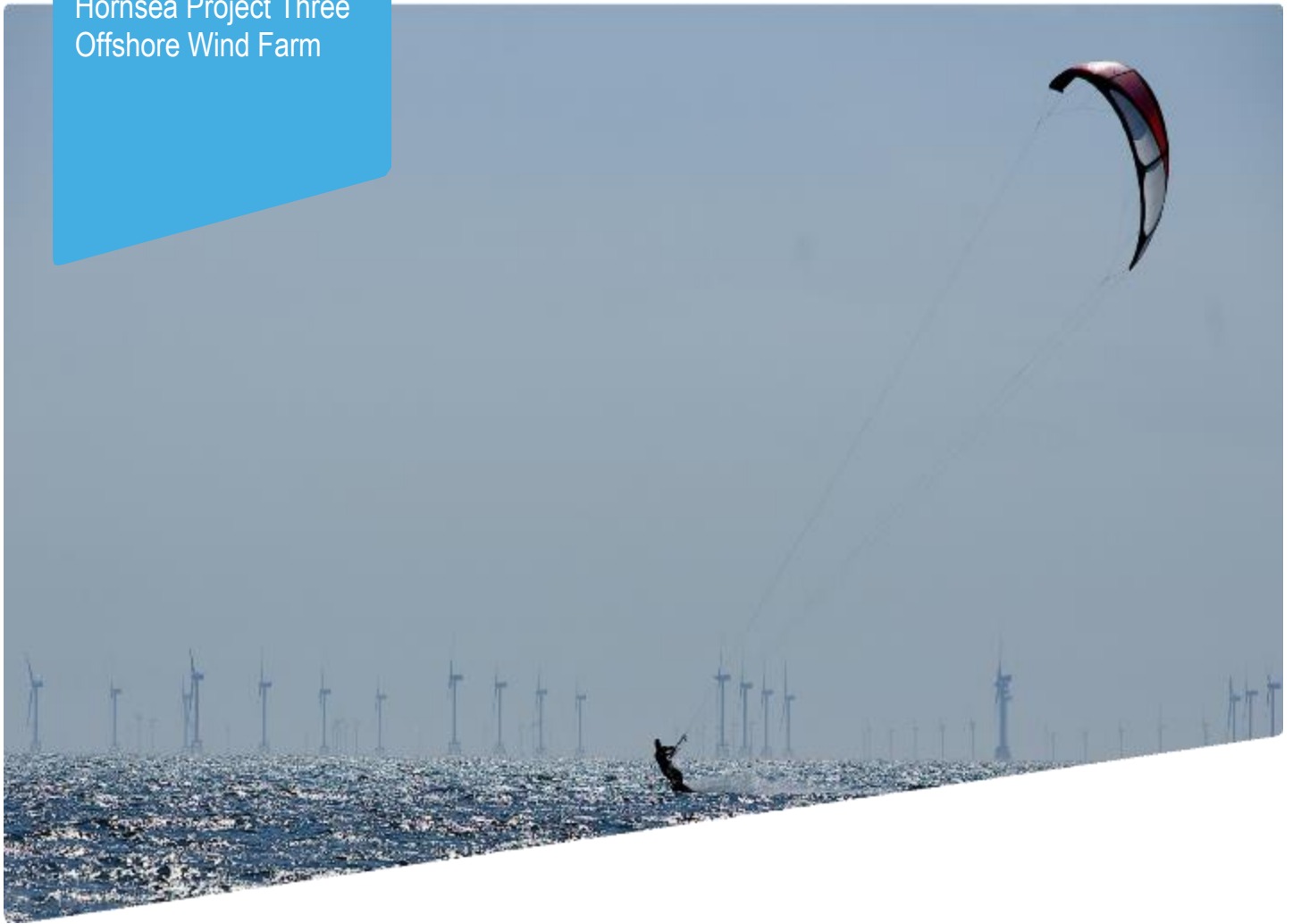


Hornsea Project Three
Offshore Wind Farm



Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm

Statement of Common Ground between Hornsea Project Three
(UK) Ltd. and Great Yarmouth Borough Council

