



Hornsea Project Four

Applicant's Statement of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground

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Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	5
1.1	Overview of Hornsea Four.....	5
1.2	Purpose of Statement of Commonality.....	5
1.3	List of Statement of Commonality.....	6
1.4	Summary of Current Position of SoCG.....	6
2	Summary of Commonality of Each Topic Covered.....	14
3	Additional commentary – Deadline 1.....	17
4	Additional commentary – Deadline 3.....	17
5	Final positions.....	18
6	Protective Provisions.....	18

List of Tables

Table 1: Status of SoCG's at Deadline 3.....	7
Table 2 Status of LoC and PS at Deadline 3.....	10
Table 3 Summary of Commonality with each stakeholder in relation to each topic covered at Deadline 3.....	15

List of Figures

No table of figures entries found.

Glossary

Term	Definition
-	-

Acronyms

Term	Definition
ECC	Export cable corridor
LoC	Letters of Comfort
PS	Position Statement
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview of Hornsea Four

1.1.1.1 Hornsea Four is an offshore wind farm which will be located approximately 69 km offshore the East Riding of Yorkshire in the Southern North Sea and will be the fourth project to be developed in the former Hornsea Zone. Hornsea Four will include both offshore and onshore infrastructure and consists of:

- **Hornsea Four array area:** This is where the offshore wind generating station will be located which will include the turbines, array cables, offshore accommodation platforms and a range of offshore substations as well as offshore interconnector cables and export cables;
- **Hornsea Four offshore export cable corridor (ECC):** This is where the permanent offshore electrical infrastructure (offshore export cables, as well as the High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) booster station (if required), will be located;
- **Hornsea Four intertidal area:** This is the area between Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) and Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) through which all of the offshore export cables will be installed;
- **Hornsea Four onshore export cable corridor:** This is where the permanent onshore electrical cable infrastructure will be located; and
- **Hornsea Four onshore substation (OnSS) including energy balancing infrastructure:** This is where the permanent onshore electrical substation infrastructure (onshore High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter/HVAC substation, energy balancing infrastructure and connections to the National Grid) will be located.

1.2 Purpose of Statement of Commonality

1.2.1.1 This document provides the Examining Authority (ExA) with an overview of the position of each Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between the Applicant and the interested parties (see Annex E or Rule 6 Letter (PD-005)) in relation to Hornsea Four at Deadline 1. This document will be updated and submitted at the requested deadlines outlined in the Examination timetable.

1.2.2 Structure

1.2.2.1 This report is structured as follows

- Section 2: Summary of commonality of each topic covered – provides an overview of all topics covered and each stakeholder's position.
- Section 3: Tables of commonality – this provides further detail on the aspects of each topic that are covered by the SoCG and each stakeholder's position.

1.3 List of Statement of Commonality

1.3.1.1 **Table 1** provides the list of SoCGs that have been prepared by Hornsea Four and the respective regulative authority in accordance with the list as requested by the Planning Inspectorate in the Rule 8 letter issued in 28th February 2022

1.4 Summary of Current Position of SoCG

1.4.1.1 The SoCGs submitted alongside this document at Deadline 3 reflect the positions of the Applicant and stakeholders.

1.4.1.2 **Table 1** provides an overview of the status of each SoCG throughout the examination including those finalised at, and prior to, Deadline 3.

1.4.2 Letters of Comfort (LoC) and Position Statements (PS)

1.4.2.1 In some instance Letters of Comfort (LoC) and Positions Statements (PS) were prepared instead of SoCG. The matters on which the parties remain in discussion are limited in scope (i.e. substantive matters are either agreed or can be addressed post consent through crossing and/or proximity agreements) and so the LoCs were considered to be more appropriate than a SoCG in order to capture status of discussions. The outline of each LoC and PS is provided below. A PS is substantively the same as a SoCG but follows a different format to allow each party to identify the issues pertinent to their commercial interests and to determine the level of detail to put before the ExA pending the conclusion of commercial discussions. The PS will be updated in the same way as a SoCG.

Table 1: Status of SoCG's at Deadline 3.

Party	Status at the point of application	Status at Deadline 1	Status at Deadline 3	Status at Deadline 4	Status at Deadline 5	Status at Deadline 6	Status at Deadline 7
East Riding of Yorkshire Council (Document reference: F3.1)	Draft submitted Discussions ongoing	Updated draft submitted, discussions ongoing.	Updated the format/structure and further agreements				
Environment Agency (EA) (Document reference: G1.12)	Drafted and discussed with consultee but not submitted.	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.					
Historic England (Document reference: G1.14)	Drafted and discussed with consultee but not submitted.	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.					
Holderness Fishing Industry Group (HFIG) (Document reference: G1.21). Combined with NFFO.	Not drafted.	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.	Updated draft submitted.				
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) (Document reference: G1.25)	Drafted and discussed with consultee but not submitted.	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.	Updated draft submitted.				
Marine Management Organisation (MMO) (Document reference: G1.17)	Drafted and discussed with consultee but not submitted.	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.	Updated draft submitted.				
Ministry of Defence (MOD)	Not drafted.	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.					

