

Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm

Appendix 26 to Deadline I submission – Onshore HVDC Converter/HVAC Substation Infiltration Report

Date: 7th November 2018







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Front cover picture: Kite surfer near a UK offshore wind farm © Ørsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Ltd., 2018.







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Acronyms

Acronym	Description
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
M bgl	Metres below ground level







1. Introduction

Background

- 1.1 RPS was commissioned by Ørsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Ltd (the Applicant) to undertake soil infiltration testing at the onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation area. The onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation forms part of the onshore infrastructure for the Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as Hornsea Three).
- 1.2 In their Section 42 response, Norfolk County Council (as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)) requested an outline drainage strategy as part of the final application and further ground investigation work, including infiltration testing. A conceptual surface water drainage strategy for the onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation was submitted as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application (Volume 6, Annex 2.1: Onshore Infrastructure Flood Risk Assessment of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference A6.6.2.1)) and included the option to discharge surface water run-off into ground via soakaways. Storage will be provided within the onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation area for up to 1 in 100 year plus 40 % climate change event. Infiltration testing and ground investigations are typically undertaken post consent during the detailed design stage. However, to assist in discussions on the principles of the drainage strategy with the LLFA and to inform detailed drainage design for the onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation, preliminary infiltration testing has been undertaken, the results of which are reported in this document.

Site description

- 1.3 The onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation area is located at National Grid Reference TG 21000 03541 approximately 5.6 km south west of Norwich City Centre. Access to the onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation is currently provided off the B1113 (Main Road). The onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation and associated permanent infrastructure will occupy an area up to 14.9 ha.
- 1.4 The onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation area comprises arable land and at the time of the investigation it was occupied by crop stubble. The onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation is bounded by the Norwich Southern Bypass (A47) to the north, which bridges the B1113 at the north west corner. At this location, there is a steep embankment sloping down into the onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation area at the boundary. The B1113 bounds the HVDC converter/HVAC substation area to the west.
- 1.5 The onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation area generally slopes gently downwards towards the north west; the lowest points are in the north eastern corner adjacent to the B1113. A small depression on the eastern boundary approximately 2 m lower than the adjacent B1113 was observed. The base of the depression was dry and overgrown at the time of the investigation. No other drainage ditches or watercourses were observed. A filter drain extends parallel to the onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation area's northern boundary. Several manhole grates were noted along the filter drain.







2. Infiltration Testing Methodology

Best Practice Guidance

- 2.1 The infiltration testing was undertaken in accordance with BRE Digest 365 Soakaway design (Garvin, 2016). The guidance recommends that test pits for infiltration testing are excavated in the locations where soakaways are proposed and that the pits should have vertical sides. The guidance does not specify the depth of the test pit but suggests that the depth should be in-line with the depth of the proposed soakaway and should also take into account the character of the underlying strata.
- 2.2 Test pits are then filled with water and allowed to drain three times and the lowest infiltration value is used to calculate the infiltration rate.
- 2.3 Infiltration is calculated by using the time taken for water to drain from 75% fill level to 25% fill level, based on equations in BRE Digest 365. The calculation assumes that the volume of the test pits remains consistent throughout the test, therefore, when sudden or catastrophic collapse of the pits occurs (i.e. due to the instability of the pits) the test is terminated.
- 2.4 In some cases, it may not be possible to undertake three tests as the water in the test pit does not drain away. This occurs where there is limited or no infiltration and repeated testing will not change the outcome. Equally if the test pit is found to be unstable then repeating the tests may not be practical.

Fieldwork

- 2.5 A total of ten trial pits were excavated for the purpose of undertaking infiltration testing between the 20 August 2018 and 22 August 2018. The location of the infiltration test pits was based on the indicative layout of the onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation (as shown in Appendix B of Volume 6, Annex 2.1: Onshore Infrastructure Flood Risk Assessments (Document Reference A6.6.2.1)) and the potential location of soakaways.
- 2.6 Several pits around the location of SA1 partially or totally collapsed during testing due to instability of the underlying granular soils. As a result, three additional test pits were excavated in this area: SA1a, SA1b and SA1c.
- 2.7 In addition, a single trial pit was excavated to a depth of 3.2 m bgl to confirm the geological sequence. Based on the strata encountered in this location (i.e. less granular and therefore, potentially more stable), an additional test pit SA8 was excavated to the south of SA1.
- 2.8 Infiltration test pits were excavated to a maximum depth of 3.6 m bgl: most of the pits (seven) were excavated to 3.4 m bgl, one pit was 3.3 m bgl; one pit was 3.6 m bgl; and the shallowest pit was 2.2 m bgl. A shallower depth was used in this location (SA8) to coincide with the depth of the less granular strata in order to confirm if infiltration was feasible.
- 2.9 The pits were backfilled with the excavation arisings upon completion of the infiltration testing.
- 2.10 The location of the onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation area, and the infiltration test pits/trial pit are shown in Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2 respectively.







