



Hornsea Project Four

Statement of Common Ground between Hornsea Project Four and Natural England: Onshore Matters

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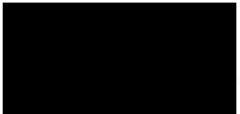
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Revision History

Date	Version	Reason for issue
25/01/2021	A	Initial draft for Natural England Review
15/03/2021	B	Second draft for Natural England Review
22/09/2021	C	Draft version accompanying DCO application
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Glossary

Term	Definition
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for one or more Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP).
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm	The term covers all elements of the project (i.e. both the offshore and onshore). Hornsea Four infrastructure will include offshore generating stations (wind turbines), electrical export cables to landfall, and connection to the electricity transmission network. Hereafter referred to as Hornsea Four.
Orsted Hornsea Project Four Ltd	The Applicant for the proposed Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm Development Consent Order (DCO).

Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
DMLs	Deemed Marine Licences
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Ecological Management Plan
ES	Environmental Statement
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PINS	The Planning Inspectorate
RPSS	Route Planning Site Selection
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

1 Introduction

1.1 Reason for this document

1.1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared between Orsted Hornsea Project Four Limited ('the Applicant') and Natural England to set out the areas of agreement and disagreement between the two parties in relation to the proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Hornsea Project Four offshore wind farm (hereafter referred to as 'Hornsea Four').

1.1.1.2 This SoCG covers onshore matters which includes the topics of:

- Onshore Ecology and Nature Conservation ([Section 3.2](#));
- Air Quality ([Section 3.3](#));
- Land use and Agriculture ([Section 3.4](#));
- Hydrology / Geomorphology ([Section 0](#)); and
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment ([Section 3.6](#)).

1.1.1.3 This SoCG covers onshore matters only, which for the purposes of this document, are defined as matters above Mean High Water Springs (MHWS).

1.1.1.4 Separate SoCG's have been prepared with Natural England on further relevant topics as set out in [Table 1](#).

Table 1: Summary of all SoCG's sought with Natural England.

SoCG's sought with Natural England	Document Reference
SoCG between Hornsea Project Four and Natural England: Offshore Ornithology	G1.9
SoCG between Hornsea Project Four and Natural England: Other Offshore Matters	G1.10
SoCG between Hornsea Project Four and Natural England: Derogation and Compensation	F3.4

1.1.1.5 The need for a SoCG between the Applicant and Natural England is set out within the Rule 6 letter issued by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) post-application of the Hornsea Four DCO.

1.1.1.6 Following detailed discussions undertaken through the Evidence Plan Process, the Applicant and Natural England have sought to progress a SoCG. It is the intention that this document will provide the PINS with a clear overview of the level of common ground between both parties. This document will facilitate further discussions between the Applicant and Natural England and the SoCG will be updated as discussions progress during the Hornsea Four DCO examination.

1.2 Approach to SoCG

1.2.1.1 The Applicant took the decision at an early stage to adopt a proportionate approach to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Hornsea Four which is detailed and integrated throughout the DCO application. The Impacts Register (see [Volume A4: Annex 5.1](#)) is a key tool that details all potential impacts identified for Hornsea Four and sets the scope of the EIA at various stages of the project (Scoping, PEIR and DCO). In line with the Applicants approach to proportionality, only Likely Significant Effects (LSE) are included within the individual topic assessments within the relevant chapters of the Environmental Statement (ES). This SoCG seeks to set out the agreements reached with Natural England on the proportionate approach to EIA in addition to other matters such as (but not limited to) the adequacy of baseline data collection, the assessment methodology and conclusions reached ([Section 3.7](#)).

1.2.1.2 The structure of this SoCG is as follows:

- [Section 1](#): Introduction;
- [Section 2](#): Consultation;
- [Section 3](#): Agreement Logs; and
- [Section 4](#): Summary.

1.3 Application elements under Natural England's remit

1.3.1.1 The elements of Hornsea Four which may affect the interests of Natural England are Work Numbers 1 to 10, covering both onshore and offshore works. These are detailed in Part 1 (Authorised Development) of Schedule 1 (Authorised Project) of the draft DCO ([Volume C1.1: Draft DCO](#)).

1.4 Overview of Hornsea Four

1.4.1.1 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:** This is where the permanent offshore electrical infrastructure (offshore export cables, as well as the 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 including energy balancing infrastructure:** This is where the permanent onshore electrical substation infrastructure (onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation, energy balancing infrastructure and connections to the National Grid) will be located.

2 Consultation

2.1 Summary of consultation with Natural England

2.1.1.1 **Table 2** below summarises the consultation that the Applicant has undertaken with Natural England relevant to Onshore Matters during the pre-application phase.

Table 2: Summary of pre-application consultation with Natural England.

