

**Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm**

# **Statement of Common Ground**

**Anglian Water**

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

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## Glossary of Acronyms

|      |  |
|------|--|
| DCO  | Development Consent Order                    |
| EIA  | Environmental Impact Assessment              |
| ES   | Environmental Statement                      |
| EPP  | Evidence Plan Process                        |
| HVAC | High Voltage Alternating Current             |
| HVDC | High Voltage Direct Current                  |
| PEIR | Preliminary Environmental Information Report |
| SoCG | Statement of Common Ground                   |

## Glossary of Terminology

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Norfolk Boreas             | The Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm project.  |
| Norfolk Boreas Limited     | The Applicant undertaking the development of the Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm project (an affiliate company of VWPL).  |
| Norfolk Vanguard           | Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm, sister project of Norfolk Boreas.  |
| Onshore cable route        | The up to 35m working width within a 45m wide corridor 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. |

## 1 INTRODUCTION

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1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared between Anglian Water and Norfolk Boreas Limited (hereafter the Applicant) to set out the areas of agreement, ongoing discussions or disagreement in relation to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter 'the project').
2. This SoCG comprises an agreement log which has been structured to reflect the topics of interest to Anglian Water with regard to the Norfolk Boreas DCO application (hereafter 'the Application'). The agreement log (Table 3) outlines all topic specific matters agreed, not agreed and actions to resolve between Anglian Water 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. Topics 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

4. The Application is for the development of the Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm and associated infrastructure. A full description of the project can be found in Chapter 5 Project Description of the Environmental Statement (document reference 6.1.5 of the Application, APP-218).
5. The Norfolk Boreas DCO application is seeking consent for the following two alternative development scenarios:
  - **Scenario 1** – Norfolk Vanguard proceeds to construction and installs ducts and other shared enabling works for Norfolk Boreas.
  - **Scenario 2** – Norfolk Vanguard does not proceed to construction and Norfolk Boreas proceeds alone. Norfolk Boreas undertakes all works required as an independent project.
6. Where a topic of agreement is specific to a scenario this is identified in the Agreement Log (Table 3), otherwise the agreement applies to both scenarios.

### 1.2 Consultation with Anglian Water

7. This section briefly summarises the consultation that the Applicant has had with Anglian Water. For further information on the consultation process please see the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1 of the Application APP-027).

### 1.2.1 Pre-Application

8. The Applicant has engaged with Anglian Water on the project 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.
9. During formal (Section 42) consultation, Anglian Water provided comments on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) by way of a letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017.
10. Further to the statutory Section 42 consultation, consultation was undertaken with Anglian Water through the Evidence Plan Process, including a meeting on Water Resources and Flood Risk held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The minutes of this meeting are provided in Appendix 28.01 (document reference 5.1.28.1, APP-192) of the Consultation Report.

**Table 1 Summary of Key Pre-application Consultation with Anglian Water**

| Date                          | Contact Type   | Topic  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Pre-Application</b>        |  |  |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2018 | Email from the Applicant   | Issue of Water Resources and Flood Risk Method Statement and Agreement Log (provided in Appendix 9.22 (APP-059) of the Consultation Report)).  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2018 | Email from the Applicant   | Providing early sight of PEIR chapters (1, 5 and 20).  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2018 | Email from Anglian Water   | Providing Section 42 response on PEIR.   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2019 | Water Resources and Flood Risk Evidence Plan Process Meeting (Conference Call) | Meeting to review comments on PEIR and agree approach to ES (meeting minutes provided in Appendix 28.01 (APP-192) of the Consultation Report). |

11. Consultation was also undertaken with Anglian Water on matters relevant to both projects by Norfolk Vanguard and has been taken in account by Norfolk Boreas. For details see Norfolk Vanguard Statement of Common Ground – Anglian Water (Norfolk Vanguard examination document REP8-081).