3. **Results**

Ground conditions

- 3.1 The ground conditions encountered were consistent with the anticipated geology based on the British Geological Survey online mapping and as outlined in Volume 3, Chapter 1: Geology and Ground Conditions of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference A6.3.1). Ground conditions encountered during the infiltration testing comprised:
 - Topsoil/Made Ground encountered beneath the vegetation to a depth of 0.2 and 0.3 m below existing ground level (bgl). This generally comprised soft dark brown sandy slightly gravelly organic rich SILT. Gravel size constituents comprised flint and chalk with localised brick fragments and pottery.
 - Lowestoft Formation encountered in all trial pits beneath the topsoil/ Made Ground but not fully
 penetrated in any location. This was generally a firm to stiff yellow brown sandy slightly gravelly
 silt which is underlain by a medium dense to dense yellow brown slightly silty locally slightly
 gravelly, sand.
- 3.2 No groundwater was encountered during the infiltration testing.
- 3.3 Trial pit logs are included in Appendix A.

Infiltration testing

- 3.4 A total of three infiltration test pits were excavated in the south west of the onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation area: SA1a, SA1b and SA1c. Testing in pits SA1b and SA1c was terminated due to collapse of the pits. Water levels in pit SA1a failed to drop below the 25% level after five hours and the test pit was closed due to the instability of the soil.
- 3.5 Tests in SA2, SA3, SA4, SA5, SA6 and SA7 failed to drain below the 75% level. Two of the tests were run for a period of 24 hours to allow the opportunity for the water drain away. This approach was applied because very slow/no infiltration had been recorded in multiple test pit locations and because there is no public access on the onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation area.
- 3.6 Test pit SA8, located in the south west of the onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation area, recorded an infiltration rate of 5.87 x 10⁻⁰⁶ ms. Whilst soakaway drainage is not proposed in this area (based on the indicative layout of the onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation), strata was encountered during the excavation of the trial pit which suggested that infiltration may be feasible. Therefore, a single test was run to give an indication of infiltration potential in this area.
- 3.7 The findings of the fieldwork are presented in Appendix B.







4. Conclusion

4.1 As reported in paragraph 3.1, variable amounts of sand and gravel were encountered within the silt superficial deposits across the onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation area. Limited infiltration rates were identified during the testing across the majority of the onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation area indicating that traditional shallow soakaways are unlikely to be viable at these locations. An indicative infiltration rate was obtained for the south west corner of the onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation area (test pit SA8), however, the granular materials in this location became unstable when wet meaning that soakaways are not viable as they are likely to collapse.

















Figure 1.2: Onshore HVDC Converter/HVAC Substation Infiltration Testing Location Plan.



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Appendix A Test/Trial Pit Logs





						Pit No.							
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Locatior	า:	Norfoll	K		Northi	ing:	303449		JCB 3C	Х	Pit Length: 2.00 m	Scale:	
Client:		Orsted			Ground (mAOD	l Level):		Logg	ged By:	TF	Pit Width: 0.45 m	1:50	
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Project No:	RCEI64	177a	Fa	isting.	620860	Equipme	nt.		тр			
l ocation:	Norfolk		No	orthina:	303448	JCB 30	X	Pit Length: 2.00 m	Scale:			
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Ground Level (mAOD): Logged By: TF Pit Width: 0.45 m 1:50 Backfill Water Strike(s) Samples & In Situ Testing Depth (m) Depth Type Depth Results Depth (mbGL) Thickness (m Level (mAOD) Legend Stratum Description Image: Strike(s) Depth (m) Type Results 0.00 0.30 (0.30) Image: Stratum Description Soft dark brown sandy slightly gravelly organic rich SILT including rootlets. Gravel is fine to coarse, angular to well rounded of flint. (TOPSOL) Medium dense slightly silty gravelly fine to medium SAND. Gravel is fine to coarse, sub-angular to rounded of flint and chalk. (LOWESTOFT FORMATION) Image: Strike (s) Image: Strike (s)<												
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Sunde(s) Depth (m) Type Results (mbGL) (m) (mAOD) C Image: Constraint of the	Scale											
(0.30) 0.30												
3.00 (0.40)	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$											
	10 —											
Remarks: 1) Trial pit terminated at 3.4m bgl. 2) Infiltration test undertaken. Groundwater: None encountered Stability: Stable	harks: 1) Trial pit terminated at 3.4m bgl. 2) Infiltration test undertaken. Undwater: None encountered Stable											