Date	Form of consultation	Statutory/Non Statutory	Summary
07/08/2018	Steering Group Meeting No.1	Non-statutory	Introduction to the proposed project and project teams and summary, reflections, agreement and sign off on the Terms of Reference.
12/09/2018	Technical Panel Meeting No.1	Non-statutory	Initial meeting to discuss the Hornsea Four approach to the scoping report, the scope of the proposed onshore ecological surveys, scope of the EIA including assessment methodology, and preliminary discussion of key issues or areas of concern.
23/11/2018	Consultation Response to Scoping Opinion	Statutory	Provision of comments from Natural England in response to submission of Hornsea Four Scoping Report.
12/12/2018	Steering Group Meeting No.2	Non-statutory	Update on the project development activities. Review of the Scoping Opinion responses and discussion on the next steps in relation to seeking agreement with key stakeholders on the data to be included in the PEIR and ES.
08/01/2019	Technical Panel Meeting No.2	Non-statutory	The Applicant provided an update to Natural England on Hornsea Four since the initial meeting, in September 2019 and provided an overview of the methodology and preliminary results for onshore ecological surveys currently being undertaken, and to discuss the responses received during the Scoping process. A discussion on the next steps in relation to seeking agreement with Natural England on the data and information to be included in both the Preliminary

Date	Form of consultation	Statutory/Non Statutory	Summary
			Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the Environmental Statement (ES).
27/02/2019	Onshore ecology position paper	Non-statutory	The Applicant prepared a position paper to Natural England summarising the over-wintering bird survey effort and key findings from the surveys undertaken to date, as well as outlining the proposed scope and methodology for the breeding bird survey effort.
08/04/2019	Onshore ecology position paper	Non-statutory	The Applicant issued the onshore ecology position paper to present the findings from all of the onshore ecology baseline surveys that had been undertaken and outlining the proposed scope and methodologies for the Phase 2 species-specific surveys. This formed the basis of the agenda for the onshore technical panel meeting held on the 8 th April 2019.
08/04/2019	Technical Panel Meeting No.3	Non-statutory	<p>The Applicant provided an update on Hornsea Four activities and to review the actions from the previous technical panel meeting.</p> <p>The proportionate approach being taken for the PEIR and ES was also presented to Natural England.</p> <p>The Applicant presented the evidence base that will be presented at PEIR for those effects that had been scoped out.</p> <p>The Applicant also discussed the next steps in relation to seeking consensus with Natural England on the proposed approach to the PEIR, including what additional evidence or information was to be provided at the next technical panel meeting.</p>
29/04/2019	Email	Non-statutory	Provision of the Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) Position Paper issued to Natural England which presented the Applicant's approach to the onshore LVIA.
15/05/2019	Email	Non-statutory	Provision of responses to Natural England comments on the Phase 2 onshore ecology survey position paper and following the technical panel meeting held on the 8 th April 2019.

Date	Form of consultation	Statutory/Non Statutory	Summary
25/06/2019	Steering Group Meeting No.3	Non-statutory	Update on project information, local information events, onshore and offshore Technical Panels and non-Evidence Plan consultation.
09/07/2019	Technical Panel Meeting No.4	Non-statutory	<p>This meeting provided an update to Natural England on the Hornsea Project Four activities and reviewed actions from the previous technical panel meeting.</p> <p>The Applicant also presented the evidence base to be provided to scope out effects where complete consensus has not been achieved with Natural England.</p> <p>The next steps in relation to seeking consensus with Natural England on the proposed approach to the PEIR and what additional evidence or information is to be provided at PEIR, specifically in relation to: Evidence base / Baseline data; Assessment methodology; Mitigation / Enhancement; and Proportionality.</p> <p>The Applicant also explained 'How to read this PEIR.'</p>
10/07/2019	Email	Non-statutory	The Applicant provided responses to Natural England's comments (which related to scope and methodology of onshore ecology surveys, crossing of the River Hull Headwaters and the proposed approach and programme for PEIR) following the technical panel meeting held on the 8 th June 2019.
23/09/2019	S42 Consultation Response	Statutory	Provision of comments from Natural England as part of the PEIR S42 consultation process on onshore ecology and land use and agricultural matters.
06/11/2019	Steering Group Meeting No.4	Non-statutory	Update on project information and overview of the programme to DCO application. Update to Terms of Reference to reflect Historic England joining Steering Group. Updates to the Impacts Register and Commitments Register. Discussion on the Draft DCO and DMLs.
07/11/2019	Onshore ecology position paper via email	Non-statutory	The Applicant issued the onshore ecology position paper which presented the results from all of the onshore ecology field surveys that had been undertaken and in turn the basis of the

