



Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Projects

Consultation Report

August 2022
Document Reference: 5.1
APFP Regulation: 5(2)(q)

<p>Title: Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Projects DCO Application Consultation Report</p>	
<p>PINS Document no: 5.1</p>	
<p>Document no.: C282-CC-Z-GA-00001</p>	
<p>Date:</p>	<p>Classification</p>
<p>August 2022</p>	<p>Final</p>
<p>Prepared by:</p>	
<p>Counter Context</p>	
<p>Approved by:</p>	<p>Date:</p>
<p>Jan Trønningdal, Equinor</p>	<p>August 2022</p>

Table of Contents

CONSULTATION REPORT	12
1 Executive Summary	12
1.1 Background.....	12
1.2 Pre-Application Consultation Overview.....	12
1.3 Strategic Development Options and Changes.....	18
1.4 Key Stages of Consultation.....	23
2 Introduction	25
2.1 Equinor.....	25
2.2 SEP and DEP – Project Infrastructure Summary.....	25
3 Legislation, Guidance and Advice	26
3.1 Consultation Report.....	26
3.2 Relevant Legislation and Guidance	27
3.3 COVID-19	27
4 Consultation Under the EIA and Habitat Regulations Assessment.....	28
4.1 Summary.....	28
4.2 Policy and Legislation	28
4.3 Scoping Phase.....	29
4.4 EIA Consultation	30
4.5 Habitats Regulations Assessment Consultation.....	30
4.6 Marine Conservation Zone Assessment Consultation.....	33
4.7 Transboundary Consultation.....	34
4.8 Proportionate Approach to EIA	36
4.9 Evidence Plan Process	36
5 Defining and Identifying Stakeholder Groups.....	39
5.1 Introduction	39
5.2 Defining and Identifying Section 47 Consultees	39
5.3 Defining and Identifying Section 42 Consultees	48
5.4 Defining and Identifying Section 43 Consultees	49
5.5 Defining and Identifying Section 44 Consultees	51
6 Non-Statutory Consultation with Section 47 Consultees (28 October 2019 – 09 July 2020).....	53
6.1 Introduction	53
6.2 Community Consultees.....	54
6.3 MP Meetings and Engagement.....	54
6.4 Elected Members and Parish Council Meetings and Engagement.....	55
6.5 Non-Statutory Consultation with Section 42 Consultees prior to 29 April 2021.....	57
6.6 Ongoing Non-Statutory Consultation with Section 43 Consultees.....	63
6.7 Ongoing Non-Statutory Consultation with Section 44 Consultees.....	65
7 Preparation For Section 47 Statutory Consultations (09 July 2020 - 20 August 2020) & (29 April 2021 – 10 June 2021)	66
7.1 Summary.....	66
7.2 Statutory Requirements and Guidance.....	66

7.3	Development of Statement of Community Consultation	67
7.4	Consultation on Draft Statement of Community Consultation.....	67
7.5	Publication of the SoCC.....	75
8	Consultation Under Section 47 Of The 2008 Act (9 July 2020 – 10 June 2021)	76
8.1	Introduction	76
8.2	Section 47 Community Consultation Activities.....	76
8.3	Undertaking Consultation Under Section 47 Of The 2008 Act.....	77
8.4	Section 47 Community Consultation Phases.....	82
8.5	Statement of Compliance with Formal Consultation Under Section 47	98
9	Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 Of The 2008 Act (29 April 2021 – 10 June 2021). 100	
9.1	Introduction	100
9.2	Statutory Requirements And Guidance	100
9.3	Preliminary Environmental Information	100
9.4	Section 43 Local Authorities	101
9.5	Section 44 Consultees	101
9.6	Duty to Notify the Secretary of State of the Proposed Application Under Section 46 of the 2008 Act	102
9.7	Undertaking Section 42 Consultation (29 April – 10 June 2021).	103
9.8	Statement of Compliance with Formal Consultation Under Section 42	103
10	Compliance with Section 48 Of The 2008 Act (29 April 2021 – 10 June 2021)	105
10.1	Introduction	105
10.2	Statutory Requirements and Guidance.....	105
10.3	Publication of Notice	105
10.4	Statement of Compliance with Section 48.....	106
11	47 Statutory Consultations: Responses Received, And Changes and Commitments Made	106
11.1	Introduction	106
11.2	Statutory Section 47 Phase One Consultation (09 July 2020 – 20 August 2020) Responses.....	106
11.3	Phase One Consultation Feedback Analysis.....	107
11.4	Ongoing Consultation (21 August 2020 – 28 April 2021)	117
11.5	Phase Two Statutory S47 Consultation (29 April 2021 – 10 June 2021) Responses.....	117
11.6	Phase Two Statutory S47 Consultation Feedback Analysis.....	118
12	Section 42 Statutory Consultation (29 April 2021 - 10 June 2021): Responses Received, And Changes and Commitments Made	126
12.1	Introduction	126
12.2	Section 42 Consultee Comments	126
12.3	Section 44 Consultee Comments	139
12.4	Section 48 Comments.....	139
13	Targeted Consultations.....	140
13.1	Onshore Targeted Consultation under Section 42 (6 January – 16 February 2022)	140
13.2	Offshore Targeted Consultation under Section 42 (6 April – 18 May 2022)	143
14	Ongoing Consultation Activities (11 June 2021- Application submission).....	147

14.1	Introduction	147
14.2	Ongoing Consultation with Section 47 Consultees	147
14.3	Ongoing Consultation with Section 42 Consultees	152
14.4	Ongoing Consultation with Section 43 Consultees	158
14.5	Ongoing Consultation with Section 44 Consultees	160
14.6	Ongoing Consultation Under the EIA and Habitat Regulations Assessment.....	160
15	Conclusion	161
16	References.....	163

Table of Tables

Table 1-1 Structure and explanation the Consultation Report.....	17
Table 1-2 Overview of key issues raised through consultation and the Applicant's regard to comments.	19
Table 1-3 Stages of consultation document location table	24
Table 4-1 Summary of approximate distance to nearest EEZ (median line) of other EEA states (to be updated).....	35
Table 4-2 Expert Topic Groups and organisations represented.....	38
Table 5-1 Hard-to-reach groups	41
Table 5-2 Section 47 Interest Groups Identified	43
Table 5-3 List of host parish councils in each local authority.....	47
Table 5-4 Identification of Section 43 consultees	50
Table 6-1 Summary of meetings with Duncan Baker MP.....	55
Table 6-2 Summary of meetings and webinars with parish councils prior to 09 July 2020.	56
Table 6-3 Summary of ongoing non-statutory engagement with Commercial Fisheries groups ahead of the Section 42 consultation.....	58
Table 6-4 Summary of non-statutory engagement with stakeholders with commercial interests ahead of the Section 42 consultation.....	59
Table 6-5 Summary of non-statutory engagement meetings with Shipping and Navigation stakeholders ahead of the Section 42 consultation.....	61
Table 6-6 Summary of responses from Shipping and Navigation stakeholders to the 16 September 2020 request letter ahead of the Section 42 consultation.....	62
Table 6-7 Summary of non-statutory engagement meetings with Aviation and Radar stakeholders ahead of the Section 42 consultation.....	63
Table 6-8 Summary of ongoing non-statutory engagement with 'B' and 'C' Host Authorities prior to Section 42 consultation.....	64
Table 6-9 Summary of correspondence issued to Landowners between Non-intrusive Survey Access Licences and Phase 1 Section 47 consultation.....	65
Table 7-1 Local Authorities under Section 43(1) consulted on draft SoCC	67
Table 7-2 Comments received to the draft SoCC from local authorities.....	68
Table 7-3 Comments received to the draft SoCC from PINS and MMO	74
Table 7-4 Newspapers and dates of SoCC advertisement.....	75
Table 8-1 Additional parish councils engaged in Phase Two consultation owing to potential impacts from main construction compound sites or seascape visual impact	79
Table 8-2 Attendees at Parish and Town Council Stakeholder Forums	81
Table 8-3 Phase One Section 47 consultation feedback received via consultation channels	84
Table 8-4 Advertising schedule One Section 47 community consultation.....	85
Table 8-5 Features and editorial stories regarding the Development's Phase One Section 47 community consultation... ..	85
Table 8-6 Phase Two community Q&A session summaries	94
Table 8-7 Phase Two Section 47 consultation feedback received via consultation channels	95
Table 8-8 Advertising schedule for the Phase Two Section 47 community consultation.....	95
Table 8-9 Features and editorial stories regarding the Development's Phase One Section 47 community consultation... ..	96
Table 10-1 Section 48 notice publication summary	105
Table 11-1 Phase One Section 47 consultation key comments and Applicant responses.....	111
Table 11-2 Phase Two Section 47 consultation key comments and Applicant responses.....	122
Table 12-1 Key comments received during Section 42 consultation	127
Table 13-1 Key comments received during Section 42 Onshore Targeted consultation	142
Table 13-2 Key comments received and Applicant response to Offshore Targeted Consultation	144
Table 14-1 Summary of meetings with hard-to-reach groups between 11 June 2021 and application submission	148

Table 14-2 Summary of meetings with MPs between 11 June 2021 and application submission 149

Table 14-3 Summary of engagement with elected members and parish councils between 11 June 2020 and application submission 150

Table 14-4 Summary of meetings with commercial fisheries consultees between 11 June 2021 and application submission excluding ETG meetings. 153

Table 14-5 Summary of meetings with Commercial Interest groups between 11 June 2021 and application submission excluding ETG meetings. 154

Table 14-6 Summary of meetings with Shipping and Navigation stakeholders between 11 June 2021 and application submission excluding ETG meetings. 155

Table 14-7 Summary of meetings with Aviation and Radar stakeholders between 11 June 2021 and application submission excluding ETG meetings. 157

Table 14-8 Summary of meetings with Section 43 consultees between 11 June 2021 and application submission. 158

Table of Figures

Figure 1-1 Onshore DCO boundary at Phase One consultation 21

Figure 1-2 Onshore DCO boundary at DCO submission..... 22

Figure 1-3 Stages of consultation summary 23

Figure 4-1 Overview of pre-application consultation on derogation and compensatory measures 33

Figure 5-1 Consultation area 40

Figure 7-1 Coverage Area of SoCC advertisement publications 75

Figure 8-1 Phase One Section 47 Virtual Exhibition..... 82

Figure 8-2 Screenshots from Phase One Section 47 consultation website and online feedback platform..... 83

Figure 8-3 Phase One consultation interactive map..... 83

Figure 8-4 Examples of social media posts publicising Phase One Section 47 consultation 86

Figure 8-5 Phase Two Section 47 virtual exhibition..... 88

Figure 8-6 Design module showing offshore visualisations..... 89

Figure 8-7 Design module showing onshore substation visualisations 89

Figure 8-8 Still from 3D offshore visualisations video..... 90

Figure 8-9 Phase Two Section 47 Project Website and Online Feedback Platform..... 92

Figure 8-10 Phase Two Section 47 Interactive Map..... 94

Figure 8-11 Example of social media posts publicising Phase Two Section 47 consultation 97

Figure 8-12 Second example of social media posts publicising Phase Two Section 47 consultation 98

Figure 11-1 Responses to question regarding interest in SEP and DEP 107

Figure 11-2 Responses to statement regarding climate change 108

Figure 11-3 Responses to statement regarding renewable energy..... 108

Figure 11-4 Responses to question regarding opinions about SEP and DEP..... 109

Figure 11-5 Responses to question about publicity of the consultation..... 109

Figure 11-6 Response to question regarding consultation materials..... 110

Figure 11-7 Project specific feedback: 'Which aspect of the Development is most important to you? (tick all that apply)' 110

Figure 11-8 Responses to question regarding interest in SEP and DEP 118

Figure 11-9 Responses to question regarding publicity of consultation 118

Figure 11-10 responses regarding consultation materials..... 119

Figure 11-11 Responses regarding opinion of SEP and DEP 119

Figure 11-12 Project specific feedback: 'Which aspect of the Development is most important to you? (tick all that apply)' 120

Figure 11-13 Responses regarding substation access..... 120

Figure 11-14 Responses regarding offshore proposals..... 121

List of Appendices

Appendix Number	Appendix Title
1	Evidence Plan
2	Compliance Checklist
3	Applicant Response in Regard to Section 47 Comments
4	Applicant Response in Regard to Section 42 Comments
5	Section 46 Notification to PINS
6	Consultees Consulted under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008
7	Notification to Section 42 Consultees of Section 42 Consultation (29 April 2021 - 10 June 2021)
8	Section 47, Duty to Consult Local Community –Statement of Community Consultation
9	Stakeholder Briefing pack June (2020 & May 2021)
10	Phase One Section 47 Statutory Community Consultation (09 July - 20 August 2020) Outputs
11	Section 48 Notice and Advertisements
12	Phase Two Statutory Community Consultation (29 April – 10 June 2021) Outputs
13	Community Newsletter
14	Project Website and Virtual Exhibition
15	Consultation Coverage Area (Consultation Zone)
16	Section 42 Landowner (Section 44 Consultees) Letters and Questionnaires
17	Elected Members Distribution List
18	Stakeholder Forum Reports
19	Targeted Consultations Notifications
20	Public Information Day Materials and Publicity
21	DCO Submission Extension Notification
22	Section 44 Stakeholder List
23	Main Construction Compound Targeted Consultation Responses
24	Offshore Temporary Boundary Change Targeted Consultation Responses
25	Statement of Compliance with SoCC
26	Section 48 Site Notices Locations
27	Newspaper Advertisements Coverage Area
28	Fisheries Communications Log

Glossary of Acronyms

BDC	Broadland District Council
DCO	Development Consent Order
DEFRA	Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs
DEP	Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project
DOW	Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
HDD	Horizontal directional drilling
HVAC	High-Voltage Alternating Current
HVDC	High-Voltage Direct Current
IOG	Independent Oil and Gas
KM	Kilometre
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MEEB	Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit
MW	Megawatts
NNDC	North Norfolk District Council
NCC	Norfolk County Council
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
OTNR	Offshore Transmission Network Review
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SEP	Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project
SNC	South Norfolk Council
SOCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SOCG	Statement of Common Ground
SoS	Secretary of State
UK	United Kingdom
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

Glossary of Terms

Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension site	The Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension offshore lease area.
Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (DEP)	The Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension site as well as all onshore and offshore infrastructure.
Order Limits	The area subject to the application for development consent, including all permanent and temporary works for SEP and DEP.
European site	Sites designated for nature conservation under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. This includes candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, potential Special Protection Areas, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites, proposed Ramsar sites and sites compensating for damage to a European site and is defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, although some of the sites listed here are afforded equivalent policy protection under the National Planning Policy Framework (2021) (paragraph 176) and joint Defra/Welsh Government/Natural England/NRW Guidance (February 2021).
Evidence Plan Process (EPP)	A voluntary consultation process with specialist stakeholders to agree the approach, and information to support, the EIA and HRA for certain topics.
Expert Topic Group (ETG)	A forum for targeted engagement with regulators and interested stakeholders through the EPP.
Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) zones	The areas within the onshore cable route which would house HDD entry or exit points.
Interlink cables	<p>Cables linking two separate project areas. This can be cables linking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEP South and DEP North DEP South and SEP DEP North and SEP <p>1 is relevant if DEP is constructed alone or first in a phased development.</p> <p>2 and 3 are relevant in a concurrent construction.</p>
Landfall	The point at the coastline at which the offshore export cables are brought onshore and connected to the onshore export cables.
Landowners	All registered freeholders and leaseholders within the Order Limits.
Land Interests	Stakeholders who have a vested interest in land.
Offshore export cables	The cables which would bring electricity from the offshore substation platform(s) to the landfall. 220 – 230kV.

Offshore scoping area	An area that encompasses all planned offshore infrastructure, including landfall options at both Weybourne and Bacton, and allows sufficient room for receptor identification and environmental surveys. This has been refined following further site selection and consultation.
Offshore substation platform	A fixed structure located within the wind farm area, containing electrical equipment to aggregate the power from the wind turbine generators and convert it into a more suitable form for export to shore.
Onshore cable corridor	The area between the landfall and the onshore substation sites, within which the onshore cable circuits will be installed along with other temporary works for construction.
Onshore export cables	The cables which would bring electricity from the landfall to the onshore substation. 220 – 230kV.
Onshore Substation	Compound containing electrical equipment to enable connection to the National Grid.
PEIR boundary	The area subject to survey and preliminary impact assessment to inform the PEIR.
Separated Grid Option	Transmission infrastructure which allows each project to transmit electricity entirely separately.
Study area	Area where potential impacts from the project could occur, as defined for each individual EIA topic.
Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension site	Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension lease area.
Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (SEP)	The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension site as well as all onshore and offshore infrastructure.
The Applicant	Equinor New Energy Limited.
Transition joint bay	Connects offshore and onshore export cables at the landfall. The transition joint bay will be located above mean high water.

CONSULTATION REPORT

1 Executive Summary

1.1 Background

0. On behalf of the partnership companies, Scira Extension Limited and Dudgeon Extension Limited, Equinor New Energy Limited (hereafter 'the Applicant') is proposing to develop the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (SEP) and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (DEP) (hereafter 'SEP and DEP'). SEP and DEP will include both offshore and onshore infrastructure including offshore generating stations, which comprises up to 23 wind turbines and up to 30 wind turbines, located approximately 13.6 km and 24.8 km north of the North Norfolk coast for SEP and DEP, respectively. SEP and DEP are located off the coast of North Norfolk within the UK's Exclusive Economic Zone.
1. SEP and DEP will also comprise infrastructure required to transmit the power generated by the turbines to National Grid Electricity Transmission's (NGET) Norwich Main substation, located near Dunston, South Norfolk (please see **ES Chapter 4 Project Description** (document reference 6.1.4) for full details on the Project Design).
2. SEP and DEP would make a significant contribution both to the achievement of UK decarbonisation targets and to global commitments to mitigating climate change. By generating low carbon, renewable electricity, at scale, in the UK, the SEP and DEP will also help to reduce the UK's reliance on imported energy and improve the UK's energy security.
3. In support of the Applicant's proportionate approach to EIA, the Applicant developed an ethos throughout the pre-application phase that aimed to integrate feedback from statutory consultees, landowners, and members of the public at all stages of the design evolution, demonstrating how the Applicant has had regard to consultation feedback and the commitments made in the plans for SEP and DEP.
4. A list of key issues raised throughout the pre-application phase, and how these have been addressed by the Applicant, is provided as **Table 1-2**. Please refer to the schedule of mitigation for the Applicant's EIA commitments and mitigation schedule (document reference 6.5).

1.2 Pre-Application Consultation Overview

5. This Consultation Report accompanies an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) pursuant to Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (hereafter referred to as the 2008 Act), which states that an application for a DCO must be accompanied by a Consultation Report (as defined in Section 37(7) of the 2008 Act). If granted, the DCO would empower the Applicant to construct, operate and maintain, and decommission SEP and DEP.

6. This Consultation Report has been prepared in accordance with Sections 37(3)(c), 37(7), 42, 45, 47(7), 48 and 49 of the 2008 Act and follows guidance provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG, 2015): Guidance on the pre-application process, the Infrastructure Planning (Application: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 as amended (the APFP Regulations) and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009. The Consultation Report demonstrates how the Applicant has complied with all relevant legislation and guidance and provides further details regarding non-statutory consultation undertaken for SEP and DEP. The structure and explanation of this Consultation Report is provided in **Table 1-1**.
7. The Applicant has sought to engage actively and openly throughout the pre-application consultation process by way of statutory consultation and by undertaking ongoing informal consultation with the community, prescribed consultees and landowners.
8. In accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant undertook pre-application consultation on SEP and DEP ahead of submission of the DCO to the Secretary of State with the following consultees:
 - Prescribed consultees (in accordance with Section 42(1)(a) of the 2008 Act), including host and neighbouring authorities;
 - The MMO (in accordance with Section 42(1)(aa) of the 2008 Act);
 - Those with an interest in the land (in accordance with Section 42(1)(d) and as set out in Section 44 of the 2008 Act);
 - Community and other organisations in the “vicinity” of SEP and DEP who may be affected both directly and indirectly by SEP and DEP (in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act); and
 - Wider communities and organisations (in accordance with Sections 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act).
9. The Applicant also consulted with the host and neighbouring authorities in accordance with Sections 42(1)(b) and 43 of the 2008 Act. The Applicant commenced regular meetings with the host local authorities in January 2020 including:
 - North Norfolk District Council;
 - Broadland District Council;
 - South Norfolk Council;
 - Norwich City Council (Norwich City Council were subsequently removed as a host authority following refinement to the DCO boundary); and
 - Norfolk County Council.

10. In accordance with Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act, the Applicant consulted the relevant local authorities and, in addition and whilst not a statutory requirement, also consulted the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) on the content of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) as detailed in [Section 7](#). The MMO was consulted on a precautionary basis as the offshore components of the projects will be within waters in or adjacent to England up to the seaward limits of the territorial sea. In response to the comments received, the Applicant made changes to the SoCC as set out in [Table 7-2](#).
11. The final SoCC was published on 09 July 2020 in accordance with Section 47(6) of the 2008 Act, as described in [Section 7](#) of this Consultation Report.
12. Section 47 community consultation was held in accordance with the SoCC. Community consultation occurred in two phases to enable the iterative development of SEP and DEP in accordance with feedback received during the pre-application consultation process. Phase One consultation was held from 09 July 2020 – 20 August 2020. Phase Two Section 47 consultation was held from 29 April 2021 – 10 June 2021, also in parallel with consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act. Both phases of consultation allowed an extended consultation period, going beyond the 28-day statutory requirement. Both phases of community consultation were undertaken in the manner described in the SoCC.
13. Full details of the community consultation undertaken in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act and the requirements as set out in the SoCC are detailed in [Chapter 8](#) of this Consultation Report.
14. The Applicant compiled an extensive list of stakeholders, as evidenced in [Appendix 6](#), to consult with in accordance with the requirements of Section 42 of the 2008 Act, which includes those statutory bodies listed by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations), prescribed statutory consultees listed in schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations, local authorities, landowners and others with an interest in the land, the offshore and near shore fishing industry and a number of non-prescribed organisations with an interest in SEP and DEP. All these consultees received the same information regarding the project and were included in the Section 42 consultation in the same way as those prescribed under Section 42.
15. A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) together with a non-technical summary (PEIR NTS) was published on 29 April 2021 for Section 47 and Section 42 consultees to access and respond to as part of the statutory consultation.
16. The Applicant produced a range of consultation materials for the community to engage with for both the Phase One Section 47 and Phase Two Section 47 community consultation, as evidenced in [Appendix 10](#) (for Phase One) and [12](#) (for Phase Two) of this Consultation Report.
17. The Applicant undertook an additional round of 'onshore targeted consultation under Section 42(1) of the Act, to reflect small changes to the onshore cable corridor and the refinement of the main construction compound location. This was further to the Section 42 consultation undertaken between 29 April 2021 – 10 June 2021 on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). See [Section 13.1](#) for further information regarding this consultation.

18. The Applicant undertook an additional round of 'offshore targeted' consultation under Section 42(1) of the Act, in relation to the proposed inclusion of an additional temporary works area buffer zone to the project's offshore Order Limits. This was further to the Section 42 consultation undertaken between 29 April 2021 – 10 June 2021 on the PEIR. See [Section 13.2](#) for further information regarding this consultation.
19. As required under Section 48 of the 2008 Act and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations, the proposed Application was publicised in local and national newspapers and a commercial fishing publication as detailed in [Section 10](#) of this Consultation Report. Advertisements in newspapers included information regarding the statutory periods of consultation.
20. This consultation report provides a high-level overview of HRA derogation consultation as well as detailed records of consultation undertaken as part of the Evidence Plan process, in line with the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 10: Habitats Regulations Assessment relevant to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (January 2017).
21. A detailed account of all the consultation undertaken in relation to Applicant's HRA derogation case and specifically in the development of compensatory measures is provided in [Record of HRA Derogation Consultation](#) (document reference 5.5.1.4).
22. An overview of the pre-application consultation process undertaken by the Applicant is shown in [Figure 1-4](#) of this Consultation Report.
23. The consultation activities undertaken in accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act, generated the following interest:
 - The Applicant welcomed 1,703 visitors to the Phase One Section 47 virtual exhibition, 1,265 visitors to the SEP and DEP website, and received 299 pieces of feedback (please see [Appendix 10](#) for further details).
 - The Applicant welcomed 1,260 visitors to the Phase Two Section 47 community consultation virtual exhibition which ran in parallel to the Section 42 consultation (29 April 2021 – 10 June 2021), 3,637 visitors to the SEP and DEP website and received 325 pieces of feedback (please see [Appendix 12](#) for further details).
 - 78 responses were received from prescribed consultees to the Section 42 consultation (see [Appendix 4](#) for further details).
 - Three responses were received to the 'onshore targeted consultation' (in accordance with Section 42 of the 2008 Act) from Section 44 landowners. 12 responses were also received from Section 42 stakeholders. See [Appendix 23](#) for the responses received.
 - Seven responses were received to the 'offshore targeted' consultation from Section 42 stakeholders. See [Appendix 24](#) for the responses received.
 - No responses were received specifically in response to the Section 48 notice.

