

**Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm**

# **Statement of Common Ground**

Historic Buildings and Monuments  
Commission for England (Historic  
England)

Applicant: Norfolk Boreas Limited  
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*Photo: Ormonde Offshore Wind Farm*

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## Glossary of Acronyms

ADBA	Archaeological Desk Based Assessment
DCO	Development Consent Order
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
HBMCE	Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (Historic England)
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared between Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (HBMCE) (also known as Historic England) and Norfolk Boreas Limited (hereafter the Applicant) to set out the areas of agreement and disagreement in relation to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter 'the project'). A full description of the project can be found in Chapter 5 of the Environmental Statement. Document reference 6.1.5 of the Application, APP-218
2. This SoCG comprises agreement logs which have been structured to reflect the topics of interest to HBMCE with regard to the Norfolk Boreas DCO application (hereafter 'the Application'). The agreement logs (section 2) outline all topic specific matters agreed, not agreed and actions to resolve between HBMCE and the Applicant.
3. The Applicant has had regard to the Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2015) when compiling this SoCG. Matters that are not agreed at this stage will be the subject of ongoing discussion wherever possible to resolve or refine the extent of disagreement between the parties.

### 1.1 Consultation with the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (Historic England)

4. This section briefly summarises the consultation that the Applicant has had with HBMCE. For further information on the consultation please see the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1 of the Application, APP-027) which explains the Evidence Plan Process (EPP). Table 1 provides an overview of the key meetings and consultation undertaken with HBMCE regarding archaeology and cultural heritage. A full list of the pre-application consultation is provided in the Environmental Statement (ES) Appendix 17.1 (Offshore) and Chapter 28 of the ES (Onshore). All post application consultation is also listed in Table 1.

**Table 1 Summary of key consultation with HBMCE regarding archaeology and cultural heritage**

Date	Contact Type	Topic
<b>Key Pre-Application consultation</b>		
21 <sup>st</sup> November 2017	Letter	HBMCE provided comment on the draft Evidence Plan and requested participation
8 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Expert Topic Group (ETG) meeting	Agreement of methodology to be used in the environmental impact assessment.
7 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Section 42 Consultation	HBMCE's response to consultation on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

Date	Contact Type	Topic
1 <sup>st</sup> February 2019	ETG meeting	Agreement on how the comments from the Section 42 response would be addressed in the DCO application.
<b>Post-Application consultation</b>		
25 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Relevant Representation from HBMCE	Registration to participate in the examination and initial feedback on the DCO application.
17 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Email	Draft SoCG provided by the Applicant to HBMCE for review
03/12/2019	Email	Draft SoCG provided by the Applicant to HBMCE for review.

## 2 STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

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5. Within the sections and tables below the different topics for areas of agreement and disagreement between HBMCE and the Applicant are set out.

### 2.1 Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

6. The project has the potential to impact upon offshore archaeology and cultural heritage. Chapter 17 Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of the ES (document reference 6.1.17 of the Application, APP-230) provides an assessment of the significance of these impacts.
7. Table 2 provides areas of agreement and disagreement regarding offshore archaeology and cultural heritage.

**Table 2 Agreement Log - Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**

Topic	Norfolk Boreas Limited position	HBMCE position	Final Position
Existing Environment	Sufficient survey data has been collected to provide an accurate characterisation of the archaeological potential of the study area. Agreed as part of the Evidence Plan Process.	Agreed	Agreed
	The analysis of the offshore geophysical data as is presented in Chapter 17 Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of the Norfolk Boreas ES is suitable to characterise the Norfolk Boreas site	Agreed	Agreed
	The analysis for the offshore geotechnical samples is complete. Stages 1 to 4 out of 5 are complete and all stages to date have been provided to HBMCE. Achieving Stage 4 by the pre-consent phase is uncommon and therefore presents good practice by Norfolk Boreas Limited.	Agreed	Agreed
Assessment methodology	The Applicant considers that the impact assessment methodologies used for the assessment provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the project and therefore the impact assessment methodologies used for the assessment provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the project.	Agreed	Agreed
	Definitions of sensitivity and importance are consistent across the onshore and offshore assessment for Norfolk Boreas and are sufficient to ensure that potential impacts to heritage assets are adequately assessed. Preliminary judgements on the heritage significance of heritage assets (or groups of heritage assets) will be subject to revision if more information becomes available post-consent, and as necessary, to inform the design of the proposed project.	Agreed	Agreed
	The worst-case scenario as presented in ES Chapter 17 Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (document reference 6.1.17 of the Application, APP-230), is suitably defined.	Agreed	Agreed