Date	Form of consultation	Statutory/Non Statutory	Summary
			ecological impact assessment that would be presented in the Environmental Statement chapter.
13/11/2019	Technical Panel Meeting No.5	Non-statutory	<p>Natural England was provided with an update on Hornsea Project Four with regards to the evolution of the design of the project since the PEIR was submitted, and to review any outstanding actions from the last onshore ecology technical panel meeting.</p> <p>The Applicant summarised the key Section 42 responses received from Natural England in relation to onshore Ecology, and Hornsea Four's position in response.</p> <p>The Applicant sought consensus with Natural England on the proposed approach to the ES and agreement on the additional evidence or information which might need to be provided to accompany or inform the ES.</p> <p>A draft Impacts & Effects Register was presented to Natural England, where the Applicant explained its purpose, i.e. delivering proportionality. The draft Impacts & Effects Register presented at the meeting was discussed and agreement with Natural England.</p>
09/02/2020	Onshore ecology position paper	Non-statutory	The Applicant issued a position paper to Natural England outlining the project's position on proposed mitigation measures for protected species and designated sites.
16/03/2020	Steering Group Meeting No.5	Non-statutory	Review of draft ES documents by the relevant Technical Panels. Overview of planned seabed investigations. Project updates and updates to the Impacts Register, Commitments Register, Draft DCO and DMLs.
01/04/2020	Technical Panel Meeting No.6	Non-statutory	The Applicant presented and sought agreement on the survey scope, survey methodology, survey results, proposed mitigation measures and further survey requirements for all onshore baseline ecological surveys that had been undertaken to date.

Date	Form of consultation	Statutory/Non Statutory	Summary
			<p>The Applicant also sought agreement from Natural England on the licensing requirements for great crested newts, birds, bats, badgers, water voles and otters.</p> <p>Natural England was asked to confirm Letter of No Impediment (LONI) process and timescales.</p>
01/06/2020	Onshore ecology position paper	Non-statutory	The Applicant prepared and issued to Natural England a position paper outlining the proposed methodologies and mitigation measures for crossing of designated sites.
09/06/2020	Email and draft survey reports	Non-statutory	The Applicant issued to Natural England all of the draft onshore ecology surveys reports for review and comment prior to the technical panel meeting held on the 1 st July 2020.
16/06/2020	Onshore ecology position paper	Non-statutory	The Applicant issued a position paper to Natural England outlining the proposed mitigation measures for crossing designated sites/sensitive habitats, findings from the air quality assessment regarding acid and nitrogen deposition, responses to Natural England comments on baseline survey reports and obtain comments from Natural England on the drafted onshore ecology Environmental Statement chapter and outline Ecological Management Plan.
01/07/2020	Technical Panel Meeting No.8	Non-statutory	<p>The Applicant sought agreement from Natural England on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mitigation measures for crossing designated sites or sensitive habitats; and • The mitigation measures (if required) for managing impacts to habitats. <p>The Applicant presented the initial findings from the Air Quality modelling assessment with regards to dust and/or nitrogen deposition.</p> <p>Natural England's comments provided on the onshore ecology baseline surveys were presented and the Applicant provided their responses.</p> <p>The Applicant presented and sought agreement from Natural England on the mitigation measures relating to bats at the Onshore Substation (OnSS) and great crested newts.</p>

Date	Form of consultation	Statutory/Non Statutory	Summary
			<p>An update was provided to Natural England on the onshore ecology commitments and how these link to the onshore ecology DCO documentation.</p> <p>An updated Impacts & Effects Register was presented to Natural England for their agreement to be obtained on the presented information.</p> <p>The Applicant provided an update to Natural England on the onshore crossing schedule and presented an example as this document will be submitted as part of the DCO application.</p>
16/07/2020	Consultation response memo	Non-statutory	<p>The Applicant provide a consultation response memo, providing further information and clarification regarding potential impacts resulting from Hornsea Four on agricultural land. The memo was in response to Natural England's response (22 May 2020) to Hornsea Four's response (20 April 2020) to natural England's Section 42 comments on Land Use and Agriculture.</p>
24/07/2020	Draft water vole and great crested newt licence documentation	Non-statutory	<p>The Applicant submitted to Natural England the draft water vole and great crested newt licence documentation to obtain a Letter of No Impediment (LONI).</p>
14/09/2020	Onshore ecology position paper	Non-statutory	<p>The Applicant issued a position paper to Natural England presenting the evidence in response to Natural England comments received in May and July 2020 to demonstrate how the impacts and mitigation measures in relation to species (breeding birds, bats, barn owls) and designated sites would be managed. This position paper also included information relating to the potential effects associated with potential lateral movement of the River Hull Headwaters SSSI and the mitigation measures specifically at the OnSS for onshore ecological receptors.</p>
16/09/2020	Technical Panel Meeting No.9	Non-statutory	<p>The Applicant presented the responses to Natural England's comments on the potential impacts associated with potential lateral movement and restoration plans associated with</p>

