

## **Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd**

## **Thanet Extension Offshore Wind Farm**

### **Appendix 20 to Deadline 1 Submission: Statement of Common Ground - Thanet Fishermen's Association**

Relevant Examination Deadline: 1

Submitted by Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd

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Revision A

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Overview

- 1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) relates to the proposed development of the Thanet Extension Offshore Wind Farm (Thanet Extension). It has been prepared with respect to the application made by Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd (VWPL) (the Applicant) for a development consent order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) under the Planning Act 2008 (the Application).
- 2 This SoCG with Thanet Fishermen's Association (TFA) is a means of clearly stating any areas of agreement and disagreement between the two parties in relation to the Application. The SoCG has been structured to reflect the topics of interest to TFA on the Application.
- 3 It is the intention that this document will help facilitate post application discussions between both parties and also 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.

### 1.2 Approach to SoCG

- 4 This SoCG has been developed during the pre-examination phase of the Thanet Extension. In accordance with discussions between the Applicant and TFA, the SoCG is focused on those issues raised by the TFA within its response to Scoping, Section 42 consultation and as raised through the Evidence Plan process that has underpinned the pre-application consultation between the parties.
- 5 The structure of the SoCG is as follows:
  - Section 1: Introduction;
  - Section 2: Consultation;
  - Section 3: Agreements Log; and
  - Section 4: Summary.

## 1.3 The Development

- 6 Thanet Extension will comprise of wind turbine generators (WTGs) and all the infrastructure required to transmit the power generated to the national grid. A maximum of 34 WTGs will be installed with a power output of 340 MW. The project will install up to four offshore export cables and may require the installation of one Offshore Substation (OSS) and up to one Meteorological Mast.
- 7 The key offshore components of Thanet Extension are likely to include:
  - Up to 34 Offshore WTGs;
  - OSS (if required);
  - Meteorological Mast (if required);
  - WTG Foundations;
  - Subsea inter-array cables linking individual WTGs;
  - Subsea export cables from the OWF to shore; and
  - Scour protection around foundations and on inter-array and export cables (if required).
- 8 The array area will have a maximum size of 70 km<sup>2</sup> and surrounds the existing Thanet Offshore Wind Farm (TOWF). It is located approximately 8 km Northeast of the Isle of Thanet, situated in the County of Kent. Each WTG will have a maximum blade tip height of 250 m Highest Astronomical Tide (HAT), a maximum diameter of 220 m and a minimum 22 m clearance between the above Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) and the lowest point of the blade.
- 9 Electricity generated will be carried via a maximum of four high voltage subsea cables to the landfall site, situated at Pegwell Bay. Offshore cables will be connected to the onshore cables and ultimately the national grid network at Richborough Energy Park. The onshore cable corridor is 2.6 km in length at its fullest extent.
- 10 More details on the proposed development are described in the Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 2, Chapter 1: Project Description (Offshore) (Application Ref 6.2.1) and Volume 3, Chapter 1: Project Description (Onshore) (Application Ref 6.3.1) of the Environmental Statement (ES).

## 2 Consultation

### 2.1 Application elements under Thanet Fishermen's Association remit

- 11 Work Nos. 1-3, detailed in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the draft DCO describe the elements of Thanet Extension which may affect the interests of TFA.
- 12 TFA represents fishermen from the main ports of Whitstable, Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate. TFA act on behalf of their members best interests in consulting and providing their opinions on subjects such as renewable energy developments, marine protected areas and other activities which may benefit or negatively impact their members livelihood.
- 13 The fishermen that are represented by TFA are:

Fisherman		Vessel	Fisherman		Vessel
P.Cannon	TFA	Bumble	D.Garrard	WFA	Jaqueline
E.Temple	TFA	Boy Joshua	D.Ferris	Q/TFA	Two Suns
G.Pulman	TFA	Defiant	A.Jasper	TFA	Razor Bill
J.Pocock	TFA	Our Helena	B.Parker	TFA	Dawn Tide
K.Castro	TFA	Endurance	M.Gosman	TFA	Sararay
J.Rigby	TFA	Rainbow Chaser	J.Lowe	TFA	Solar Star
S.Gosman	TFA	Our Kate	L.Turner	TFA	Outcast II
C.Redmond	TFA	Progress	C.Attenborough	TFA/WFA	Holladays
E.Temple	TFA	Little Red	M.Barnes	TFA/WFA	Seiont
M.Philbrick	TFA	Fairwind	S.Collard	TFA	Dawn Diver
G.Hambly	TFA	Solitaire	B.Cooper	TFA/WFA	Salva Mea
C.Howland	TFA	Stella Maris	N.Shilling	WFA	Lisa K
P.Harris	TFA	Coptic	J.Ryan	WFA	Boy Beau
A.Riches	TFA/WFA	Misty	W.Loveland	TFA/WFA	Orient
J.Loveland	TFA	Provider	B.Walpole	WFA	Louise
R.Cooper	TFA/WFA	Suvera	R.Hambly	TFA	Che Sara