Topic	Norfolk Boreas Limited position	HBMCE position	Final Position
	The Applicant considers that the Marine Archaeological Technical reports have been used appropriately to inform the EIA. (see Appendices 17.1 to 17.8 of the ES) and the desk based assessment have been used appropriately to inform the EIA.	Agreed	Agreed
Assessment findings	The Applicant considers that the assessment adequately characterises the baseline environment in terms of offshore archaeology and cultural heritage.	Agreed	Agreed
	The Applicant considers the impacts used in the assessment are appropriate. The assessment of potential impacts for construction, operation and decommissioning are presented in ES Chapter 17 Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (APP-230)	Agreed	Agreed.
	The assessment regarding Historic Seascape Character in reference to fishing (see Table 17.19) recognises that perceptions of historic seascape character may change.	Agreed	Agreed.
	The assessment considers the extent to which setting contributes to the significance of individual heritage assets and identifies the potential for change; although no change has been identified which could cause harm to the significance of those heritage assets.	Agreed	Agreed.
	It is understood that by reference to potential changes to 'perceptual values' associated with specific Historic Seascape Character types, this specifically refers to a perception of historic character as might be associated with a spatially identifiable location.	Agreed	Agreed.

Topic	Norfolk Boreas Limited position	HBMCE position	Final Position
	Sufficient detail on how samples have been taken from the acquired cores in order to ensure validity of the OSL dating techniques has been provided in the Stage 4 report (Section 4.6 of Appendix 17.8 of the ES, APP-581). This report provides sufficient detail so as to inform a post-consent strategy for further geoarchaeological assessment, as detailed in the Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Offshore) (document reference 8.6 of the Application (APP-697) .	Agreed	Agreed.
	The assessment of potential cumulative impacts as presented in section 17.8 of ES Chapter 17 (APP-230) has determined that no impacts from the construction, operation and maintenance, and/or decommissioning of Norfolk Boreas, alongside other projects, plans and activities will be significant in EIA terms.	Agreed	Agreed.
Approach to mitigation	The nature and extent of Archaeological Exclusion Zones (AEZs) will be finalised and agreed in consultation with HBMCE prior to construction based upon the archaeological assessment of pre-construction data with regard to a refined design footprint and to any other information which may come to light.	Agreed	Agreed.
	The margin of error for micro-siting A2 geophysical anomalies and A3 records of existing sites not seen in geophysical data will be established post-consent following archaeological assessment of the pre-construction geophysical data and based upon the final design footprint.	Agreed	Agreed.
	The depth of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) at the landfall will be determined post-consent based on a range of factors, including consideration of suitable depths to avoid archaeology.	Agreed	Agreed.

Topic	Norfolk Boreas Limited position	HBMCE position	Final Position
Approach to mitigation	The approach to mitigation as set out in the Outline WSI (Offshore) (document reference 8.6 of the Application, APP-697) adequately provides for the delivery (post-consent) of the embedded mitigation presented in section 17.7.2 of ES Chapter 17 (APP230). Additional detail will be provided through a final detailed WSI (produced in accordance with the Outline WSI) to be prepared post-consent and formally submitted to the MMO.	Agreed	Agreed.
	The Outline WSI (offshore) (APP-697) allows for the completion of data acquisition programmes to the highest data quality standards possible, including a methodological approach that will utilise the most effective data generation programmes that will be commissioned post-consent. Specific instruction regarding data acquisition will be included in the final detailed WSI and accompanying, survey specific Method Statements, once further information is available post-consent.	Agreed	Agreed.
	The Outline WSI (Offshore) (APP-697) provides sufficient attention to those anomalies interpreted as 'A2' and the approach presented for the assessment of marine geophysical survey data will enable detailed analysis to be completed, including whether additional data demonstrates if any A2 anomalies can be removed from consideration in the WSI (i.e. identified as non-anthropogenic, or of no archaeological interest) or more added, if identified as present within the refined design footprint post-consent.	Agreed.	Agreed.
	The Outline WSI (Offshore) provides sufficient assurance that where avoidance is not possible, methodological approaches to further investigations of specific sites would be agreed in consultation with HBMCE and set out in Method Statements as necessary to ensure the delivery of any agreed mitigation.	Agreed	Agreed.