24. The Applicant has given all consultation responses, whether they were received before or after the formal consultation deadline, due consideration and taken them into account in preparing its Application for DCO. See **Appendices 3, 4, 23, and 24** for evidence of the consultation responses received.
25. Extensive non-statutory consultation has taken place with technical consultees (see **Section 6** of this Consultation Report) to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and to identify key impacts, constraints, and design changes.
26. In addition to the community consultation undertaken in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act and the requirements as set out in the SoCC (as detailed in **Section 8** of this Consultation Report), the Applicant has undertaken ongoing non-statutory consultation with the community. As detailed in **Section 6** of this Consultation Report, the Applicant held a series of non-statutory stakeholder meetings with elected members, including:
 - Hosting a Project Information Day in Aylsham, on 28 October 2019. Further Project Information Days planned to take place in Bacton, Swardeston, Aylsham and Weybourne from 30 March to 2 April 2020 were cancelled due to the government restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - An online virtual exhibition was created for the Phase One consultation, this was then updated for the Phase Two consultation. This virtual exhibition included the same materials that would have been presented at in-person events.
 - The Applicant hosted four Project Information Days in Aylsham, Weston Longville, Swardeston, and Sheringham from 07 March to 10 March 2022 respectively. These events were attended by 313 stakeholders over the course of the four days, this included an additional 36 students from local schools. The locations of the information day venues were chosen due to proximity to proposed infrastructure, an equal geographical spread across the project area, and the availability of venues.
 - An additional Project Information Day was hosted in Weybourne on 01 June 2022.
 - Following Phase One consultation in 2020 Bacton was no longer being considered as a landfall option so was discounted as a potential location for a Project Information Event.
 - Establishing a series of Stakeholder Forums for parish and town councils.
 - Engaging with elected members and parish councils throughout the consultation area through a series of bespoke meetings and presentations prior to each phase of consultation.
 - Hosting a bespoke Virtual Information Session about the Offshore Transmission Network Review, attended by the Applicant, key industry stakeholders, and parish councils.
 - Engaging with community members through a series of Community Q&A sessions during Phase Two consultation.

27. The Applicant’s response to all feedback is summarised in the relevant chapters of this Consultation Report and provided in full in the Appendices to this Consultation Report as follows:

- **Section 11:** provides a summary of key issues raised during the Section 47 consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to these. Please see **Appendix 3** for Section 47 comments received to the Phase One and Phase Two Section 47 consultation and the Applicant’s responses; and
- **Section 12:** provides a summary of comments received to the Section 42 consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to these. Please see **Appendix 4** for comments received to the Section 42 consultation and the Applicant’s full responses.

The structure of this Consultation Report, together with an overview of the content of each section is included in **Table 1-1** below.

Table 1-1 Structure and explanation the Consultation Report

Report section	Overview
1. Executive summary	Summarises the information in the Consultation Report.
2. Introduction	Introduces the structure and information presented in the Consultation Report.
3. Legislation, guidance and advice	Describes the relevant legislation and guidance which the Applicant has complied with in carrying out the consultation.
4. Consultation Under the EIA and Habitat Regulations Assessment	Describes how the Applicant has consulted in accordance with the EIA and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Regulations.
5. Defining and Identifying Stakeholder Groups	Provides an overview of the stakeholder groups consulted during the pre-application consultation and how they were identified.
6. Non-Statutory Consultation (October 2019 – 29 April 2021)	Describes the ongoing non-statutory consultation for the EIA with technical consultees, the community, local authorities, and landowners ahead of statutory consultation on the PEIR.
7. Preparation For Section 47 Statutory Consultations (09 July - 20 August 2020) & (29 April – 10 June 2021)	Sets out and describes how the Applicant prepared for both phases of Section 47 consultation, including the development of and consultation on the SoCC.
8. Consultation Under Section 47 Of The 2008 Act (9 July 2020 – 10 June 2021)	Sets out the consultation activities undertaken by the Applicant for the Phase One and Phase Two consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act and the ongoing engagement activities as committed to in the SoCC.

<p>9. Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 Of The 2008 Act (29 April 2021 – 10 June 2021)</p>	<p>Sets out details of the statutory consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act ('Section 42 consultation') and provides an overview of the formal consultation activities that took place during the formal consultation period commencing 29 April 2021 and closing on 10 June 2021.</p>
<p>10. Compliance with Section 48 Of The 2008 Act (29 April – 10 June 2021)</p>	<p>Details how the Applicant has complied with Section 48 of the 2008 Act (duty to publicise).</p>
<p>11. Section 47 Statutory Consultations: Responses Received, And Changes and Commitments Made</p>	<p>Sets out how the Applicant has complied with its duty under Section 49 of the 2008 Act to take account of consultation responses received under Section 47 of the 2008 Act.</p>
<p>12. Section 42 Statutory Consultation (29 April 2021 - 10 June 2021): Responses Received, And Changes and Commitments Made</p>	<p>Sets out how the Applicant has complied with its duty under Section 49 of the 2008 Act to take account of consultation responses received under Section 42 of the 2008 Act.</p>
<p>13. Targeted Consultations</p>	<p>Provides a summary of key comments received from consultees in response to the onshore and offshore targeted consultations.</p>
<p>14. Ongoing Consultation Activities (11 June 2021- Application submission)</p>	<p>Outlines consultation activities undertaken with consultees following the close of the statutory consultation period on 10 June 2021.</p>

1.3 Strategic Development Options and Changes

28. The project design has evolved iteratively in response to feedback received throughout the pre-application consultation with the community, landowners, and prescribed consultees. By undertaking iterative consultation, consultees have been able to observe how their feedback has influenced the proposal as the final design has emerged.
29. In response to feedback obtained during public consultation and regular stakeholder correspondence, a series of amendments were made to the SEP and DEP project design, which are characterised in this report as:
 - Project change: Amendments made to the design of SEP and DEP as a result of feedback from consultation; and
 - 'No change': No amendments made to the design of SEP and DEP as a result of feedback from consultation.
30. An overview of the key issues raised during consultation and design changes associated with onshore and offshore proposals as well as the consultation are summarised in **Table 1-2**, which demonstrates how the Applicant has had regard to consultation feedback.

Table 1-2 Overview of key issues raised through consultation and the Applicant's regard to comments.

Key issue	Project Response
Impacts to Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ).	<p>The Applicant has committed to no more than 100m of external cable protection per export cable in the MCZ, in relation to unburied cables. This reduces the extent of any longer-term impacts on the MCZ.</p> <p>The Applicant has committed to not using loose rock type external cable protection systems in the MCZ. This facilitates the possibility of removal on decommissioning.</p>
Ornithological impact assessment.	<p>The Applicant increased the minimum 'air gap' from 26m to 30m to minimise impact from collision risk for key ornithological species.</p>
Shipping and navigation – concerns from regular operator on increased number of deviations between the projects.	<p>The Applicant has committed to a Navigational Management Plan (NMP). This will be drafted post consent, however, it is noted that given the existing baseline, third party vessels in the area will be familiar with wind farm traffic in the area</p> <p>SEP and DEP will undertake a thorough appraisal of the potential for two consistent lines of orientation. Should two consistent lines not be possible, as a minimum the position of surface structures shall be arranged in straight lines with at least one consistent line of orientation with the exact locations to be determined with consideration of micro siting allowances agreed in consultation with the MCA.</p> <p>Where practically possible, the position of surface structures shall be aligned with existing lines of orientation of the nearest operational wind farm. Otherwise, the position of surface structures will be arranged as stated above with the modification that a minimum spacing of 1 nautical mile tip to tip will be maintained between the turbines of the nearest operational wind farm and the turbines of SEP and DEP.</p>
Locating the landfall site at Weybourne and utilizing trenchless crossing technique for cable installation to avoid the Cromer Chalk Beds MCZ.	<p>The Applicant selected a landfall option at Weybourne to avoid impacts to The Cromer Chalk Beds MCZ. Following technical feasibility assessments, the Applicant concluded that as the exposed chalk reef is so close to shore at Weybourne, that the planned trenchless crossing technique for works at landfall also will be used to drill under the exposed chalk and therefore avoid damaging the sensitive chalk features. This site selection narrative is detailed in full in ES Chapter 3 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (document reference 6.1.3).</p>
Avoidance of Beach Lane and Beach Lane Car Park.	<p>Following feedback on the local sensitivities of Beach Lane and Beach Lane car park, the Applicant has committed to avoid utilising these locations for construction traffic routing.</p>
Norfolk Coast AONB.	<p>The Applicant has committed to the use of a long HDD that will avoid direct disturbance to the beach and cliff areas.</p>
HGV traffic should not be directed through the village of Cawston.	<p>The Applicant committed to avoiding utilising roads through the village of Cawston for HGV construction traffic.</p>
Biodiversity net gain.	<p>The Applicant has actively engaged with local communities and statutory bodies to deliver its aim of providing a biodiversity net gain onshore.</p>
Main river crossings.	<p>The Applicant has committed to trenchless techniques such as HDD to avoid direct interaction with all Main Rivers.</p>

Key issue	Project Response
Environmentally sensitive features.	The Applicant has committed to reduce the onshore working width when crossing sensitive features such as hedgerows and watercourses, to the haul road and cable trenching areas only (approximately 20m).
Avoidance of local communities and business.	The Applicant has committed to locating the cable corridor away from local communities and business as part of its site selection process. An example of this is opting to route the corridor through Weybourne Woods using HDD as opposed to the open-cut trenching of Sandy Hill Lane.
Avoidance of Sandy Hill Lane.	The Applicant has routed the onshore cables further to the east of Sandy Hill Lane to avoid direct impacts. Sandy Hill Lane will still be required for access during the works but would not result in any road closures.
Weybourne Woods	The Applicant has committed to cross Weybourne Woods via two HDDs, each approximately 400m long. The only tree losses would be at the central point between the two HDDs, this would require an area of approximately 100m x 50m to be subject to tree felling to accommodate a drilling compound and would also require a permanent easement with no replacement trees. Trees would not need to be removed outside of this small compound. The Applicant has targeted a section of the woodland for the compound that has already been the subject of some commercial tree felling to minimise tree loss.
Locating an OnSS site which minimizes effects on the local community.	<p>The Applicant selected two options for the location of the onshore substation area, both within proximity to the existing Norwich Main Substation. These were selected as they are located away from the nearest residential properties and other sensitive receptors and the proximity to the existing Norwich Main substation also minimizes the length of buried cabling.</p> <p>Site selection and refinement of the Onshore Substation is described in ES Chapter 3 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (document reference 6.1.3).</p>
Avoid onshore substation access via the B1113.	<p>Access to the substation during both construction and operation will be via the A140. Access will not be taken via the B1113, unless in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Selection and refinement of the Onshore Substation Access is described in ES Chapter 3 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (document reference 6.1.3).</p>
Offshore Transmission Network Review.	The value of further information on the role of SEP and DEP in the Offshore Transmission Network Review was highlighted during the parish and town council stakeholder forum. The Applicant therefore organised a virtual information session which was attended by industry experts from National Grid Electricity Transmission and the Offshore Wind Industry Council. For more information in relation to the OTNR and how the Applicant has engaged with this process see the Scenarios Statement (document reference 9.28)
Concurrent or sequential construction of the projects.	The Applicant is in favour of constructing the SEP and DEP projects concurrently and this option is submitted as the preference in the DCO application.

Figure 1-1 Onshore DCO boundary at Phase One consultation

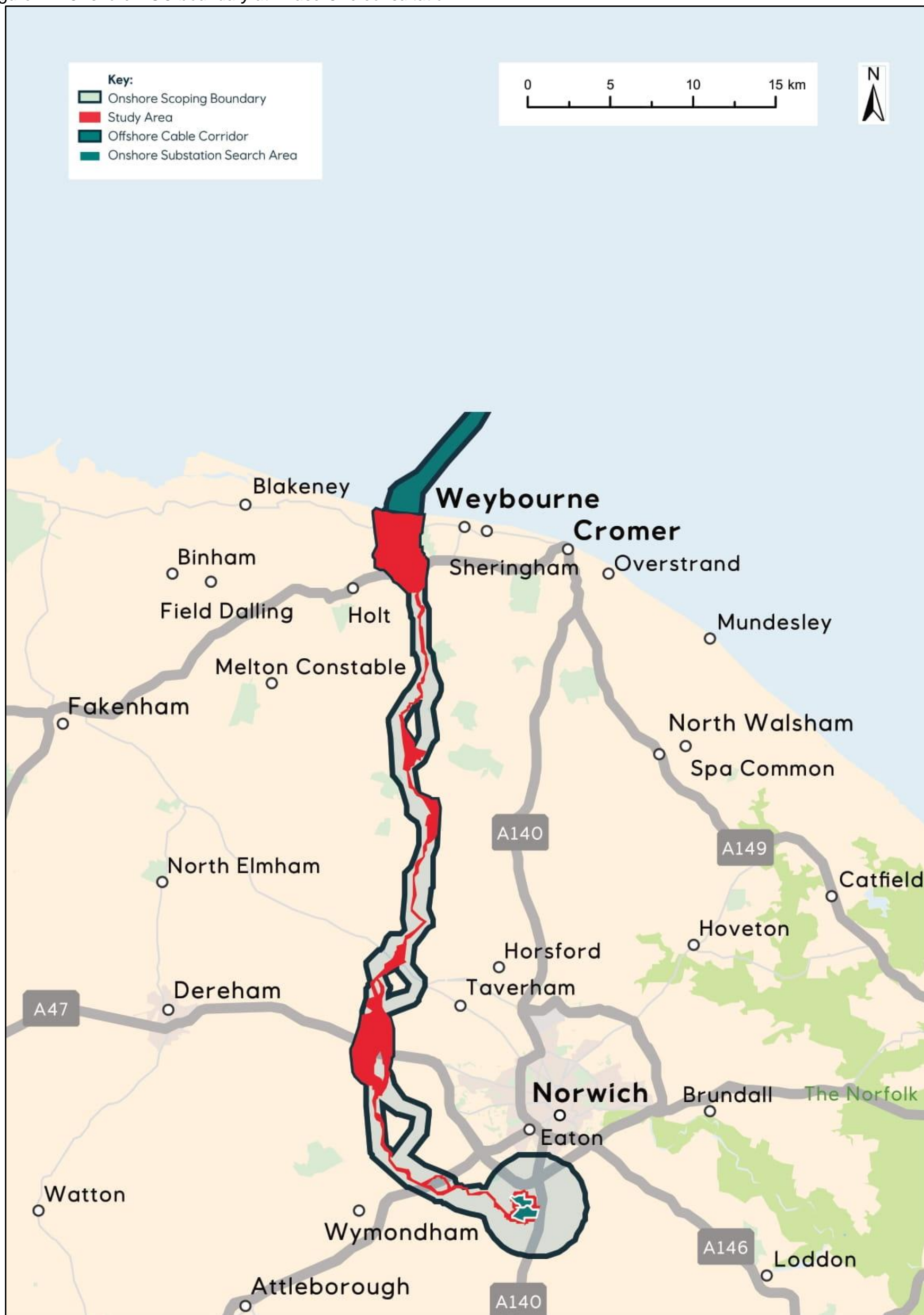
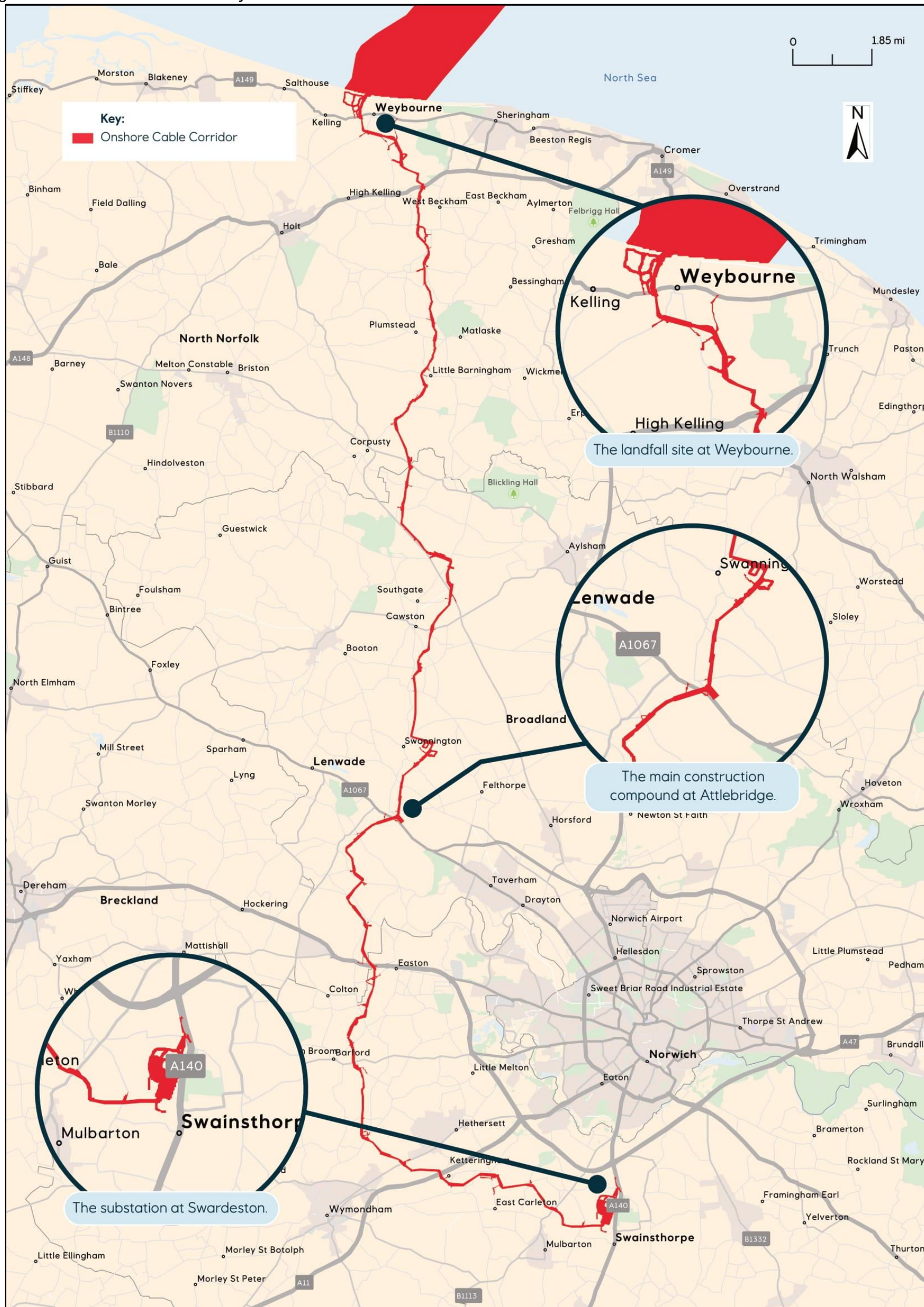


Figure 1-2 Onshore DCO boundary at DCO submission.



1.4 Key Stages of Consultation

Figure 1-3 Stages of consultation summary

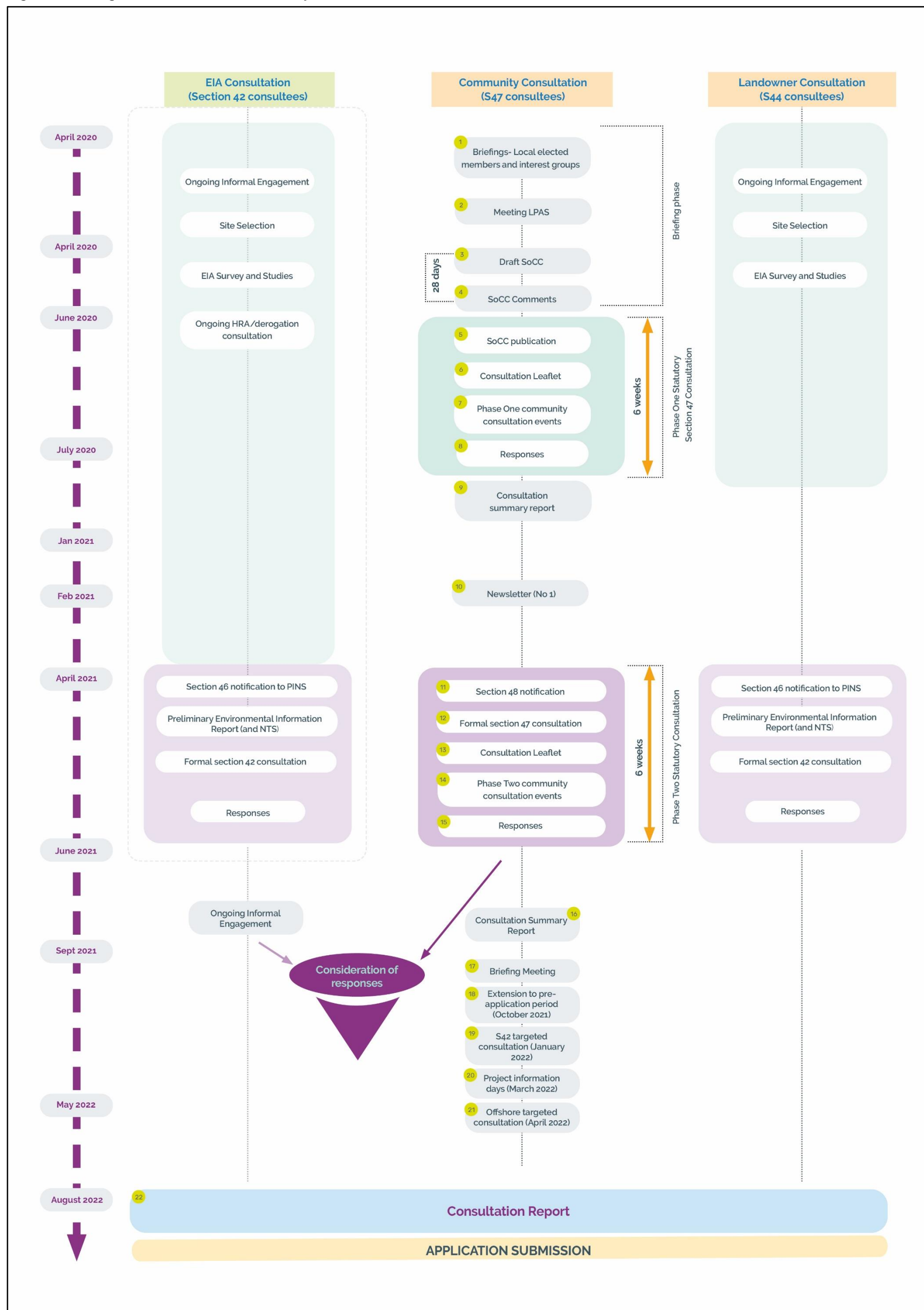


Table 1-3 Stages of consultation document location table

1	Briefings- Local elected members and interest groups	Section 6
2	Meeting LPAs	Section 6.4
3	Draft SoCC	Section 7.3
4	SoCC Comments	Section 7.4
5	SoCC publication	Section 7.5
6	Consultation Leaflet	Section 8.4.2
7	Phase One community consultation events	Section 8.4.1
8	Responses	Section 11.3
9	Consultation summary report	Appendix 10
10	Newsletter	Appendix 13
11	Section 48 notification	Section 7.5
12	Formal Section 47 consultation	Section 8.4.3
13	Consultation Leaflet	Section 8.4.4
14	Phase Two community consultation events	Section 8.4.3
15	Responses	Section 11.6
16	Consultation Summary Report	Appendix 12
17	Briefing Meetings	Section 14
18	Extension to preapplication period (October 2021)	Section 14.2.4
19	Onshore targeted consultation (January 2022)	Section 13.1
20	Project information days (March 2022)	Section 14.2.1
21	Offshore targeted consultation (April 2022)	Section 13.2

2 Introduction

2.1 Equinor

31. Equinor New Energy Limited (the Applicant) is a broad energy company that has been operating in the UK for over 35 years and is the UK's largest energy supplier. In the UK, the Applicant currently powers around 750,000 homes through its three wind farms: Sheringham Shoal, Dudgeon, and the world's first floating wind farm, Hywind Scotland. As a key contributor to the UK's efforts to meet its net zero carbon target, the Applicant is leading the way in decarbonisation.
32. The Applicant supports the UK economy, investing billions of pounds in crucial energy infrastructure, employing over 650 people based in the UK, and working with over 700 suppliers across the country. The Applicant's plans for SEP and DEP will double its offshore wind capacity off the coast of Norfolk.

