



Hornsea Project Four

G1.6 OnSS and EBI Ground Levels Clarification Memo

Section 51 deliverable, Date: 07 February 2022

Document reference: G1.6

Revision: 1

Prepared Thomas Watts, Orsted, January 2022
Checked Hannah Towner-Roethe, Orsted, February 2022
Accepted Keith Lynch, Orsted, February 2022
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G1.6
Ver. no. A

Revision Summary

<i>Rev</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Prepared by</i>	<i>Checked by</i>	<i>Approved by</i>
01	07/02/2022	Thomas Watts, Orsted, January 2022	Hannah Towner-Roethe, Orsted, February 2022	Julian Carolan, Orsted, February 2022

Revision Change Log

<i>Rev</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Description</i>
01	-	-	First submission

Subject OnSS and EBI Ground Levels Clarification
To Planning Inspectorate
Copy Julian Carolan, Hornsea Four Consent Manager
From Hornsea Project Four
Regarding Response to Section 51 advice regarding proposed ground levels.

1. Introduction and overview

- 1.1.1.1 As part of the Planning Inspectorate's [Section 51 advice letter \(PD-003\)](#) (Ref: EN010098, dated 26 October 2021) published upon acceptance of the Hornsea Four Development Consent Order (DCO) application, the following observation was made (bold emphasis added by Orsted Hornsea Project Four Limited (hereafter 'the Applicant')):

"Ground levels in relation to the proposed Substation and EBI

*It is noted that the ground levels for the onshore substation and EBI are proposed to be set post-consent through a requirement. No maximum or minimum existing or finished ground or floor level parameters appear to be provided, only 'likely levels'. **Greater clarity should be provided on how the Examining Authority (ExA) and Secretary of State (SoS) could rely on any Development Consent Order (DCO) to control this, and the basis that was adopted for each of the relevant assessments, especially the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) (Doc A6.2.2) and the Landscape and Visual Assessment (Doc A3.4) and accompanying visualisations (Doc A6.4.1)**"*

- 1.1.1.2 The Applicant responded to this matter in [C1.1.4: Applicant Response to Section 51 Advice](#):

"The Applicant included anticipated ground levels in Section 6.2 of [F2.13: Outline Design Plan \(APP-248\)](#). This document is a certified document in [C1.1: Draft DCO including draft DML \(APP-203\)](#) and will be used preconstruction to discharge DCO Requirement 7.

The anticipated ground levels outlined above have been used as the basis for assessment for both the FRA and LVIA. The Applicant has undertaken site investigations at the onshore substation (OnSS) site in October 2021 and is currently analysing the data. A follow up response will be provided pre-examination confirming the proposed maximum and minimum ground levels. A SoC will be submitted for the Outline Design Plan."

The Applicant is now able to provide further clarity regarding proposed finished ground levels at the OnSS and EBI.

2. Additional Response – Confirmation of Ground Levels

2.1.1.1 Site investigation works undertaken at the OnSS and EBI site have concluded and confirm the topographical profile of the site. The Applicant can confirm the proposed finished ground levels outlined in Section 6.2 of **F2.13: Outline Design Plan (APP-248)** are accurate and representative of the proposed finished ground levels; these comprise:

- The area identified in the indicative HVAC and HVDC layouts for the OnSS is anticipated to be set at approximately 13.0m AOD – This is 2.5m above the maximum modelled flood extent for the 1 in 1,000 year plus climate change event and therefore inherently includes a significant natural freeboard.
- The area identified in the indicative HVAC and HVDC layouts for the EBI is anticipated to be set at approximately 14.5m AOD – This is 4.0m above the maximum modelled flood extent for the 1 in 1,000 year plus climate change event and therefore inherently includes a significant natural freeboard.

2.1.1.2 The Applicant can confirm that finished ground level will be at the levels identified in the above bullet points and will not be 'approximate'. The Applicant proposes that a Schedule of Change for **F2.13: Outline Design Plan (APP-248)** is submitted removing the word 'approximate' from Section 6.2 should the ExA be satisfied with this approach and confirmation.

2.1.1.3 The Applicant can confirm that the above ground levels were used to inform relevant onshore environmental assessments presented in **Volume A3** of the Environmental Statement.