Date: 7th November 2018

Hornsea 3
Offshore Wind Farm

Orsted

Statement of Common Ground between Ørsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Ltd. and Great Yarmouth Borough Council

Ørsted

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

Revision History

| Version | Date | Author | Context |
|---------|--------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | October 2018 | Ørsted | Initial draft for discussion with Great Yarmouth Borough Council |
| 2 | October 2018 | Ørsted/Great Yarmouth Borough Council | Draft incorporating Great Yarmouth Borough Council inputs |
| 3 | October 2018 | Ørsted/Great Yarmouth Borough Council | Final for signing |

Signatories

| | |
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| | |
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Acronyms

| Acronym | Description |
|---------|--|
| DCO | Development Consent Order |
| CEA | Cumulative Effect Assessment |
| CoCP | Code of Construction Practice |
| CTMP | Construction Traffic Management Plan |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| Ex.A | Examining Authority |
| EMP | Ecological Management Plan |
| GYBC | Great Yarmouth Borough Council |
| HVAC | High Voltage Alternating Current |
| HVDC | High Voltage Direct Current |
| LMP | Landscape Management Plan |
| MHWS | Mean High Water Springs |
| PEIR | Preliminary Environmental Information Report |
| PRoW | Public Right of Way |
| SoCG | Statement of Common Ground |

1. Introduction

Overview

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by Ørsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Ltd. ('the Applicant') and Great Yarmouth Borough Council (together 'the parties') as a means of clearly stating the areas of agreement, and any areas of disagreement, between the two parties in relation to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Hornsea Project Three offshore wind farm (hereafter referred to as 'Hornsea Three'). This SoCG does not deal with or extend to any development other than Hornsea Three.

Approach to SoCG

- 1.2 This SoCG has been developed during the pre-examination phase of Hornsea Three. In accordance with discussions between the parties, the SoCG is focused on issues raised by Great Yarmouth Borough Council within its response to Scoping, Section 42 consultation, pre-application and post-application consultation between the parties.
- 1.3 The structure of this SoCG is as follows:
- Section 1: Introduction;
 - Section 2: Consultation;
 - Section 3: Agreements Log; and
 - Section 0: Summary.
- 1.4 It is the intention that this document will give the Examining Authority (Ex.A) an early sight of the level of common ground between both parties from the outset of the examination process.

Hornsea Three

- 1.5 Hornsea Three is a proposed offshore wind farm located in the southern North Sea and will include all associated offshore (including up to 300 turbines) and onshore infrastructure.
- 1.6 The key components of Hornsea Three include:
- Turbines and associated foundations;
 - Turbine foundations;
 - Array cables;
 - Offshore substation(s), and platform(s) and associated foundations;
 - Offshore accommodation platform/s and associated foundations;
 - Offshore export cable/s;
 - Offshore and/or onshore High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) booster station/s (HVAC transmission option only);
 - Onshore export cables; and
 - Onshore High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter/HVAC substation.
- 1.7 The Hornsea Three array area (i.e. the area in which the turbines are located) is approximately 696 km² and is located approximately 121 km northeast off the Norfolk coast and 160 km east of the Yorkshire coast.

- 1.8 The Hornsea Three offshore cable corridor extends from the North Norfolk coast, offshore in a north-easterly direction to the western and southern boundary of the Hornsea Three array area. The Hornsea Three offshore cable corridor is approximately 163 km in length.
- 1.9 From the Norfolk coast, underground onshore cables will connect the offshore wind farm to an onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation, which will in turn, connect to an existing National Grid substation. Hornsea Three will connect to the Norwich Main substation, located to the south of Norwich. The Hornsea Three onshore cable corridor is approximately 55 km in length at its fullest extent.