Date	Form of consultation	Statutory/Non Statutory	Summary
			<p>the River Hull Headwaters Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).</p> <p>The Applicant sought agreement and/or comments on the onshore ecology and nature conservation ES chapter and Outline Ecological Management Plan (oEMP) that had been issued to Natural England prior to the meeting.</p> <p>An update on Hornsea Project Four's commitments was presented to Natural England along with a copy of the latest Impacts & Effects Register. Both documents were issued to Natural England prior to the meeting.</p>
17/12/2020	Onshore ecology position paper	Non-statutory	<p>The Applicant issued a position paper to Natural England presenting a response to comments received on the Hornsea Four Ecology and Nature Conservation Response to Natural England's Advice Note Position Paper (8th October 2020). The position paper provided further information in relation to potential impacts from HDD activity near to the River Hull Headwaters Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).</p>
16/04/2021	Onshore ecology position paper	Non-statutory	<p>The Applicant issued a position paper to natural England outlining the validity of baseline data, after a delay to the Hornsea Four DCO application submission. The contents of the position paper were agreed by Natural England.</p>
10/08/2021	Onshore ecology position paper	Non-statutory	<p>The Applicant issued a position paper to natural England setting out specific questions and clarification. Responses were received from natural England on 02/09/2021.</p>

3 Agreement Logs

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1.1 The following sections ([Section 3.2 - 3.5](#)) of this SoCG set out the level of agreement between the parties for each relevant topic (as identified in [Section 1.1](#)).
- 3.1.1.2 [Table 3](#) presents the list of documents (and their document references) that have informed the level of agreements presented in [Section 3.2 - 3.5](#).

Table 3: Relevant onshore ecology documents to this SoCG.

Document Title	Document Reference
Position Papers	
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm – Evidence Plan Onshore Ecology Technical Panel Position Paper.	00262516_A
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm – Ornithology Technical Note (November 2018 – February 2019).	01672594_A
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm – Onshore Ecology Survey Strategy.	01695132_A
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm – Ecology and Nature Conservation Technical Panel #3 Position Paper.	01738425_A
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm – Ecology and Nature Conservation Technical Panel #4 Position Paper.	02998969_A
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm – Ecology and Nature Conservation Technical Panel #5 Position Paper.	04100490_A
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm – Onshore Ecology and Geomorphology – Protected Species and Designated Sites Mitigation Measures.	05884316_A
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm – Onshore Ecology and Geomorphology – Protected Species and Designated Sites Mitigation Measures - Technical Panel #6 Position Paper (designated site crossings).	05884316_A
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm – Ecology and Nature Conservation Technical Panel #7 Position Paper.	06218134_A
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm – Ecology and Nature Conservation Response to Natural England Advice Note relating to breeding bird queries, potential effects associated with potential lateral movement of the River Hull Headwaters SSSI and the OnSS mitigation measures for onshore ecological receptors.	06489891_A
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm – Ecology and Nature Conservation Response to Natural England Advice Note relating to the River Hull Headwaters SSSI.	06738638_A
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm – Onshore Ecology Position paper – Data Validity and Next Steps	06953904_A
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm – Onshore Ecology Position paper - re 2021 Survey Updates	07165957_A
DCO Documents	
A6.3.1 ES Volume 6 Annex 3.1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report	05188147_A
A6.3.2 ES Volume 6 Annex 3.2 Extended Phase 1 Target Note Tables	05188221_A
A6.3.3 ES Volume 6 Annex 3.3 Onshore Ornithology Wintering and Migratory Bird Survey Report	04343225_A
A6.3.4 ES Volume 6 Annex 3.4 Breeding Bird Survey Report	03676466_A
A6.3.5 ES Volume 6 Annex 3.5 Great Crested Newt Survey Report	04356003_A
A6.3.6 ES Volume 6 Annex 3.6 Water Vole Survey Report	05090545_A
A6.3.7 ES Volume 6 Annex 3.7 Otter Survey Report (Confidential)	04816956_A
A6.3.8 ES Volume 6 Annex 3.8 Bat Static Detector Survey Report Part A	05438300_A
A6.3.9 ES Volume 6 Annex 3.9 Bat Static Detector Survey Report Part B	05438301_A
A6.3.10 ES Volume 6 Annex 3.10 Bat Activity Transect Survey Report Part A	05880430_A
A6.3.11 ES Volume 6 Annex 3.11 Bat Activity Transect Survey Report Part B	05880431_A
A6.3.12 ES Volume 6 Annex 3.12 Bat Emergence and Re-entry Survey Report Part A	04895834_A
A6.3.13 ES Volume 6 Annex 3.13 Bat Emergence and Re-entry Survey Report Part B	04895193_A

Document Title	Document Reference
A6.3.14 ES Volume 6 Annex 3.14 Hedgerow and Arboricultural Survey Report	06229397_A
A6.3.15 ES Volume 6 Annex 3.15 Badger Survey Report (Confidential)	05084557_A
DCO Management Plans	
F2.3 AAI Outline Ecological Management Plan	06092439_A
DCO Outline Strategies	
F2.16 ES Outline Net Gain Strategy	06336497_A
Draft protected species mitigation licences	
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm Water Vole Mitigation Licence Method Statement	06158117_A
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm GCN Draft Licence Application	06497746_A
Other DCO Documents	
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm Impacts and Effects Register	00120156_D
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm Commitments Register	03426916_A

3.1.1.3 In order to easily identify whether a matter is 'agreed', 'not agreed' or an 'ongoing point of discussion', the colour coding system set out in [Table 4](#) below is used within the 'position' column of the following sections of this document.

