

# INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

## UK Offshore Low-Carbon Energy Sector

North East Scotland Energy Supply Sector | Week Ending 30 May 2026

Prepared by ExportCentral AI — North East Energy Supply Sector Space

Coverage Period	Audience	Classification
24 – 30 May 2026	NES Tier 2/3 Energy Supply Chain	Weekly Market Intelligence

*A regular intelligence briefing for North East Scotland energy supply chain companies presenting the latest news, trends, developments and sales opportunities in the UK offshore low-carbon sector — including offshore wind, hydrogen, CCUS, marine energy, hydropower, geothermal, decommissioning and other offshore renewables.*

### Executive Summary

A heavyweight week for UK offshore wind, hydrogen and CCUS execution. DESNZ granted **development consent for three major offshore wind projects — Dogger Bank South East (1.5 GW), Dogger Bank South West (1.5 GW) and North Falls (up to 1 GW)** — unlocking a combined ~4 GW pipeline (RWE/Masdar and RWE/SSE Renewables) heading to final investment decisions in 2027. All three secured AR7 CfDs in January, and the consent decisions move them squarely into procurement-mobilisation phase.

In hydrogen, **Barrow Green Hydrogen reached FID on 27 May 2026** — a 30 MW Plug PEM electrolyser project at Carlton Power’s Barrow-in-Furness site, supplying Kimberly-Clark’s Andrex / Kleenex facility under a long-term industrial offtake and SEFE PPA. It is the first of three Plug-supported UK projects (Barrow, Trafford, Langage) under the GHECO JV — a clear HAR1-to-execution validation point that strengthens the case for HAR2 funded supply chain build-up.

In CCUS, the **Eni CCUS Holding Liverpool Bay CCS project closed a £500m holdco financing** (Latham & Watkins advised the banks), with proceeds also enabling Eni’s Bacton CCS and Dutch L10-CCS projects — a major Track-2 UK CCS funding signal that lands the week after the BP NZT/NEP stake-sale announcement. Two structural policy moves landed in the same window: **Chancellor Rachel Reeves unveiled measures to curb judicial reviews against major energy projects** via a new “Critical National Importance” Parliamentary Authorisation Route, and **UK offshore wind consenting reforms entered into force** shifting environmental compensation to a strategic, programme-level basis. In decommissioning, **Well-Safe Solutions won its first well operatorship contract on the UKCS**, deploying the Well-Safe Defender rig from June 2026.

### 1. Offshore Wind — Fixed Bottom

**DESNZ Consents Dogger Bank South East, Dogger Bank South West and North Falls — ~4 GW Combined (26 May 2026)**

On **26 May 2026**, the UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero granted development consent for **three major UK offshore wind projects: Dogger Bank South East (1.5 GW) and Dogger Bank South West (1.5 GW)** — developed by RWE and Masdar off the northeast coast of England — and **North Falls (up to 1 GW)**,

developed by RWE and SSE Renewables off the east coast. All three secured Contracts for Difference under **AR7 in January 2026** and now have planning permits in hand. Final investment decisions are expected in **2027**. Industrial Info notes that with these consents, there are now four Dogger Bank projects with a combined investment value above US\$13 billion. This is the largest single batch of UK offshore wind consents of the post-AR7 cycle and will drive a marked uplift in procurement engagement across the wider RWE and SSE Renewables supply chains over the next 12–18 months.

**NES Sales Opportunity:** The consents move three AR7-backed mega-projects into **procurement mobilisation phase ahead of 2027 FIDs**. NES suppliers in **monopile / jacket fabrication readiness reviews, transition piece pre-assembly, electrical balance-of-plant, marine logistics, geotechnical and survey services, ICP works and cabling installation** should be issuing capability statements to RWE’s UK supply chain team (which already has Vanguard and Sofia transition-piece programmes underway at Lamprell) and SSE Renewables for North Falls. The 12–18-month FID-prep window is when sub-contract framework lists are populated — firms not on those lists by Q1 2027 will lose the AR7 opportunity entirely.