### 1.2.2 Post-Application

12. There has been continued engagement between the Applicant and Anglian Water confirming the content of this Statement of Common which is for submission at Deadline 2.

**Table 2 Summary of Key Post-application Consultation with Anglian Water**

| Date                        | Contact Type              | Topic   |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Post-Application</b>     |                           |   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> August 2019 | Meeting (Conference Call) | Meeting to provide project update and agree approach to SoCG. |

## 2 STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

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13. Within the sections and tables below the different topics for agreement, ongoing discussion or disagreement for the different subject areas between Anglian Water and the Applicant are set out.

### 2.1 Water Resources and Flood Risk

14. The project has the potential to impact upon water resources and flood risk. Chapter 20 Water Resources and Flood Risk of the Environmental Statement (ES), (document reference 6.1.20 of the Application, APP-233), provides an assessment of the significance of these impacts.
15. Details on the Evidence Plan Process for water resources and flood risk be found in Appendix 9.22 (document reference 5.1.9.22, APP-059).
16. Table 3 outlines the topics for agreement with respect to water resources and flood risk between Anglian Water and the Applicant.

### 2.2 Protective Provisions (Anglian Water assets)

17. A number of meetings and correspondence where undertaken with Anglian Water regarding protective provisions as part of the Norfolk Vanguard project and protective provisions where agreed (see Norfolk Vanguard Statement of Common Ground – Anglian Water (REP8-081) for details).
18. These agreed protective provisions have been included in Schedule 17, Part 6 of the Norfolk Boreas draft DCO (document reference 3.1, APP-020).
19. Table 3 outlines the topics for agreement with respect to protective provision of Anglian Water assets. 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.



## 2.3 Agreement Log

20. Table 3 provides areas of agreement, ongoing discussion and disagreement regarding water resources, flood risk and protective provisions of Anglian Water assets.

**Table 3 Agreement Log Water Resources and Flood Risk and Anglian Water Assets**

| Topic on which Norfolk Boreas Limited seeks agreement | Norfolk Boreas Limited's position   | Anglian Water's position | Final position   |
|---|---|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b>                |   |                          |  |
| Existing Environment                                  | Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment. Detailed in section 20.5.2 of ES Chapter 20 Water Resources and Flood Risk (document reference 6.1.20, APP-233). The survey data collected as part of the Norfolk Vanguard project is suitable for use in the Norfolk Boreas Environment Impact Assessment (EIA).<br><br>Agreed as part of the Evidence Plan Process. | Agreed                   | It is agreed by both parties that sufficient survey data have been collected to undertake the assessment.          |
| Assessment methodology                                | The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, section 20.4 of ES Chapter 20 (APP-233), provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the project.<br><br>Agreed as part of the Evidence Plan Process.   | Agreed                   | It is agreed by both parties that the impact assessment methodologies used in the EIA are appropriate.             |
|   | The worst case assumptions presented in the assessment for Scenario 1 and Scenario 2, as outlined in ES Chapter 20 (APP-233) Table 20.15 and 20.16 respectively, are appropriate.   | Agreed                   | It is agreed by both parties that the worst case assumptions presented in the ES are appropriate for this project. |
| Assessment findings                                   | The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment in terms of water resources and flood risk, as outlined in section 20.6 of ES Chapter 20 (APP-233).  | Agreed                   | It is agreed by both parties that the ES adequately characterises the baseline environment.                        |



