



Hornsea Project Four

Applicant's Statement of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground

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Glossary

Term	Definition
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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 on 28th February 2022

1.4 Summary of Current Position of SoCG

1.4.1.1 The SoCGs submitted alongside this document at Deadline 4 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 4.

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 5.

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	In continued discussions with ERYC. No update at Deadline 4	Updated draft submitted		
Environment Agency (EA) (Document reference: G1.12)	Drafted and discussed with consultee but not submitted.	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.		Updated draft submitted			
Historic England (Document reference: G1.14)	Drafted and discussed with consultee but not submitted.	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.	No update	Updated draft submitted	No update		
Holderness Fishing Industry Group (HFIG) (Document reference: G1.21). Combined with NFFO.	Not drafted.	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.	Updated draft submitted.	Updated draft submitted	Final document 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.	No update	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.	No update	Updated draft submitted		
Ministry of Defence (MOD)	Not drafted.	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.		Updated draft submitted	Updated draft submitted		

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.		Discussions ongoing			
Natural England: Onshore (Document reference: F3.5)	Draft submitted Discussions ongoing	Not submitted at Deadline 1 as no update from application submission. Discussions ongoing.		No update			
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.	No update	No update		
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	Expected Deadline 5			
National Air Traffic Services and Ministry of Defence (NATS) (Document reference: G1.31)	Not drafted.	Draft submitted, pending discussion.		Updated draft submitted	Updated draft submitted		

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.	Updated draft submitted.	Final document submitted		
RSPB (Document reference: G1.22)	Draft submitted to stakeholder for review.	Submitted as DRAFT See Section 3.	Updated draft submitted.	Expected Deadline 5			
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	See Section 3	See Section 3. Letter of comfort submitted		
Trinity House (Document reference: G1.26)	Drafted and discussed with consultee but not submitted.	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.	Updated draft submitted.	Updated draft submitted	Final document submitted		
UK Chamber of Shipping (Document reference: G1.20)	Drafted and discussed with consultee but not submitted.	Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.		No update	Updated draft submitted		

Table 2 Status of LoC and PS at Deadline 5.

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:	LoC received.	Discussions ongoing.		Discussions ongoing	Discussions ongoing		
National Grid Interconnector Holdings Ltd (Document reference: G1.11)		Joint Position Statement submitted: parties in discussion regarding coordination of activities	Annex 1 submitted at Deadline 2; discussions ongoing.	Discussions ongoing	Discussions ongoing		
National Grid Gas PLC (Document reference: G1.16)		Draft submitted, discussions ongoing	Updated draft submitted.	Discussions ongoing	Discussions ongoing		
National Grid Electricity Transmissions PLC (Document reference: G1.27)		Draft submitted, discussions ongoing	Updated draft submitted.	Discussions ongoing	Discussions ongoing		
Northern Endurance Partnership (Document reference: G1.29)	Draft Protective Provisions included in Application	Joint Position Statement between the Applicant and bp:	Discussions ongoing. Updated Protective	Discussions ongoing	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
		submitted: parties setting out the status of discussions and justification for their draft PPs	Provisions submitted within the draft DCO to Examination.				
Northern Gas Networks Ltd (Document reference: G1.24)		Draft submitted, discussions ongoing		Discussions ongoing	Discussions ongoing		
Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC (Document reference: G1.28)		Draft submitted, discussions ongoing		Discussions ongoing	Agreements completed		
NEO Energy (Document reference: G2.15)	Not drafted. Discussions ongoing	Drafted and discussions ongoing but not submitted.	Protective Provisions submitted within the draft DCO to Examination.	No update	Draft cooperation agreement provided to NEO		
Network Rail Infrastructure (Document reference: G1.23)		Draft submitted, discussions ongoing.		Discussions ongoing	Discussions ongoing		
Ocean Conservation Trust	LoC received.			No update	No update		

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
(Document reference: Appendix C of B2.8.6 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.		Discussions ongoing	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.		Discussions ongoing	MoU agreed		

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
States of Alderney (Document reference: Appendix A of B2.8.4 RP Volume B2 Annex 8.4 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Predator Eradication Roadmap).	Consultation response of support received.			No update	No update		
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.		Discussions ongoing	Discussions ongoing		
The Wildlife Trusts				LoC being progressed.	LoC being progressed.		
Perenco				Protective Provisions submitted within the draft DCO.	Cooperation agreements being progressed		
Bridge Petroleum					Protective Provisions		

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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
					submitted within the draft DCO		

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 5, 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 5

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	Green	Green														Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Environment Agency (EA)	Yellow		Yellow	Green					Green								Green	Yellow	Green								Yellow
Historic England	Yellow											Yellow									Yellow						
Holderness Fishing Industry Group (HFIG)	Green					Red			Green																		Green
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	Yellow									Green					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

Hornsea 4



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
Natural England: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology	Yellow							Yellow																			Yellow
Natural England: Other Offshore Matters	Yellow			Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow						Green														Yellow
National Air Traffic Services and Ministry of Defence (NATS)	Yellow										Yellow																
National Highways																						Green					
National Federation of Fisherman's Organisations (NFFO)	Green					Red			Green																		Green
RSPB								Yellow																			Yellow
The Wildlife Trusts																											
Trinity House	Green									Green				Green													
UK Chamber of Shipping										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 Applicant's 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 Additional commentary – Deadline 4

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

5.1.1.1 The status remains as above (see paragraph 4.1.1.1).

5.1.2 Comment on the status of Harbour Energy

5.1.2.1 The Applicant and Harbour Energy have reached agreement in principle and are in the process of agreeing the terms of a co-operation agreement to govern the interaction between the development of Hornsea Four and the decommissioning of the Johnston Subsea Gas Field infrastructure. The Applicant will update the Examiners at DL5 as to the progress of the co-operation agreement.