2.2 SEP and DEP – Project Infrastructure Summary

33. SEP and DEP will comprise of up to 23 and 30 wind turbine generators (WTGs), respectively, and all infrastructure required to transmit the power generated by the turbines to National Grid Electricity Transmission's (NGET) Norwich Main substation, located near Dunston, South Norfolk.
34. The SEP and DEP wind turbine generators will be located approximately 13.6 km and 24.8 km north off the coast of North Norfolk at their closest point to shore, respectively. The array area will be connected to offshore substation(s) via array cables, and then onwards to the landfall via up to four offshore export cables. In addition to the wind turbine generators a maximum of 2 other offshore structures and associated cables will be required.
35. At landfall, the offshore export cables will be joined to onshore export cables at transition joint bays. There will be up to four onshore export cables buried in up to two trenches connecting the landfall to an onshore substation (OnSS) located in proximity to the NGET Norwich Main substation. A further short section of 600 metres buried 400 kV onshore export cables is required to connect the OnSS with the existing NGET substation.
36. SEP and DEP will use a High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) transmission system to deliver the electricity produced offshore to the OnSS.
37. Full details of the project description are provided in **ES Chapter 4 Project Description** (document reference 6.1.4).

3 Legislation, Guidance and Advice

3.1 Consultation Report

38. This Consultation Report is submitted with the Application in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the 2008 Act.
39. Relevant responses are defined in Section 49(3) of the 2008 Act as responses received to the consultation under Section 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act by the deadline published; however, the Applicant has taken account of all responses received through the pre-application consultation process.
40. Pre-application consultation under Section 42 has taken place with:
 - Prescribed bodies (statutory consultees), being those prescribed by the Planning Inspectorate in the list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, and listed in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations;
 - Marine Management Organisation;
 - Non-statutory bodies treated as prescribed by the Applicant e.g. local nature conservation groups or member organisations with an interest in the proposals;
 - Local authorities, in accordance with Section 43 of the 2008 Act; and
 - Persons with an interest in the land, in accordance with Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the 2008 Act.
41. Consultation undertaken in relation to Applicant's HRA derogation case and specifically in the development of compensatory measures is captured within the **Record of HRA Derogation Consultation** (document reference 5.5.1.4).
42. Pre-application consultation under Section 47 has taken place with:
 - The local community i.e. those living within the vicinity of the Development as defined in **Figure 5-1**;
 - A wide range of community groups, local nature conservation bodies, community interest groups and local business owners (see **Table 5-1**);
 - Local elected representatives including ward and parish councillors and members of Norfolk County Council, North Norfolk District Council, Broadland District Council, South Norfolk Council and Norwich City Council (see **Appendix 17** for full list of locally elected representatives consulted); and
 - MPs for North Norfolk, Broadland, Mid Norfolk, South Norfolk, Norwich South, North West Norfolk and Norwich North.
43. Pre-application consultation has also taken place in accordance with Section 48 of the 2008 Act through publicity of the Application, as described in **Section 9** of this Consultation Report.

3.2 Relevant Legislation and Guidance

44. The following legislation and guidance has been complied with and considered when undertaking the pre-application consultation and when compiling the Consultation Report:
- Planning Act 2008;
 - The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations) Regulations 2017;
 - The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009;
 - Department for Communities and Local Government. Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (2015) ('DCLG guidance');
 - The Overarching NPS for Energy (NPS EN-1) (DECC, 2011a);
 - The NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3) (DECC, 2011b), which covers nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure (including offshore generating stations in excess of 100MW);
 - It is noted that NPS' EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5 are in the process of being revised. A draft version of each NPS was published for consultation in September 2021. Consultation closed November 2021. Although the new NPSs are in draft form they are considered to be important and relevant for the purpose of decision-making;
 - The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Three: EIA Consultation and Notification ('Advice Note 3') (PINS 2017);
 - The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 7: Environmental Impact Assessment ('Advice Note 7') (PINS 2020).
 - The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 14: Compiling the Consultation Report ('Advice Note 14') (PINS 2021); and
 - Defra 2021. Best practice guidance for developing compensatory measures in relation to Marine Protected Areas. (2021) . Version: For consultation.
45. A table setting out how the Applicant has complied with the relevant legislation and guidance is presented in the [Appendix 2](#).

3.3 COVID-19

46. It should be acknowledged that from 23 March 2020, when Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the commencement of a national 'lockdown' and legal restrictions on everyday life due to COVID-19, the Applicant has been required to undertake statutory and non-statutory consultation and engagement in accordance with national restrictions and guidance relevant at the time. The following guidance regarding consultation during COVID-19 restrictions was followed:
- The Planning Inspectorate updated Advice Note 14: Compiling the Consultation Report ('Advice Note 14'); and

- The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 were amended in December 2020, meaning that a hard copy of the consultation materials is no longer required to be placed on deposit for public inspection.

4 Consultation Under the EIA and Habitat Regulations Assessment

4.1 Summary

47. This section provides an overview of the statutory consultation undertaken for SEP and DEP in accordance with the EIA Regulations, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) as described in the following sections. It sets out the legislative requirements, the approach adopted by SEP and DEP, including wider non-statutory consultation through the EPP (see [Section 4.9](#)) to agree the EIA methodology and details how the Applicant has complied with the relevant legislation. The Applicant's approach to transboundary consultation is also outlined.

4.2 Policy and Legislation

48. The EIA Regulations apply the amended EU directive “on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment” (usually referred to as the ‘EIA Directive’) to the planning system in England. The EIA Directive requires that an EIA be undertaken in support of an application for a DCO for certain types of project. Offshore wind farms are listed in Appendix II of the EIA Directive as “installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms)”.
49. The EIA framework is set out within EU Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) (the EIA Directive). Whilst EU Directives no longer form part of legislation in the UK, the EIA Directive was transposed into UK law for NSIPs through The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations), which remain in force and set out the requirements for EIA. Key requirements of the EIA Regulations are detailed in [ES Chapter 5 EIA Methodology](#) (document reference 6.1.5).
50. The purpose of the EIA Directive is to ensure that when an authority giving consent for a particular project makes its decision, it does so in the knowledge of any likely significant effects on the environment. An EIA provides for the systematic assessment of a project's likely significant environmental effects for consideration by both the public and the relevant competent authority before a planning consent decision is made.
51. According to Regulation 5(1) of the EIA Regulations, the EIA is a process of:
- The preparation of an Environmental Statement;
 - Any consultation, publication and notification required by, or by virtue of, these Regulations or any other enactment in respect of EIA development; and

- Consideration of whether planning permission or subsequent consent should be granted.

4.3 Scoping Phase

Scoping Report

52. In accordance with Regulation 10 of the 2017 EIA Regulations, a Scoping Report (**Equinor, 2019**) was prepared by the Applicant in support of a request for a Scoping Opinion from the Secretary of State. To comply with Regulation 10 of the 2017 EIA Regulations, the Scoping Report provided:
- Plans sufficient to identify the area required for the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of SEP and DEP;
 - A brief description of the nature and purpose of the proposed project, and of its possible effect on the environment; and
 - Other information on the characteristics of the proposed project and the environmental features likely to be affected by the proposed project, sufficient to define those potential characteristics, impacts and features to be considered further in the EIA and those which need not be considered further.
53. On 8 October 2019, the Applicant requested the Secretary of State to adopt this Scoping Opinion in respect of SEP and DEP pursuant to Regulation 10(8) of the 2017 EIA Regulations.

Scoping Opinion

54. On receipt of the Scoping Report, PINS on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) consulted on the SEP and DEP Scoping Report and issued a Scoping Opinion on 18 November 2019.
55. In October 2019, the Applicant met with numerous stakeholders informally to discuss their feedback on the SEP and DEP Scoping Report as detailed in the Scoping Opinion. Comments received through the scoping process were considered by the Applicant and used to inform the selection of survey methodologies for the EIA. This included consideration through the Evidence Plan and Expert Topic Groups (ETGs). This is further detailed in **Section 4.9** of this Consultation Report.
56. The Applicant has had regard to responses captured in the Scoping Opinion and key consultation responses are included in the consultation tables in the Draft Information for Habitats Regulations Assessment Report in the relevant topic chapters.

4.4 EIA Consultation

57. The purpose of the EIA Directive and the EIA Regulations is to ensure that when an authority giving consent for a particular project makes its decision, it does so in the knowledge of any likely significant effects on the environment. The EIA Regulations set out a procedure that must be followed for certain types of project before they can be given a DCO. An EIA provides for the systematic assessment of a project's likely significant environmental effects for consideration by both the public and the relevant competent authority before a planning consent decision is made.
58. On 29 April 2021 the Applicant submitted the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for consultation under Sections 42 and 47 of the 2008 Act. This consultation period ended 10 June 2021 and feedback received through this consultation has been taken into consideration and incorporated into the ES where appropriate.
59. Evidence that the Applicant has complied with the 2017 EIA Regulations is provided in **ES Chapter 5 EIA Methodology** (document reference 6.2.5).

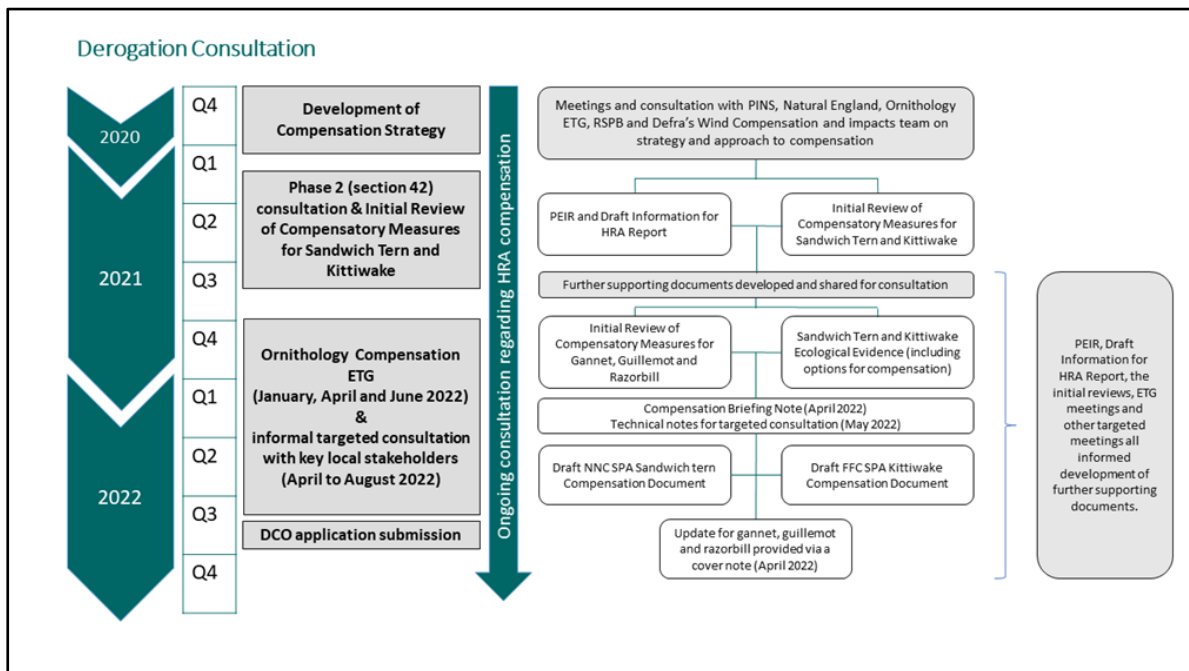
4.5 Habitats Regulations Assessment Consultation

60. The Applicant has consulted specifically on the HRA through the Evidence Plan process, in line with the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 10: Habitats Regulations Assessment relevant to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (January 2017). The Applicant submitted the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report for consultation in June 2020. Responses from consultees were provided in writing, as well as being discussed through the relevant ETG. Where a response to the HRA screening report consultation resulted in a change in the screening outcomes, those changes were explained and taken forward in the draft Information for HRA Report.
61. A draft Information for HRA Report (including the draft information for appropriate assessment) was made available for consultation with the statutory nature conservation bodies (SNCBs) and other potentially affected transboundary consultees and interested parties. The consultation period for the draft Information for HRA Report ran from 29 April to 10 June 2021, aligning with the Section 42 consultation on the PEIR. Responses from consultees were provided in writing, as well as being discussed through the relevant ETG.
62. Where comments from stakeholders on the draft Information for HRA Report were received, these are detailed alongside the Applicant's responses within the appropriate sections of the **Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA)** (document reference 5.4) that is submitted with the DCO application. For the offshore ornithology sections of the RIAA, stakeholder comments relevant to the RIAA and the Applicant's responses to these are included within **Table 11-1** of **ES Chapter 11 Offshore Ornithology** (document reference 6.1.11). This approach has been taken specifically for offshore ornithology, recognising the significant cross over between the two assessments with many of the stakeholder comments applying to both the ES and RIAA assessments. It was not considered appropriate to separate comments specific to each assessment given the complexity and duplication that would result from any such process.

63. In addition to consultation on the HRA screening and draft appropriate assessment (i.e. stages 1 and 2 of the HRA process), The Applicant has given early and detailed consideration to the requirement for compensatory measures and has consulted with a range of stakeholders at regular intervals throughout the pre-application process. Feedback from the consultation has been used to shape the development of the compensatory measures. This is in line with the recommendations in Defra *et al.*, 2021 which states:
- “Applicants should recognise the possible need for compensation early on in the process and should discuss all potential compensatory measures with the responsible authority at an early stage of development. These discussions will be exploratory in nature to assist the Applicant in demonstrating the potential efficacy and feasibility of compensatory measures to regulators. It is not the responsibility of the responsible authority to provide options for potential compensatory measures, but it can provide guidance on which activities may be considered to be sufficient in terms of compensation”*
64. A detailed record of engagement is provided within **Annex 1D: Record of HRA Derogation Consultation** (document reference 5.5.1.4), the **Consultation Report** (document reference 3.1) and its supporting appendices, namely the **Evidence Plan** (document reference 5.2.1) including Expert Topic Group (ETG) meeting minutes and agreement logs. The process has involved the iterative development of the proposals through detailed consultation with relevant stakeholders as outlined below and in **Figure 4-1**.
65. Preliminary meetings with stakeholders were held in late 2020 and early 2021 to help inform the development of a strategy for compensation.
66. An HRA Ornithology Compensation ETG was set up as a part of the Projects’ Evidence Plan Process (EPP) with compensatory measures also being discussed at earlier stages of the pre-application process through the Offshore Ornithology ETG meetings.
67. In March 2021 the Applicant provided ETG members with an initial review of potential compensatory measures for Sandwich tern and kittiwake (**Annex 1A: Initial Review of Compensatory Measures for Sandwich Tern and Kittiwake** (document reference 5.5.1.1)). This document was developed to inform early pre-application consultation with ETG members and was provided ahead of the Section 42 consultation on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the draft Information for HRA Report to maximise the timeframe available for discussions on compensatory measures in the pre-application period.
68. Further supporting documents were provided to ETG members from late 2021 through to summer 2022 (see **Annex 1D Record of HRA Derogation Consultation** (document reference 5.5.1.4) for details).

69. Informal non-statutory consultation has also been undertaken with participants of the HRA Ornithology Compensation ETG to further inform the Applicant's approach to compensatory measures specifically in identifying the measures that would be most ecologically effective and feasible, as well as appropriate locations at which to deliver these measures. In addition, consultation with key stakeholders (including local stakeholders) relevant to each of the compensatory measures has been carried out to further inform the site selection process as well as identify any potential conflicts or barriers to securing the necessary land and permissions to deliver the proposed measures. This engagement was undertaken on a stakeholder-by-stakeholder basis rather than a broader non-statutory targeted consultation, recognising the very specific localities and the individual nature of the measures identified.
70. This approach to consultation has allowed for very focussed yet open discussions and has provided stakeholders with the opportunity to feed into the development of the compensatory measures. This has both general monthly 'catch-up' meetings and specific meetings to discuss compensation matters), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) (including RSPB's Bycatch Prevention Team), National Trust, the Marine Management Organisation, Crown Estate Scotland, Marine Scotland, NatureScot, Gateshead Council, East Suffolk Council, Lowestoft Kittiwake Partnership, The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership, North Eastern Inshore Fishery and Conservation Authority and Northumberland Inshore Fishery and Conservation Authority.
71. Other relevant consultation included meetings with PINS throughout the pre-application process in order to appraise them of the intended approach to the derogation case for the Projects and the development of the associated compensatory measures.
72. Opportunities for the development of strategic approaches to compensation were discussed directly with Defra in four meetings between June 2021 and July 2022.
73. At the strategic level, Equinor is engaged in the Offshore Wind Industry Council (OWIC) Derogation Subgroup which is a developer collaboration seeking to support industry in working towards strategic compensation delivery. This is taking place in the background to SEP and DEP, and, where possible, the Applicant has attempted to align its compensatory proposals for SEP and DEP with emerging developments at the industry level.
74. As noted above, **Annex 1D: Record of HRA Derogation Consultation** (document reference: 5.5.1.4) should be referred to for a more detailed account of all consultation that has been undertaken in relation to the development of compensatory measures. That document sets out key responses and feedback from stakeholders and also includes the regard that has been given to these in the development of the Applicant's compensation proposals.

Figure 4-1 Overview of pre-application consultation on derogation and compensatory measures



4.6 Marine Conservation Zone Assessment Consultation

75. In parallel to the process described with regard to HRA, the Applicant has also consulted specifically on the Marine Conservation Zone Assessment (MCZA) requirements, as set out under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009. This has included the
76. following:
 - The MCZA Screening Report was submitted to SNCBs for consultation in August 2020. Responses from consultees were provided in writing, as well as being discussed through the sea bed ETG. Where a response to the MCZA Screening Report consultation resulted in a change in the screening outcomes, those changes were explained and taken forward in the draft Information for MCZA Report (see below);
 - Draft Information for MCZA Report (addressing Stage 1 of the MCZA process) submitted to SNCBs for consultation in April 2021, alongside the Section 42 consultation on the PEIR. The draft Information for MCZA Report focussed on the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ through which the export cable corridor passes as it approaches the landfall at Weybourne. Responses to comments received on the draft report are detailed in the final **Stage 1 CSCB MCZA** (document reference 5.6) that is submitted with the DCO application;

- The Applicant has also undertaken a detailed programme of pre-application consultation on 'without prejudice' measures of equivalent environmental benefit (MEEB) (addressing Stage 2 of the MCZA process). This has involved giving early consideration to which interest features MEEB might apply to so that constructive engagement on the issues could be undertaken during the pre-application period. Initial discussions were held with Natural England, MMO, TWT, Cefas and the EIFCA both in terms of the process to be followed at the pre-application stage, as well as the scope and focus of the potential MEEB. Consultation with regard to MEEB has been undertaken as an extension to the EPP, namely through the MEEB ETG, with additional consultation with individual stakeholders carried out on an as needs basis. This is further detailed in [Appendix 1](#) and the [In-Principle MCZ Measures MEEB Plan](#) (document reference 5.7.1)
- A draft MEEB Plan was developed and consulted on with the sea bed ETG in March 2021, September 2021 and again in December 2021. Each iteration of the draft plan was provided to consultees and then followed by an ETG meeting to discuss the comments received and agree next steps. Responses to comments received on the draft plans are detailed in the final [In-Principle MCZ Measures MEEB Plan](#) (document reference 5.7.1) that is submitted with the DCO application.

4.7 Transboundary Consultation

77. Transboundary effects arise when impacts from the development within one European Economic Area (EEA) state affects the environment of another EEA state(s). The need to consider such transboundary effects has been embodied by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context (commonly referred to as the 'Espoo Convention'). The Convention requires that assessments be extended across borders between Parties of the Convention when a planned activity may cause significant adverse transboundary effects. [Table 4-1](#) Table 4-1 identifies the approximate distances of SEP and DEP from the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundaries of other EEA states that share a maritime border with the UK.

Table 4-1 Summary of approximate distance to nearest EEZ (median line) of other EEA states (to be updated)

EEA State	Distance from SEP and DEP to the nearest marine boundary (km)
The Netherlands	~ 230
Germany	~ 328
France	~ 253
Belgium	~ 248
Denmark	~ 518
Sweden	~ 796
Norway	~ 635

78. The Espoo Convention has been implemented in the UK for the purposes of NSIPs by the Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017. Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations sets out a prescribed process for notifying and consulting EEA States that maybe affected by a development that is likely to have significant transboundary effects.
79. In addition, PINS Advice Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts and Processes (PINS, 2018b) sets out the procedures for a consultation in association with an application for a DCO where such a development may have significant transboundary effects. It recommends that the developer undertakes independent consultation with other EEA states that may be affected to speed up the consultation process and reduce the risk to the development of a lack of time to consider transboundary impacts at a later stage in the application process.
80. A transboundary screening process was carried out based on the information available at that time, provided in the Scoping Report (Equinor 2019). Following this, PINS provided a transboundary issues notification under Regulation 32 which identified the Netherlands and Belgium as states requiring notification due to potential impacts on commercial fishing. In addition, the Applicant consulted the Netherlands, Belgium and France on its HRA screening report, due to potential impacts on European sites.
81. Where relevant, details of transboundary consultation undertaken is provided in each of the technical chapters of the ES and the HRA report, together with an assessment of the potential effects. The final assessments presented in the ES identify the potential for significant transboundary effects and which EEA states may be affected. **ES Chapter 29 Transboundary Impacts** (document reference 6.1.29) provides a summary of transboundary impacts, based on the assessments provided in the relevant technical chapters.

4.8 Proportionate Approach to EIA

82. In line with the guidance from the Planning Inspectorate in Advice Note 7, the Applicant has sought to undertake a proportionate approach to EIA. The approach follows a recent report (IEMA, 2017), by the UK's professional body for EIA, the Institute of Environment Management and Assessment (IEMA) which set out details of a collaborate strategy for enhancing EIA practice.
83. The Applicant identified a range of tangible actions, tools, and processes to support the delivery of a proportionate EIA.

4.9 Evidence Plan Process

84. In order to ensure key stakeholders are consulted on a regular and formalised basis an Evidence Plan process (EPP) has been adopted, with key consultation outcomes recorded in the relevant chapters of the ES.
85. The EPP is a process to help agree the information to be provided to the Secretary of State as part of the DCO application, such that SEP and DEP can show compliance with the EIA Regulations and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
86. The EPP aims to assist all parties in the process during the evolution of the proposed DCO application, by providing:
 - Greater confidence on the suitability of existing information, any additional evidence requirements and suitable survey methodologies to fill data gaps;
 - An opportunity to make good use of time and resources by focussing on key matters early on, avoiding unnecessarily revisiting 'old ground' at a later stage;
 - Clarity and direction for survey work, analysis and interpretation of findings; and
 - A record of discussions and an audit trail.
87. The EPP does not replace or duplicate existing requirements and has been structured to fit within the DCO application process, including the statutory pre-application consultation process.
88. The EPP for SEP and DEP commenced in July 2019 and aimed to agree the evidence required to be submitted within the ES as part of the DCO Application.
89. The EPP was also used as a forum to discuss and agree matters relevant to the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) which accompanies the DCO application (see [HRA Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment](#) (document reference 5.4) (taking into account the guidance in PINS Advice Note 10).
90. The EPP is a voluntary informal process and forms a record of the agreements and disagreements between the Applicant and the interested parties and helps to inform Statements of Common Ground (SoCG). This is further detailed in [Section 4.9.3](#) of this Consultation Report and in The [Evidence Plan \(Appendix 1\)](#).
91. Full details of the EPP and consultation with stakeholders as part of the EPP approach are documented in The [Evidence Plan \(Appendix 1\)](#).

Expert Topic Groups

92. The EPP is divided into several expert topic groups (ETGs), which follow the majority of topics covered by the EIA and HRA. The ETGs are used to discuss, and where possible agree, the detail of the information requirements for the DCO application. They comprise experts from relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies and have the following functions:
- Agree the relevance, appropriateness and sufficiency of baseline data for the specific assessment(s), including both site specific and contextual data, and agree the scope of any project-specific surveys;
 - Agree the methods for data analysis;
 - Agree realistic worst case parameters for the assessment(s);
 - Agree methods for assessment (including where possible interpretation of impact and levels of significance);
 - Agree the in-combination / cumulative impact assessment details, which projects to scope in and which evidence can be used;
 - Agree key focus areas for post consent monitoring and mitigation;
 - Agree how to deal with new emerging evidence (e.g. whether and when to change the evidence requirements, updating the plan and timetable as necessary);
 - Record discussions in ETG meeting minutes, and agreed outcomes in Agreement Logs, which are used to generate Statement(s) of Common Ground (SoCG); and
 - Identify and prioritise key HRA and EIA matters and communicate these to the Steering Groups, where relevant. For information regarding steering groups and their role see **Section 1.1.3** of **Appendix 1**.