Topic	Norfolk Boreas Limited position	HBMCE position	Final Position
Information sharing, data management and archiving	The Outline WSI (Offshore) (APP-697) includes provision for archaeological mitigation and investigations, information sharing, data management and archiving. This is secured through the draft DCO, Version 1 (document reference 3.1 of the Application, APP-020) in DML Schedules 9 and 10 Condition 14 (1) (h); Schedules, 11 and 12 Condition 9(1)(h) and Schedule 13 Condition 7(1)(g); and will be finalised in the final detailed WSI (Offshore). The mitigation strategy will therefore include analysis programmes, within defined time periods, to accepted professional standards with publication and access through public archives.	Agreed	Agreed.
Project documentation	The Outline WSI (offshore) (APP-697), Offshore In Principle Monitoring Plan (IPMP) (document reference 8.12 of the Application, APP-703) and draft DCO (APP-020) together, are sufficient to ensure that any subsequent survey programmes required to deliver Norfolk Boreas (should consent be obtained) will be adequately informed by archaeological objectives. The monitoring outlined in the IPMP would be delivered through the offshore WSI, to be agreed with the MMO in consultation with the statutory historic body prior to construction in accordance with the DCO (Schedules 9 and 10 Part 4 Condition 14(1)(h) and Schedules 11 and 12 Part 4 Condition 9(1)(h)) and Schedule 13 Condition 7(1)(g).	Agreed	Agreed.
Wording of Requirement(s)	Part 4 of Schedules 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the draft DCO appropriately reflects the commitments made in the ES. This includes Condition 14(1)(h) for Schedules 9 and 10; Condition 9(1)(h) for Schedules 11 and 12; and Schedule 13 Condition 7(1)(g) which states that the WSI (offshore) must be agreed with the MMO in consultation with the statutory historic body.	Agreed	Agreed.

Topic	Norfolk Boreas Limited position	HBMCE position	Final Position
	The submission of the subsequent (post-consent) detailed WSI (offshore) at least four months prior to commencement will be completed in accordance with Schedules 9 and 10 in Condition 15(3); Schedules 11 and 12 in Condition 10(3); and Schedule 13 in Condition 8(3)	Agreed	Agreed
	The wording of the DCO and DMLs provides sufficient clarity (vis. Condition 14(2) for Schedules 9 and 10 and ; Condition 9(2) for Schedules 11 and 12; and Condition 7(2) for Schedule 13 that pre-commencement surveys, archaeological investigations and material operations, which involve intrusive seabed works, must only take place in accordance with a specific Written Scheme of Investigation which is itself in accordance with the details set out in the outline Written Scheme of Investigation (Offshore), and which has been submitted to and approved by the MMO In consultation with the statutory historic body.	Agreed	Agreed
ExAs first set of written Questions (PD-008) regarding specific elements of the WSI offshore	<p><b>The definition for commencement is appropriate.</b></p> <p>The dDMLs (REP1-008) state that each programme, statement, plan, protocol or scheme required to be approved under condition 14, (or 9 or 7 in schedules 11, 12 and 13) must be submitted for approval at least four months prior to the intended commencement of licensed activities, except where otherwise stated or unless otherwise agreed in writing by the MMO. This is elaborated on in in the text of paragraph 5 of the outline WSI (offshore) (APP-697) which states that an updated, final Offshore WSI will be developed in consultation with Historic England, post-consent to be agreed at least four months prior to the commencement of any survey programmes to ensure the effective inclusion of archaeological objectives in such surveys.</p>	Agreed	Agreed

Topic	Norfolk Boreas Limited position	HBMCE position	Final Position
	<p><b>Protection for archaeology during invasive pre-commencement survey works</b></p> <p>Through a commitment to embedded mitigation developed in consultation with Historic England through the EPP and defined in the ES (APP-230, section 17.7.2) and in the outline WSI (APP-697, section 7.1), the Applicant considers that there is sufficient protection for archaeology during invasive pre-commencement survey works. Furthermore, as secured by Condition 14(2) (Schedule 9-10) and Condition 9(2) (Schedule 11-12), the Applicant must submit a scheme to the MMO for approval in accordance with the Outline WSI (Offshore) for any pre-commencement surveys and archaeological investigations and pre-commencement material operations which involve intrusive seabed works.</p>	Agreed	Agreed
	<p><b>Protection for archaeology during invasive enabling works prior to primary works.</b></p> <p>As above, through a commitment to defined embedded mitigation developed in consultation with Historic England through the EPP as well as the pre-commencement scheme to be submitted in accordance with Condition 14(2) (Schedule 9-10) and Condition 9(2) (Schedule 11-12), the Applicant considers that there is sufficient protection for archaeology during invasive enabling works prior to primary works.</p>	Agreed	Agreed
	<p><b>Archaeological assessment of UXO survey data</b></p> <p>The outline WSI (APP-697 Section 9.4) sets out the Applicant's commitment to the assessment of any further geophysical data acquired for the project as part of the embedded mitigation. The outline WSI also confirms that Historic England will be consulted on the scope of such surveys via an archaeological method statement for each specific survey, to include provision for the archaeological review of Remotely Operated Vehicle investigations (APP-697, Section 9.6) undertaken for the purposes of identification of UXO.</p>	Agreed	Agreed