Table 4: Position Status Key.

Position Status	Position Colour Coding
Agreed The matter is considered to be agreed between the parties	Agreed
Not Agreed – no material impact The matter is not agreed between the parties, however the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicant or Natural England is not considered to result in a material impact to the assessment conclusions.	Not Agreed – no material impact
Not Agreed – material impact The matter is not agreed between the parties and the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicant or Natural England is considered to result in a materially different impact to the assessment conclusions.	Not Agreed – material impact
Ongoing point of discussion The matter is neither 'agreed' nor 'not agreed' and is a matter where further discussion is required between the parties (e.g where documents are yet to be shared with Natural England).	Ongoing point of discussion

3.2 Ecology and Nature Conservation

Table 5: Agreement Log: Ecology and Nature Conservation.

ID	Hornsea Fours Position	Natural England's Position	Position Summary
<i>Site Selection</i>			
G3.5 - 4.1.1	The site selected for the Hornsea Four OnSS is appropriate given the avoidance of sensitive habitats and designated sites.	The methodology for site selection was questionable in relation to the weighting given to designated sites. However, the design and mitigation package is sufficient to avoid/mitigate impacts, therefore subject to this being adequately captured in the DCO conditions would have no material concerns.	Not Agreed – no material impact – Subject to condition being secured through the draft DCO.
G3.5 - 4.1.2	The route selected for the Hornsea Four onshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) is appropriate and has sought to avoid designated and non-designated sites through the Route Planning and Site Selection (RPSS) process in Volume A1, Chapter 3: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives . Where unavoidable (e.g. River Hull Headwaters SSSI), a commitment to use HDD methodologies (Co1) has been adopted. Furthermore, the HDD entry and exit pits will be situated within agricultural fields at least 20 m away from the surface watercourse (Co18), outside of the riparian habitats immediately adjacent to the river.	The methodology for site selection was questionable in relation to the weighting given to designated sites. However, the design and mitigation package is sufficient to avoid/mitigate impacts therefore subject to this being adequately captured in the DCO conditions would have no material concerns.	Not Agreed – no material impact Subject to condition being secured through the draft DCO.
G3.5 - 4.1.3	The access road to the Hornsea Four OnSS is sited at an appropriate distance (1.5 m) from Birkhill Wood ancient woodland to avoid direct and indirect impacts.	The mitigation is in line with NE and Forestry Commission standing advice on ancient woodland.	Agreed
<i>EIA - Policy and Planning</i>			
G3.5 - 4.2.1	Section 3.3 of Volume A3, Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation has identified all relevant plans and policies and appropriate consideration has been given to them in the assessment.	As far as we are aware, the correct plans/policies have been identified.	Agreed

ID	Hornsea Fours Position	Natural England's Position	Position Summary
<i>EIA - Data Collection and Characterisation of Baseline Environment</i>			
G3.5 - 4.3.1	The ES adequately defines the baseline environment relevant to Ecology and Nature Conservation in Section 3.6; Volume A3, Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation to inform the EIA.	The baseline has been defined adequately.	Agreed
G3.5 - 4.3.2	The evolution of the baseline identified in Section 3.7.6 of Volume A3, Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation is considered appropriate.	The baseline has been defined adequately.	Agreed
<i>EIA - Assessment Methodology</i>			
G4.5 – 4.4.1	The study area identified in Section 3.5 of Volume A3, Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation , is appropriate.	The study area is acceptable.	Agreed
G3.5 - 4.4.2	The potential impacts identified in Table 3.13 and Section 3.9 of Volume A3, Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation , and in the 'Ecology and Nature Conservation' tab of Volume A4, Annex 5.1: Impacts Register , represent a comprehensive list of the potential effects on ecology.	The correct impacts have been identified.	Agreed
G3.5 - 4.4.3	The definitions for 'magnitude' and 'sensitivity', as outlined in Section 3.94 and 3.95 respectively of Volume A3, Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation , are appropriate.	We accept the presented definitions.	Agreed
G3.5 - 4.4.4	The maximum design scenarios outlined, where relevant, for each impact identified in Table 3.13 and Section 3.9 of Volume A3 Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation , and in the 'Ecology and Nature Conservation' tab of Volume A4, Annex 5.1: Impacts Register , are appropriate based on the information in Volume A1, Chapter 4: Project Description of the Environmental Statement.	The maximum design scenarios are appropriate.	Agreed
<i>EIA - Conclusions</i>			