### UK Offshore Wind Consenting Reforms Come Into Force (25 May 2026)

On **25 May 2026**, the latest tranche of UK offshore wind reforms came into force, aimed at accelerating project deployment while strengthening environmental protection. The reforms move environmental compensation from a project-by-project basis onto a **more strategic, programme-level approach** — making consenting outcomes more predictable for developers while supporting nature recovery goals. The reform package addresses bottlenecks where offshore wind projects are required to deliver compensation for impacts on protected marine habitats, species, and sites, and is part of wider clean-power deployment measures aligned with the Energy Independence Bill.

**NES Sales Opportunity:** Strategic environmental compensation reduces the per-project consenting risk and frees up developer-side procurement timelines previously held back by HRA / Habitats compensation negotiations. NES **environmental consultancy, marine survey, benthic / ornithology monitoring and offshore environmental compensation contractors** should engage The Crown Estate, Crown Estate Scotland and the Marine Directorate teams now responsible for strategic compensation pipelines — these become national-scale procurement frameworks rather than project-by-project micro-tenders. Aberdeen ecology firms with offshore survey experience are well-positioned to bid into the new strategic compensation work programmes.

## 2. Floating Offshore Wind

### Muir Mhòr Ownership Transfer — Vattenfall Divests, Fred. Olsen Seawind Takes 100% (26 May 2026)

On **26 May 2026**, Vattenfall and Fred. Olsen Seawind agreed that **Fred. Olsen Seawind will assume full ownership of the Muir Mhòr floating offshore wind farm** — a share-sale transaction subject to regulatory approvals including Crown Estate Scotland (which holds the seabed lease). Muir Mhòr is a **1 GW ScotWind floating project sited approximately 63 km east of Peterhead** — onshore consent was approved in June 2025, the offshore consent determination remains pending, and operation is targeted for the early 2030s. Vattenfall is exiting to refocus on Nordlicht I/II in Germany and Zeevonk in the Netherlands. The transfer concentrates project decision-making in a single Norway-headquartered owner and is expected to clarify the procurement pathway as offshore consent is finalised.

### Buchan Offshore Wind — Aberdeenshire Council Consents Onshore Infrastructure (26 May 2026)

Also on **26 May 2026**, **Aberdeenshire Council granted planning consent for the onshore infrastructure** required to connect the **Buchan Offshore Wind farm — a 70-turbine, ~1 GW ScotWind floating project sited approximately 45 miles northeast of Fraserburgh** — to the national grid at the existing Peterhead substation. Cables will make landfall at Rattray Head with a 12-mile underground cable to a new project substation alongside Peterhead. Buchan Offshore Wind (a JV of three leading European energy companies) projects **£900m+ invested in Scotland’s manufacturing sector and supply chain, ~2,900 jobs at construction peak and ~300 long-term O&M roles**, delivering more than £2bn lifetime economic value to Aberdeenshire, the North East and Highlands. Offshore consent was submitted to the Scottish Government in August 2025, with determination expected later in 2026.

**NES Sales Opportunity:** The combined Muir Mhòr and Buchan ScotWind progress places **two ~1 GW floating projects on consenting / procurement trajectories anchored on Peterhead**. NES suppliers in **floating substructure fabrication, dynamic-cable design, mooring engineering and supply, marine survey, onshore civils and substation electrical works** should engage Fred. Olsen Seawind (Muir Mhòr) and the Buchan JV directly this week. Peterhead-based and Aberdeen-located firms have a defensible logistics-cost case for both projects — capability statements should explicitly reference Peterhead substation tie-in, Rattray Head landfall, and the deep-water Port of Cromarty Firth (already supporting Inch Cape construction logistics).