2. Consultation

Application elements within Great Yarmouth Borough Council’s administrative area

2.1 All of the works detailed in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the draft DCO (Document Reference A3.1) are located outside of the administrative area of Great Yarmouth Borough Council (GYBC). However, based on the S56 Relevant Representation submitted by GYBC, aspects of the construction and operation of Hornsea Three are still of interest to GYBC comprise (and therefore considered within this SoCG) comprise:

- Socio-economics; and
- Offshore Ornithology.

2.2 In addition to the technical topics above, a section is included below where those issues which are general to the project are discussed.

Consultation summary

2.3 This section briefly summarises the consultation that the Applicant has undertaken with Great Yarmouth Borough Council.

Pre-application

2.4 The Applicant has engaged with GYBC on Hornsea Three during the pre-application process, both in terms of informal non-statutory engagement and formal consultation carried out pursuant to section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.

2.5 Table 2.1 summarises the consultation undertaken between the parties during the pre-application phase, including consultation through scoping, consultation on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and further section 42 consultation.

Post-application

2.6 No consultation activities specific to GYBC, aside from the preparation of this SoCG, have taken place during the post-application phase.

Table 2.1: Pre-application consultation with Great Yarmouth Borough Council.

| Date | Detail |
|------------|--|
| 4 May 2016 | An introductory meeting to introduce Hornsea Three and the consultation process with local communities to seek their feedback on the proposed approach. The planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and the role of Local Planning Authorities was explained. It was noted that the grid connection point was not known at this stage, but Ørsted would keep the council informed. |

| Date | Detail |
|----------|---|
| 2017 | The Applicant held a public consultation event at GYBC during the first phase of consultation that ran in parallel to the scoping exercise, to engage individuals with wider interests in Hornsea Three. Information was shared with key individuals at the council throughout the pre-application consultation period. |
| Multiple | The GYBC was also a deposit point for Application materials during the formal consultation periods. |

3. Agreements Log

3.1 The following section of this SoCG identifies the level of agreement between the parties for each relevant component of the DCO application (as identified in paragraph 2.1) landward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS). In order to easily identify whether a matter is “agreed”, “under discussion” or “not agreed”, a colour coding system of green, yellow and orange, respectively, is used in the “final position” column to represent the respective status of discussions.

General

3.2 Table 3.1 below identifies the status of discussions between the parties relating to issues which are project wide, specifically relating to GYBC’s Relevant Representation.

Table 3.1: General.

| Discussion Point | The Applicant's Position | Great Yarmouth Borough Council's Position | Final Position |
|--------------------------|---|---|----------------|
| Need for Hornsea Three | There is a specific need for Hornsea Three to provide renewable energy, which is in line with government policy. | Great Yarmouth, alongside all the other Local Authorities in Norfolk fully support and embrace the principle of offshore wind generation which is consistent with national renewable energy targets and objectives. | Agree |
| Adequacy of consultation | Adequate pre-submission consultation activities were undertaken by the Applicant, including engagement with Great Yarmouth Borough Council and the local community. | No further comments. | Agree |

Socio-economics

- 3.3 Hornsea Three has the potential to impact upon socio-economics, and these impacts are considered within Volume 3, Chapter 10: Socio-economics of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference A6.3.10). Table 3.2 identifies the status of discussions relating to this topic between the parties, specifically relating to GYBC's Relevant Representation.

Table 3.2: Socio-economics.

| Discussion Point | The Applicant's Position | Great Yarmouth Borough Council's Position | Final Position |
|---|--|---|----------------|
| Volume 3, Chapter 10: Socio-economics (Document Reference A6.3.10) | | | |
| Port Use and O&M Base location | The Applicant will explore the ability to use port facilities along the East Coast for Hornsea Three. Given its size, Hornsea Three is likely to use more than one port during construction and cannot yet ascertain where it would site an operations and maintenance base. A decision on which port to use will not be made until detailed discussions have taken place with potential suppliers, at a stage where we have a greater understanding of where the various components will come from and port capabilities. This will likely be post consent. | No further comments. | Agree. |

Offshore Ornithology

- 3.4 Hornsea Three has the potential to impact upon offshore ornithology, and these impacts are considered within Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore Ornithology of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference A6.2.5). Table 3.3 identifies the status of discussions relating to this topic between the parties, specifically relating to GYBC's Relevant Representation.

