

Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm

Statement of Common Ground

Happisburgh Parish Council

Applicant: Norfolk Vanguard Limited
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Photo: Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm



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Glossary

DCO	Development Consent Order
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
OTMP	Outline Traffic Management Plan
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
TMP	Traffic Management Plan

Terminology

Array cables	Cables which link the wind turbines and the offshore electrical platform.
Landfall	Where the offshore cables come ashore at Happisburgh South
Mobilisation area	Areas approx. 100m x 100m used as access points to the running track for duct installation. Required to store equipment and provide welfare facilities. Located adjacent to the onshore cable route, accessible from local highways network suitable for the delivery of heavy and oversized materials and equipment.
National Grid overhead line modifications	The works to be undertaken to complete the necessary modification to the existing 400kV overhead lines
Necton National Grid substation	The existing 400kV substation near Necton, which will be the grid connection location for Norfolk Vanguard
Offshore accommodation platform	A fixed structure (if required) providing accommodation for offshore personnel. An accommodation vessel may be used instead
Offshore cable corridor	The area where the offshore export cables would be located.
Offshore electrical platform	A fixed structure located within the wind farm area, containing electrical equipment to aggregate the power from the wind turbines and convert it into a more suitable form for export to shore.
Offshore export cables	The cables which bring electricity from the offshore electrical platform to the landfall.
Onshore cable route	The 45m easement which will contain the buried export cables as well as the temporary running track, topsoil storage and excavated material during construction.
Onshore project substation	A compound containing electrical equipment to enable connection to the National Grid. The substation will convert the exported power from HVDC to HVAC, to 400kV (grid voltage). This also contains equipment to help maintain stable grid voltage.
The OWF sites	The two distinct offshore wind farm areas, Norfolk Vanguard East and Norfolk Vanguard West.
Trenchless crossing zone (e.g. HDD)	Temporary areas required for trenchless crossing works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by the Applicant to set out the areas of agreement and disagreement with Happisburgh Parish Council in relation to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter 'the project') based on consultation to date. Detailed input from Happisburgh Parish Council on the SoCG is currently outstanding and the Applicant will continue to engage with Happisburgh Parish Council to progress this SoCG. As part of this engagement, a meeting has been held between the Happisburgh Parish Council and the Applicant on Wednesday 6th March 2019 in an attempt to progress matters not yet agreed. This meeting included a visit to the coastline at Happisburgh.
2. This SoCG comprises an agreement log which has been structured to reflect topics of interest to Happisburgh Parish Council on the Norfolk Vanguard DCO application (hereafter 'the Application'). Points that are not agreed will be the subject of ongoing discussion wherever possible to resolve, or refine the extent of disagreement between the parties.

1.1 The Development

3. The Application is for the development of the Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm (OWF) and associated infrastructure. The OWF comprises two distinct areas, Norfolk Vanguard (NV) East and NV West ('the OWF sites'), which are located in the southern North Sea, approximately 70km and 47km from the nearest point of the Norfolk coast respectively. The location of the OWF sites is shown in Chapter 5 Project Description Figure 5.1 of the Application. The OWF would be connected to the shore by offshore export cables installed within the offshore cable corridor from the OWF sites to a landfall point at Happisburgh South, Norfolk. From there, onshore cables would transport power over approximately 60km to the onshore project substation and grid connection point near Necton, Norfolk.
4. Once built, Norfolk Vanguard would have an export capacity of up to 1800MW, with the offshore components comprising:
 - Wind turbines;
 - Offshore electrical platforms;
 - Accommodation platforms;
 - Met masts;
 - Measuring equipment (LiDAR and wave buoys);
 - Array cables;
 - Interconnector cables; and
 - Export cables.

5. The key onshore components of the project are as follows:
- Landfall;
 - Onshore cable route, accesses, trenchless crossing technique (e.g. Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)) zones and mobilisation areas;
 - Onshore project substation; and
 - Extension to the existing Necton National Grid substation and overhead line modifications.

1.2 Consultation with Happisburgh Parish Council

6. Table 1 contains the consultation that has taken place with Happisburgh Parish Council to date.
7. Happisburgh Parish Council provided a relevant representation to the Planning Inspectorate on 11th September 2018, outlining the concerns of the parish council. The following sections outline the specific matters that have been agreed as well as those which have not yet been resolved.