Party	Status at the point of application	Status at Deadline 1	Status at Deadline 3	Status at Deadline 4	Status at Deadline 5	Status at Deadline 6	Status at Deadline 7
(Document reference: G1.30)							
Natural England: Derogation and Compensation Matters (Document reference: F3.4).	Draft structure and Agreement Log submitted Discussions ongoing	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing. See Section 3.					
Natural England: Onshore (Document reference: F3.5)	Draft submitted Discussions ongoing	Not submitted at Deadline 1 as no update from application submission. Discussions ongoing.					
Natural England: Other Offshore Matters (Document reference: G1.13)	Draft submitted to stakeholder for review.	Submitted as DRAFT. Commonality undefined. See Section 3.	Updated draft submitted.				
Natural England: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology (Document reference: G1.18)	Draft submitted to stakeholder for review.	Submitted as DRAFT. Commonality undefined. See Section 3.	Updated draft submitted				
National Air Traffic Services and Ministry of Defence (NATS) (Document reference: G1.31)	Not drafted.	Draft submitted, pending discussion.					

Party	Status at the point of application	Status at Deadline 1	Status at Deadline 3	Status at Deadline 4	Status at Deadline 5	Status at Deadline 6	Status at Deadline 7
National Highways (Document reference: F3.3)	Draft submitted	No further updates proposed to SoCG due to Rule 6 letter					
National Federation of Fisherman's Organisations (NFFO) (Document reference: G1.21). Combined with Holderness Fishing Group	Not drafted.	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.	Updated draft submitted.				
RSPB (Document reference: G1.22)	Draft submitted to stakeholder for review.	Submitted as DRAFT See Section 3.	Updated draft submitted.				
The Wildlife Trusts (Document reference: G1.19)	Drafted and discussed with consultee but not submitted.	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing. See Section 3	See Section 3				
Trinity House (Document reference: G1.26)	Drafted and discussed with consultee but not submitted.	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.	Updated draft submitted.				
UK Chamber of Shipping (Document reference: G1.20)	Drafted and discussed with consultee but not submitted.	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.					

Table 2 Status of LoC and PS at Deadline 3.

Party	LoC/PS summary and position at the point of application	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 1	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 3	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 4	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 5	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 6	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 7
Alderney Wildlife Trust (Document reference: G1.10)	LoC received.	Discussions ongoing.					
National Grid Interconnector Holdings Ltd (CCS) (Document reference: G1.11)		Joint Position Statement submitted: parties in discussion regarding coordination of activities	Annex 1 submitted at Deadline 2; discussions ongoing.				
National Grid Gas PLC (Document reference: G1.16)		Draft submitted, discussions ongoing	Updated draft submitted.				
National Grid Electricity Transmissions PLC (Document reference: G1.27)		Draft submitted, discussions ongoing	Updated draft submitted.				
Northern Endurance Partnership, National Grid Carbon Ltd, Drax	Draft Protective Provisions included in Application	Joint Position Statement between the Applicant and bp:	Discussions ongoing.				

Party	LoC/PS summary and position at the point of application	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 1	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 3	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 4	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 5	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 6	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 7
Power Ltd and Equinor New Energy Ltd (Document reference: G1.29)		submitted: parties setting out the status of discussions and justification for their draft PPs					
Northern Gas Networks Ltd (Document reference: G1.24)		Draft submitted, discussions ongoing					
Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC (Document reference: G1.28)		Draft submitted, discussions ongoing					
NEO Energy (Document reference: G2.15)	Not drafted. Discussions ongoing	Drafted and discussions ongoing but not submitted.					
Network Rail Infrastructure (Document reference: G1.23)		Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.					
Ocean Conservation Trust (Document reference: Appendix C of B2.8.6)	LoC received.						

Party	LoC/PS summary and position at the point of application	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 1	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 3	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 4	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 5	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 6	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 7
RP Volume B2 Annex 8.6 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Fish Habitat Enhancement Roadmap)							
Project Seagrass (Document reference: Appendix A of B2.8.6 RP Volume B2 Annex 8.6 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Fish Habitat Enhancement Roadmap)	LoC received.	Discussions ongoing.					
States of Guernsey (Document reference: Appendix B of B2.8.4 RP Volume B2 Annex 8.4 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Predator Eradication Roadmap).	LoC received.	Discussions ongoing.					
States of Alderney (Document reference: Appendix A of B2.8.4 RP Volume B2 Annex	Consultation response of support received.						