Table 3.3: Offshore Ornithology (issues raised by GYBC Relevant Representation).

| Great Yarmouth Borough Council's Comments and Recommendations | The Applicant's Position | Further discussion notes | Final Position |
|---|---|-----------------------------|--|
| <p>The Borough Council has reviewed the submitted documents, in particular those matters relating to Offshore Ornithology as set out within Volume 2, Chapter 5 of the Environmental Statement (ES) which forms the basis of the following comments.</p> <p>Table 5.7 states that the presence of Little Terns were not recorded during the aerial surveys in the Hornsea Three array area. It is concerning that the report does not go into further detail to clarify the implications of this statement, such as whether this is perhaps due to the scope or limitation of the site specific surveys (i.e. not being able to identify the Little Terns during the specific survey window(s)), or, whether this provides evidential proof that the Little Terns simply do not interact within the specified survey area in which case it could be interpreted that the likely impact on the species would be negligible as a result of the proposal. Further clarity on this point is sought through the DCO process.</p> | <p>No little terns were recorded during the site-specific aerial surveys undertaken for Hornsea Three. As part of the RIAA the species was considered as a feature at the Greater Wash SPA and the North Norfolk Coast SPA. The additional screening exercise presented in RIAA Annex 2 – Additional Special Protection Areas Screening Exercise (Document 5.2.2) concluded no LSE for little tern at relevant SPAs:</p> <p><i>“The seaward extent of the Greater Wash pSPA was informed by a number of supporting studies including Parsons et al. (2015) which identified usage of the marine environment by little terns around a number of breeding colonies including those that form part of the North Norfolk Coast SPA. The maximum alongshore foraging extents of birds from colonies within the North Norfolk Coast SPA was 7 km east and west and seaward to a maximum distance of 2.13 km (Figure 1.1). This therefore strongly suggests no connectivity with the area in which the Hornsea Three export cable is to be located. When this is considered alongside the low vulnerability of little tern to disturbance impacts (Wade et al., 2016) there is considered to be no potential for LSE on the little tern feature of the Greater Wash pSPA as a result of impacts associated with the construction, operation and maintenance or decommissioning of Hornsea Three.”</i></p> <p>Little terns have one of the shortest foraging ranges</p> | <p>No further comments.</p> | <p>GYBC agree with the Applicants position statement.</p> |

| Great Yarmouth Borough Council's Comments and Recommendations | The Applicant's Position | Further discussion notes | Final Position |
|---|--|--------------------------|----------------|
| | <p>of any UK breeding seabird as illustrated by the results of Parsons <i>et al.</i> (2015) and Thaxter <i>et al.</i> (2012). Parsons <i>et al.</i> (2015) did not record a foraging beyond 6 km with Thaxter <i>et al.</i> (2012) reporting a maximum foraging range of 11 km. Hornsea Three is located approximately 150 km from the nearest coastline and therefore the occurrence of breeding birds at Hornsea Three during the breeding season is considered to be extremely unlikely.</p> <p>There is potential for little terns to occur at Hornsea Three during migration, with traditional baseline characterisation survey methodologies used at offshore wind farms (e.g. boat-based and aerial surveys) unlikely to capture these movements. However, little terns migrate close inshore (Wernham <i>et al.</i> 2002) and therefore it is considered highly unlikely that birds would occur at the Hornsea Three array area.</p> <p>There is therefore considered to be no pathways for impact between little terns and Hornsea Three in any season.</p> | | |

4. Summary

- 4.1 This SoCG was developed with Great Yarmouth Borough Council to capture those matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed in socio-economics and offshore ornithology.
- 4.2 As noted in Table 3.1, Table 3.2 and Table 3.3 above, there is agreement on all matters between the parties.