Topic	Norfolk Boreas Limited position	HBMCE position	Final Position
	<p><b>Archaeological data acquisition and management post-consent</b></p> <p>The outline WSI commits the Applicant to consultation with Historic England at each stage of data acquisition and to the management of that process post-consent via the issue of archaeological method statements for agreement with Historic England prior to any stage of data acquisition.</p> <p>Under condition 14, (or 9 or 7 in schedules 11, 12 and 13) the Applicant is required to include within the WSI, a reporting and recording protocol, including reporting of any wreck or wreck material during construction, operation and decommissioning of the authorised scheme. Furthermore, there is a requirement for the undertaker to ensure that a copy of any agreed archaeological report is submitted to Historic England within six months of completion of construction.</p> <p>The Applicant consider that these are sufficient to ensure that all relevant data will be acquired by Historic England.</p>	Agreed	Agreed
	<p><b>Procedures and timescale for notification of new discoveries</b></p> <p>The outline WSI (APP-697, Section 10) establishes the Applicants commitment to the implementation of the Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries: Offshore Renewables Projects (ORPAD) which is the industry accepted standard for addressing unexpected discoveries. In addition, in terms of any new discoveries following additional data acquisition, the outline WSI (APP-697, Section 9.1) commits the Applicant to archaeological reporting in accordance with the Model Clauses for Archaeological Written Schemes of Investigation: Offshore Renewables Projects which is the industry accepted standard for the delivery of mitigation for offshore renewables projects. Therefore, the Applicant consider that the procedures and timescale for notification of new discoveries is appropriate.</p>	Agreed	Agreed

Topic	Norfolk Boreas Limited position	HBMCE position	Final Position
	<p><b>Monitoring plans</b> The outline WSI (Section 11) sets out the Applicants commitment to monitoring for archaeological purposes for agreement with Historic England. The Applicant consider that these are appropriate for the project.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Agreed</p>



## 2.2 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

8. The project has the potential to impact upon Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage. Chapter 28 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of the ES, (document reference 6.1.28 of the Application APP-241), provides an assessment of the significance of these impacts.
9. Table 3 provides areas of agreement and disagreement regarding onshore archaeology and cultural heritage.

**Table 3 Agreement Log - Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**

Topic	Norfolk Boreas Limited position	HBMCE position	Final Position
Policy and Legislation	The legislation, policy and guidance adopted for Norfolk Boreas with respect to onshore archaeology and cultural heritage as outlined in section 28.2 of ES Chapter 28 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, (document reference 6.1.28 of the Application APP-241) is relevant and in line with overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) and National Policy Statement: Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3).	Agreed.	Agreed.
Existing (Baseline) Environment	The Applicant believes that sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment of the archaeological potential of the onshore project and study area. This was agreed during the Expert Topic Group (ETG) meeting in February 2019. Minutes of this meeting are provided in Appendix 28.01 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1.28.1, APP-192).	Agreed	Agreed
	The scope of the detailed Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (ADBA), Appendix 28.1 of the ES (document reference 6.3.28.1, APP-666) (which was a key source of information for the Application) was documented in a Written Scheme of Investigation which was reviewed and accepted by HBMCE. This was agreed following an ETG meeting for the Norfolk Vanguard project in February 2017. Minutes of this meeting are provided in Appendix 9.36 of the Consultation report (document reference 5.1.9.36, APP-073)	Agreed.	Agreed.
	The Applicant believes that suitable geophysical survey areas were identified and suitable priority geophysical survey areas were selected to help inform the assessment of impacts. This was undertaken through discussion with Norfolk County Council (NCC) with HBMCE kept apprised of discussions and agreements. Geophysical survey of the onshore substation area was undertaken directly by Norfolk Boreas in January 2019.	Agreed	Agreed