P.Edwards TFA/WFA	Lisa Marie of Arun	N.Cleminson	Hetty
B.Foad TFA/WFA	Simon Isaac	B.Pocock	Lindy

## 2.2 Consultation Summary

14 This section briefly summarises the consultation that VWPL has undertaken with TFA. Those technical components of the DCO application of relevance to the TFA (and therefore considered within this SoCG) comprise:

- Volume 2, Chapter 9: Commercial Fisheries (Application Ref 6.2.9); and
- Fisheries Liaison and Co-Existence Plan (Application Ref 8.8).

15 Engagement during the pre-application phase, both statutory and non-statutory, is summarised in Table 1 below, this includes any meetings and correspondence held as part of the on-going consultation process and Section 42 consultation.

**Table 1: Consultation undertaken with TFA pre-application**

Date & Type:	Detail:
January 2018: Section 42 Consultation	Comments relating to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report
May 2018: Fisheries Co- Existence Plan correspondence	Consultation for the approval of the Co-Existence Plan

## 2.3 Post-application Consultation

16 VWPL has engaged with TFA since the Thanet Extension development was accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018. A summary of the post-application consultation with TFA is detailed in Table 2.

**Table 2: Consultation undertaken with TFA post-application**

Date/ Type:	Detail:
August 2018	Introduction to the Statement of Common Ground and project update.
January 2019	Review of the SoCG.



## 3 Agreements Log

- 17 The following section of this SoCG identifies the level of agreement between the parties for each relevant component of the application material (as identified in Section 2.1). In order to easily identify whether a matter is “agreed”, “under discussion” or indeed “not agreed” a colour coding system of green, yellow and orange is used in the “final position” column to represent the respective status of discussions.

### 3.1 Commercial Fisheries

- 18 The Project has the potential to impact upon commercial fisheries and these interactions are duly considered within Volume 2, Chapter 9: Commercial Fisheries (Application Ref 6.2.9) of the ES. Table 3 identifies the status of discussions relating to this topic area between the parties.

**Table 3: Status of discussions relating to Commercial Fisheries**

Discussion Point	Thanet Extension Position	TFA Position	Final Position
Baseline data used in the assessment	Accepting the recognised limitations, the baseline data comprises the best available data and is complemented by a robust site specific (Succorfish) dataset. The baseline (local fishing) receiving environment has therefore been adequately characterised.	The standard baseline data is lacking, however, it is recognised by TFA that this is the best available. The Succorfish data is a significant improvement, though reliant on correct interpretation. It is a representative but not complete dataset for the TFA effort (principally due to technical issues). The baseline (local fishing) receiving environment has been adequately characterised using the best available data.	TFA and the Applicant agree that whilst the baseline data has limitations, it is the best available.
	Accepting the recognised limitations, the baseline data comprises the best available data. The baseline (international fishing) receiving environment has therefore been adequately characterised.	We agree that the receiving environment for international fishing has been characterised using best available data.	Agreed
Consultation	The ES chapter has been adequately updated following consultation on the PEIR and concerns raised have been adequately addressed or clarified.	TE has updated the ES chapter, concerns raised by TFA have been noted in the ES and consideration has been given to some concerns. Concerns remain regarding permanent loss of ground/ operational range/loss of earnings/increased costs and safety.	Ongoing