### 3. Hydrogen

#### **Barrow Green Hydrogen Achieves Final Investment Decision — 30 MW Plug Electrolysers (27 May 2026)**

On **27 May 2026**, Plug Power and Carlton Power announced that the **Barrow Green Hydrogen project reached Final Investment Decision**. The project deploys **30 MW of Plug GenEco PEM electrolysers at Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria**, supplying green hydrogen to Kimberly-Clark’s Andrex / Kleenex manufacturing site under a long-term industrial offtake. Renewable electricity is provided through a long-term PPA with SEFE. Once operational the facility will produce **~100 GWh of green hydrogen annually, displacing up to 50% of Kimberly-Clark’s natural gas use and cutting ~18,300 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per year**. Barrow is funded under **Hydrogen Allocation Round 1 (HAR1)** and is the first of three Plug-supported UK projects under the GHECO JV (Schroders Greencoat / Carlton Power) to move into execution, alongside Trafford and Langage — a combined 55 MW Plug pipeline across the three.

**NES Sales Opportunity:** Barrow FID is the strongest UK green-hydrogen project-execution signal since the HAR1 cohort was selected, validating PEM electrolyser deployment at industrial scale in the UK. NES **balance-of-plant EPC, electrical and mechanical packagers, pipework / compression / metering, water treatment, hydrogen safety case and HAZID consultancy firms** should now be engaging Carlton Power, Schroders Greencoat and Plug Power’s UK execution team on Trafford and Langage — the next two GHECO projects in the pipeline. The Barrow precedent also strengthens NES capability statements heading into the HAR2 ~765 MW shortlist sponsor decisions due mid-2026.

### 4. Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS)

#### **Eni Liverpool Bay CCS Closes £500m Holdco Financing — Track-2 Funding Milestone (26 May 2026)**

On **26 May 2026**, Eni CCUS Holding Limited closed a **£500 million holdco financing for the Liverpool Bay CCS carbon capture and storage transportation network project** — Latham & Watkins advising the banks.

Beyond Liverpool Bay (HyNet's CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage backbone), the financing also supports Eni's wider European CCUS portfolio, including the **Bacton CCS project in South East England** (positioned to decarbonise industries in the South East and connect to continental Europe) and the **L10-CCS storage site in the Netherlands**. The financing close lands one week after BP's confirmed sale of NZT Power and NEP stakes — reinforcing that UK CCUS infrastructure remains commercially financeable on a Track-1 / Track-2 basis, with capital flow continuing into the cluster transport and storage networks.

**NES Sales Opportunity:** Eni's £500m holdco close commercialises HyNet's CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage backbone and explicitly funds the **Bacton CCS planning and consenting workstream** — a Track-2 expansion-bid candidate. Aberdeen-based **subsea pipeline integrity, dense-phase CO<sub>2</sub> metering, well-integrity, CO<sub>2</sub> storage simulation, ROV inspection and CO<sub>2</sub> risk-assessment specialists** should target Eni CCUS Holding's UK procurement team this week with Liverpool Bay and Bacton-relevant case studies. The financing close also strengthens the wider Track-2 narrative — Acorn supply-chain engagement should be refreshed in parallel.

## 5. Marine & Tidal Energy

### Caudal Energy Raises £4.3m Seed for Bio-Inspired Tidal Technology — University of Oxford Spinout (29 May 2026)

On 29 May 2026, UK tidal startup Caudal Energy (formerly Porpoise Power, University of Oxford spinout founded 2024) closed a **£4.3 million seed round** co-led by Oxford Science Enterprises and Empirical Ventures, with participation from existing investors Zero Carbon Capital and Creator Fund, and new investors Kibo Invest and Oxford Innovation Finance. Caudal's technology uses **oscillating fins modelled on marine mammal tails** to generate predictable tidal-stream power, designed for mid-flow tidal environments with peak flows above three knots — deliberately positioned as a turbine alternative for sites unsuitable for conventional rotor-based devices. First commercial deployment is targeted for **2028**.