Table 1 Consultation with Happisburgh Parish Council to date

Date	Contact Type	Topic
Pre-Application		
17 th October 2016	Notification (via letter and email) sent to the Parish Council	At the commencement of the Phase I consultation period (Scoping), the Parish Council was written to and invited to participate and attend the public exhibitions. A newsletter was issued alongside this mailing to inform the area of the consultation.
19 th October 2016	Non-Statutory Consultation Event	A non -statutory consultation event was held in the Wenn Evans Centre, Happisburgh (2pm to 6.30pm).
16 th February 2017	Email issued to Parish Council	After request from PC for a map showing onshore ecological area, Vattenfall sent this across, along with map of more 'useful scale'. Context information and consultation dates also provided.
6 th March 2017	Notification (via letter and email) sent to the Parish Council	At the commencement of the Phase II consultation period, the Parish Council was issued a notification, which included an invitation to attend the public exhibitions.
23 rd March 2017	Non-Statutory Consultation Event	A non -statutory consultation event was held in Happisburgh Village Hall (1pm to 7pm).
22 nd April 2017	Email issued to Parish Council	Vattenfall sent a follow up email to the Parish Council about land outside of the Vattenfall search area.
2 nd May 2017	Phone call	Vattenfall spoke to the chair of the Parish Council about whether Vattenfall could share information about landfall and the cable route at the forthcoming

Date	Contact Type	Topic
		meeting. Also discussed some variables of the scheme and benefits.
5 th May 2017	Email issued to Parish Council	Vattenfall sent an email to the Parish Council following a phone call with chair of the Parish Council answering questions.
13 th June 2017	Meeting	A meeting was held with Happisburgh Parish Council to provide an update on the project, including a presentation with information on feedback from Phase II consultation, updates to the project in the Landfall area and an update on surveys being undertaken.
19 th June 2017	Email (follow up to meeting on 13 th June)	An email was issued to the Parish Council to follow up the meeting held the previous week. This email contained a copy of the presentation slides used, and an updated FAQ document. Provisional dates for the Workshop were also provided.
21 st June 2017	Email notification of surveys	An email was issued to the Parish Council notifying of surveys due to be taking place within the parish.
4 th July 2017	Invitation issued to attend Cable Relay Station Workshop	Invitations were issued to Happisburgh Parish Councillors inviting them to attend the Cable Relay Station Workshop.
18 th July 2017	Cable Relay Station/Landfall Workshop	A workshop was convened at the Wenn Evans Centre, Happisburgh in order to consider the issues related to Cable Relay Stations and the area around landfall in more detail.
19 th July 2017	Cable Relay Station Drop in Event	A drop-in event was held the day after the workshop in order to allow residents and stakeholders who were unable to attend the workshop to discuss the issues with the project team. This was held in the Church Rooms, Happisburgh.
24 th August 2017	Meeting	Responding to local community questions about Norfolk Vanguard, particularly, transmission system choice, cable corridor, cable relay stations.
6 th September 2017	Email update	An email was sent to the Parish Council providing a general update on progress with the project and highlighting the provisional date for the statutory consultation event taking place in Happisburgh. Links were shared to relevant materials including the current version of the FAQs.
14 th October 2017	Letter/email issued to Parish Council (SoCC)	A letter was issued to the Parish Council notifying them of the publication of the SoCC, including information on where to access a copy, and top-level information about the forthcoming statutory consultation.
16 th October 2017	Newsletter issued	Alongside the letter issued to the parish council regarding the publication of the SoCC, a newsletter was distributed to the Parish Council, and the wider area

Date	Contact Type	Topic
		notifying of the SoCC publication and forthcoming statutory consultation.
27 th October 2017	Letter issued (Section 42 Statutory Consultation Letter)	The Statutory consultation letter issued under section 42 was posted on 27 th October 2017 to the Parish Council notifying them of the formal consultation, where to access the PEIR and relevant documents, as well as how to provide feedback.
29 th October 2017	Email issued to Parish Council	Vattenfall responded to an email about how VF will communicate with residents about the information event in November.
3 rd November 2017	Email issued to Parish Council	Vattenfall responded to an email from the Parish Council about potential cliff damage and beach closure.
11 th November 2017	Statutory Consultation event	A statutory consultation event was held in the Wenn Evans Centre in Happisburgh (11am to 5.30pm).
20 th November 2017	Statutory Consultation response received from the Parish Council	Happisburgh Parish Council's Statutory Consultation response to the PEIR was received and logged by the project team.
12 th February 2018	Email issued to Parish Council	An email was issued to the Parish Council offering a meeting to provide an update on the project following the close of statutory consultation and in conjunction with the publication of the Interim Consultation Report (Hearing Your Views III).
12 th March 2018	Meeting	A meeting organised following the close of statutory consultation to present a project update to the parish council.
25 th April 2018	FAQ document issued	Following a review of questions posed since the close of statutory consultation, the FAQ document was updated and issued to the Parish Council.
3 rd August 2018	Email issued to Parish Council	Vattenfall correspondence with Parish Council over how to register as a registered party with PINs post-application.
Post-Application		
11 th September 2018	Letter from Happisburgh Parish Council	Relevant representation on the DCO application.
7 th September 2018	Email issued to Parish Council	An email relating to the organisation of the Parish Council meeting.
8 th October 2018	Meeting	Meeting to provide a presentation and project update.
14 th November 2018	Email and letter issued to Parish Council	An email to Happisburgh Parish Council requesting that they display the Norfolk Vanguard offshore wind farm notices "notification of preliminary meeting" and