ID	Hornsea Fours Position	Natural England's Position	Position Summary
G3.5 - 4.5.1	The conclusion that no LSE for onshore works was identified at Scoping (or during subsequent correspondence with Natural England) for ENC-O-15, ENC-D-16, ENC-O-12, ENC-O-13, ENC-C-7, ENC-C-10 and ENC-D-19, and not being significant in EIA terms, which resulted in these potential impacts being 'scoped out' of further assessment or 'not considered in detail in the ES', is appropriate.	We broadly accept the conclusions.	Agreed
G3.5 - 4.5.2	The conclusion that no LSE for onshore works was identified at PEIR for ENC-C-2, ENC-C-8 and ENC-D-17, and not being significant in EIA terms, which resulted in these potential impacts being 'not considered in detail in the ES', is appropriate.	We broadly accept the conclusions.	Agreed
G3.5 - 4.5.3	The conclusion that impacts ENC-C-1, ENC-C-3, ENC-C-4, ENC-C-5, ENC-C-6, ENC-C-9, ENC-O-11, ENC-O-14, ENC-D-18 assessed within Volume A3 Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation are not considered to be significant in EIA terms is appropriate when considered alongside the commitments in Table 3.14 and where relevant identified further mitigation measures.	We broadly accept the conclusions.	Agreed
<i>Cumulative Impact Assessment</i>			
G3.5 - 4.6.1	The list of projects screened in to the CEA as provided in Table 3.21 of Volume A3, Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation , is appropriate.	As far as we are aware, the screened in projects are appropriate.	Agreed
G3.5 - 4.6.2	The conclusions of the CEA on ecology and nature conservation presented in Table 3.21 of Volume A3, Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation , are appropriate.	The conclusions are appropriate.	Agreed
G3.5 - 4.6.3	The identified inter-related effects on ecological receptors, as provided in Section 3.14 of Volume A3 ,	The effects on ecological receptors are appropriate.	Agreed

ID	Hornsea Fours Position	Natural England's Position	Position Summary
	<p>Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation, are considered to be appropriate.</p>		
<i>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment - Screening</i>			
<p>G3.5 - 4.7.1</p>	<p>As presented in Volume A3, Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation, the conclusions drawn with regards to nitrogen and acid deposition on designated sites (namely Bryan Mills Field SSSI and the River Hull Headwaters SSSI) are appropriate.</p>	<p>The conclusions are appropriate.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<i>Commitments, draft Development Consent Order and outline management plans and strategies</i>			
<p>G3.5 - 4.8.1</p>	<p>F2.3 Outline Ecological Management Plan (oEMP) includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in Volume A3, Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation and is appropriate for managing construction and post construction impacts from Hornsea Four on ecology and nature conservation receptors landward of MHWS.</p> <p>Volume A4, Annex 5.2: Commitments Register includes a commitment (Co168) to produce an EMP in accordance with the Outline EMP which is secured via Requirement 10 of C1.1: Draft Development Consent Order.</p>	<p>The oEMP and commitment for an EMP are acceptable and will mitigate for impacts.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>G3.5 - 4.8.2</p>	<p>F2.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in Volume A3, Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation and is appropriate for managing construction and post construction impacts from Hornsea Four on ecology and nature conservation receptors landward of MLWS.</p> <p>Volume A4, Annex 5.2: Commitments Register includes a commitment (Co124) to produce a CoCP in accordance with the Outline CoCP which is secured via</p>	<p>The outline CoCP and commitment for a CoCP are acceptable and will mitigate for impacts.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>

ID	Hornsea Fours Position	Natural England's Position	Position Summary
	Requirement 17 of C1.1: Draft Development Consent Order .		
G3.5 – 4.8.3	Applying the mitigation hierarchy, Hornsea Four has prioritised the avoidance of biodiversity loss before attempting to provide gains which contribute toward onsite, local and strategic environmental priorities. Hornsea Four endeavours to leave the environment in a better state than it was found. The proposals presented in Volume F2, Chapter 14: Outline Enhancement Strategy and Volume F2, Chapter 16: Outline Net Gain Strategy , relating to environmental enhancements and net gain are considered appropriate.	We broadly agree with this statement and welcome the commitment to using a net gain metric as part of the proposal.	Agreed
<i>Licensing requirements</i>			
G3.5 – 4.9.1	F2.3 Outline Ecological Management Plan (oEMP) includes the required mitigation measures specified in Volume A3, Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation for water voles and forms the basis of the request for a LONI.	Natural England is content with the mitigation measures as specified in the Volume A3, Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation and a LONI for water vole was issued on 18 August 2020	Agreed
G3.5 – 4.9.2	F2.3 Outline Ecological Management Plan (oEMP) includes the required mitigation measures specified in Volume A3, Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation for great crested newts and forms the basis of the request for a LONI.	LONI has been issued. Please note the caveats detailed in the letter.	Agreed

3.3 Air Quality

Table 6: Agreement Log: Air Quality.