| Topic on which Norfolk Boreas Limited seeks agreement | Norfolk Boreas Limited's position   | Anglian Water's position | Final position  |
|---|---|--------------------------|---|
|   | The assessment of potential impacts of both scenarios for construction, operation and decommissioning presented in section 20.7 of ES Chapter 20 (APP-233) are appropriate and consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.   | Agreed                   | It is agreed by both parties that the ES adequately assesses impacts.   |
|   | The assessment of cumulative impacts of both scenarios presented in section 20.8 of ES Chapter 20 (APP-233) is appropriate and consistent with the agreed methodologies.  | Agreed                   | It is agreed by both parties that the ES adequately assesses cumulative impacts.  |
| Approach to mitigation                                | <p>Under Scenario 2 the proposed locations for trenchless crossing techniques (as detailed in Schedule 1, Part 3, Requirement 16 (13) of the draft DCO, document reference 3.1 of the Application, APP-020) are appropriate and will be explored further and details agreed at each location at detailed design stage.</p> <p>Under Scenario 1 trenchless crossings will not be required as these will have been pre-installed by Norfolk Vanguard Limited.</p> | Agreed                   | It is agreed by both parties that the proposed trenchless crossing techniques under Scenario 2 are appropriate, subject to detailed design.   |
|   | The mitigation measures proposed for water resources presented in section 20.7 of ES Chapter 20 (APP-233) are appropriate and adequate.   | Agreed                   | It is agreed by both parties that the Application identifies appropriate mitigation measures in relation to water resources and groundwater, subject to detailed design post-consent. Consultation will continue with Anglian Water post-consent as detailed information becomes available. |
|   | The approach proposed for managing flood risk (Appendix 20.1 Flood Risk Assessment, document reference 6.3.20.1, APP-586) will follow the surface water drainage hierarchy. No surface water connection to the public sewage network is required, as outlined in the Outline Operational Drainage Plan  | Agreed                   | It is agreed by both parties that the Application identifies appropriate approaches in relation to flood risk,  |

| Topic on which Norfolk Boreas Limited seeks agreement | Norfolk Boreas Limited's position  | Anglian Water's position | Final position   |
|---|--|--------------------------|--|
|   | (document reference 8.21, APP-712). The details of the drainage strategy will be confirmed via the final Operational Drainage Plan to be prepared post-consent, which is secured through Schedule 1, Part 3, Requirement 20 of the draft DCO (APP-020). On this basis, the mitigation proposed is appropriate and adequate.  |                          | subject to detailed design post-consent.   |
|   | At this stage any need for connections to the main water supply or public sewerage network during construction has not been identified but will be confirmed post-consent. A connection to main water supply is likely to be required at the onshore project substation, final requirements will be determined post-consent. The Applicant acknowledges the role of Anglian Water Services Ltd and the necessary application process for any connections required to the main water supply or public sewerage network. | Agreed                   | It is agreed by both parties that the necessary application process for the any connections to the mains water supply or public sewerage network will be followed.                       |
| <b>Draft Development Consent Order (DCO)</b>          |  |                          |  |
| Wording of Requirement(s)                             | The wording of Schedule 17 Part 6 'Protective Provisions for the Protection of Anglian Water Services Limited' provided within the draft DCO (APP-020) for the mitigation of impacts to Anglian Water assets are considered appropriate and adequate.  | Agreed                   | Protective Provisions are agreed by both parties.  |
| <b>Anglian Water assets</b>                           |  |                          |  |
| Crossing points of assets and apparatus               | The Protective Provisions for the Protection of Anglian Water Services Limited (Schedule 17 of the draft DCO, APP-020) provides a mechanism for Norfolk Boreas Limited to submit further details for Anglian Water's approval in relation to any construction works where the Norfolk Boreas onshore cable route crosses with Anglian Water assets and apparatus. This detailed information will be provided during the pre-construction period in advance of construction.  | Agreed                   | Protective Provisions and mechanism agreed by both parties. Consultation will continue with Anglian Water on the asset crossings post-consent as detailed information becomes available. |

**The undersigned agree to the provisions within this SOCG**

|              |                               |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Name         | Stewart Patience              |
| Position     | Spatial Planning Manager      |
| On behalf of | Anglian Water Services Ltd    |
| Date         | 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Name         | Jake Laws                              |
| Position     | Norfolk Boreas Consents Manager        |
| On behalf of | Norfolk Boreas Limited (the Applicant) |
| Date         | 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2019          |