Date	Contact Type	Topic
		"Notification of open floor hearing" on the parish notice board from Friday, November 16 th 2018.
06 th March 2019	Meeting	Meeting and site visit to discuss outstanding areas of concern

2 STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

8. Table 2 provides areas of agreement and disagreement between Norfolk Vanguard Limited and Happisburgh Parish Council.

Table 1 Key issues raised in the relevant representation

Norfolk Vanguard Limited Position	Happisburgh Parish Council Position	Final Position
Project wide		
<p>The onshore construction working hours are restricted to 0700 to 1900 Monday to Friday and 0700 to 1300 on Saturdays, with no works on Sundays. This is secured through DCO Requirement 26.</p> <p>There are instances where works may need to take place outside of these periods: where essential continuous activities are required. This could include cable drills and cable pulls at the landfall. Any works required to take place outside of the consented construction hours would require approval from the relevant planning authority in advance. Landfall works will take up to 20 weeks based on the 0700 to 1900 working hours described above. This would reduce to 14 weeks if night time working is employed.</p> <p>Potential construction noise impacts associated with the landfall works have been assessed and are presented in Chapter 25 Onshore Noise and Vibration. This includes an assessment of potential night time working at section 25.8.5.3 of Chapter 25. The threshold for significant night time noise levels is 45dB at the nearest residential property using the criteria set out in British Standard BS5228 (Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites). There may be brief periods within the 14-20 weeks of the landfall works when noise levels are predicted to reach 50dB at the nearest residential property. Mitigation measures will be introduced at the landfall, including screening and temporary noise barriers, to ensure that noise levels do not exceed the agreed 45dB threshold, i.e. potential noise impacts would reduce to negligible during night time works at the landfall. To ensure that the required mitigation measures are delivered a Construction Noise Management Plan will be produced and submitted to the relevant planning authority for approval prior to works commencing. This will form part of a final Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) that is secured through Requirement 20 of the DCO.</p>	<p>Happisburgh Parish Council has concerns regarding night working and excessive lighting. Happisburgh Parish Council do not believe this should be permitted.</p>	

Norfolk Vanguard Limited Position	Happisburgh Parish Council Position	Final Position
<p>An Artificial Light Emissions Management Plan would also be approved by the relevant planning authority in advance of each phase of the works. Details of the location, height, design and light levels of all floodlighting to be used during the construction of the project, together with measures to limit obtrusive glare to nearby residential properties, will be set out in the Plan including commitments that site lighting will be positioned and directed to minimise nuisance to footpath users and residents; to minimise distractions to passing drivers on adjoining public highways; and to minimise skyglow, so far as reasonably practicable. With these measures in place potential impacts associated with temporary construction lighting would reduce to negligible. These measures are described within the outline CoCP (DCO document 8.1) and delivery of the final CoCP and associated Artificial Light Emissions Management Plan is secured through DCO Requirement 20.</p> <p>With these measures in place, potential impacts associated with construction noise and lighting during night time works at the landfall will be reduced to negligible. As such, these measures are considered sufficient to manage to the risk of potential construction noise and lighting impacts.</p>		
<p>Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes</p>		
<p>Cable ducts will be installed by Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) techniques at the landfall. Norfolk Vanguard Limited has reviewed consultation received and in response to feedback has committed to use a long HDD at landfall. This will avoid any restrictions or closures to Happisburgh beach and retain open access to the beach during construction. Norfolk Vanguard Limited has also agreed to not use the beach car park at Happisburgh South during the works.</p> <p>A coastal erosion study has been undertaken and submitted as part of the application (Appendix 4.1 to Environmental Statement Chapter 4 Site Selection and Alternatives – DCO document 6.2). The study considered the likely impact of climate change on the coastal erosion in the area. This study informed the landfall site selection and design of the HDD works. In addition, ground investigation boreholes were undertaken at Happisburgh South in 2017. The analysis of these data informed the decision to use long HDD at the landfall.</p>	<p>Happisburgh Parish Council has concerns regarding the impact of the work on the beach and cliffs.</p>	