The role of the ETG Steering Group is:

- Oversee progress of the Evidence Plan and processes and ensure that schedules are met;
 - Resolve all issues that emerge from the Expert Topic Groups (ETGs) and where resolution cannot be reached agree approaches that will be taken;
 - Provide 'sign-off' for decisions made by the ETGs. 'Sign off' being defined as reaching a clear position, stated in writing, on behalf of the representative party; and
 - Clarify and agree how to address key HRA and EIA matters, on receipt of advice from the ETGs.
94. The process is iterative with each group working through the above functions, reaching agreements as far as possible during the pre-application period. SoCGs will be prepared where applicable, following the DCO application submission and any outstanding areas of disagreement will be noted in the relevant SoCG.
95. A list of the various ETGs including which organisations are represented is provided in **Table 4-2**.

Table 4-2 Expert Topic Groups and organisations represented.

ETG	Members
Offshore Ornithology	Natural England, MMO, RSPB
Marine Mammal Ecology	Natural England, MMO, Cefas, the Wildlife Trusts
Seabed (including benthic and fish ecology, and marine physical processes)	Natural England, MMO, Cefas, Eastern IFCA, the Wildlife Trusts
Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology	Natural England, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, North Norfolk District Council, South Norfolk and Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council
Seascape, Landscape and Visual	North Norfolk District Council, South Norfolk and Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council, Natural England, Historic England, North Norfolk AONB/Coastal partnership
Traffic	Norfolk County Council, National Highways
Archaeology (both onshore and offshore)	Historic England, Norfolk County Council, South Norfolk and Broadland District Council
Water Resource and Flood Risk	Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Board, Norfolk County Council (Lead Local Flood Authority)
MEEB	Natural England, MMO, Cefas, Eastern IFCA, The Wildlife Trust, PINS
HRA Compensation	Natural England, MMO, RSPB, PINS
Noise and Vibration	North Norfolk District Council, South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council

Agreement Logs

96. Agreement logs were used by the Applicant throughout the EPP to set out the level of agreement between the parties for each relevant topic. In order to easily identify whether a matter is 'agreed', 'not agreed' or an 'ongoing' point of discussion, a colour coding system of green, red and orange is used. These agreement logs will be used to help inform any SOCGs agreed in the future.

5 Defining and Identifying Stakeholder Groups

5.1 Introduction

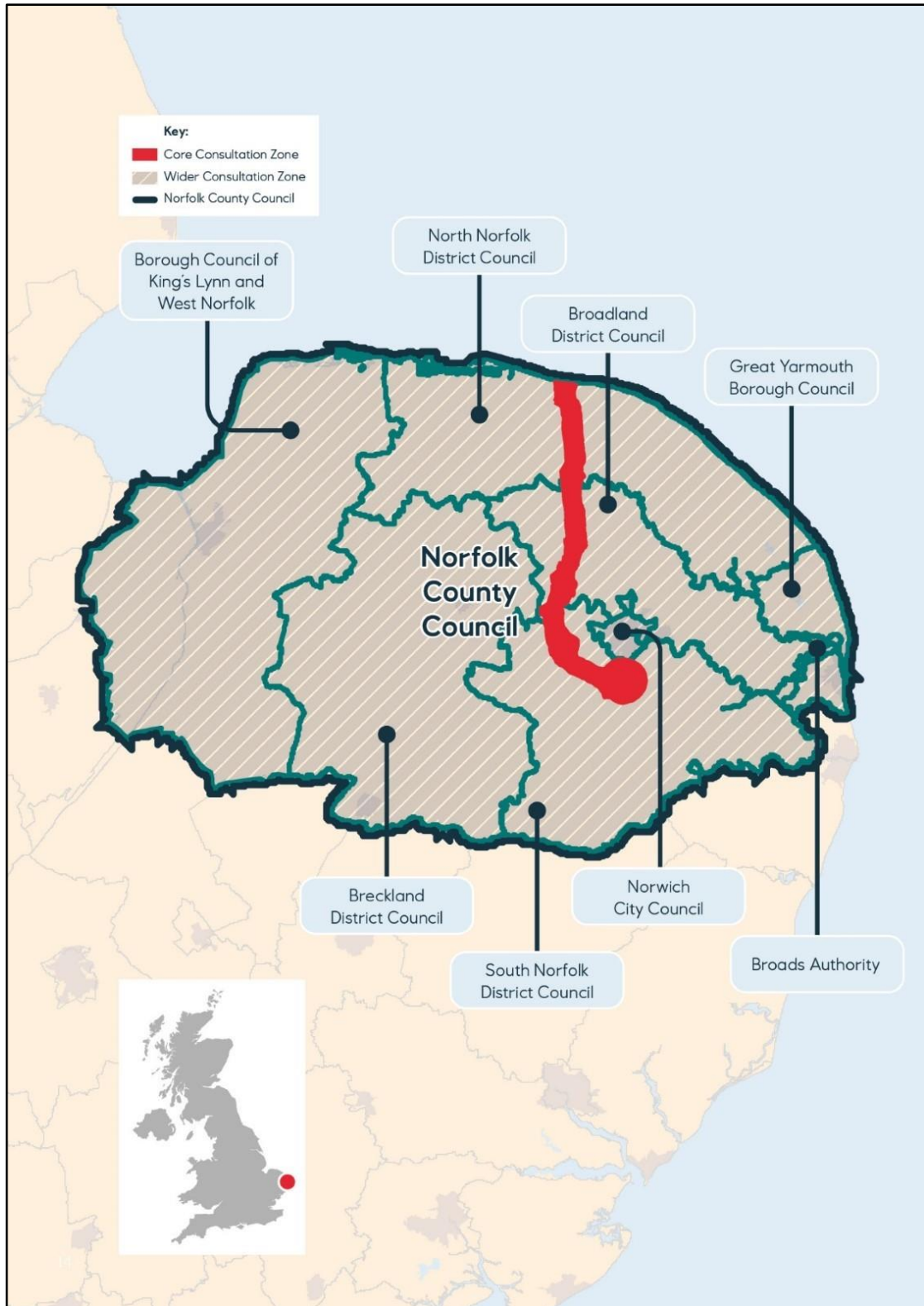
97. This chapter provides an overview of the stakeholder groups that were consulted throughout the pre-application consultation for SEP and DEP.

5.2 Defining and Identifying Section 47 Consultees

Community Consultees

98. Section 47(1) of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult on the proposed application with people living in ‘vicinity’ of the land to which the Development relates.
99. A core consultation zone (see [Figure 5-1](#)) was identified for the project. This core consultation zone was presented in the draft and final SoCC (see [Appendix 8](#)).
100. During consultation on the draft SoCC North Norfolk District Council requested the proposed core consultation zone be extended to 1,000m from any onshore infrastructure. All local authorities were satisfied with the final core consultation zone.
101. The core consultation zone consisted of a minimum 1,000m buffer either side of the project search area, as presented at Phase One consultation. This ensured that all individuals and stakeholders identified within a minimum distance of 1,000 metres from any associated underground or overground infrastructure were consulted.
102. Ahead of Phase Two consultation, the core consultation zone was extended to include properties located a minimum 1,000m away from any shortlisted main compound locations. This extension was a result of taking into account Norfolk County Council’s feedback to the draft SoCC.
103. The core consultation zone for the Development was identified by:
- Extending the onshore project search area by a minimum of 1000 metres;
 - Using natural and human geographical boundaries; and
 - Including settlements in their totality that would otherwise be bisected by a 1000 metre extension, for example including all properties situated within Mulbarton.
104. The wider consultation zone for the Development included coverage of the host local authorities, with all neighbouring ‘A’ local authorities being kept informed of the proposals as part of the Applicant’s project updates.

Figure 5-1 Consultation area



Hard-to-Reach Groups

105. In addition to the Section 47 consultees outlined in [Section 5.2](#), the Applicant identified a list of hard-to-reach groups (individuals or groups that an organisation finds difficult to contact or engage for a particular purpose) and interest groups that had, or could have, an interest in the Development. These consultees were identified through early suggestions from local authorities, feedback from local authorities to the SoCC, discussions with local stakeholders, comprehensive stakeholder mapping, and liaising with the Applicant's locally based Community Liaison Officer. The organisations identified were typically charities or trusts, educational establishments or groups that operate within the host community. These organisations were contacted at the start of each consultation phase to ensure that the approach best met the needs of its members and to maximise the chance of positive collaborations.

106. The full list of hard-to-reach groups is included in [Table 5-1](#).

Table 5-1 Hard-to-reach groups

Sector	Organisation
Disabilities	Norwich Mind
	West Norfolk Disability Information Service
	Equal Lives
	Accessible Norfolk
Homeless/Housing	St Martins Housing Trust
	Shelter Norwich
	Victory Housing
	Broadland Group
BME	The Bridge Plus
	Ethnic Minority Association of Norfolk (in Great Yarmouth)
Elderly	Age UK Norfolk
	WI Norfolk
	The Workers Education Association
Education / Youth	Norfolk Youth Advisory Board
	Norfolk Youth Parliament
	Norfolk Young Farmers
	University Technical College Norfolk (UTCN)
	Aylsham High School
	East Coast Colleges
	Reepham College
	Break Charity
	Active Norfolk
	OPEN Youth Trust
Other/Community Groups	Voluntary Norfolk
	Norfolk Community Foundation
	Community Action Norfolk (CAN)
	Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust

	Young Farmers and National Farmers Union (NFU)
Community Groups	Necton Substations Action Group
	No to Relay Stations Campaign
	Better Broadband for Norfolk
	Norfolk Community Foundation
	Community Action Norfolk (CAN)
	Norwich Friends of the Earth
Environmental/ Recreational	Norfolk Rivers Trust
	Ramblers Association Wensum Group
	Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association
	Whitlingham Charitable Trust
	Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)
Tourism	Norwich Tourist Information Centre
	Visit Norfolk
	Visit East Anglia Tourist Information Centre
	Royal Yachting Association (RYA)
Coastal groups	Norfolk Coast Partnership
	National Coast Watch Institution
	North Sea Regional Advisory Council
	RNLI Cromer Lifeboat Station
	RNLI Happisburgh Lifeboat Station
	RNLI Wells-next-the-Sea Lifeboat Station
	RNLI Sheringham Lifeboat Station
	RNLI Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Lifeboat Station
	Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership
	Wells-next-the-Sea Harbour Commissioners
	Mundesley Volunteer Inshore Lifeboat
	Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat
	Hemsby Inshore Rescue Service
	Wells and District Sea Angling Club
Business	Norfolk Association of Local Councils
	Country and Land Business Association

Interest Groups

In addition to the communities identified in core and wider consultation area, specific community interest groups were identified to be included in the Section 47 consultation. A list of those groups is presented in **Table 5-2**.

Table 5-2 Section 47 Interest Groups Identified

Section 47 Interest Groups
Active Norfolk
Age UK Norfolk
Alderman Peel High School
Aylsham High School
Better Broadband for Norfolk
Break Charity
British Trust for Ornithology
Broads Authority
Broadland Group
Caister Volunteer Lifeboat Service
Campaign to Protect Rural England - Norfolk
CEFAS
Community Action Norfolk
Country and Land Business Association
Cromer High School
Career Transition Partnership (Ministry of Defence)
Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust
East Coast College (Lowestoft Campus and Gt. Yarmouth Campus)
East of England Energy Group and EEEGR Skills for Energy
Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCA)
Eastern Sea Fisheries JC
Equal Lives
Fishing - Nick Bright
Great Yarmouth and District 41 Club
Greater Wash Fishing Industry Group
Gresham's School
Hellesdon High School
Hemsby Inshore Rescue Service
Holderness Fishing Industry Group
Holt Chamber of Trade

Section 47 Interest Groups
Kelling Primary School (nr. Landfall)
Mundesley Volunteer Inshore Lifeboat
National Coast Watch Institution
National Farmers Union (East Anglia)
National Trust
Natural England
Necton Substations Action Group
New Anglia Growth Hub
New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
NFFO (National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations)
No 2 Relay Stations (N2RS)
Norfolk Angling Club
Norfolk Archaeological Trust
Norfolk Association of Local Councils
Norfolk Chambers of Commerce
Norfolk Coast Partnership
Norfolk Coast Watch Institution
Norfolk Community Foundation
Norfolk Conservation Corps
Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)
Norfolk Independent Fishermen's Association
Norfolk Local Access Forum (LAF)
Norfolk Rivers Trust
Norfolk Young Farmers
Norfolk Youth Advisory Board
Norfolk Youth Parliament
North Norfolk Fishermen's Society
North Norfolk MCZ Agents of Change
North Norfolk Tourist Information Centre
North Sea Regional Advisory Council
Norwich Friends of the Earth

Section 47 Interest Groups
Norwich Mind
Norwich Tourist Information Centre
OPEN Youth Trust
Port of Great Yarmouth [Eastport]
Ramblers Association Wensum Group
Reepham College
Reepham High School
River Glaven Fishing Association
RNLI Cromer Lifeboat Station
RNLI Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Lifeboat Station
RNLI Happisburgh Lifeboat Station
RNLI Sheringham Lifeboat Station
RNLI Wells-next-the-Sea Lifeboat Station
Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association
Royal Yachting Association (RYA)
RSPB (Strumpshaw Fen)
Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat
Shelter Norwich
Sheringham and Woodfields Special School
Sheringham Chamber of Trade
Sheringham High School
Sheringham History Society
St Martins Housing Trust
Sustrans
The Boys Group
The Bridge Plus / Ethnic Minority Association of Norfolk (in Great Yarmouth)
The Broads Authority
The Workers Education Association
University of East Anglia
University of Suffolk
University Technical College Norfolk [UTCN]

Section 47 Interest Groups
Victory Housing
Visit East Anglia Tourist Information Centre
Visit Norfolk / Accessible Norfolk
Visit North Norfolk
Voluntary Norfolk
Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership
Wells and District Inshore Fishermen's Association - Nat King Chairman
Wells and District Inshore Fishing Association
Wells and District Sea Angling Club
Wells-next-the-Sea Harbour Commissioners
West Norfolk Disability Information Service
Whitlingham Charitable Trust
WI Norfolk
Woodland Trust
Yare Valley Society
Young Farmers and National Farmers Union (NFU)

Members of Parliament (MPs)

107. As elected community representatives, the Applicant identified relevant Members of Parliament (MPs) to engage with as part of the Section 47 consultation for SEP and DEP.

108. The relevant host MPs identified are as follows:

- Duncan Baker MP – North Norfolk;
- Jerome Mayhew MP – Broadland;
- George Freeman MP – Mid Norfolk; and
- Richard Bacon MP – South Norfolk.
- Neighbouring MPs identified are as follows:
 - Clive Lewis MP – Norwich South;
 - James Wild MP – North West Norfolk; and
 - Chloe Smith MP – Norwich North.

Elected Members and Parish Councils

109. As elected community representatives, the Applicant identified relevant parish councils to engage with as part of the Section 47 consultation for SEP and DEP.
110. The Applicant identified a list of host local parish councils with which it engaged throughout the pre-application process for SEP and DEP. Host parish councils were defined using the following criteria:
- Those which host the Development's onshore boundary; and
 - Those which host the core consultation zone, as defined in Section 5.2.1 of this consultation report.
111. A total of 47 host parish councils were identified, as outlined in **Table 5-3**.
112. A further 23 parish councils were scoped in following Phase One consultation due to the potential for SEP and DEP to impact their civil parish due to visual or compound location impacts. Further detail on this is provided in **Section 5.2** of this consultation report.
113. As elected community representatives, within this consultation report the Applicant has included engagement with parish councils as part of its Section 47 consultation. Host parish councils were also consulted as part of the Section 42 consultation, owing to their status as a Section 42(1)(b) stakeholder. Non-host parish councils were also consulted as Section 42 consultees.

Table 5-3 List of host parish councils in each local authority

Local Authority	Parish Councils
North Norfolk District Council	Baconsthorpe Parish Council
	Beckham East and West Parish Council
	Bodham Parish Council
	Corpusty and Saxthorpe Parish Council
	High Kelling Parish Council
	Itteringham Parish Council
	Kelling Parish Council
	Little Barningham Parish Council
	Matlaske Parish Council
	Plumstead Parish Council
	Upper Sheringham Parish Council
	Weybourne Parish Council
	Wickmere Parish Council
Broadland District Council	Attlebridge Parish Meeting
	Booton Parish Council
	Brandiston Parish Council
	Cawston Parish Council
	Felthorpe Parish Council
	Great Witchingham Parish Council
	Haveringland Parish Meeting
	Heydon Parish Council

Local Authority	Parish Councils
	Honingham Parish Council
	Morton on the Hill Parish Council
	Oulton Parish Council
	Reepham Town Council
	Ringland Parish Council
	Salle Parish Council
	Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council
	Weston Longville Parish Council
South Norfolk Council	Easton Parish Council
	Barford and Wramplingham Parish Council
	Bawburgh Parish Council
	Caistor St Edmund and Bixley Parish Council
	Cringleford Parish Council
	East Carleton and Ketteringham Parish Council
	Great Melton Parish Council
	Hethersett Parish Council
	Keswick and Intwood Parish Council
	Little Melton Parish Council
	Marlingford and Colton Parish Council
	Mulbarton Parish Council
	Newton Flotman Parish Council
	Shotesham Parish Council
	Stoke Holy Cross Parish Council
	Swainsthorpe Parish Council
Swardeston Parish Council	
Wymondham Town Council	

114. As elected community representatives, the Applicant also identified relevant elected members at the Local Planning Authorities to engage with as part of the Section 47 consultation on SEP and DEP.

115. Relevant elected members were identified as councillors at host 'B' and 'C' local authorities, as defined in [Section 5.5](#) of this consultation report, that:

- Represent a ward or division impacted by the Development; and/or
- Represent the council leadership or planning committee.

5.3 Defining and Identifying Section 42 Consultees

116. Section 42(1) of the 2008 Act requires that the Applicant must consult the following groups of stakeholders about the proposed Application:

- Such persons as may be prescribed;
- The Marine Management Organisation (MMO);
- Each local authority that is within Section 43;
- The Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London; and
- Each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44.

117. In relation to Section 42(1)(a) the Applicant consulted all prescribed consultees; defined as statutory consultees listed in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations and by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations, referred to in this Consultation Report as the 'Section 42 consultees' and listed in **Appendix 6**.
118. In addition to the prescribed consultees identified by the Planning Inspectorate, the Applicant included a further 162 non-prescribed organisations to be consulted as Section 42 consultees owing to their interest in the Development (see **Appendix 6**, which details those prescribed and non-prescribed consultees). All of these non-prescribed Section 42 consultees received the same information and were included in the same way in the Phase Two consultation as the prescribed Section 42 consultees.
119. In relation to Section 42(1)(b), the local authorities prescribed by Section 43 of the 2008 Act are set out in **Section 5.5** of this consultation report.
120. Section 42(1)(c) of the 2008 Act is not relevant to the Projects as no land element of the Development is within Greater London.
121. For the purposes of Section 42(1)(d), persons within Section 44 of the 2008 Act are set out in **Section 5.5** of this consultation report.
122. **Appendix 6** lists the Section 42 consultees for the Development.
123. The Applicant consulted all Section 42 consultees and all of the bodies listed in **Appendix 6** of this Consultation Report.

5.4 Defining and Identifying Section 43 Consultees

124. Section 42(1)(b) of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to consult with the local authorities identified in Section 43 of the 2008 Act. Section 43 of the 2008 Act sets out four categories of authority:
 - 'A' is a neighbouring local authority (Section 43(2)) that shares a boundary with a unitary council or lower-tier district 'B' council within whose area development is situated;
 - 'B' is either a unitary council or a lower-tier district council in which the development is situated – a host local authority;
 - 'C' is an upper-tier county council in which the development is situated – a host local authority; and,
 - 'D' is either a unitary council or an upper tier county council which shares a boundary with a host 'C' authority – a neighbouring local authority (Section 43(2)a)).
125. Stakeholders identified under Section 43 for the purposes of Section 42(1)(b) of the 2008 Act will hereafter be referred to as 'Section 43 consultees'.
126. **Table 5-4** outlines Section 43 consultees identified throughout the consultation on SEP and DEP.

Table 5-4 Identification of Section 43 consultees

Authority	Category	Criteria for identification
Breckland Council	A	Breckland District Council is a lower tier district authority which shares a boundary with a B authority, Broadland District Council.
Broadland District Council	B	Broadland District Council is a lower tier district authority in which part of the Scheme is located
Cambridgeshire County Council	D	Cambridgeshire County Council is an upper tier county authority which shares a boundary with a C authority, Norfolk County Council.
East Suffolk Council	A	East Suffolk Council is a lower tier district authority which shares a boundary with a B authority, South Norfolk Council.
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	A	Great Yarmouth Borough Council is a lower tier district authority which shares a boundary with a B authority, South Norfolk Council.
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	A	King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council is a lower tier district authority which shares a boundary with a B authority, North Norfolk District Council.
Lincolnshire County Council	D	Lincolnshire County Council is an upper tier county authority which shares a boundary with a C authority, Norfolk County Council
Mid Suffolk District Council	A	Mid Suffolk District Council is a lower tier district authority which shares a boundary with a B authority, North Norfolk District Council.
Norfolk County Council (NCC)	C	Norfolk County Council is an upper tier county authority in which part of the Scheme is located.
North Norfolk District Council (NNDC)	B	North Norfolk District Council is a lower tier district authority in which part of the Scheme is located.
Norwich City Council	B/A	Norwich City Council is a lower tier district authority which shares a boundary with two B authorities, Broadland District Council and South Norfolk Council. At the time of consultation on the draft SoCC Norwich City Council was considered a 'B' host authority. Following refinement to the SEP and DEP project boundary, it was later recategorized as an 'A' neighbouring authority.
South Norfolk Council (SNC)	B	South Norfolk Council is a lower tier district authority in which part of the Scheme is located.
Suffolk County Council	D	Suffolk County Council is an upper tier county authority which shares a boundary with a C authority, Norfolk County Council

5.5 Defining and Identifying Section 44 Consultees

127. As identified under Section 42(1)(d), the Applicant must consult with the relevant persons defined under Section 44 of the 2008 Act, hereafter referred to as Section 44 consultees.
128. Section 44 consultees are defined as a person that is an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of the land; is interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land; or is entitled to make a relevant claim if the order sought by the proposed application were to be made and fully implemented.
129. Stakeholders with interests in land are hereafter referred to in this Consultation Report as Land Interests but are also included as Section 44 consultees.
130. The Applicant sought to identify the Section 44 consultees by diligent inquiry before the statutory consultation (See **Statement of Reasons Appendix 1: Summary of Land Referencing and Engagement with Landowners** (document reference 4.3.1) and **Statement of Reasons Appendix 4: Land Referencing Methodology** (document reference 4.3.1)).
131. To identify relevant land interests, the Applicant commissioned a search through the use of Her Majesty's Land Registry (HMLR) within the Scoping Boundary. This method was used to identify all registered titles and to obtain the official documents. From this search, all registered freeholders and leaseholders hereafter referred to as Landowners, within the Scoping Boundary were issued a Landowner Questionnaire (LOQ) to introduce SEP and DEP and for them to confirm, deny or amend their interest. The Landowners were also invited to provide further information related to any other interests in the land the Applicant should be aware of. LOQs were issued in January 2020 and followed up with further reminder letters, phone calls, emails or a site visit where no response was received. (**Appendix 16** lists the template LOQs and reminder letters).
132. Where additional areas were added to the Scoping Boundary during the pre-application development of the design, the same process was followed for identifying new Landowners.
133. Unregistered Landowners were identified where possible by utilising public sources of information including site visits and discussions with neighbours.
134. **Table 5-5** outlines the number of LOQ issued to Landowners identified as Section 44 consultees within the Scoping Boundary.

Table 5-5 Summary of Landowner Questionnaires (LOQs).

	Number of LOQs	Number of Landowners
LOQ Sent	983	587
LOQ Reminder Letters Sent	490	186
LOQ Site Visit	476	196
LOQ Returned	448	277
Response Rate	46%	47%

135. Where unregistered Landowners could not be identified in line with paragraph [124] above, unregistered site notices were erected. 24 LOQ unregistered site notices were erected on site for a minimum of four weeks.