Discussion Point	Thanet Extension Position	TFA Position	Final Position
Scope of survey	The potential impacts have been appropriately identified	The assessment correctly identifies the vessels, fishing methods and study area.	Agreed
Assessment methodology	Assessment methodology is appropriate and accurately reflect the potential impacts on the fishing fleet.	It is considered that many of the impacts on the local fishing fleet are identified but additional impacts such as permanent loss of ground/remedial measures/loss of method are not recognised fully. The assessment criteria were raised as a concern. The impact on these fishermen will be greater than the levels in the ES state.	Ongoing
Mitigation Measures	The refined Red Line Boundary results in a reduced interaction of the project with commercial fishing interests.	Agreed, the whole area within the TE red line boundary is fished to various extents and the refined boundary has reduced the interaction with commercial fishing pro rata.	Agreed
	The Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan (FLCP) accurately reflects the agreed measures requested by Thanet Fishermen association during the S42 consultation period and subsequent consultation on the draft fisheries liaison and co-existence plan.	Agreed, the FLCP sets out good practice and an agreed strategy. TFA considers that further amendments are required. TFA have received an updated FLCP and will provide comments to the Applicant	Ongoing

Discussion Point	Thanet Extension Position	TFA Position	Final Position
	The FLCP provides sufficient information about the methodology and mechanisms for information exchange and joint working during construction and operation of the wind farm	Agreed.	Agreed
	Acknowledging that the fishing method likely to be most impacted is drift netting, the FLCP commits to undertaking a pre and post construction drift net survey in cooperation with TFA to better understand any long-term effects. The scope of this is set out and secured through the FLCP. Compliance with the FLCP is a condition of the deemed Marine Licence (Condition 19 of the Generation Assets dML and Condition 18 of the Export Cable System dML)	TE has added a bottom drift survey as requested by TFA, and this is the method most likely to be impacted. As mentioned in the comments on the ES, TFA members have raised again the need for a trawl survey pre & post construction either by being added to the FLCP or separately.	Ongoing
Outcomes of the EIA	The assessment criteria and assignment of significance is appropriate.	The assessment criteria is not considered appropriate. Permanent loss of ground/loss of method and future cable repair/remediation are not included within the criteria. Assignment of significance is also not considered appropriate.	Not agreed

Discussion Point	Thanet Extension Position	TFA Position	Final Position
	The sensitivity and importance of the receiving environment is accurately described within the Environmental Statement.	Table 9.6 in the ES sets out the sensitivity/importance of the receiving environment, but it is felt this is not applied correctly to the TFA vessels.	Not agreed
	The impact of the loss of fishing ground and fishing opportunity in and around the extension project has been appropriately assessed.	TFA does not consider this has been appropriately assessed.	Not agreed
	The conclusions of the assessment accurately reflect the potential impacts on the fishing fleet.	It is not felt that the overall conclusions of the ES accurately assess the impact on the local commercial fishermen.	Not agreed
Cumulative effects	The cumulative projects / activities have been adequately identified and appropriately described within the ES.	Gridlink interconnector project has been identified since the Application.	Ongoing
	The conclusions of cumulative effects are appropriate.	The criteria for measuring cumulative impact on inshore commercial fishermen is insufficient. The conclusion at 9.20.17 of Minor adverse is considered incorrect. As raised in the PEIR response, international fishing in conjunction with TE remains a concern for TFA.	Not agreed
Safety	Safety issues are within acceptable limits and there should be no cumulative effects.	In the ES, TFA highlighted it did not agree with the statement regarding risk/safety area infringements. There is concern that current and proposed projects will increase the safety risk for local fishermen.	Ongoing

Discussion Point	Thanet Extension Position	TFA Position	Final Position
Site access during construction.	The Applicant's position is that the TE and TOW array area will open for passage and fishing for the vessels listed in this SoCG subject to standard safety zone applications during construction and operation. This is set out in the FLCP.	TFA has raised the importance of access, for TFA vessels, through the TOW and TE sites, and to fish within the TOW site, while adhering to safety zones, during the construction phase to reduce journey times/tidal restraints/additional cost/lost fishing.	Agreed

## 4 Summary

19 This summary section identifies those matters raised by TFA during the pre-application and post-application consultation that have yet to be resolved and are subject to ongoing discussion as of the last consultation meeting held with TFA.

20 It is noted that the primary matters under further discussion are:

- Application of assessment methodology and categorisation of significance;
- Safety considerations and need to ensure current high level of seamanship and mutual consideration between vessels is retained during construction; and
- Cumulative effects, and projects that have been brought forward since application was made