Norfolk Vanguard Limited Position	Happisburgh Parish Council Position	Final Position
<p>The HDD works will take place from a location greater than 125m landward of the cliff edge and extend approximately 1km out to sea. The HDD will be designed to ensure that the cable ducts will be located at sufficient depth to account for the progress of coastal erosion, and will not become exposed during the design life of the project (approximately 30 years). The depths and distances which HDD will be conducted are highly precautionary, accounting for the conservative coastal erosion estimates of both the cliffs and beach level.</p> <p>An assessment of potential impacts upon the cliff and beach is presented within Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Process – section 8.7.8.6. This concluded that the buried cable ducts will have no impact on coastal erosion during both construction and operation.</p>		
Traffic and Transport		
<p>The routes that will be required for construction traffic to access the works are provided within Environmental Statement Chapter 24 Traffic and Transport and Figure 24.5 (DCO documents 6.1 and 6.2). This shows that the Norfolk Vanguard construction traffic will not use the road passing through Happisburgh Village.</p> <p>The principles for mitigation presented within the submitted outline Traffic Management Plan are appropriate to mitigate the predicted impacts for Norfolk Vanguard alone. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 1.9.2 – Local Community Liaison <i>“A designated Norfolk Vanguard Limited local community liaison officer will respond to any public concerns, queries or complaints in a professional and diligent manner as set out in a project community and public relations procedure which will be submitted for comment to the Local Authorities”</i>. 	<p>Happisburgh Parish Council has concerns regarding road disruption including heavy works traffic (which should not be allowed through the village).</p>	

Norfolk Vanguard Limited Position	Happisburgh Parish Council Position	Final Position
<p>Where the onshore cable route crosses any roads using open cut trenching methods, traffic management would be employed. Where appropriate, single lane operation of roads would be utilised during installation with, signal controls to allow movements to continue. Where the width of the road does not permit single lane operation, alternative methods such as temporary road closure or diversion could be required. To minimise the impact of closures or diversions, night working could be employed. These approaches are described within ES Chapter 5 Project Description section 5.5.3.3 (DCO document 6.1).</p> <p>The detailed installation method for each crossing utilising traffic management would be agreed with Norfolk County Council as the highways authority, prior to works beginning. An Outline Traffic Management Plan (OTMP) (DCO document 8.8) has been submitted with the DCO application and will form the basis for the final, detailed Traffic Management Plan (TMP), which will be submitted and approved by the local planning authority in consultation with Norfolk County Council as Highways Authority. These are secured through Requirement 21 and 22 of the draft DCO respectively.</p> <p>The production of a detailed TMP post consent will provide sufficient mitigation for potential traffic impacts. This was discussed and agreed (in principle) with Norfolk County Council and Highways England during the Transport Expert Topic Group meeting in July 2017.</p> <p>With these commitments in place there will be sufficient controls to ensure that disruption to the road users will be mitigated.</p>	<p>Happisburgh Parish Council has concerns regarding road closures and temporary traffic lights.</p>	
<p>Tourism and Socio-economics</p>		
<p>The use of a long HDD at landfall has been committed to as embedded mitigation in the project design and as a result of feedback from consultation in order to avoid restrictions or closures to Happisburgh beach and retain open access to the beach during construction. Norfolk Vanguard Limited have also agreed to not use the beach car park at Happisburgh South. These measures have been adopted to minimise impacts to tourist and recreation features at Happisburgh. These commitments are secured through DCO Requirement 20.</p> <p>In addition, Norfolk Vanguard construction traffic will not use the road passing through Happisburgh Village.</p>	<p>Happisburgh Parish Council has concerns regarding the timing of the work in the village, mainly its disruption to tourism within the village.</p>	

Norfolk Vanguard Limited Position	Happisburgh Parish Council Position	Final Position
<p>Private agreements (or compensation in line with the compulsory purchase compensation code) will be sought between Norfolk Vanguard Limited and relevant landowners/occupiers regarding any measures required in relation to compensation as a direct consequence of the construction phase of the project.</p> <p>In addition, Norfolk Vanguard Limited is committed to exploring options for delivering a provision for communities, with the aim of recognising hosts and accounting for change, where benefits acknowledge and address tangible local change. The form of the benefit and its purpose will be explored with relevant stakeholders at the appropriate time, separate to the DCO process.</p>	<p>Happisburgh Parish Council would like to ensure that the village receives some form of compensation. There are concerns regarding the possible impact on houses close to the cables (loss of value etc).</p>	

The undersigned agree to the provisions within this SOCG

Signed	
Printed Name	
Position	
On behalf of	Happisburgh Parish Council
Date	

Signed	R Sherwood
Printed Name	Rebecca Sherwood
Position	Norfolk Vanguard Consents Manager
On behalf of	Norfolk Vanguard Ltd (the Applicant)
Date	11/03/2019