ID	Hornsea Fours Position	Natural England's Position	Position Summary
G3.5 - 5.1.1	The methodology and scope taken for the air quality assessment, as presented in Section 9.10 of Volume A3, Chapter 9: Air Quality , includes the appropriate designated sites and therefore is appropriate for onshore ecological receptors.	The methodology is in line with NE guidance.	Agreed
G3.5 - 5.1.2	The receptors presented in Section 9.10.12 are appropriate.	The selection of receptors is appropriate.	Agreed
G3.5 - 5.1.3	The conclusions from the air quality assessment on onshore ecological receptors, as presented in Section 3.11 of Volume A3, Chapter 3: Ecology and Nature Conservation are accepted as accurate and valid.	The conclusions are acceptable.	Agreed

3.4 Land Use and Agriculture

Table 7: Agreement Log: Land Use and Agriculture.

ID	Hornsea Fours Position	Natural England's Position	Position Summary
<i>Site Selection</i>			
G3.5 - 6.1.1	As presented in Table 6.13 of Volume A3, Chapter 6: Land Use and Agriculture and through Co79, disturbance to PRoWs will be temporary where reasonably practicable and PRoWs will be reinstated as soon as reasonably practical. Furthermore, the Applicant has prepared a PRoW Management Plan that include details of temporary and permanent diversions, closures, gated crossings and signage to be provided during construction. It is considered that this is an acceptable approach.	No comment. Officers from the Local Planning Authority will be better placed to provide advice.	N/A
G3.5 - 6.1.2	As presented in Table 6.13 of Volume A3, Chapter 6: Land Use and Agriculture and through Co158, impacts on the English Coast Path national route will be minimised through site design considerations and phasing within working constraints for the landfall construction, is considered acceptable.	The mitigation is acceptable.	Agreed
G3.5 - 6.1.3	The site selection process as presented in Volume A1, Chapter 3: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives , in respect to land use and agriculture is appropriate.	The methodology for site selection was questionable in relation to Best and Most Versatile Soils. No site survey data was collected and the site selection relied on strategic data. The proposed mitigation at current is insufficient, however, we are satisfied this can be dealt with as part of a planning condition.	Not Agreed – no material impact (subject to planning conditions)
<i>EIA - Policy and Planning</i>			
G3.5 - 6.2.1	Section 6.2 of Volume A3, Chapter 6: Land Use and Agriculture has identified all relevant plans and policies	As far as we are aware, the correct plans/policies have been identified.	Agreed

	and appropriate consideration has been given to them in the assessment.		
<i>EIA - Data Collection and Characterisation of Baseline Environment</i>			
G3.5 - 6.3.1	The ES adequately defines the baseline environment relevant to Land Use and Agriculture in Section 6.5 Volume A3, Chapter 6: Land Use and Agriculture to inform the EIA.	No site survey data was collected which makes baseline assessment difficult. This means the mitigation needs to be sufficiently precautionary to reduce impacts. The proposed mitigation at current is insufficient, however, we are satisfied this can be dealt with as part of a planning condition.	Not Agreed – no material impact (subject to planning conditions)
G3.5 - 6.3.2	The future baseline identified in Section 6.7.7 of Volume A3, Chapter 6: Land Use and Agriculture is considered appropriate.	This is acceptable.	Agreed
<i>EIA - Assessment Methodology</i>			
G3.5 - 6.4.1	The potential impacts identified in Table 6.12 and Section 6.11 of Volume A3, Chapter 6: Land Use and Agriculture , and in the 'Land Use and Agriculture' tab of Volume A4, Annex 5.1: Impacts Register , represent a comprehensive list of the potential effects on land use and agriculture.	This is acceptable	Agreed
G3.5 - 6.4.2	The definitions for 'magnitude' and 'sensitivity', as outlined in Section 6.10 of Volume A3, Chapter 6: Land Use and Agriculture , are appropriate.	The definitions for magnitude and sensitivity didn't fully consider the impacts on the workability of soil	Not Agreed – no material impact
G3.5 - 6.4.3	The maximum design scenarios outlined, where relevant, for each impact identified in Table 6.14 and Section 6.11 of Volume A3 Chapter 6: Land Use and Agriculture , and in the 'Landscape and Visual' tab of Volume A4, Annex 5.1: Impacts Register , are appropriate based on the information in Volume A1, Chapter 4: Project Description of the Environmental Statement.	. This is acceptable.	Agreed
<i>EIA - Conclusions</i>			