Party	LoC/PS summary and position at the point of application	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 1	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 3	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 4	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 5	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 6	LoC/PS summary and position at Deadline 7
8.4 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Predator Eradication Roadmap).							
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (Document reference: Appendix B of B2.8.6 RP Volume B2 Annex 8.6 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Fish Habitat Enhancement Roadmap).	LoC received.	Discussions ongoing.					

2 Summary of Commonality of Each Topic Covered

- 2.1.1.1 This section provides a summary of the topics covered in each of the SoCGs and shows there is a commonality in the topics or matters being discussed with the stakeholders.
- 2.1.1.2 [Table 3](#) presents a summary of commonality at Deadline 1, on each topic discussed between the Applicant and stakeholder using the following colour code:

	Matter agreed
	Matter not agreed
	Matter subject to further discussion
	Topic not relevant to the stakeholder or deferred.

Table 3 Summary of Commonality with each stakeholder in relation to each topic covered at Deadline 3

Party	DCO/DML	Project Description	Policy and Planning	Marine Geology, Oceanology	Benthic and Intertidal Ecology	Fish and Shellfish Ecology	Marine Mammals	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology	Commercial Fisheries	Shipping and Navigation	Aviation and Radar	Marine Archaeology	Seascape, Landscape and Visual Resources	Infrastructure and Other Users	Compensation measures	Cumulative and Transboundary	Geology and Ground Conditions	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Ecology and Nature	Landscape and Visual	Historic Environments	Land Use and Agriculture	Traffic and Transport	Noise and Vibration	Air Quality	Socio- economics	Others Documents and Plans
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow													Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green		
Environment Agency (EA)	Yellow		Yellow	Green													Green	Yellow	Yellow							Yellow	
Historic England	Yellow											Yellow									Yellow						
Holderness Fishing Industry Group	Yellow					Yellow			Yellow																	Yellow	
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	Yellow									Yellow					Yellow												
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	Yellow			Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow																				
Ministry of Defence (MOD)	Yellow										Yellow																
Natural England: Derogation and Compensation Matters	Yellow														Yellow												
Natural England: Onshore																		Green	Green	Yellow		Yellow		Green		Yellow	

3 Additional commentary – Deadline 1

3.1.1 Comment of the status of The Wildlife Trust (TWT) SoCG

3.1.1.1 The Applicant sent the draft SoCG to TWT on 16th February 2021. Following receipt of the draft SoCG, due to resourcing issues, TWT confirmed a preference to pursue a more strategic approach to address their overarching concerns. It is the Applicant's understanding that their overarching strategic concerns relate to underwater noise management, benthic ecology, mitigation, compensation and monitoring (though this understanding has not been confirmed by TWT). The Applicants position is that all strategic concerns are also Hornsea Four specific concerns. It is therefore the Applicants intention to work with the wider Ørsted group and TWT to draft a SoCG from a strategic perspective utilising the attached draft SoCG template due to the clear overlap between strategic concerns and Hornsea Four concerns. An updated SoCG will hopefully be submitted into deadline 3. This will allow the parties further time to collaborate This statement has been agreed with TWT.

3.1.2 Comments of the status of Natural England and RSPB SoCG

3.1.2.1 The SoCG for RSPB and Natural England (relating to Other Offshore Matters, Derogation and Compensation and Offshore Ornithology) as submitted at Deadline 1 are drafts as provided to the stakeholders for review. Neither stakeholder has had the opportunity to provide comments ahead of Deadline 1. The Applicant is anticipating comments back from both stakeholder by either Deadline 2 or Deadline 3.

3.1.3 Comments of the status of Network Rail, Northern Gas, National Grid Electricity Transmissions PLC and National Grid Gas PLC Position Statements

3.1.3.1 The Position Statements between Hornsea Project Four and Network Rail, Northern Gas, National Grid Electricity Transmissions PLC and National Grid Gas PLC as submitted at Deadline 1, are drafts as provided to the stakeholders for review. The stakeholders have not had the opportunity to provide comments ahead of Deadline 1 but the Applicant is anticipating comments back from the stakeholders by Deadline 2.

4 Additional commentary – Deadline 3

4.1.1 Comment of the status of The Wildlife Trust (TWT) SoCG

4.1.1.1 The Applicant has agreed with The Wildlife Trusts to withdraw [G1.19 Statement of Common Ground between Hornsea Project Four and The Wildlife Trusts Revision: 01](#) as submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1 ([REP1-047](#)). This document will be superseded by the submission of a Letter of Comfort (LoC) between both parties targeted for submission at Deadline 5. The reason for this updated approach being that the matters on which both parties remain in

discussion are strategic in scope and therefore a LoC is considered to be more appropriate than a SoCG in order to capture the ongoing collaborative nature of the discussions at a portfolio level.

5 Final positions

5.1.1.1 This will be completed and submitted to the ExA at Deadline 7.

6 Protective Provisions

6.1.1.1 This will be completed and submitted to the ExA at Deadline 7.