Topic	Norfolk Boreas Limited position	HBMCE position	Final Position
	The use of detailed magnetometry is an appropriate methodology for archaeological geophysical survey on large linear schemes and this was agreed following an ETG meeting for the Norfolk Vanguard project in July 2017. The Applicant has committed to investigating further and alternative methodologies alongside additional magnetometer survey, where appropriate and warranted, based upon existing/future information in the post-consent stages of the project.	HBMCE guidance recommends multiple techniques are used, however we acknowledge the approach adopted by the applicant and have no further comment.	Agreed.
	Outstanding geophysical surveys (scheme-wide) would be undertaken post-consent. This was agreed after the ETG meeting in February 2019.	HBMCE acknowledges this is the applicants preferred approach and we have no further comment.	Agreed.
	Heritage setting viewpoints have been identified at appropriate locations. These ultimately focused on the onshore project substation location and surrounds, following the decision by the Applicant to commit to HVDC technology. Viewpoints were presented, discussed and agreed at and following the ETG meeting for Norfolk Vanguard in January 2018.	HBMCE is content with the viewpoints provided and has no further comment.	Agreed.
	The approach to archaeological/geoarchaeological assessment adopted and implemented alongside the engineering-led geotechnical site investigation surveys undertaken at the landfall and key crossing locations was appropriate.	HBMCE acknowledges the approach adopted and has no further comment.	The Applicant believes that the approach adopted to archaeological/geoarchaeological assessment at the landfall and key crossing locations was appropriate. HBMCE acknowledges the approach taken but does not comment on whether it was appropriate.

Topic	Norfolk Boreas Limited position	HBMCE position	Final Position
	Archaeological trial trenching was not undertaken to inform the assessment of impacts pre-application. Further evaluation (to be referred to as initial informative stages of mitigation) will be completed post-consent, as secured through the Outline WSI (Onshore) (document reference 8.9 of the Application, APP-696) and draft DCO Requirement 23. This was agreed following the ETG meeting for the Norfolk Vanguard project in February 2017 and discussed and agreed at the February 2019 Norfolk Boreas ETG meeting.	Agreed.	Agreed.
Assessment methodology	The Applicant believes that appropriate assessment methodologies have been used for the assessment (alongside the reasoned narrative) were appropriate to assessing potential impacts of the project. This was accepted at the ETG meeting in March 2018.	HBMCE acknowledges the approach adopted and has no further comment.	Agreed
	The Applicant believes that the worst-case assumptions for Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 as outlined in Table 28.17 and Table 28.18 respectively in ES Chapter 28 (APP-241) are suitably defined.	Agreed	Agreed.
	The Applicant believes that the assessment provides a suitable characterisation of the baseline environment in terms of onshore archaeology and cultural heritage (section 28.6 of ES Chapter 28, APP-241).	Agreed	Agreed
Assessment findings	The Applicant believes that an appropriate assessment of potential impacts for Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 for construction, operation and decommissioning presented was provided.	Agreed	Agreed
	The Applicant believes that an appropriate assessment of cumulative impacts of both scenarios was presented in section 28.8 of ES Chapter 28 (APP-241).	Agreed	Agreed
	There are some very limited views of the onshore project substation from heritage receptors (assets), i.e. from the grounds of the Church of St. Andrew, Bradenham, which represent less than substantial harm. This residual impact is non-significant in EIA terms.	Agreed.	Agreed
Approach to mitigation	An Archaeological WSI (Onshore) (based on the outline WSI, document reference 8.5, APP-696) will be provided post-consent in accordance with the outline WSI. This will need to be agreed with HBMCE should the DCO be granted	Agreed.	Agreed

Topic	Norfolk Boreas Limited position	HBMCE position	Final Position
	The Applicant believes that the proposed mitigation for potential impacts on buried and above-ground archaeological remains detailed in the Outline WSI (Onshore) is deemed adequate.	Agreed	Agreed
Wording of Requirement(s)	The wording of Part 3, Requirement 23 provided within the draft DCO (document reference 3.1, APP-020) (and supporting certified documents) for the mitigation of impacts to onshore archaeology and cultural heritage is adequate.	Agreed.	Agreed

**The names inserted below are to confirm that these are the current positions of the two parties contributing to this SOCG**

Printed Name	Dr Christopher Pater
Position	Head of Marine Planning
On behalf of	HBMCE
Date	06/12/2019

Printed Name	Jake Laws
Position	Norfolk Boreas Consents Manager
On behalf of	Norfolk Boreas Limited (the Applicant)
Date	07/12/2019