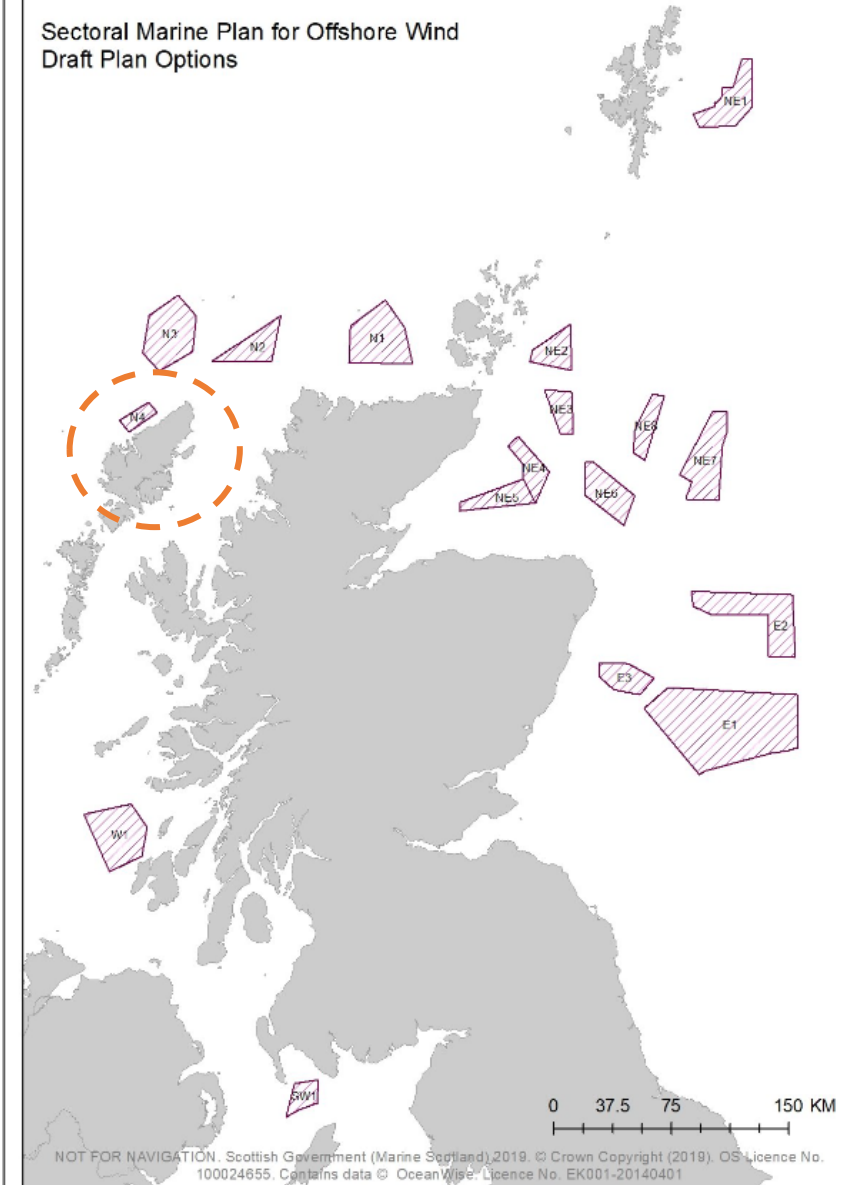
Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind - Areas of Search

Areas of Search - Sectoral Marine Plan Scoping Consultation (June 2018)



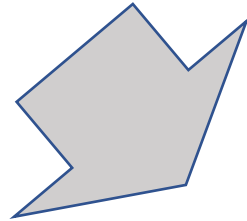
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Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Draft Plan Options

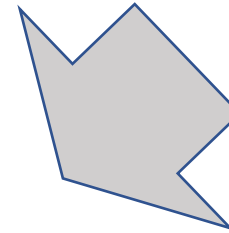


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N4 Windfarm Developer



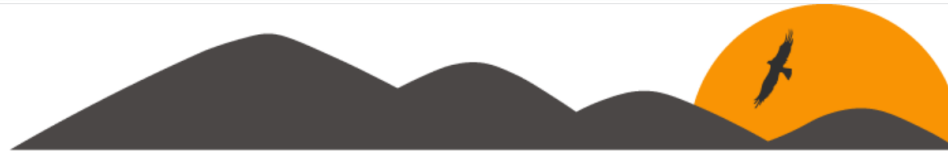
ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BOARD
BORD SOLÁTHAIR AN LEICTREACHAIS



West Side Landowners



Barvas Estate Trust
Urras Oighreachd Bharabhais



Lewis Island Crofters Ltd.

WSEG remit

- Identifying land requirements
- Pressing for greater communication and consultation from developer
- Identifying potential benefit for affected communities - weighing up the pros and cons
- Pro-renewables but not at any cost

Community Benefit

Scottish Government working group yet to provide guidance for offshore wind

No community benefit requirement within ScotWind leasing process

Public agencies focused on supply-chain opportunities - limited for island/coastal communities

Some existing CB examples for offshore wind but small/inconsistent

Some local authorities issued guidance

Irish government operates mandatory scheme based on €2 per MegaWatt Hour generated

Discussions with developer considered MWh rate and percentage of gross income but moved to fixed amount of £4.5m pa latterly –

if project proceeds



Leverage



Hurdles

- acceptance as community representatives
- moving from prescribed to iterative process
- discussing community benefit pre-consenting
- setting out basis and amount of fund
- identifying area of benefit

Built cohesive landowner group

Rehearsed discussions, rotated speakers and venues, ensured in-person engagement every time

Addressed expected concerns and objections prior to discussing monies

Strong, cohesive community group with technical knowledge proved to be powerful

Community land ownership was key to outcome





Questions ?
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