**NES Sales Opportunity:** A new oscillating-fin tidal architecture creates a fresh procurement opportunity outside the established MeyGen / Orbital / Mocean supplier ecosystem. NES **hydrodynamic engineering, composite fabrication, dynamic seal and bearing supply, subsea mooring, marine survey and offshore installation firms** should engage Caudal Energy directly on its **demonstration and deployment scale-up plan**, alongside continuing engagement with the established AR8 ringfence tidal-stream cohort and Marine Energy Wales 2026. A new tidal device manufacturer in the UK pipeline is a 3–5-year supply-chain opportunity for Aberdeen-based subsea capability.

## 6. Geothermal

### Status Update — Sector Profile Building Post-GESGB 2026 Conference

No major UK geothermal project contract awards landed in the 24–30 May window. The sector continues to build on the **GESGB Geothermal 2026: Resource to Revenue** conference held 20 May, with renewed BusinessGreen coverage on 26 May arguing that geothermal could provide critical UK baseload and storage capacity through the next decade of energy crises. Underlying procurement momentum continues at Geothermal Engineering Ltd Cornwall, the British Geological Survey UK Geothermal Platform, and Scottish mine-water deep-heat networks. Sector activity is also visible in adjacent low-carbon heat policy as the heat network zoning regime under Part 8 of the Energy Act 2023 progresses toward implementing regulations.

**NES Sales Opportunity:** NES **drilling, well-completion, downhole tooling, brine handling, ORC turbine, heat-network integration, and reservoir simulation firms** should now be following up the GESGB Geothermal 2026 attendee list with targeted capability briefings. The heat-network zoning regime under the Energy Act 2023 creates a **new statutory route for geothermal heat-source connection** — Aberdeen consultancies advising Scottish local authorities on heat network zone designations should ensure deep geothermal and mine-water heat sources are included in initial Tier 1 designations.

## 7. Decommissioning

### Well-Safe Solutions Wins First Well Operatorship Contract on UKCS — Defender Rig Mobilising June 2026

On **26 May 2026**, Aberdeen-headquartered **Well-Safe Solutions** secured its **first well operatorship contract on the UKCS** for an undisclosed client. Under the deal, Well-Safe Solutions will act as well operator and manage all aspects of well decommissioning — from planning, subsurface analysis and well design engineering through to provision of rig, service vessels and support vessels. The company will deploy the **Well-Safe Defender semisubmersible** (110-crew, midwater, technically complex subsurface), with mobilisation to the field planned for **June 2026** before moving directly to its next assignment in the Northern North Sea. This is the company's **fourth major UKCS award of 2026** and marks a strategic step from rig-and-services provider to Tier-1 integrated well lifecycle operator.

**NES Sales Opportunity:** Well-Safe's operatorship status creates a new direct procurement counterparty for NES suppliers — previously the contracts ran through the asset operator. Aberdeen **subsurface engineering, well design, cementing, plug & abandonment specialist services, OSV / supply vessel operators, ROV intervention and project management firms** should engage the Well-Safe Solutions Aberdeen procurement team this week with operatorship-grade capability statements. With four UKCS awards already in 2026 and the Defender mobilising in June, sub-contract decisions are time-critical. The Northern North Sea follow-on assignment further strengthens the case for Aberdeen-managed supply.

## 8. Hydropower & Pumped Storage

### Status Update — LDES Cap and Floor Selection Window Tightening into June 2026

No formal Ofgem decision on the Long Duration Electricity Storage cap-and-floor regime landed in the 24–30 May window. The selection of preferred projects remains expected **imminently as the Spring 2026 window closes**, with the LDES decision now the principal near-term catalyst for UK pumped-storage and large-scale BESS investment. Active project positioning continues across **SSE Renewables Coire Glas (1,300 MW / 30 GWh) pre-FID, Earba Storage (1.8 GW), and the Statkraft Loch Kemp / Loch na Cathrach projects**. Battery storage activity remains strong: Sumitomo Corporation announced a £694 MW UK BESS portfolio agreement with Gresham House this week (with construction of the first 397 MW tranche to begin in the current fiscal year), and AGR Renewables closed financing on a 310 MW solar + 250 MWh storage portfolio — reinforcing the wider LDES adjacency for Scottish supply chain.