136. Following the LOQ process of identifying Landowners, non-intrusive survey access licences were issued to enable the Applicant to undertake relevant ecological surveys. This process began on 1st May 2020; additional licenses were issued when new interests were found. Access for non-intrusive surveys was agreed either via voluntary licence agreement or informal agreement with affected parties. A total of 162 non-intrusive licence agreements were entered into across the project scoping area representing 62% of land within the PEIR boundary. Following refinement as detailed in **Statement of Reasons Appendix 1: Summary of Land Referencing and Engagement with Landowners** (document reference 4.3.1) and **Statement of Reasons Appendix 4: Land Referencing Methodology** (document reference 4.3.1)), title interrogation was undertaken on all affected HMLR titles.
137. Land Interest Questionnaires (LIQs) were pre-populated and issued to all relevant Land Interests identified from the title interrogation. The purpose of the LIQ is to identify and confirm all Land Interests that may be associated with land affected by SEP and DEP and their land ownership boundaries. LIQs were issued in January 2021 and followed up with further reminder letters, phone calls, emails or a site visit where no response was received.
138. Unregistered land interests were identified where possible by utilising public sources of information including site visits and discussions with neighbouring land interests.
139. **Table 5-6** outlines the number of LIQs issued to Land Interests identified following the refinement.

Table 5-6 Summary of Land Interest Questionnaire (LIQ) Responses.

	Number of LIQs	Number of Landowners
LIQs Sent	2406	546
Reminder Letter Issued	1603	369
Chase 1	1856	276
Chase 2	1696	203
Chase 3	1210	138
LIQ Returned	996	293
Response Rate	41%	54%

140. Where unregistered Land Interests could not be identified in line with paragraph 130 above, unregistered site notices were erected. A total of 99 LIQ site notices were installed on 29 April 2021 and were removed on 10 June 2021, therefore being on display for a 42-day (six-week) period. 29% of site notices required replacement due to damage or missing notices. In addition to erecting site notices, a newspaper advert was posted in local and regional newspapers (see **Table 5-6**) advising of the site notices and providing a link to a website which enabled parties to identify whether or not they had an interest in unregistered parcels of land shown on an interactive map. If any responses were received via this interactive map they were interrogated to check whether they had an interest and a follow-up LIQ issued to confirm their interest.

Table 5-7 Newspaper titles which featured the unregistered land advert.

Newspaper title
Diss Mercury
Wydmondham and Attleborough Mercury
Dereham Times
Fakenham and Wells Times
North Norfolk News
Norwich Evening News
Eastern Daily Press

141. Some Land Interests were added or removed following the LIQ process. Where new Land Interests were identified through contact referencing, LIQ form completion and correspondence with Land Interests, additional LIQs were issued where appropriate.

142. A list of all Land Interests consulted with under Section 42(1)(d) has been requested by PINS and provided by the Applicant (**Appendix 22**). This list has been checked against the **Book of Reference** (document reference 4.1), which is up to date at the time of submitting the application for a DCO. It is noted that the list of Section 42(d) consultees is subject to change over time, as a result of changes in land ownership. **Appendix 24** details the discrepancies between the Section 44 consultees consulted at Section 42 consultation and the **Book of Reference** (document reference 4.1).

Interests identified after the Statutory Section 42 Consultation period were written to in the same way as all other interests and given their own six-week consultation period in which to provide responses.

6 Non-Statutory Consultation with Section 47 Consultees (28 October 2019 – 09 July 2020)

6.1 Introduction

144. Outside of the statutory consultation phases conducted under Section 47 and Section 42 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant undertook ongoing non-statutory consultation with stakeholders including: technical groups, Landowners, Parish Councils, MPs and other community representatives, Local Planning Authorities and commercial users including fisheries and other commercial interests.

145. This ongoing and informal consultation commenced in October 2019 and continued up until DCO application submission. Ongoing engagement with a range of stakeholder groups enabled a continuous two-way dialogue between the Applicant and consultees and enabled the Applicant to continuously consider consultee feedback in the iterative design of the proposals for SEP and DEP.

146. The Applicant has an appointed Community Liaison Officer who was available to stakeholders from the outset of SEP and DEP.

147. The Applicant launched its dedicated website with interactive map and document library, virtual exhibition, freephone information line, and email address on 09 July 2020. These engagement platforms were available from 09 July 2022 and maintained for the remainder of the pre-application period.

6.2 Community Consultees

148. Outside of the consultation phases conducted under Section 47 and Section 42 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant hosted a Project Information Day in Aylsham, on 28 October 2019.
149. This event was intended to introduce the Development to the local community, ahead of further pre-application consultation in 2020. See [Appendix 10](#) for the engagement materials presented at this Project Information Day.
150. Feedback from the day included the community requesting better publicity of the consultation ahead, which the Applicant took on board in the approach set out in the SoCC. Feedback also included the desire from the community to find a joined-up approach with other proposals in the area. This theme in the form of cumulative impacts with Hornsea Project Three, alongside the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) continued as a key issue throughout the Section 47 consultation, as shown in [Table 1-2](#) of this Consultation Report with full Applicant responses to Section 47 consultation feedback provided in [Appendix 3](#) to this Consultation Report.
151. Further Project Information Days planned to take place in Bacton, Swardeston, Aylsham and Weybourne from 30 March to 2 April 2020 were cancelled due to the government restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

6.3 MP Meetings and Engagement

152. Outside of the consultation phases conducted under Section 47 and Section 42 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant engaged with MPs, as defined in [Section 5.2](#) of this consultation report.
153. The Applicant shared a copy of a briefing pack with a covering letter inviting each MP to a meeting to introduce early-stage proposals for SEP and DEP on 19 May 2020. A copy of this briefing pack and cover letter is available in [Appendix 9](#).
154. Further engagement with MPs following the start of Section 47 consultation on 29 April 2020 is detailed in [Section 230](#) of this consultation report.
155. Further engagement with MPs following the close of Section 47 consultation and Section 42 consultation on 10 June 2021 is detailed in [Section 5.2](#) of this consultation report.
156. The Applicant also held two meetings with Duncan Baker MP, details of which are shown in [Table 6-1](#).

Table 6-1 Summary of meetings with Duncan Baker MP.

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
14/10/2020	Duncan Baker MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Transmission Network Review; • Duncan Baker MP understands that any offshore transmission regime will be too late for SEP and DEP and DB will be supporting the projects; • Landfall location selection; • Community benefits; • Generating capacity; • Turbine size and quantity; and • Weybourne Woods and Kelling Heath.
14/05/2020	Duncan Baker MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic management; • Cable trench width and depth; • Offshore Transmission Network Review;
28/06/2021	Duncan Baker MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duncan Baker MP is surprised by the concerns of North Norfolk parish councils about SEP and DEP, considering lack of onshore substation. He is fully aware of the letter from Oulton PC, with the support of 31 Norfolk PCs; • Duncan Baker MP champions Weybourne Parish Council's expectations of support from the projects to enhance village infrastructure and environment; • Duncan Baker MP is of the opinion that North Norfolk District Councillors are listening very carefully to the concerns of their local PCs; • The Applicant confirmed what is meant by a 'pathfinder project'. Duncan Baker MP supportive of Equinor's wish that SEP and DEP should be treated as a pathfinder project in respect of shared transmission assets and has lobbied the BEIS Secretary of State on this matter; • Duncan Baker believes North Norfolk deserves to see education/skills/training benefits from SEP and DEP as well as construction and O&M jobs and contracts for the local supply chain; and • Duncan Baker confirmed he would like the Applicant to establish a SEP and DEP Community Fund, and he wants to be included in the discussions related to the definition of the benefits to be provided by such a fund.

6.4 Elected Members and Parish Council Meetings and Engagement

157. The Applicant held a number of meetings with individual parish councils along the SEP and DEP onshore cable corridor prior to Section 42 and Section 47 consultation phases.

158. Outside of the consultation phases conducted under Section 47 and Section 42 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant undertook ongoing non-statutory consultation including briefing meetings with elected members and parish councils.
159. The Applicant held four webinar Q&A briefing sessions. The briefings were held to introduce the elected members and parish councillors to the project prior to the publication of the SoCC (see [Appendix 8](#) for the draft and final SoCC, respectively). In support of the meeting, a briefing pack was sent to all elected members, parish councils and MPs (see [Appendix 17](#) for list). See [Appendix 9](#) for a copy of the briefing pack.
160. All elected members received copies of all consultation materials for the project, sent via email to the locally elected representatives as defined in [Section 5.2.4](#) and listed in [Appendix 17](#).
161. [Table 6-2](#) sets out initial meetings and briefing sessions the Applicant held with elected members and parish councils prior to SoCC publication on 09 July 2020.
162. Further engagement with elected members and parish councils following the start of Section 47 consultation on 29 April 2020 is detailed in [Section 11.2](#)
163. Further engagement with elected members and parish councils following the close of Section 47 consultation and Section 42 consultation on 10 June 2021 is detailed in [Section 5.2](#).

Table 6-2 Summary of meetings and webinars with parish councils prior to 09 July 2020.

Date	Parish Councils	Key Issues Discussed
24.02.2020	Meeting - Weybourne Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on SEP and DEP and consultation programme; • Landfall site selection; • Tourism and community benefits; • Deep History Coast Trail; • Land recovery from previous projects; • Local roads; • Construction schedule; • Decommissioning; and • Barge delivery.
12.03.2020	Meeting - Swardeston Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on SEP and DEP and consultation programme; • Substation size; • Property compensation; • Substation site selection process transparency; • Substation site selection & assessment of the alternatives; • Offshore Ring Main; • Orsted coordination; • Construction timeline; and • Construction traffic.
14.05.2020	Meeting – Weybourne Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on SEP and DEP; and • Landfall location selection.

22.06.2020	Webinar - all parish councils and elected members invited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on SEP and DEP given with a focus on landfall and upcoming Phase One consultation; and • Q&A session.
23.06.2020	Webinar - all parish councils and elected members invited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on SEP and DEP given with a focus on the onshore cable corridor and upcoming Phase One consultation; and • Q&A session.
24.06.2020	Webinar - all parish councils invited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on SEP and DEP given with a focus on the onshore cable corridor and upcoming Phase One consultation. • Q&A session.
25.06.2020	Webinar – NCC elected members invited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on SEP and DEP given with a focus on upcoming Phase One consultation; and • Q&A session.

6.5 Non-Statutory Consultation with Section 42 Consultees prior to 29 April 2021.

164. In addition to the EPP (explained in **Section 4.7** and documented in **Appendix 1 Evidence Plan**) the Applicant undertook consultation with a range of statutory and non-prescribed consultees to seek advice on subjects including the site selection process, approach to the EIA and drafting the application documents.
165. The Applicant engaged with Ofgem, BEIS and National Grid regarding the coordinated approach to SEP and DEP during this period. Information regarding this engagement can be found within the **Scenarios Statement** (document reference 9.28)

Commercial Fisheries

166. **Table 6-3** sets out discussions that the Applicant had with commercial fisheries groups outside of the Evidence Plan Process and ahead of the statutory Section 42 consultation, which commenced on 29 April 2021.
167. The following local stakeholders were approached but declined to comment:
- North Norfolk Fishermen’s Society;
 - Wells and District Fishermen’s Association;
 - Greater Wash Fishing Industry Group;
 - Independent fisherman; and
 - Eastern England Fish Producers Organisation Ltd.

Section 14.3 details discussions held with commercial fisheries groups post-Section 42 consultation leading up to Application submission.

Table 6-3 Summary of ongoing non-statutory engagement with Commercial Fisheries groups ahead of the Section 42 consultation.

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
22/07/2020	Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported that whelk fishing is increasing in intensity in the wash and as a result vessels are moving into deeper water to fish.
23/07/2020	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation's (NFFO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NFFO reported that they would have an objection to unprotected surface lay of cable due to risk of gear snagging; NFFO recommended sourcing UK VMS data for 12-14.99 metre vessels; Extension to a Marine Protected Area (MPA), which could result in additional loss of fishing ground due to management measures within that extended area; and Clarity of where hazards to fishing vessels would be assessed.
06/08/2020	Jonas Seafood Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted that there is a three mile restriction on trawling from the shore; Landing data for the port of Wells seems low. This may be because under 35kg landings from one vessel are not required to be recorded; and Concerns about the lack of availability of supply of crab during construction of the extension projects. The business would like to be compensated for the loss from the developer.
07/08/2020	North Norfolk Independent Fishermen's Association (NNIFA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of pile driving, including sediment disturbance, on fisheries resources especially filter feeders and sea bed species; NNIFA reported that they would have an objection to unprotected surface lay of cable due to risk of gear snagging; Noted that concurrent construction of projects was preferable; Additional costs and effort due to detouring around infrastructure; Compensatory measures are required; Boats that do not normally fish in this area are already appearing; and Smaller catches i.e. 35kgs and under are not required to be recorded so there may be a distortion of the true landings. Clarity of where hazards to fishing vessels would be assessed.

Commercial Interests

169. The Applicant engaged with a number of commercial organisations including offshore oil and gas asset owners and other offshore wind farms to introduce the proposals for SEP and DEP and seek to gain an early understanding of any interactions with other parties assets or interests ahead of the formal Section 42 consultation.
170. **Table 6-4** sets out the key discussions that the Applicant had with commercial interest groups outside of the Evidence Plan Process and ahead of the Section 42 consultation.
171. **Section 14.3** details the ongoing discussions the Applicant had with commercial interest groups post-Section 42 consultation leading up to the Application submission.

Table 6-4 Summary of non-statutory engagement with stakeholders with commercial interests ahead of the Section 42 consultation.

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
01/12/2020	EDF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced SEP and DEP and consultation timeline; EDF introduced Bloy's Grove solar farm; and Discussion on National Grid access road.
15/09/2020	Aminth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced SEP and DEP and consultation programme; Shortlisted substation sites; and Introduction to Aminth Energy.
24/08/2020, 09/02/2022	Pivot Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced SEP and DEP and consultation programme; Shortlisted substation sites; Overview of Pivot Power Battery Storage facility; and Onshore substation access options.
27/11/2020, 14/04/2021	Galliford Try	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Distributor Road, Norwich Western Link, and cumulative impacts; Orsted and Vattenfall construction traffic; Introduction of SEP and DEP; PEIR timeline; and File sharing.
18/01/2020	Norwich Western Link and A47 dualling (NCC and Highways England)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of SEP and DEP and programme; Summary of Norwich Western Link; Summary of A47 dualling; and Other schemes.
21/08/2020	Orsted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Substation site selection process; Substation DCO area; and Substation access.
08/01/2021	Anglian Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Assets; New Assets; Construction Compounds; Source protection zones; and Agreements with Anglian Water.
08/01/2021	Vattenfall – Vanguard Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project update; and Cable crossing of the Vattenfall onshore cable.
28/01/2021	Brockwell Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project update.

03/02/2021, 19/02/2021, 26/02/2021	National Grid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update; and • Access to the Equinor onshore substation.
01/02/2021	Perenco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production may continue from Waveney until 2025; • Concerns regarding displacement of shipping lanes; • No decommissioning plans at present for nearby installations and pipelines; • No exploration activities planned in the area; • Potential concerns with access to Waveney and the neighbouring pipelines (Durango and Bacton-Lancelot); and • There will be a need for future decommissioning work which will likely require a jack-up rig (and 500m safety zone), noting this includes the Durango well. Consideration needs to be given to access in addition to space to undertake the operations.
19/02/2021	Tarmac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update.
30/03/2021, 18/01/2022	Western Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update; and • Schedule.
22/03/2021	Orsted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project updates; • Offshore cable crossings; • Potential landfall interactions; • Onshore opportunities and risks; • Potential main construction compound at Oulton; • Onshore substation interactions; and • Bio-diversity net gain.
15/04/2021	National Highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project updates; • National Highways project updates; • Interaction of both projects; • Investigate need for crossing agreement; and • Biodiversity net gain/ mitigation .
21/04/2021	Orsted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project updates; • Offshore cable crossings; • Potential landfall interactions; • Onshore opportunities and risks; • Hornsea Project Three; • Potential main construction compound at Oulton; • Cumulative traffic considerations; • Onshore substation interactions; and • Bio-diversity net gain.
23/04/2021	Independent Oil and Gas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elgood and Blythe are the key IOG assets to be assessed, noting pipeline access will also need to be considered; • Following completion of drilling, no further well intervention is expected to be needed until later in the field life; • It is anticipated that the field will be visited twice per month for 4-5 days total, reducing to one visit per month for 4-5 days total; • Standard Multi Role Vessels (MRV) will be used, and they will likely mobilise from either Lowestoft or Great Yarmouth; and

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following drilling at Elgood and installation of Blythe, there are no further rig or jack-up operations planned.
14/06/2021	Network Rail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Update; Basic Asset Protection Agreement; and Access routes of the onshore cable to the onshore substation.
20/09/2021	Orsted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Updates; Follow up of actions from last meeting; Section 42 Consultation; Community Engagement in Norfolk; and Way Forward.

Shipping and Navigation

172. **Table 6-5** sets out ongoing discussions that the Applicant had with shipping and navigation groups outside of the Evidence Plan Process and ahead of the Section 42 consultation.

173. **Section 14.3** details the ongoing discussions the Applicant had with these groups post-Section 42 consultation leading up to the Application submission.

Table 6-5 Summary of non-statutory engagement meetings with Shipping and Navigation stakeholders ahead of the Section 42 consultation

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
25/09/2018	Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) /Trinity House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irregular areas presents challenges with respect to lighting and marking. Preference for extensions to be one area rather than several; Preference for two lines of orientation; Alignment issues between Dudgeon and Dudgeon Extension; and Shipping corridors should be calculated as per MGN 654.
15/06/2020	MCA/ Trinity House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No isolated or protruding structures; In terms of SAR, lighting and marking and alignment, greater concern over DEP; Content with proposed approach; Radio surveys pre and post construction; and Alterations to lighting and marking of existing sites may be necessary.
17/09/2020	Cruising association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content with approach to NRA & marine traffic data; Concerns over increased squeezing of traffic increasing collision risk; Effect on COVID on traffic surveys; and Potential for routeing measures in the area.
30/09/2020	RYA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content with approach to NRA and marine traffic data; Concerns relate to under keel clearance and snagging; MGN 654 compliance;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of considering density grids and boating areas of Coastal Atlas; • Pleased with summer marine traffic survey approach; and • Concerns over increased recreational vessel collision risk.
06/10/2020	Chamber of Shipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment with existing turbines; • MGN 654 compliance; • Pleased to see seasonal variation captured in traffic data; • British Marine Aggregate Producers Association (BMAPA) routes should be considered; and • Post wind farm routeing to consider both sites.

Table 6-6 Summary of responses from Shipping and Navigation stakeholders to the 16 September 2020 request letter ahead of the Section 42 consultation.

Stakeholder	Response
DFDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant impacts are expected.
Furetank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queried what safety zones would be utilized.
Whitaker Tankers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No impacts are expected.
Sentinel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments on the Project.
P&O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routes would require to deviate to avoid the SEP wind farm site, and that this would lead to increased distance and fuel costs.
Boston Putford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routes would require to deviate and this may cause increases to traffic in other areas; • Noted that site is close to the Perenco Waveney platform and could cause restricted access to platform; and • Boston Putford vessels would not likely transit through the array.
Essberger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deviations would be limited on an individual basis but will have cumulative effect on emissions; and • Deviations may also increase traffic in certain areas increasing collision risk.
Stena Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certain routeing will be required to deviate, and the reduction in sea room may lead to increased collision risk; and • Indicated that Stena vessels would not transit through the array.
GEFO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipate limited / manageable deviation.

Aviation and Radar

174. **Table 6-7** sets out ongoing discussions that the Applicant had with aviation and radar groups outside of the Evidence Plan Process and ahead of the Section 42 consultation.

175. **Section 14.3** details the ongoing discussions the Applicant had with these groups post-Section 42 consultation leading up to the Application submission.

Table 6-7 Summary of non-statutory engagement meetings with Aviation and Radar stakeholders ahead of the Section 42 consultation

Date	Stakeholder	Comment
13/10/20	Noordzee Helikopters Vlaanderen (NHV) Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located to the south and west of normal NHV operations; • Overflight may be required during poor weather; and • Obstacle free transit corridors may be required for flight at lower altitudes to avoid icing.
13/10/20	Anglia Radar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact to NATS radar systems are expected, as are current Air Traffic Control (ATC) operations; • Helicopter Main Routes (HMR) and Minimum Safe Altitudes (MSA) in the vicinity of the wind farm sites will require assessment; and • Consult with helicopter operators.
21/10/20	Norwich Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact to Air Traffic Control Safe Minimum Altitude Chart (ATCSMAC) will require assessment; and • Norwich Airport and Cromer PSR may be impacted by the turbine detection.
26/10/20	UniFly Helicopters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments.
18/11/20	MCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCA will engage with the Applicant from a SAR and navigation safety point of view.

6.6 Ongoing Non-Statutory Consultation with Section 43 Consultees

176. **Table 6-8** sets out ongoing discussions that the Applicant had with 'B' and 'C' Host Authorities ahead of the Section 42 consultation.

177. Following refinement of the onshore cable corridor, Norwich City Council was subsequently removed as a 'B' Host Authority, to an 'A' Neighbouring Authority.

178. Following refinement to offshore proposals and a more developed understanding of wider Seascape and Visual Impacts of SEP and DEP, the Applicant engaged with authorities in Lincolnshire. The Applicant sent a letter on 24 February 2021 to the following authorities, detailing that the wider consultation zone for SEP and DEP was being extended to some parts of their district:

- Boston Borough Council;
- East Lindsey District Council; and
- South Holland District Council.

179. **Section 14** details the ongoing discussions the Applicant had with Section 42 consultees post-Section 42 consultation leading up to the Application submission.

Table 6-8 Summary of ongoing non-statutory engagement with 'B' and 'C' Host Authorities prior to Section 42 consultation.

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
17.01.2020	Norwich City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced SEP and DEP and consultation programme; • Invitation to Norwich City Council to join Landscaping Topic Group; • Confirmation Norwich City Council wish to input into draft SoCC; and • Norwich City Council would like to be kept informed.
29.01.2020	Norfolk County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEP and DEP and key programme dates introduced to NCC officer; • Discussion on traffic impacts; • Discussion on HVAC decision; • Discussion on habitats around Weybourne and Paston Barns; • Discussion on ETGs; • Discussion on PRoWs and coastal path; • Confirmation that NCC wish to input into draft SoCC; and • NCC would like to be kept informed.
30.01.2020	South Norfolk Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to SEP and DEP; • Construction traffic; • Onshore substation site and heritage assets; • Substation visualization request; and • Confirmation that SNC wish to input into draft SoCC.
23.04.2020	North Norfolk District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to SEP and DEP; and • Covid 19 consultation.
23.04.2020	Norfolk County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on SEP and DEP; • Onshore substation options; and • Consultation timeline.
23.04.2020	South Norfolk Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on SEP and DEP; • Onshore substation options; • Consultation timeline; • Update following Swardeston Parish Council meeting; and • Traffic and transport.
14.05.2020	Norfolk County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on SEP and DEP; • Landfall decision; and • Consultation programme.

15.05.2020	North Norfolk District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction impacts; • Hornsea Three impacts; • Traffic impacts; and • Landfall location.
------------	--------------------------------	---

6.7 Ongoing Non-Statutory Consultation with Section 44 Consultees

180. Outside of the consultation phases conducted under Section 47 and Section 42 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant consulted extensively with Section 44 consultees within the SEP and DEP onshore DCO boundary.
181. Landowner knowledge and feedback was critical in shaping the final onshore export cable corridor for SEP and DEP and this was demonstrated by a number of route iterations, with feedback sought on the proposal as the preferred route emerged.
182. This refinement is further detailed in **ES Chapter 4 Project Description** (document reference 6.1.4).
183. The Applicant initially contacted Landowners in January 2020 to introduce SEP and DEP and to notify them of the initial Phase One surveys and Habitat assessments. Non-intrusive Survey Access Licences were then sent to Landowners on 1st May 2020.
184. Between the issuing of Non-intrusive Survey Access Licences and Phase One Section 47 consultation, the following correspondence was issued to Landowners to which it related:

Table 6-9 Summary of correspondence issued to Landowners between Non-intrusive Survey Access Licences and Phase 1 Section 47 consultation.