													Pit No.	
F	R	S				RI	AL F	2	LC)G		SA7		
Project Name					Coordinatoo					Sheet 1 of	1			
Project No:		RCEI6	Hornsea 3 Swardeston						Equipmer		22/06/2016	тр	5.	
Location:		Norfolk	Norfolk			Easting. 021000				Y	Pit Length: 2.00 m	IF Societ		
Client:		Orsted	Orsted			Ground Level					Pit Width: 0.45 m	1.50		
	Water	Samples & In Situ Testing			(mAOD):	Depth	Thickness	Level Logand				1.00		
Backfill	Strike(s)	Depth (m)	Туре	Results	(r	mbGL)	(m)	(mAOD)	Legend	Soft do	Stratum Description		Scale	
						0.20	(0.20)			Soft da SILT ind well rou (TOPS(Firm lig Gravel and fiin (LOWE From 1 sand. From 2 From 3	rk brown slightly sandy slightly grave cluding rootlets. Gravel is fine to coar unded of flint. OIL) ht brown mottled grey slightly sandy is fine to coarse, sub-rounded to rour t. STOFT FORMATION) 	y organic rich se, angular to gravelly CLAY. nded of chalk n fine to medium		
Remark	·c·	1) Trial nit term	ninated at	3.4m hal 2) In	filtration	test un	dertaken							
Ground	s: water:	None encount	ered	. 3.4111 DGI. 2) IN	miliation	iest un	uertaken.					AG	S	
Stability:		Stable												

												Pit No.	
RPS		S			TRIAL PIT LOG						SA8		
										Sheet 1 of 1			
Project Name:		e: Horr	Hornsea 3 Swardeston			Co-ordinates:				Date(s):	22/08/2018	Hole Type:	
Project No:		RCE	RCEI64177a			Easting: 6208		Equipment:		nt:		TP	
Location:		Norf	Norfolk			Northing: 3034						Scale:	
Client:		Orst	Orsted			Ground Level (mAOD):		Logged By:				1:50	
Backfill	Water Strike(s)	Sa Depth (m)	amples & In Type	Situ Testing Results	(Depth (mbGL)	Thickness (m) (Level (mAOD)	Legend		Stratum Description		Scale
		Depth (m)	j Type	Results		2.10	(1.90)			Soft da includir rounde (TOPS Stiff yel is fine t (LOWE Gravel (LOWE	rk brown sandy slightly gravelly orgar og rootlets. Gravel is fine to coarse, ar d of flint. OIL) Ilow brown slightly sandy slightly grav o coarse, sub-angular to rounded flint (STOFT FORMATION) yellow brown fine to medium slightly g is fine to medium, sub-angular to roun (STOFT FORMATION) End of Pit at 2.20m	nic rich SILT ngular to well elly SILT. Gravel t.	
Remarks: 1) Trial pit terminated at 2.2m bgl. 2) Infiltration test undertaken.													
Ground Stabilit	Groundwater: None encountered AGS Stability:												

					_							Pit No.		
RPS		S	TRIAL PIT LOG									TP1		
							1							
Project Name:		: Hornse	Hornsea 3 Swardeston			Co-ordinates:			C	Date(s):	20/08/2018	Hole Type	e:	
Project No:		RCEI6	RCEI64177a			:	620818	Equipment:				TP		
Location:		Norfolk	Norfolk			g:	303401		JCB 3C	X	Pit Length: 2.00 m	Scale:		
Client: Orsted				Ground Le (mAOD):	evel		Logo	ged By:	TF	Pit Width: 0.45 m	1:50			
Backfill _S	Water Strike(s)	Samp Depth (m)	bles & In S Type	Situ Testing Results	C (n	Depth nbGL)	Thickness (m)	Level (mAOD)	Legend		Stratum Description		Scale	
Backfill	thrike(s)	Depth (m)	Туре	Results		2.10	(1.90) (1.90)	(mAOD)		Soft da includir rounde (TOPS) Stiff yel angular (LOWE Loose y Gravel (LOWE	Stratum Description rk brown sandy slightly gravelly organ ig rootlets. Gravel is fine to coarse, a d of flint. OIL) low brown slightly sandy slightly grav g low cobble content of flint. Gravel i to well rounded of flint. STOFT FORMATION) rellow brown fine to medium slightly g is fine to medium, sub angular to rou STOFT FORMATION) End of Pit at 3.20m	nic rich SILT ngular to well / relly SILT s fine to coarse, gravelly SAND. nded of flint.	Scale	
								0) =						
Remark	s:	 Trial pit tern with arisings ir 	ninated at n reverse	3.2m bgl follow order of excavat	ing partia tion upon	al colla 1 comp	pse of base. letion.	. 2) Bacł	filled					
Groundv	water:	None encount	one encountered											
Stability		Minor instabilit	ty below 2	2.1m										



Appendix B Infiltration Test Results