**NES Sales Opportunity:** NES **civil engineering, tunnelling, geotechnical, electrical infrastructure, environmental monitoring and grid-connection specialist firms** should treat June as the immediate **pre-LDES decision engagement window** for Coire Glas, Earba and Statkraft procurement teams. Highland-located logistics advantage should be embedded in capability submissions. BESS-adjacent firms should

engage Sumitomo Summit Transition Partners and Gresham House on the 397 MW UK BESS first-phase build-out kicking off this fiscal year.

## 9. Policy & Regulatory Developments

### Chancellor Reeves Announces Curb on Judicial Reviews — New “CNI Parliamentary Authorisation Route” (20–29 May 2026)

In the week to **29 May 2026**, Chancellor of the Exchequer **Rachel Reeves announced measures to curb judicial reviews against major energy projects** and accelerate UK infrastructure deployment. Under the proposals, Parliament will be able to designate projects as of **Critical National Importance (CNI)** via a new **Parliamentary Authorisation Route**. Projects deemed by the Energy Secretary and backed by MPs as most crucial will continue through the standard development consent process but with the final decision put to a House of Commons vote. Approved Development Consent Orders would carry a distinct statutory status — “akin to an Act of Parliament” — and be protected from judicial review on all grounds other than human rights. The reforms respond to repeated multi-year JR-driven delays on offshore wind projects (most notably the East Anglia substations and Norfolk Vanguard). RenewableUK’s Executive Director of Policy Ana Musat welcomed the measures, noting that JRs have been a major contributor to UK wind farms taking over ten years through the planning system.

**NES Sales Opportunity:** Curbing JR exposure on CNI-designated projects has the potential to compress UK offshore wind project timelines by 1–3 years, which directly accelerates the **procurement and FID schedules of every project in NES suppliers’ pipeline**. NES firms should align capability statements with project-level CNI candidate lists — likely to include AR7 / AR8 CfD-secured offshore wind, hydrogen and CCUS projects. Aberdeen sector bodies (OEUK, NOF, Energy Transition Zone) should consider co-ordinated NES industry submissions into the policy consultation, evidencing the supply chain cost of JR-driven uncertainty.

### Energy Independence Bill — Carter Jonas Sector Commentary (28 May 2026)

On **28 May 2026**, Carter Jonas published further sector-specific commentary on the **Energy Independence Bill**, confirming that the Bill will reform market, planning and regulatory frameworks to accelerate clean-power deployment (including offshore wind, hydrogen and smart-grid technologies); speed up grid build-out through reforms to land access rules and network consenting; place Exchequer funding of **75% of the domestic Renewables Obligation cost on an enduring legal basis for three years**; create the Warm Homes Agency; and grant Ofgem new powers including over third-party intermediaries. The Bill also creates clearer responsibilities for NESO, Ofgem and network operators in relation to connections reform.

## 10. Key Upcoming Events for NES Companies

Event	Date	Location	Relevance
OEUK North Sea CCS & Hydrogen Summit	1–2 June 2026	Sheraton, Edinburgh	CCS / hydrogen project intelligence — post-BP NZT/NEP exit + Eni Liverpool Bay financing
SPE Aberdeen Well Decommissioning 2026	3–4 June 2026	P&J Live, Aberdeen	UKCS decommissioning sector — Well-Safe Solutions operatorship context