5.1.3 Comment on the status of Perenco UK Limited

5.1.3.1 The Applicant and Perenco UK Limited have reached agreement in principle relating to all matters save for the buffer distance required by Perenco for helicopter access. As the Examiners are aware the Applicant has proposed 2.7nm which has been included in the proposed draft Protective Provision submitted at DL4. This has not been agreed to by Perenco. The parties are in the process of agreeing the terms of a co-operation agreement relating to all other matters and if a helicopter buffer distance can be agreed then this will also be included in the co-operation agreement removing the need for Protective Provisions. The Applicant will update the Examiners at DL5 as to the progress of the co-operation agreement.

6 Additional commentary – Deadline 5

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

6.1.1.1 The Applicant has submitted [G5.12 Letter of Comfort between Hornsea Four and The Wildlife Trusts](#) into Examination.

6.2 Comments of the status of Historic England SoCG

6.2.1.1 The Applicant has continued to engage with Historic England, including two separate meetings since Deadline 4, to endeavor to make progress with Historic England on more agreements than presented in the SoCG version submitted at Deadline 4 ([REP4-023](#)). These discussions have been positive, and the Applicant is awaiting an updated draft SoCG from Historic England that has been approved for submission.

6.3 Comment on the status of Harbour Energy

6.3.1.1 The Applicant and Harbour Energy have reached agreement in principle and are in advanced negotiations on a co-operation agreement relating to the interaction between the development of Hornsea Four and the decommissioning of the Johnston Subsea Gas Field infrastructure. The Applicant and Harbour Energy acknowledge that the overlap of the Johnston field infrastructure and the Hornsea Four developable area requires the parties to find a way to coexist with respect to the Johnston field decommissioning. However, the parties remain committed to completing an

agreement prior to the end of the Examination to address any impact of potential proximate turbines on decommissioning activities.

6.4 Comment on the status of National Grid Viking Link Limited

6.4.1.1 National Grid Viking Link Limited (VKL) and the Applicant continue to positively engage and share information in order to agree a commercial position as soon as practicable. Both parties have agreed to weekly meetings demonstrating commitment to seeking commercial resolution. With this in mind, Viking Link and the Applicant wish to defer the response to Examiners Questions INF 2.4 in order to continue meaningful discussions with a view to submitting an updated commercial position at Deadline 5A. Please see below a summary of engagement both completed and planned following Deadline 4 and up to Deadline 5A.

- VKL provided risk profile technical details.
- Both parties met on 7th June to discuss technical details and to plan future engagement.
- VKL commit to review and, where possible, will provide additional details relating to cable burial risk assessment and navigational information by 21st June.
- Applicant to provide VKL comments to VKL's risk profile assessment in relation to Hornsea Four once VKL baseline cable risk assessment (in whole or in part) provided.
- Both parties to meet weekly leading up to Deadline 5A.

6.5 Comment on the status of Perenco UK Limited

6.5.1.1 Commercial agreements are progressing well with Perenco on all matters referred to in their Relevant representation ([RR-004](#)) including helicopter access. The Applicant is confident that the commercial agreements will be entered into prior to the end of the Examination. The intention is that the commercial agreements will supersede the Protective Provisions.

6.6 Comment on the status of NEO Energy

6.6.1.1 Discussions are ongoing with NEO regarding a commercial agreement. A draft commercial agreement has been shared with NEO and the Applicant hopes to further engage with NEO in order to dispense with the need for Protective Provisions. The Applicant submits that 2.7 nautical miles (nm) mitigates the impact on helicopter access to the Babbage platform to an acceptable level.

6.7 Comment of the status of The Ministry of Defence (MOD) SoCG

6.7.1.1 The Applicant has confirmed with the MOD that the requested update to commitment Co93 (aids to navigation) will be provided at a future deadline when [Volume A4, Annex 5.2: Commitments Register](#) is updated and resubmitted into Examination.

6.8 Comment on the status of Bridge Petroleum

6.8.1.1 The Applicant initially made significant progress with the commercial negotiations which led to the drafting of a detailed heads of terms between the parties. The progress however of finalising the heads of terms has stalled and the Applicant therefore has provided a set of protective provisions to provide protection to Bridge should the Kumatage development progress in line with the conditions of their licence.

6.9 Comment on the status of RSPB

6.9.1.1 The SoCG for RSPB (relating to Ornithology, Derogation and Compensation) as submitted at Deadline 1 has been reviewed by the Applicant and RSPB at a SoCG meeting on 15 June 2022, after RSPB review of the Deadline 1 submission. The SoCG discussions were positive, though a

number of areas remain to be resolved. The updated "track change" SoCG is now with RSPB for update. The Applicant is anticipating comments back from RSPB and submission at Deadline 7.

7 Final positions

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

8 Protective Provisions

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