G3.5 - 6.5.1	The conclusion that no LSE was identified at Scoping or during subsequent correspondence with Natural England) for LUA-O-6 and LUA-D-7, and not being significant in EIA terms, which resulted in these potential impacts being 'scoped out' of further assessment or 'not considered in detail in the ES', is appropriate.	PINS agreed that operational impacts to soils could be scoped out subject to mitigation measures.	Agreed
G3.5 - 6.5.2	The conclusion that no LSE was identified at PEIR for LUA-C-2, LUA-C-3, LUA-C-4 and LUA-O-5, and not being significant in EIA terms, which resulted in these potential impacts being 'not considered in detail in the ES' , is appropriate.	No further comment	Agreed
G3.5 - 6.5.3	The conclusion that the impact LUA-C-1 assessed within Volume A3 Chapter 6: Land Use and Agriculture is not considered to be significant in EIA terms is appropriate when considered alongside the commitments in Table 6.13 and where relevant identified further mitigation measures.	Without survey data, the mitigation needs to be sufficiently precautionary to reduce impacts. The proposed mitigation at current is insufficient, however, we are satisfied this can be dealt with as part of a planning condition.	Not Agreed – no material impact (subject to planning conditions)
<i>Cumulative Impact Assessment</i>			
G3.5 - 6.6.1	The list of projects screened in to the CEA as provided in Table 6.19 of Volume A3, Chapter 6: Land Use and Agriculture , is appropriate.	As far as we are aware, the screened in projects are appropriate.	Agreed
<i>Commitments, draft Development Consent Order and outline management plans</i>			
G3.5 - 6.7.1	<p>F2.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in Volume A3, Chapter 6: Land Use and Agriculture and is appropriate for managing construction and post construction impacts from Hornsea Four on land use and agriculture.</p> <p>Volume A4, Annex 5.2: Commitments Register includes a commitment (Co124) to produce a CoCP in accordance with the Outline CoCP which is secured via Requirement 17 of C1.1: Draft Development Consent Order.</p>	Without survey data, the mitigation needs to be sufficiently precautionary to reduce impacts. The proposed mitigation at current is insufficient, however, we are satisfied this can be dealt with as part of a planning condition.	Not Agreed – no material impact (subject to planning conditions)

Hydrology / geomorphology

Table 8: Agreement Log: Hydrology / geomorphology.

ID	Hornsea Fours Position	Natural England's Position	Position Summary
G3.5 - 7.1.1	As presented in Section 2.7 and Table 2.10 of Volume A3, Chapter 2: Hydrology and Flood Risk , through the commitment of Co18, it is accepted that impacts and appropriate mitigation measures regarding the geomorphology of the River Hull Headwaters SSSI will be managed.	The design, method, mitigation and monitoring are sufficient to protect the SSSI.	Agreed

3.5 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Table 9: Agreement Log: Landscape and Visual.

ID	Statement on which agreement is sought	Natural England's Position	Position Summary
<i>General</i>			
G3.5: 8.1.1	It is agreed between Natural England and Orsted that Natural England offers no comment on the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. Matters relevant to the Flamborough Head Heritage Coast are to be set out within the SoCG between Hornsea Four and Natural England covering other offshore matters (see Table 1).	Natural England agree with the statement that we offers no comment on the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. Matters relevant to the Flamborough Head Heritage Coast have been set out and agreed within the SoCG between Hornsea Four and Natural England covering other offshore matters	N/A as matters covered in offshore SoCG. Natural England offers no comments on the onshore LVIA.
G3.5: 8.1.2	The Applicant is aware of Natural England's current proposals to consider the Yorkshire Wolds for AONB status. At the time of writing, no potential boundary or statement of special qualities has been published, and so no conclusions can be drawn as to the potential of the Hornsea Four Project to impact on this future designation.	Subsequent to the submission of the Hornsea Four Application, Natural England began the process of assessing the Yorkshire Wolds against the criteria for designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The proposed	N/A

	<p>The presence of a national designation such as an AONB indicates a high level of value placed on the landscape and may influence the effects identified in A3.4: Landscape and Visual (APP-028) by increasing the sensitivity of the landscape receptor. The magnitude of change, which is assessed as 'small' for the 'Open High Rolling Farmland', would not be altered. As such, the significance of the effects identified within A3.4: Landscape and Visual (APP-028) is unlikely to change, and no additional mitigation measures are considered likely to be required.</p>	<p>development is located within the Yorkshire Wolds. Whilst initial assessment phase does not confer any additional planning protection, it is possible that this could become a material consideration in planning decisions during the determination period/ discharge of DCO/dML conditions</p>	
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4 Summary

- 4.1.1.1 This SoCG has outlined the consultation that has taken place between the Applicant and Natural England during the pre-application phase. The agreement logs present the position reached at the close of examination between Hornsea Four and Natural England in relation to relevant onshore matters.