Document Type	Date
Landfall Location Decision Letter	1st May 2020
Targeted Substation Zone Notification Letter	3rd July 2020
Provisional Study Area Letters	3rd July 2020

185. During Phase One Section 47 consultation, the Applicant informally consulted Landowners on a 200-metre-wide Provisional Study Area. Landowners were encouraged to contact the SEP and DEP land team during the Phase One Section 47 consultation through the consultation leaflet, cover letters, and the virtual exhibition, where the appointed land agents, Dalcour Maclaren, could then answer any landowner specific enquiries.
186. Informal consultation with Landowners continued after the Phase One Section 47 consultation period. This consisted of individual letters, project newsletters with project updates, phone calls, emails, and face-to-face meetings to log and record feedback to help further refine the project proposals. Individual meetings were available to all Landowners along the proposed cable corridor, and they were written to on the 8th December 2020 requesting information regarding existing drainage and irrigation schemes.

187. In total, Dalcour Maclaren attended over 144 meetings with 203 Landowners and/or appointed land agents. This equates to 63% of land within the Scoping Boundary and 93% of land within the DCO boundary. All engagement and discussions with Landowners and/or appointed land agents was recorded.
188. Dalcour Maclaren, on behalf of the Applicant, provided feedback in face-to-face meetings and in writing or by phone, including general updates and individual responses where possible.
189. A summary of engagement meetings following the Section 42 consultation is provided in **Section 14**.

7 Preparation For Section 47 Statutory Consultations (09 July 2020 - 20 August 2020) & (29 April 2021 – 10 June 2021)

7.1 Summary

190. The Applicant published its SoCC at an early stage in the development process for SEP and DEP to encourage early participation from local communities in the development process and to ensure it had aligned with local authorities on how best to communicate with the local community. The SoCC detailed the nature of the project and set out the process by which local communities would be consulted on the proposed project.
191. Consultation with local communities was carried out in accordance with the commitments set out in the SoCC, which included a minimum of two rounds of consultation. Evidence of compliance with the SoCC is outlined in **Section 6.5** of this Consultation Report.
192. Over the course of the pre-application period, the Applicant refined its approach to community consultation, focussing its consultation activities in response to feedback and informed by the ongoing design and project knowledge development. Additional consultation activities were carried out, above and beyond the commitments made in the SoCC. These additional activities are outlined in **Section 14** of this Consultation Report.

7.2 Statutory Requirements and Guidance

193. Section 47(1) of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult on the proposed application with people living in 'vicinity' of the land to which the project relates.
194. Section 47(2) requires that the Applicant must consult each local authority within section 43(1) on the content of this statement, known as the SoCC.
195. In accordance with Section 47(3) of the 2008 Act, the deadline given for receipt of local authority responses to consultation on the content of the SoCC should be no less than the end of a 28-day period (commencing on the day after the day on which the local authority received the request for comments).
196. In developing the SoCC, regard must be held to the EIA Regulations and relevant guidance relating to pre-application procedure. Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations stipulates that the SoCC must set out whether the proposal is EIA development and, if so, how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on its PEIR.

197. The PEIR was submitted as part of the formal Section 42 consultation, which took place in parallel to the phase two Section 47 community consultation between 29 April and 10 June 2021.
198. Details of the requirements regarding the SoCC, in legislation and guidance, and how the project complied with these requirements are set out in **Appendix 2**.

7.3 Development of Statement of Community Consultation

199. **Section 5.4** of this report describes the identification of Section 43 consultees for the purposes of this consultation.
200. Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act states that before preparing the SoCC, the Applicant must consult each local authority that is within Section 43(1) about the content of the SoCC.
201. At the time of preparing the SoCC the relevant host local authorities within Section 43(1) that were consulted by the Applicant on the draft SoCC are listed in **Table 7-1**. At the time of consultation on the draft SoCC Norwich City Council was considered a 'B' host authority. Following refinement to the SEP and DEP project boundary, it was later recategorized as an 'A' neighbouring authority.

Table 7-1 Local Authorities under Section 43(1) consulted on draft SoCC

Local Authority	Classification
North Norfolk District Council (NNDC)	'B'
Broadland District Council (BDC)	'B'
South Norfolk Council (SNC)	'B'
Norfolk County Council (NCC)	'C'
Norwich City Council	'B' (at the time of consulting on the draft SoCC)

202. In addition to local authorities, the Applicant also shared the draft SoCC with the MMO and PINS on 21 May 2020.
203. The draft SoCC was sent to the local authorities by email before 17:00 on 21 May 2020 providing the statutory 28-day response period for comments ending 18 June 2020.
204. Following the start of consultation on the draft SoCC, NNDC requested an extension to the consultation period. The Applicant granted this extension, providing a further eight days to provide feedback.

7.4 Consultation on Draft Statement of Community Consultation

205. The comments received from the local authorities and how the Applicant responded and incorporated the comments are shown in **Table 7-2**.
206. The comments received from the MMO and PINS and how the Applicant responded and incorporated the comments are shown in **Table 7-3**.

Table 7-2 Comments received to the draft SoCC from local authorities

Comment to Draft SoCC	Applicant Response
North Norfolk District Council (NNDC)	
<p>Having reviewed the document provided titled ‘Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects – Draft Statement of Community Consultation’ North Norfolk District Council appreciates that it is often quite difficult to convey technical information regarding major developments, such as the Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Project, to a lay audience.</p> <p>The document introduces the project, sets out who you are as a company and provides a bit more detail on the projects and the onshore proposals. You then set out the proposed public consultation, what you will consult on, who you will consult (supported by information at Appendix A) followed by how you will consult and then sections on environmental information, the planning process, community consultation timeline and contact details.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p>
<p>Whilst the document is relatively clear, my only question is whether the document is clear enough on exactly why you are undertaking these consultations. Section 6 sets out ‘What we will consult on’ and sets out that ‘The overriding aim of our public consultation on the Extension Projects is to ensure that both community and technical consultees have a chance to understand, comment and influence the proposals’. Section 6 then goes on to state:</p> <p>‘We encourage local communities to give their views about how the Extensions Projects may affect them or their local area. We will be seeking feedback to help develop our proposals regarding, but not limited to:</p> <p>Our site selection process for the location of the onshore substation and potential energy storage/balancing search area and refinement of the onshore cable route. The offshore environment including consultation with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and commercial fisheries organisations. Short-term and temporary impacts during construction, such as traffic impacts, impacts on local amenities and the environment. Long-term operational impacts, such as on the local environment, landscape and visual amenity.’</p> <p>It may be helpful for local communities affected to understand from your material that consultation is not necessarily about whether they support or object to your proposals but it is an iterative fact-finding process seeking to identify any relevant issues or factors that need to be taken into account</p>	<p>The Applicant provided clarity in the final SoCC that the consultation process is an iterative fact-finding process, in Section 5 ‘Our public consultation’ of the final SoCC, under ‘Our consultation process’, as detailed in Table 7-5.</p>

<p>when formulating and refining your scheme. The more relevant information you can obtain now, the better informed and considered your proposals can be to any local issues.</p>	
<p>For many, the first question is going to be is my land or property affected. Will you have more detailed proposed cable route maps that people can locate their properties from? The second likely question for those communities that have already experienced NSIP offshore wind schemes is likely to relate to project timing and how that fits with the other NSIP schemes that could also be taking place within a similar timeframe. Construction impacts and disturbance are likely to be sensitive issues for affected communities Once those issues keys are clarified for affected parties it then becomes important to encourage sharing of local knowledge and information that can help lead to a successful project outcome.</p> <p>My advice therefore would be to boost Section 6 to give greater clarity as to why you are consulting and then ensure people understand how they can find more information about whether they are affected which, once known, will be relevant to why they may want to engage and share information with you.</p>	<p>The Applicant made detailed maps of the projects available at consultation, including an interactive map on the project’s website.</p> <p>As suggested, the Applicant added greater clarity to Section 6 ‘What will we consult on?’ by inserting the following text to page 11:</p> <p>The feedback from our community consultation will help us to mature our plans for SEP and DEP. We are asking for comments from an early stage of development so we can develop a deeper understanding of key issues in the community and can take them into account as the project evolves. This will be part of an ongoing dialogue with communities, during which we will welcome all kinds of feedback.</p>
<p>In terms of the list of hard to reach groups within Appendix A, this seems to be quite a good start. In terms of Tourism there is also Visit North Norfolk who would want to be engaged.</p> <p>In terms of Education / Youth you may want to consider contacting Sheringham High School, Cromer High School and Gresham’s School in Holt.</p> <p>In terms of Environmental / Recreation you may also want to contact CPRE Norfolk.</p>	<p>The Applicant added all of the recommended hard-to-reach groups to its list of hard-to-reach groups.</p>
<p>In respect of holding the Phase One public consultation between June and August 2020, we fully recognise there are challenges right now in safely holding public gatherings and exhibitions. With government advice evolving quite rapidly on social distancing requirements, whilst there will be many people who would have no problem or concern attending the proposed Phase One public event, equally there will be others whom for various reasons cannot attend or feel uncomfortable attending. It is therefore imperative to enable all interested parties to have reasonable access to material to be able to participate in the Phase One consultation.</p>	<p>Whilst the Applicant was unable to hold in-person consultation events due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Applicant ensured that all interested parties would be able to access both online and offline consultation information. Offline feedback methods included a Freepost address, Freephone information line, and email address.</p>

	<p>The Applicant added an additional line to the SoCC confirming that materials would be available in hard copy to Section 8 'How will we consult?' of the SoCC, on page 17.</p>
<p>Section 8 of your document appears to cover a wide range of methods of communication and is welcomed. If you would like the Council to make people aware of these consultation events on its webpages or sharing via social media, then please do let us know and we will do what we can to help raise awareness.</p>	<p>The Applicant shared consultation information with NNDC to be shared on social media platforms.</p>
<p>Finally, I would like to add that, as the project begins to progress we would welcome further opportunity to discuss with you matters and considerations relevant to North Norfolk including amongst other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • landfall methodology; • managing the construction impacts from an environmental health perspective (noise, vibration dust etc.); • managing the construction impacts from an economic perspective in terms of the impact on the tourism economy including the 'Actual Tourism Impact of Negative Perceptions' associated with a number of projects going on in the District during a similar timeframe; and • we would also be pleased to discuss landscape mitigation and enhancement with the suggested inclusion of a ten-year replacement planting requirement within any DCO. 	<p>The Applicant continued to engage with NNDC throughout the pre-application period.</p>
<p>Broadland District Council (BDC)</p>	
<p>Thank you for consulting Broadland District Council, in accordance with Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act, regarding the draft SoCC, as prescribed under Section 43(1) of the 2008 Act. The Council appreciates that in light of the current restrictions on public gatherings and access to community locations owing to COVID-19, that the draft SoCC has been adapted to respond to the extraordinary circumstance we find ourselves in. Having reviewed the documentation provided and noted in particular the proposed use of digital and non-digital communications methods to conduct your Phase One public consultation, the Council would not raise any concerns in respect of this approach.</p>	<p>Response noted.</p>

<p>With regards to the hard to reach groups, the Council considers the list to be very comprehensive and has no further suggestions to make.</p>	
<p>South Norfolk Council (SNC)</p>	
<p>Thank you for consulting B South Norfolk Council, in accordance with Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act, regarding the draft SoCC, as prescribed under Section 43(1) of the 2008 Act. The Council appreciates that in light of the current restrictions on public gatherings and access to community locations owing to COVID-19, that the draft SoCC has been adapted to respond to the extraordinary circumstance we find ourselves in. Having reviewed the documentation provided and noted in particular the proposed use of digital and non-digital communications methods to conduct your Phase One public consultation, the Council would not raise any concerns in respect of this approach. With regards to the hard to reach groups, the Council considers the list to be very comprehensive and has no further suggestions to make.</p>	<p>Response noted.</p>
<p>Norfolk County Council (NCC)</p>	
<p>Thank you for consulting Norfolk County Council on your draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). Overview The County Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft SoCC and broadly welcomes the suggested consultation approach as set out in Section 8 of the SoCC (see comments below). In particular the County Council recognises the positive steps Equinor are planning to take to engage with local communities while taking into account the restrictions on public gathering brought about by the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>Response noted.</p>
<p>Detailed Comments Core Consultation Zone (CCZ) – Section 7 of the SoCC indicates that the CCZ will extend by a minimum distance of 100 metres either side of the onshore project search area. It is felt that this CCZ should be extended to at least 1km either side of the project search area given the likely impacts on local communities during the construction period, particularly in terms of any increased HGV traffic movements.</p>	<p>The Applicant extended its Core Consultation Zone (CCZ) to a minimum of 1000 metres from any onshore project infrastructure.</p> <p>The Applicant continued with its county wide Wider Consultation Zone to ensure that wider stakeholders were notified of the consultation and could feedback on proposals for SEP and DEP.</p>

<p>It is noted that the Wider Consultation Zone (WCZ) currently covers the whole of the County. A more focused / targeted approach may yield more constructive engagement and feedback from the local community, for example covering an area 10 – 20 KM either side of the onshore project area. However, it is appreciated that taking a county-wide approach will ensure that the wider business community (supply chain) and skills sector (including local schools and colleges) will have an opportunity to feed into the process.</p>	
<p>Consultation Methods The consultation methods set out in Section 8 of the SoCC are generally welcomed and the County Council recognises that Equinor is adapting to the changes imposed by the Covid-19 restrictions. The County Council welcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open communications – free phone information line; freepost address; a dedicated community liaison officer; • Online consultation events – virtual exhibitions; interactive online maps; online meeting; and webinars; • Targeted leafleting; • Using local media; and • Use of Social Media - however, it is felt that Equinor should be pro-active in this respect and provide some paid-for social media work as opposed to just organic, to ensure they are targeting the right locations geographically and more likely to reach everyone in those areas. 	<p>The Applicant was proactive in its use of social media, promoting Facebook and Twitter posts to postcodes throughout the CCZ. Further information regarding Section 47 consultation advertising, including paid-for social media posts and the postcodes promoted to, is outlined in Section 8.2.</p>
<p>Timescales</p> <p>Government Covid-19 Planning Guidance (May 2020) supports the continued working-up of NSIP schemes, indicating:</p> <p>We are working closely with consenting Departments to support the continuation of decision-making, and with the Planning Inspectorate and National Infrastructure Planning Association to minimise the impact of current restrictions on the consideration of DCO applications.</p> <p>As such the timetable set out in Section 11 of the SoCC, while potentially challenging given the current restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 Pandemic, are nevertheless consistent with Government advice / guidance on progressing such projects.</p>	<p>Response noted.</p>

<p>Appendix A – Hard to Reach Groups</p> <p>It is suggested that you add the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership to this list i.e. as an organisation that may help you engage with harder to reach “business” groups.</p>	<p>The Applicant added New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership to its list of Hard to Reach groups.</p>
<p>Norwich City Council</p>	
<p>Thank you for sending through the Draft Statement of Community Consultation for the above project. My comments on behalf of Norwich City Council are as follows.</p> <p>The Councils Statement of Community Consultation sets out how Norwich City Council involves the community in planning issues https://www.norwich.gov.uk/downloads/file/2269/statement_of_community_involvement. This is clearly a document specific to Norwich and how we consult, however cross checking with consultation methods and any consultation bodies specific to consultation for this project would be advisable, in particular consultation bodies for the Local Plan.</p>	<p>Response noted.</p>
<p>Section 8, How you will consult. The Council produces a quarterly magazine called Citizen (digital and in print format) for its residents which includes developments of interest to local communities, events and activities. Placing notification of future consultation here would be a good way of reaching out to potentially a large number of residents in the Norwich Area. You can contact communications@norwich.gov.uk for more information.</p>	<p>The Applicant noted the council’s recommendation to include Citizen magazine in its list of publications. The Applicant endeavoured to include notice of their consultations within the publication, however publications were suspended due to Covid 19 at the time of consultation.</p>
<p>For inclusion within Appendix A can I suggest that in terms of local community/ recreational groups that could help to engage with harder to reach groups, the Yare Valley Society would be the main one within the Norwich area [REDACTED]</p> <p>Also, the Local Access Forum (LAF) in terms of reaching people with disabilities and recreational use of public rights of way, https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/partnerships/local-access-forum/about-the-local-access-forum</p>	<p>The Applicant added the recommended interest groups to its list of Hard to Reach groups.</p>

Table 7-3 Comments received to the draft SoCC from PINS and MMO

Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
PINS	
<p>In the documents you refer to the Inspectorate as PINS. The official abbreviation for the Planning Inspectorate is the Inspectorate. We understand that you might have used PINS due to space limitations. If you wish to use PINS please define it at first use.</p>	<p>Response noted. PINS has been defined from the outset in all project literature.</p>
<p>On the flow diagram on p21 it states that the Inspectorate accepts application on behalf of BEIS – this should be MHCLG.</p>	<p>The Applicant updated the flow diagram on page 21 of the final SoCC, as shown in Appendix 8.</p>
<p>Will there be any costs to provide documents to those without computer or internet access?</p>	<p>The Applicant clarified that consultation documents would be provided at no extra cost for those without computer or internet access in Section 13 of the final SoCC, as detailed in Table 7-5.</p>
<p>Please note that the Inspectorate has no formal role in the finalisation of the Statement of Community consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p>
MMO	
<p>The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) received the request for consultation on the Draft Statement of Community Consultation on 21 May 2020.</p> <p>The MMO has reviewed the documentation provided and has no comments to make. The MMO look forward to reviewing the supporting documentation for the Phase One consultation.</p> <p>The MMO reserves the right to modify its present advice or opinion in view of any additional matters or information that may come to our attention.</p>	<p>Response noted.</p>

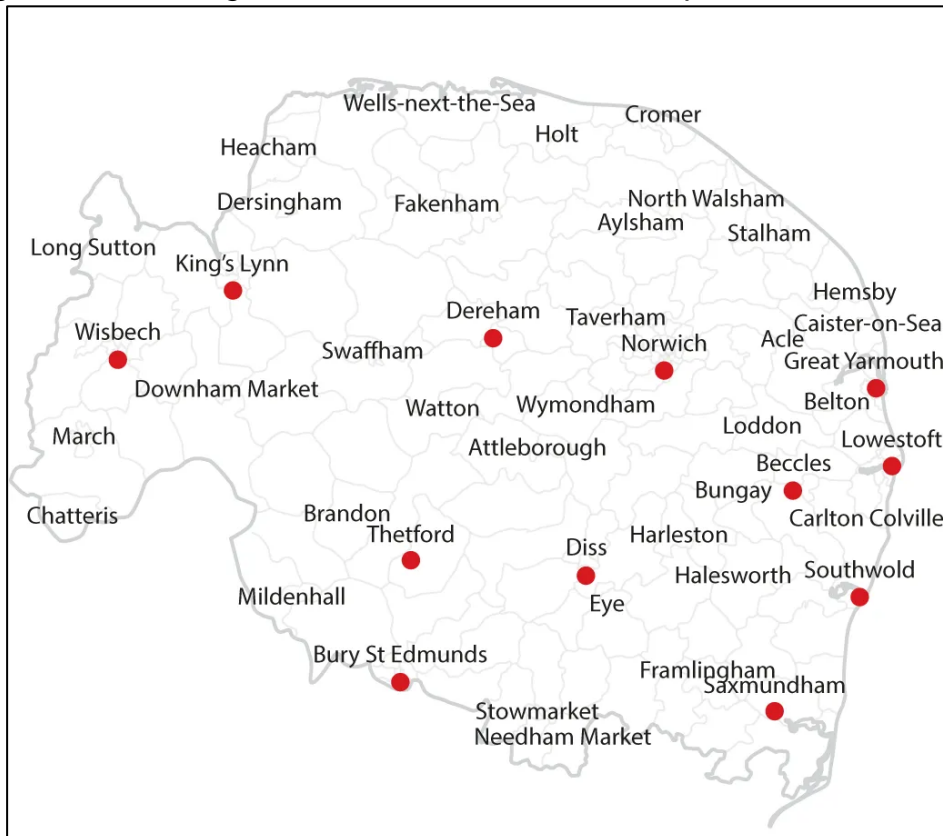
7.5 Publication of the SoCC

207. The SoCC was publicised in local newspapers on 09 July 2020 in accordance with Section 47(6)(a) of the 2008 Act. **Table 7-4** details the newspapers that were used to publicise the SoCC. Copies of the SoCC advertisement as it appeared in each of these publications are included in **Appendix 8** of this Consultation Report. The coverage area for these publications is shown in **Figure 7-1**.
208. In accordance with Section 47(6)(za) of the 2008 Act, the Applicant made the SoCC available for inspection by the public on the SEP and DEP project website ([REDACTED]) from 09 July 2020 and were available in hard copy on request.
209. The SoCC set out that the development was EIA development and explained how the Applicant intended to publicise and consult on the PEIR under Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations and in accordance with Section 47(6)(b) of the 2008 Act.
210. Section 47(7) of the 2008 Act requires consultation to be carried out in accordance with the SoCC. The table in **Appendix 25** demonstrates how this has been complied with.

Table 7-4 Newspapers and dates of SoCC advertisement

Newspapers	Publication Dates
Eastern Daily Press	09 July 2020
North Norfolk News	09 July 2020

Figure 7-1 Coverage Area of SoCC advertisement publications



8 Consultation Under Section 47 Of The 2008 Act (9 July 2020 – 10 June 2021)

8.1 Introduction

211. In continuation of **Chapter 7**, this chapter of the Consultation Report sets out the consultation activities undertaken by the Applicant with the people living in the vicinity of the land ('the community') to which the project relates under Section 47 of the 2008 Act.
212. As required under Section 47(7) of the 2008 Act, the Applicant carried out Section 47 consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the SoCC. A summary of how the Applicant complied with Section 47(7) of the 2008 Act through commitments placed in the SoCC is detailed in **Appendix 2**.
213. This chapter sets out the Phase One and Phase Two Section 47 consultation undertaken in line with the commitments set out in the SoCC in chronological order, covering the period from 09 July 2020 until 10 June 2021. This period includes:
- The publication of the SoCC on 09 July 2020 across the consultation area and publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act;
 - Holding Phase One Section 47 consultation between 09 July and 20 August 2020;
 - Ongoing engagement with local groups, Landowners, local residents and elected members between 21 August 2020 and 28 April 2021; and
 - Phase Two Section 47 consultation, which commenced on 29 April 2021 and closed on 10 June 2021 (in parallel to the Section 42 and 48 consultation running from 29 April 2021-10 June 2021).
214. Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations stipulates that the SoCC states whether the proposal is an EIA development and how preliminary environmental information will be consulted on. The SoCC included this information. The PEIR and a PEIR NTS were made available for community consultees to comment on as part of the Phase Two Section 47 consultation.
215. Early engagement with MPs, elected representatives and parish councils prior to SoCC publication is detailed in **Section 6** of this consultation report.
216. Early engagement with Section 44 consultees prior to SoCC publication is detailed in **Section 6** of this consultation report.
217. All ongoing community involvement beyond the Phase Two Section 47 consultation (i.e. after 10 June 2021) that took place up to the point of the DCO Application submission is detailed in **Section 14** of this Consultation Report.

8.2 Section 47 Community Consultation Activities

218. This section outlines the consultation activities that took place throughout the community consultation area, as defined in **Section 5** of this consultation report.

219. Further locations identified as having a potential for visual impact from SEP and DEP offshore arrays were brought into the Wider Consultation Zone following Phase One consultation. This included parts of East Lincolnshire, including Skegness, Sutton on Sea and Mablethorpe.
220. Prior to engaging with coastal communities and parish councils in East Lincolnshire, the Applicant contacted planning officers at Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council to inform them that parishes within their district will be engaged with during Phase Two consultation. This is detailed in **Section 6.6** of this consultation report.
221. For both phases of Section 47 consultation, throughout the core consultation zone, which included over 11,400 local homes and businesses, the following consultation activities took place:
- Direct mailings of consultation materials and newsletters;
 - Advertising across 8 and 17 local information points at Phase One and Phase Two, respectively;
 - Holding ongoing near neighbour and stakeholder meetings;
 - Placing site notices;
 - Hosting a virtual exhibition online;
 - Displaying all consultation materials on the Development website; and
 - Providing postcode promoted consultation updates via Twitter and Facebook.
222. For both phases of Section 47 consultation, throughout the wider consultation zone, the following consultation activities took place:
- Advertising across media channels covering the core and wider consultation area;
 - Engaging with the wider Norfolk media as well as regional and national media through press releases;
 - Making hard copy consultation information available on request;
 - Advertising across 13 and 80 local information points at Phase One and Phase Two, respectively;
 - Hosting a virtual exhibition online;
 - Displaying all consultation materials on the Development website; and
 - Using social media techniques including sharing consultation information on Twitter and Facebook.

8.3 Undertaking Consultation Under Section 47 Of The 2008 Act

223. Statutory consultation under Section 47 ran as two phases of community consultation:
- Phase One community consultation: 09 July 2020 until 20 August 2020; and
 - Phase Two consultation: 29 April 2021 until 10 June 2021.