Event	Date	Location	Relevance
ECC NPT Pathfinder Application Deadline	12 June 2026	Online	CCUS Pathfinder full submissions close
Global Offshore Wind 2026	16–17 June 2026	Manchester Central	Full offshore wind value chain — AR7 consented project procurement positioning
Scottish Renewables Supply Chain Conference 2026	June 2026	Glasgow	Scottish renewables supply chain — ScotWind / Buchan / Muir Mhòr engagement
CfD Allocation Round 8 (AR8) Opens	July 2026	Online (DESNZ)	Wind / hydrogen / floating CfD bidding window opens
Crown Estate Supply Chain Accelerator R3 Deadline	3 July 2026	Online	Final application date for £15m UK offshore wind supply chain fund
Floating Offshore Wind 2026	7–8 October 2026	P&J Live, Aberdeen	RenewableUK floating wind summit — ScotWind procurement positioning

## 11. Grant Funding & Support Mechanisms Active This Week

Fund / Mechanism	Value	Deadline	Eligible NES Companies
Crown Estate Supply Chain Accelerator Round 3	£15m total — 50% match £250k–£2m per project	3 July 2026	UK fixed and floating offshore wind supply chain firms, plus port/port-related infrastructure
GBE Supply Chain Fund	Up to £300m capital	10 December 2026	Manufacturers of offshore wind components, cables, foundations, nacelles
Offshore Wind Growth Partnership Industrial Growth Fund	£300k – £25m per project	Rolling	Supply chain firms expanding or building offshore wind manufacturing
ECC NPT Pathfinder Selection Process	Project support	12 June 2026	CCUS project developers and supply chain — active post-Eni Liverpool Bay financing
CCUS Innovation 2.0 — Built Environment Sequestration	Innovation grant	2026 round open	Carbon-storage innovators incl. mineralisation and monitoring
UK Hydrogen Allocation Round 2 (HAR2)	CfD-style revenue support	Decisions expected mid-2026	Electrolyser integrators, EPC contractors and supply chain for ~765 MW shortlist — Barrow FID precedent
LDES Cap and Floor (Ofgem)	Revenue support framework	Spring 2026 selection imminent	Pumped storage hydro developers and Scottish civil / electrical supply chain

## 12. Sales Opportunity Summary for NES Supply Chain Companies

Sector	Opportunity	Timing	Priority
Fixed Wind	Dogger Bank SE/SW + North Falls (4 GW) consented — RWE/Masdar + RWE/SSE procurement mobilisation	Now–2027	★★★★★
Floating Wind	Muir Mhòr + Buchan ScotWind ~2 GW progress — Peterhead-anchored supply opportunity	Now–2030s	★★★★★
Hydrogen	Barrow Green Hydrogen FID + Trafford/Langage GHECO pipeline — BoP, electrolyser BoP and safety case engagement	Immediate	★★★★★
CCUS	Eni Liverpool Bay £500m close + Bacton CCS planning — pipeline/well integrity/integrity management engagement	Now–2028	★★★★★
Decommissioning	Well-Safe Solutions UKCS operatorship — P&A, OSV, ROV sub-contract engagement	June 2026	★★★★★
Policy	Reeves CNI Parliamentary Authorisation Route — NES industry submissions into consultation	Urgent	★★★★★
Funding	Crown Estate Supply Chain Accelerator Round 3 — £15m, 50% match, applications open through 3 July	Urgent	★★★★★
Fixed Wind	Offshore wind consenting reforms — strategic environmental compensation framework procurement	Now	★★★★
Marine / Tidal	Caudal Energy oscillating-fin tidal scale-up — new supply-chain entrant engagement	2026–2028	★★★
Hydropower	Pre-LDES selection engagement window (Coire Glas / Earba / Statkraft) + Sumitomo BESS 397 MW build-out	June 2026	★★★★
Geothermal	Heat network zoning regime + post-GESGB 2026 engagement — Scottish mine-water heat opportunity	2026–2030	★★★
Policy	Energy Independence Bill scrutiny + 75% RO Exchequer funding — supply-chain economics implications	Now–2026	★★★

*This briefing covers the period 24 – 30 May 2026. All opportunity ratings reflect proximity, scale, and fit with typical NES Tier 2/3 company capabilities. This briefing is prepared by ExportCentral AI for use by North East Scotland energy supply sector participants.*

## Sources Used

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