224. The Applicant continued ongoing consultation between the consultation phases to enable comments to be received and considered as part of an iterative consultation process that fed into an iterative design response for the SEP and DEP demonstrating how consultation had been taken into consideration in the design of SEP and DEP.
225. The Applicant undertook the following consultation activities as set out in the SoCC:
- Literature – the Applicant published and distributed a range of literature to the consultation area and key stakeholders including: stakeholder briefing packs, consultation leaflets and newsletters;
 - Communication lines – a Freephone information line, Development email address, and FREEPOST address were available for interested parties to ask questions and provide feedback;
 - Development website – provided the latest development updates and all consultation materials and Development information;
 - Virtual exhibition – the Applicant provided a virtual exhibition for each phase of consultation, including exhibition banners, maps, videos, and feedback links;
 - Media and advertising – local media engagement and advertisements at each phase of consultation informed the wider consultation area of the Development;
 - Local information points – upon publication of community consultation leaflets and newsletters, the Applicant delivered hard copies to local information points for members of the community to read or collect; and
 - Stakeholder meetings – the Applicant met with sensitive stakeholders and interest groups including local residents and near neighbours on several occasions to discuss the Development and receive feedback.
226. Beyond the engagement measures set out in the SoCC, and owing to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, the Applicant held a series of five Community Q&A sessions throughout Phase Two consultation. These are outlined in further detail in [Section 2088352512.687](#).
227. As part of its Phase Two Section 47 consultation, the Applicant consulted on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Non-Technical Summary (NTS).

Hard-to-Reach Groups and Interest Groups Engagement

228. In addition to the over 11,400 properties and local businesses consulted within the core consultation zone, the Applicant identified additional local community groups, local nature conservation bodies, interest groups and harder to reach groups. These consultees were identified through early suggestions from the local authorities, and interest expressed at the Applicant's Phase One community consultation.
229. The full list of hard-to-reach groups and interest groups are listed in [Section 5](#) of this consultation report.

230. The Applicant shared consultation information with hard-to-reach groups and interest groups prior to both phases of Section 47 consultation. In addition, prior to Phase Two Section 47 consultation the Applicant encouraged organisations to share information regarding Phase Two consultation on the organisations’ internal newsletters, social media platforms or mailing lists, See **Appendix 12** for a copy of the covering letter sent to hard-to-reach groups and interest groups.

MP Meetings and Engagement

231. The Applicant engaged with MPs across the Development consultation area throughout the Section 47 consultation, between 09 July 2020 and 10 June 2021. The following engagement activities took place during this time:

- A copy of the Final SoCC and Phase One Consultation Leaflet was shared with MPs on 09 July 2020;
- A copy of the Phase One Consultation Summary Report was sent to MPs on 03 November 2020;
- A copy of the February 2020 Community Newsletter was sent to MPs on 16 February 2021;
- A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Letter was sent to MPs on 29 April 2021 which contained information regarding the consultation and how to access consultation materials;
- A consultation response was received from Jerome Mayhew MP on 09 June 2021 (see **Appendix 3**);
- A consultation response was received from Duncan Baker MP on 11 June 2021 (see **Appendix 3**); and
- A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report was sent to MPs on 25 November 2021.

Elected Member and Parish Council Meetings and Engagement

232. The Applicant held virtual briefing meetings with elected members and parish councils.

233. The list of parish councils evolved throughout the consultation process to reflect a greater understanding of local visual impacts and shortlisted compound locations.

234. Prior to engaging with parish councils in Breckland, the Applicant contacted planning officers on 14 April 2021 to inform them parishes within their district will be engaged with in Phase Two consultation.

Table 8-1 Additional parish councils engaged in Phase Two consultation owing to potential impacts from main construction compound sites or seascape visual impact

Local Authority	Parish Council
Breckland District Council	Lyng Parish Council
	Hockering Parish Council
North Norfolk District Council	Beeston Regis Parish Council
	Blakeney Parish Council

	Cley Next The Sea Parish Council
	East and West Runton Parish Council
	Morston Parish Council
	Overstrand Parish Council
	Salthouse Parish Council
	Stiffkey Parish Council
	Warham Parish Council
	Wells-Next-the-Sea Town Council
	Wiveton Parish Council

235. As detailed in **Section 6.4** 6.4of this consultation report, the Applicant held its first round of elected members briefing sessions between 22 June 2020 and 25 June 2020. The meetings were held to introduce the elected members to the Development ahead of the wider community consultation starting with the publication of the SoCC. In support of the meeting a briefing pack was sent to all elected members (see **Appendix 17** for list). See **Appendix 9** for a copy of the briefing pack.
236. Prior to Phase Two Section 47 consultation, the Applicant held its second round of elected members briefing sessions, between 26 and 28 April 2021. The meetings were to reintroduce elected members to refined proposals, provide information on the EIA and PEIR, and give details on the Phase Two consultation ahead of the wider community consultation starting on 29 April 2021. Following the meeting, a briefing pack summarising refined proposals was sent to all elected members (see **Appendix 17** for list). See **Appendix 9** for a copy of the briefing pack.
237. As for the MPs, all elected members and parish councils received copies of all consultation materials for the Development, sent via email to the locally elected representatives as listed in **Appendix 17**.

Stakeholder Forums Process

238. The Applicant also undertook dedicated parish and town council stakeholder forums.
239. Following Phase One consultation, the Applicant acknowledged the desire for parish councils to be more engaged in the consultation process. The Applicant therefore invited impacted parish councils to join a stakeholder forum to discuss issues most important to parish councils.
240. Three meetings were held for the parish and town council stakeholder forum. These took place virtually, via Zoom. The meetings were held on the following dates:
- 20 April 2021 – Stakeholder Forum 1.
 - 24 May 2021 – Stakeholder Forum 2.
 - 22 July 2021 – Virtual Information Session on the Offshore Transmission Network Review.

- 241. Reports from the stakeholder forums were shared with attendees following each session. These are available to view in [Appendix 18](#).
- 242. The first two stakeholder forums were facilitated by an independent facilitation team, to support open communication between the Applicant’s representatives and parish council representatives.
- 243. The third session was the product of feedback from the first stakeholder forum, from a desire for the Applicant to provide further information on its role in the Offshore Transmission Network Review. This session was facilitated by the Applicant, with attendance from National Grid Electricity Transmission and Offshore Wind Industry Council representatives.
- 244. A summary of attendance at each of these sessions is provided in [Table 8-2](#).

Table 8-2 Attendees at Parish and Town Council Stakeholder Forums

Stakeholder Forum 1	Stakeholder Forum 2	OTNR Virtual Information Session
Weybourne Parish Council	Weybourne Parish Council	Baconsthorpe Parish Council
High Kelling Parish Council	High Kelling Parish Council	Barford and Wramplingham Parish Council
East and West Beckham Parish Council	Cawston Parish Council	Beeston Regis Parish Council
Baconsthorpe Parish Council	Oulton Parish Council	Bodham Parish Council
Plumstead Parish Council	Haveringland Parish Council	Cawston Parish Council
Wells-next-the-Sea Parish Council	Wells-next-the-sea Town Council	Corpusty and Saxthorpe Parish Council
Itteringham Parish Council	Booton Parish Council	Cringleford Parish Council
Oulton Parish Council	Great Melton Parish Council	East Carleton & Ketteringham Parish Council
Cawston Parish Council	Hethersett Parish Council	Great Melton Parish Council
Haveringland Parish Council	Weston Longville Parish Council	Haveringland Parish Council
Mr Ray Pearce (representing Oulton Parish Council)	Little Melton Parish Council	Hethersett Parish Council
Corpusty and Saxthorpe Parish Council	Barford and Wramplingham Parish Council	High Kelling Parish Council
Weston Longville Parish Council	Swardeston Parish Council	Hockering Parish Council
Marlingford and Colton Parish Council	Cringleford Parish Council	Little Melton Parish Council
Barford and Wramplingham Parish Council		Marlingford and Colton Parish Council
Great Melton Parish Council		Morton on the Hill Parish Council
Little Melton Parish Council		Oulton Parish Council
Hethersett Parish Council		Plumstead Parish Council
Cringleford Parish Council		Swardeston Parish Council

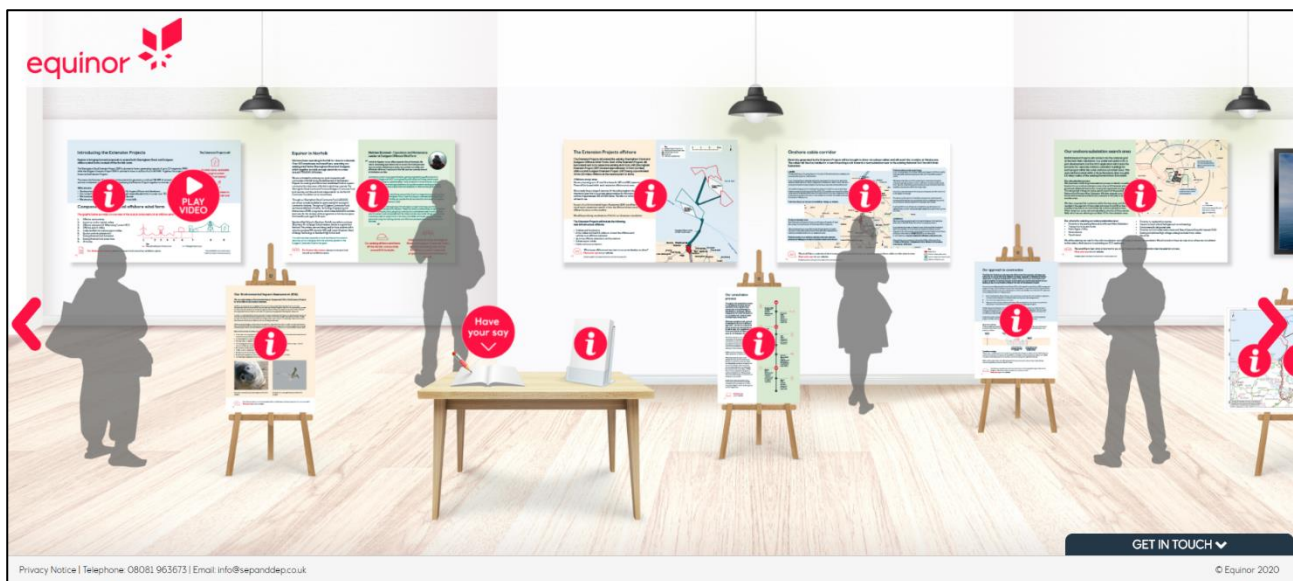
Keswick and Intwood Parish Council		Wells-Next-the-Sea Town Council
East Carleton and Kettingham Parish Council		Weston Longville Parish Council
		Weybourne Parish Council

8.4 Section 47 Community Consultation Phases

Phase One Section 47 Consultation (09 July – 20 August 2020)

- 245. The first phase of community consultation commenced on 09 July 2020 with a response deadline of 20 August 2020.
- 246. In compliance with the SoCC, the Phase One consultation featured digital and non-digital methods of engagement.
- 247. A virtual exhibition was created, which included display boards, videos, maps and links to provide feedback. A screenshot of the Phase One virtual exhibition is shown in **Figure 8-1**. During Phase One consultation there was a total of 1,703 visitors to the virtual exhibition.

Figure 8-1 Phase One Section 47 Virtual Exhibition



- 248. Copies of the information presented within the virtual exhibition are shown in **Appendix 14**.
- 249. A dedicated project website and online feedback platform was also created, to provide further detail on early-stage proposals for SEP and DEP and allow stakeholders to submit feedback online. A selection of screenshots from this website are shown in **Figure 8-2**. During the Phase One consultation there was a total of 1,265 visitors to the consultation website.

250. The dedicated project website and online feedback platform also included an interactive map, which showed the Phase One onshore and offshore project boundaries. This both allowed stakeholders to pan around the map and search for their desired location, in addition to adding location specific comments. This map tool is shown in **Figure 8-3**.

Figure 8-2 Screenshots from Phase One Section 47 consultation website and online feedback platform

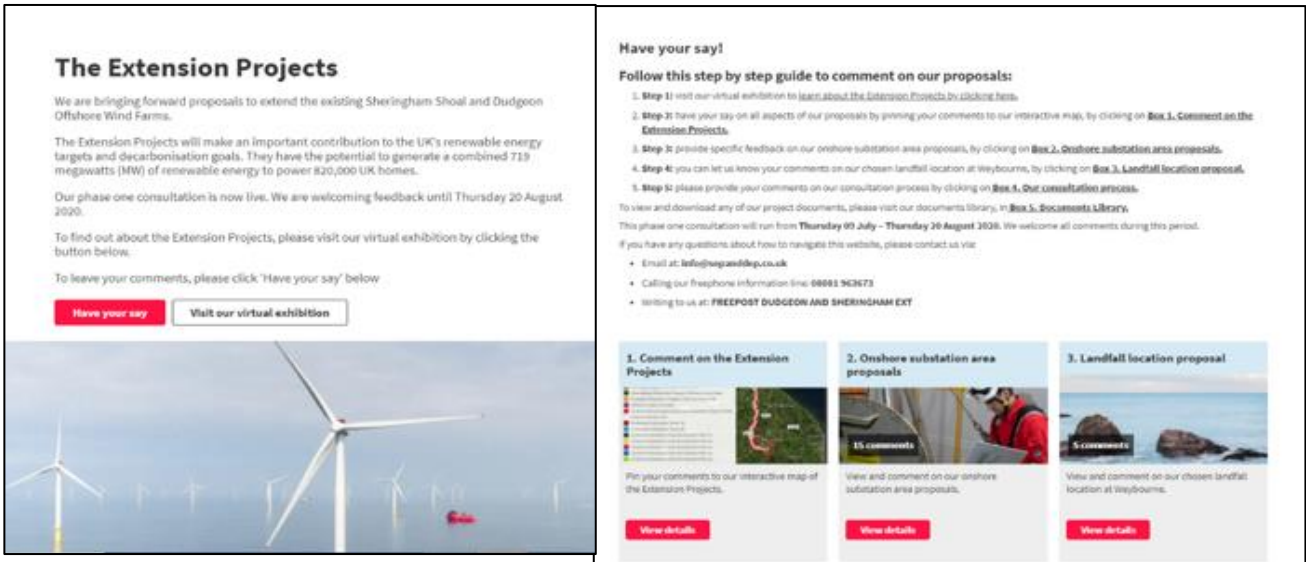
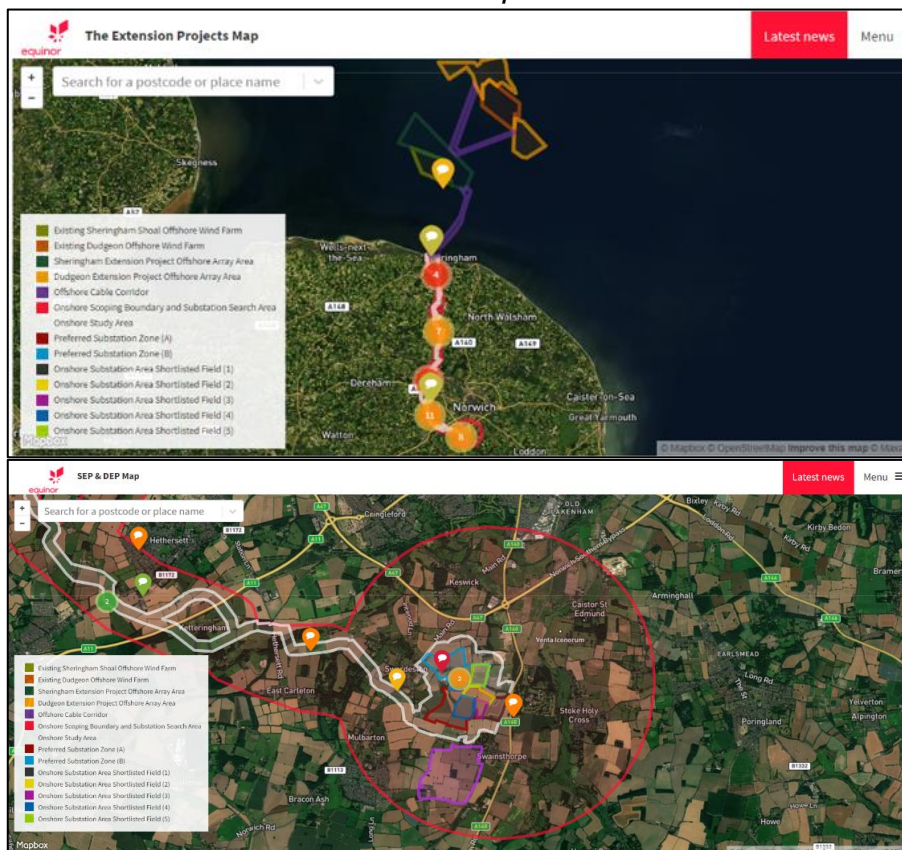


Figure 8-3 Phase One consultation interactive map



251. In order to ensure the Phase One consultation was accessible to those without website access, the Applicant also sent hard copies of any Phase One consultation materials on request. As outlined in **Section 8.2**, hard copies of the Phase One community consultation leaflet and feedback form were also sent to all homes and businesses located within the core consultation zone.
252. Feedback to Phase One consultation was accepted via the following online and offline methods:
- Hard copy feedback forms sent to the project freepost address;
 - Submitted through the consultation website;
 - Emailed to the project inbox;
 - Shared via the project freephone information line; and
 - Send via letter to the project freepost address.
253. In total 299 responses were received ahead of the deadline of 20 August 2020, as shown in
254. **Table 8-3**. These are recorded and responded to in **Appendix 3**.

Table 8-3 Phase One Section 47 consultation feedback received via consultation channels

Feedback channel	Number of responses
Consultation website	77
Feedback form	154
Email	57
Telephone	10
Letter	1
Total	299

Phase One Section 47 Publicity

255. In addition to the SoCC publicity on 09 July 2021 (as detailed in **Section 7.5**) the Phase One consultation was publicised in the following ways:
- A consultation leaflet (see **Appendix 14**) was issued to over 11,400 properties and local businesses across the consultation area on 09 July 2020;
 - Local notices were sent to 21 local information points across the consultation area. Posters were laminated and packed in hygienic conditions to reduce the risk of Covid spread;
 - The consultation event details were posted on the SEP and DEP website;
 - Adverts were placed across local media, as detailed in
 -
 - **Table 8-4** (Advert shown in **Appendix 11**);
 - A press release was issued to the media (outlets that published features and editorial stories are detailed in

- **Table 8-5**); and
- Social media posts of Facebook and Twitter were shared, promoted to postcodes with the core consultation zone.

Table 8-4 Advertising schedule One Section 47 community consultation.

Newspapers	Publication dates
Norwich Evening News	09 July 2020
Diss Mercury	09 July 2020
Wydmondham and Attleborough Mercury	09 July 2020
Dereham Times	09 July 2020
Fakenham and Wells Times	09 July 2020

Table 8-5 Features and editorial stories regarding the Development’s Phase One Section 47 community consultation.

News outlet	Date
North Norfolk News	09 July 2020
Norwich Evening News	09 July 2020
Eastern Daily Press	09 July 2020
ReNews	09 July 2020
IJ Global	10 July 2020
Reepham Life	10 July 2020

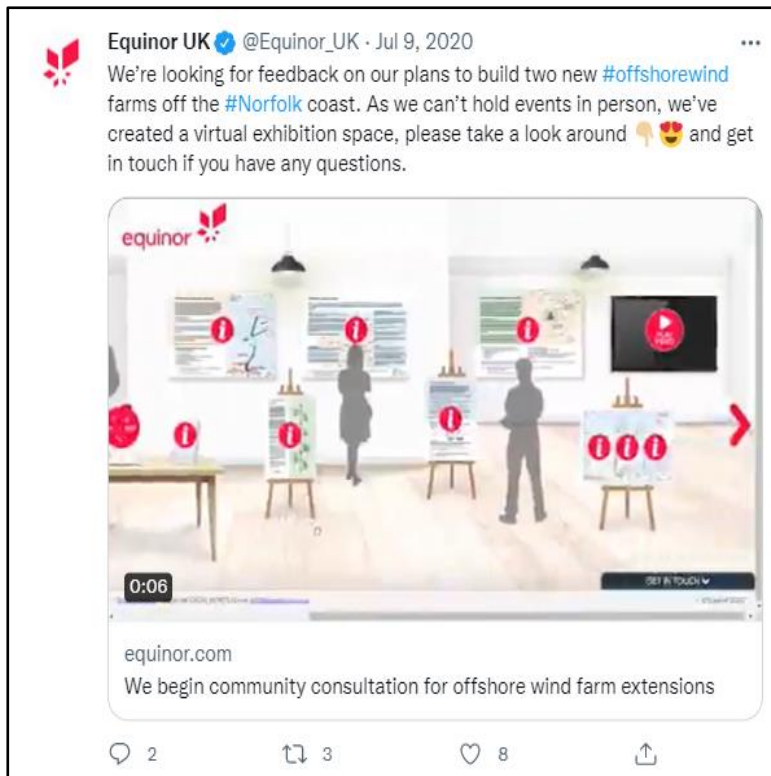
256. The coverage area of the Norfolk newspapers is shown in **Figure 7-1**. The coverage area demonstrates that the publicity activities were carried out in an area that covered and exceeded the consultation area for the Development ensuring that all interested parties were notified about the events.

257. The Applicant also publicised the consultation on social media, on both Facebook and Twitter, as detailed in the final SoCC, see **Appendix 8**. The Applicant used paid promotion on these posts to further publicise them in the core consultation zone. The following posts were promoted to the following postcodes:

- Cawston, Norfolk - NR10 4
- Erpingham - NR11 7
- Hardingham, Norfolk - NR9 4
- Hethersett - NR9 3
- Holt, Norfolk - NR25 7
- Holt, Norfolk - NR25 6
- Lenwade, Norfolk - NR9 5
- Norwich, Norfolk - NR4 6

- Oulton, Norfolk - NR11 6
- Ringland, Norfolk - NR8 6
- Sheringham - NR26 8
- Swardeston - NR14 8
- Wymondham, Norfolk -NR18 9
- Shotesham All Saints, Norfolk - NR15 1

Figure 8-4 Examples of social media posts publicising Phase One Section 47 consultation

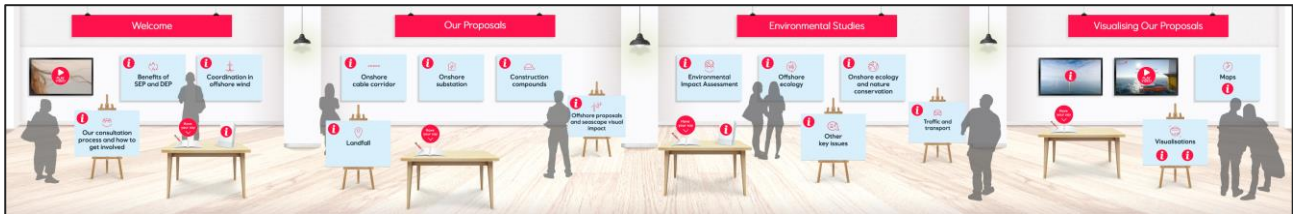


Phase Two Statutory Section 47 Consultation (29 April – 10 June 2021)

- 258. The second phase of community consultation commenced on 29 April 2021 with a response deadline of 10 June 2021.
- 259. In compliance with the SoCC, the Phase Two consultation featured digital and non-digital methods of engagement.

260. An updated virtual exhibition was created, which included display boards, videos, maps and links to provide feedback. A screenshot of the Phase Two virtual exhibition is shown in Figure 8-5. During Phase Two consultation there was a total of 1,260 visitors to the virtual exhibition.

Figure 8-5 Phase Two Section 47 virtual exhibition




- 261. Copies of the information presented within the updated Phase Two virtual exhibition are shown in [Appendix 12](#).
- 262. The dedicated project website and online feedback platform was updated for Phase Two consultation. A selection of screenshots from this website are shown in [Figure 7.6](#). During Phase Two consultation there was a total of 3,637 visitors to the consultation website.
- 263. Visualisations of the onshore substation and offshore turbines were made available on the consultation website, featuring a slider to compare visualisations to current views from a selection of viewpoints. Examples of this design module is shown in [Figure 8-5](#), [Figure 8-6](#) and [Figure 8-7](#).
- 264. The Applicant also created a video showing 3D visualisations of offshore proposals for SEP and DEP from key coastal viewpoints, available on its virtual exhibition. A still from this video is shown in Figure 8-8. The video can also be accessed here:



Figure 8-6 Design module showing offshore visualisations

Viewpoint 3 - Sheringham Promenade

The below image shows the existing view from Viewpoint 3 Sheringham Promenade.



The below slider shows what the view from Sheringham Promenade will look like with either 14 megawatts (MW) turbines or 26 MW turbines. These are the smallest and largest options for turbine heights included in our proposals for SEP and DEP.

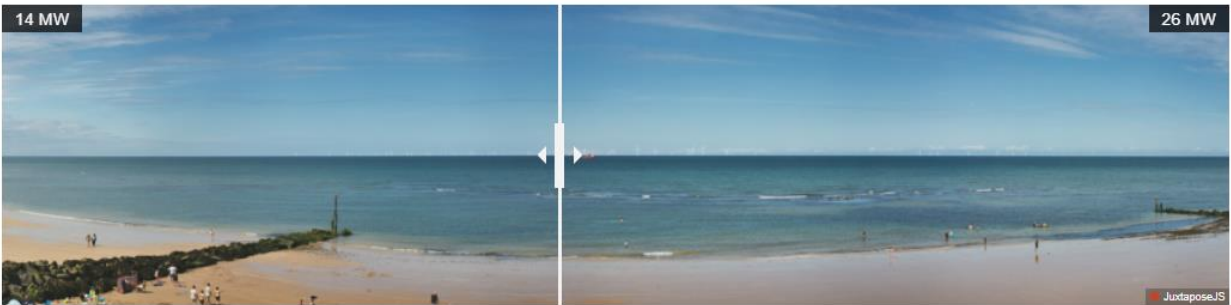


Figure 8-7 Design module showing onshore substation visualisations

Viewpoint 2

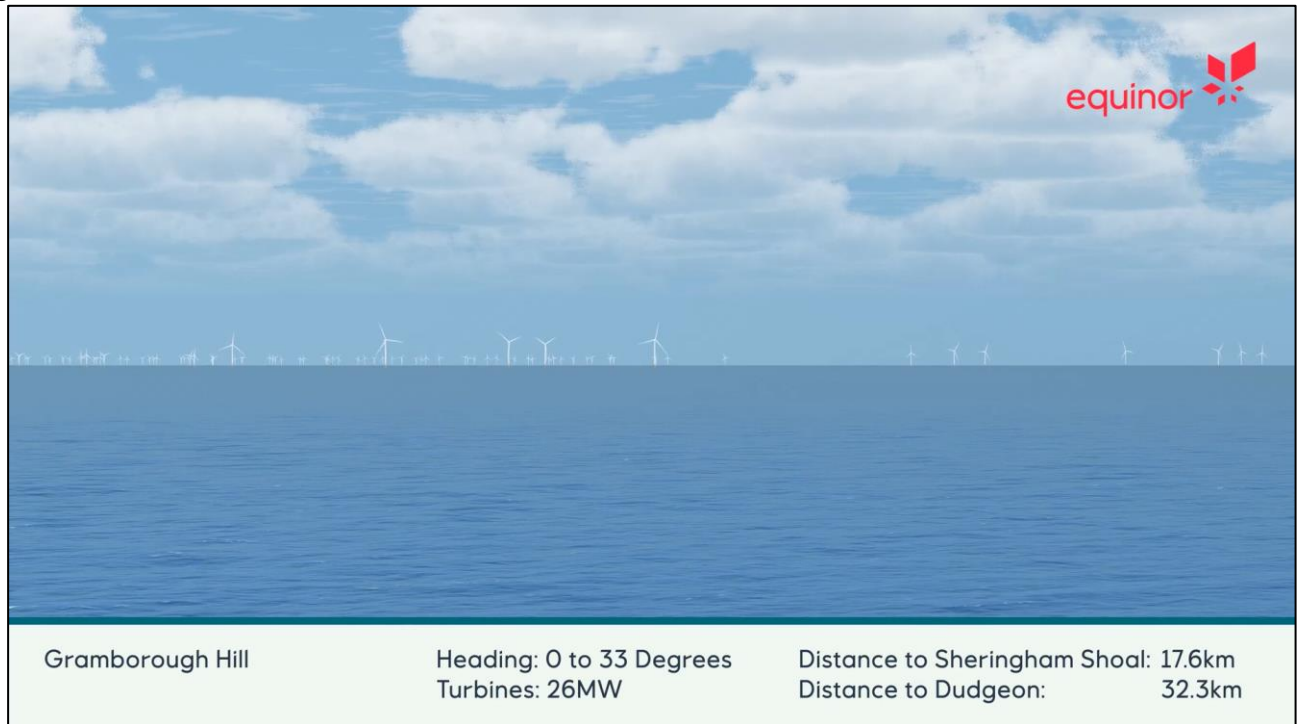
The below image shows the existing view from viewpoint 2.



The below slider shows the substation visualisations for site 1 or site 2 from viewpoint 2.



Figure 8-8 Still from 3D offshore visualisations video



265. The interactive map was updated to show the refined Phase Two onshore and offshore project boundaries. This both allowed stakeholders to pan around the map and search for their desired location, in addition to adding location specific comments. This map tool is shown in **Figure 8-10**.

266. The following information was available for download on the website, or in hard copy on request:

- SoCC (shown in **Appendix 8**);
- Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet (shown in **Appendix 12**);
- Feedback form (shown in **Appendix 12**);
- Consultation event display boards (shown in **Appendix 14**);
- Photomontages showing visualisations of the proposals from various viewpoints;
- PEIR Plans and Figures;
- Individual PEIR Chapters;
- PEIR NTS;
- Main Consultation Compound Site Selection Report;
- Non-technical Development fact sheets (shown in **Appendix 12**); and
- Section 48 notice (shown in **Appendix 11**).

267. The Applicant sent out the following Development information in hard copy following stakeholder requests:

- Three Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflets;
- Two Feedback Forms;
- Seven Project Description Plan Maps; and
- One Main Construction Compound Site Selection Report.
- The following Development information was available on a USB on request:
 - PEIR Plans and Figures;
 - Individual PEIR Chapters;
 - PEIR NTS; and
 - Main Construction Compound Site Selection Report.

268. The Applicant sent out ten USBs containing PEIR information following stakeholder requests.

Figure 8-9 Phase Two Section 47 Project Website and Online Feedback Platform

Have your say!

Follow this step-by-step guide to comment on our proposals:

1. Step 1: visit our virtual exhibition to learn about SEP and DEP [by clicking here](#)
2. Step 2: have your say on all aspects of our proposals by clicking on each respective numbered page and providing your comments

Additionally, if you wish:

- To learn about our community Q&A sessions and view access information, click below on box **10. Community Q&As**
- To view and download our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) in full, click below on box **11. PEIR Documentation**
- To view and download our information sheets, click below on box **12. Information Sheets**
- To view and download any of our phase two consultation project documents, click below on box **13. Documents Library – Phase Two**
- To view and download any of our project documents that were published between October 2019 and April 2021, click below on box **14. Documents Library - October 2019 - April 2021**

This phase two consultation will run from Thursday 29 April – Thursday 10 June 2021. We welcome all comments during this period.

For anybody who wishes to view our consultation materials in hard copy, please get in touch via the contact details below and we can assist you with identifying suitable access to hard copy and USB consultation documents.

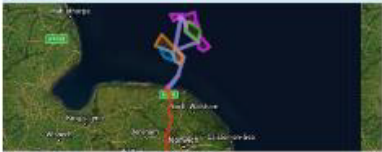



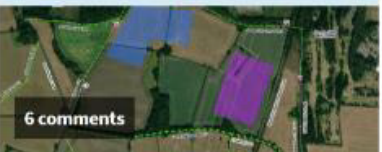

Hard copy consultation materials and a USB containing the full PEIR, are also available for you to view at the following location:

South Norfolk Council
 South Norfolk House
 Cygnet Court
 Long Stratton
 Norwich
 NR15 2XE

Anyone wishing to do this must contact South Norfolk Council prior to visiting, in order to make an appointment. To do this, either call the council's switchboard number on **01508 533701** or email council@s-norfolk.gov.uk

If you have any questions about SEP and DEP, including how to navigate this website, please contact us by:

- Emailing us at info@sepandep.co.uk
- Calling our freephone information line on 08081 963 637
- Writing to us free of charge at **FREEPOST DUDGEON AND SHERINGHAM EXT**

<p>1. Comment on our interactive map</p>  <p>View and comment on our interactive map of SEP and DEP proposals.</p> <p>View details</p>	<p>2. Landfall</p>  <p>View and comment on our landfall proposals.</p> <p>View details & comment</p>	<p>3. Compound locations</p>  <p>View and comment on our compound locations proposals.</p> <p>View details & comment</p>
<p>4. Onshore substation and access</p>  <p>View and comment on our onshore substation area and access proposals.</p> <p>View details & comment</p>	<p>5. Onshore substation visualisations</p>  <p>View and comment on our onshore substation visualisations.</p> <p>View details & comment</p>	<p>6. Offshore array area and seascape views</p>  <p>View and comment on the seascape impacts of SEP and DEP.</p> <p>View details & comment</p>


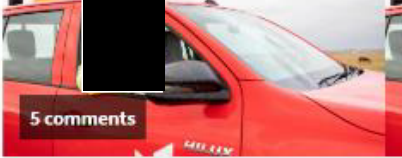






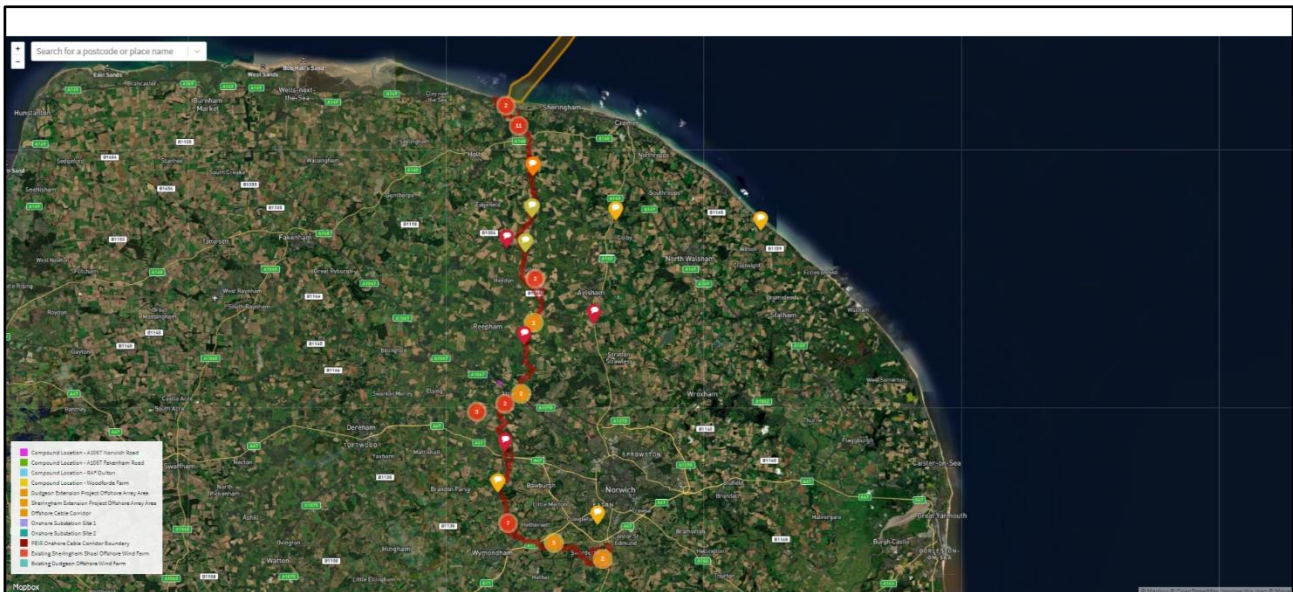
<p>7. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p>  <p>2 comments</p> <p>View and comment on our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.</p> <p>View details & comment</p>	<p>8. Traffic and transport</p>  <p>5 comments</p> <p>View and comment on our traffic and transport mitigation proposals.</p> <p>View details & comment</p>	<p>9. Our consultation process</p>  <p>3 comments</p> <p>View and comment on our consultation process.</p> <p>View details & comment</p>
<p>10. Community Q&As</p>  <p>Find details on our community Q&A sessions, and watch recordings of the SEP and DEP team talking about our proposals.</p> <p>View details</p>	<p>11. PEIR Documentation</p>  <p>View and download our full suite of Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) documentation.</p> <p>View details</p>	<p>12. Information Sheets</p>  <p>Read and download our information sheets.</p> <p>View details</p>
<p>13. Documents Library - Phase Two</p>  <p>View and download all our consultation documents.</p> <p>View details</p>	<p>14. Documents Library - October 2019 - April 2021</p>  <p>View and download all our consultation documents published before April 2021.</p> <p>View details</p>	

Figure 8-10 Phase Two Section 47 Interactive Map



- 269. Five community Q&A sessions were held during Phase Two consultation, as detailed in [Table 8-6](#). These were held on the Zoom platform and were accessible via the phone or online. Detailed step-by-step instructions were provided to ensure the events were accessible.
- 270. Each Community Q&A session was focused on a specific topic and included selection of the project team to answer questions from stakeholders. In total there were 88 attendees to Community Q&A sessions.

Table 8-6 Phase Two community Q&A session summaries

Date	Event topic	Attendees
11 May 2021 2pm - 4pm	Onshore substation and the grid connection	16
18 May 2021 6pm - 8pm	Landfall	12
25 May 2021 10am - 12pm	Onshore cable corridor	33
27 May 2021 6pm - 8pm	Offshore proposals and seascape impacts	4
02 June 2021 6pm - 8pm	Onshore cable corridor	23
	Total	88

- 271. 325 responses were received ahead of the deadline of 10 June 2021, as shown in [Table 8-7](#). Five responses were received following the deadline of 10 June, which the Applicant had regard to. The comments received are summarised in [Section 10](#) and are recorded and responded to in [Appendix 3](#).

Table 8-7 Phase Two Section 47 consultation feedback received via consultation channels

Feedback channel	Number of responses
Consultation website	158
Feedback form	112
Email	47
Telephone	6
Letter	2
Total	325

Phase Two Section 47 Consultation Publicity

272. In addition to the Section 48 publicity on 29 April 2021 (as detailed in [Section 7.5](#)) the consultation events were publicised as set out in the SoCC in the following ways:

- A consultation leaflet (see [Appendix 12](#)) was issued to over 11,400 properties and local businesses across the consultation area on 29 April 2021;
- Local notices were sent to 93 local information points across the consultation area (see [Appendix 12](#)). Posters were laminated and packed in hygienic conditions to reduce the risk of Covid spread;
- The consultation event details were posted on the Development website;
- Adverts were placed across local media (Advert shown in [Appendix 12](#)). The coverage area for local media insertions was extended to include parts of Lincolnshire following a more developed understanding of visual impacts;
- A press release was issued to the media; and
- Social media posts of Facebook and Twitter were shared, promoted to postcodes with the core consultation zone.

Table 8-8 Advertising schedule for the Phase Two Section 47 community consultation

Newspapers	Publication dates
Eastern Daily Press	28 April 2021
North Norfolk News	29 April 2021
Norwich Evening News	28 April 2021
Diss Wydmundham and Attleborough Mercury	29 April 2021
Dereham Times	29 April 2021
Fakenham and Wells Times	29 April 2021
Lynn News	27 April 2021
Diss Mercury	29 April 2021
Lincolnshire Echo	28 April 2021
Just Regional Cromer	05 May 2021
Just Regional Eaton & Cringleford	05 May 2021

Just Regional Aylsham	12 May 2021
Just Regional Holt	19 May 2021
Just Regional Sheringham	19 May 2021
Just Regional North Walsham	28 April 2021
Just Regional Dayton & Taverham	28 April 2021

Table 8-9 Features and editorial stories regarding the Development’s Phase One Section 47 community consultation

News outlet	Date
Eastern Daily Press	29 April 2021
ReNews	29 April 2021
4C Offshore	29 April 2021
Offshore Wind	29 April 2021

273. The coverage area of the Norfolk, Suffolk and Lincolnshire newspapers is shown in [Appendix 27](#). The coverage area demonstrates that the publicity activities were carried out in an area that covered and exceeded the consultation area for the Development ensuring that all interested parties were notified about the events.

274. The Applicant also publicised the consultation on social media, on both Facebook and Twitter, as detailed in the final SoCC, exemplified in [Figure 8-11](#). The Applicant used paid promotion on these posts to further publicise them in the core consultation zone, as detailed in [Section 8.4.2](#) of this consultation report. In addition to postcodes in the core consultation zone and acknowledging the potential for visual impact from offshore proposals for SEP and DEP, at Phase Two the Applicant also promoted social media posts in coastal postcodes in North Norfolk and East Lincolnshire. The following posts were promoted to the following coastal postcodes:

- Caister-on-Sea - NR30 5
- Winterton-on-Sea - NR29 4
- Sea Palling, Happisburgh, Bacon - NR12 0
- Mundesley - NR11 8
- Cromer, West Runton, Overstrand - NR27 9, NR27 0
- Sheringham (and Upper) - NR26 8
- Weybourne - NR26 7
- Blakeney/Morston Quay - NR25 7
- Wells-next-the-Sea - NR23 1
- Thornham - PE36 6
- Hunstanton - PE36 5
- Heacham, Snettisham - PE31 7
- Ingoldisthorpe, Dersingham - PE31 6

- Old Leake - PE22 9
- Skegness, Ingoldmells - PE25 3, PE25 1, PE25 2
- Chapel St Leonards - PE24 5
- Sutton on Sea - LN12 2
- Mablethorpe - LN12 1

Figure 8-11 Example of social media posts publicising Phase Two Section 47 consultation

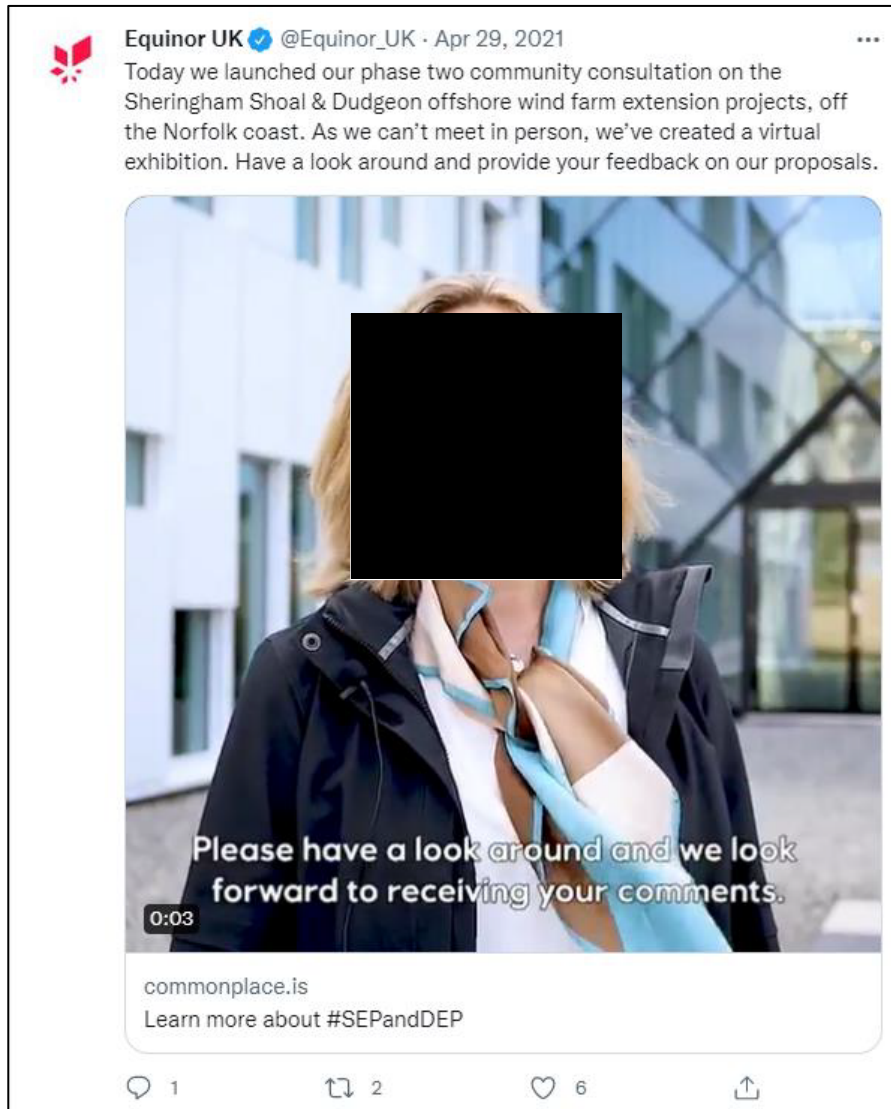


Figure 8-12 Second example of social media posts publicising Phase Two Section 47 consultation



275. Prior to Phase Two consultation, the Applicant engaged with hard-to-reach groups and interest groups to request details regarding organisation mailing lists, as defined in [Section 2088352512.687](#). The Applicant encouraged organisations to share information regarding Phase Two consultation on the organisations' internal newsletters, social media platforms or mailing lists.
276. To support organisations sharing consultation information, the Applicant drafted example newsletter copy and social media posts for the organisations to share. See [Appendix 12](#) for a copy of the covering letter sent to hard-to-reach groups and interest groups.

8.5 Statement of Compliance with Formal Consultation Under Section 47

277. In summary, the Applicant fully complied with Section 47 of the 2008 Act because:
 - The Applicant prepared the draft SoCC under Section 47(1);
 - The Applicant consulted on the draft SoCC with all relevant local authorities as defined within Section 43(1) of the 2008 Act, giving them each at least 28 days to respond (in accordance with Section 47(2) and (3));
 - In preparing the final SoCC, the Applicant had regard to any responses received from the relevant local authorities during consultation on the draft SoCC under Section 47(5);

- The Applicant made the SoCC available for inspection by the public on the SEP and DEP project website from 09 July 2020 and it was available in hard copy on request, as set out in [Appendix 8](#). Due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to place paper copies of the consultation documents at public venues for inspection. This was in accordance with Section 47(6)(za);
- The Applicant advertised the SoCC in the publications listed in [Table 7-4](#) (under Section 47(6)(a));
- The Applicant commenced statutory consultation with the community through the publication of its SoCC on 09 July 2020 and in accordance with the SoCC (see [Appendix 25](#)), which also complied with the prescribed requirements in Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations (in accordance with Section 47(6)(b));
- The Applicant consulted with the community i.e. those persons defined under Section 47 of the 2008 Act as living in the vicinity of the land where the Development is over a core and wider consultation area (which was in accordance with the SoCC, in compliance with Section 47(7));
- In addition to those living within the consultation area for the Development, the Applicant identified and engaged with over 100 local community groups and held briefing meetings and engaged with locally elected representatives (which was in accordance with the SoCC, in compliance with Section 47(7));
- The Applicant held two phases of community consultation to enable the iterative design of the Development in response to the consultation (which was in accordance with the SoCC, in compliance with Section 47(7));
- The Applicant welcomed over 1,700 people to its Phase One virtual exhibition, and over 1,200 to its Phase Two virtual exhibition;
- The Applicant purposely ran the Phase Two Section 47 consultation in parallel to Section 42 consultation to invite responses from the community to the PEIR and PEIR NTS; and
- Both phases of Section 47 consultation allowed an extended consultation period, going beyond the 28-day statutory requirement.

9 Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 Of The 2008 Act (29 April 2021 – 10 June 2021)

9.1 Introduction

278. This chapter of the Consultation Report details the statutory consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act ('Section 42 consultation') and provides an overview of the formal consultation activities that took place during the formal consultation period commencing 29 April 2021 and closing on 10 June 2021.

9.2 Statutory Requirements And Guidance

279. In relation to Section 42(1)(a) the Applicant consulted all prescribed consultees; defined as statutory consultees listed in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations and by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations, referred to in this Consultation Report as the 'Section 42 consultees' and listed in [Appendix 6](#).

280. In addition to the prescribed consultees identified by the Planning Inspectorate, the Applicant included a further 162 non-prescribed organisations to be consulted as Section 42 consultees (see [Appendix 6](#), which details those prescribed and non-prescribed consultees). All of these Section 42 consultees received the same Development information and were included in the same way in the Section 42 consultation as the Section 42 consultees identified by the Secretary of State.

281. In relation to Section 42(1)(b), the local authorities under the definitions set out in Section 43 of the 2008 Act were consulted defined in [Section 5.4](#), with additional authorities scoped in is set out in [Section 9.5](#).

282. The relevant persons defined under Section 44 of the 2008 Act were consulted as part of the Section 42 consultation between 29 April 2021 and 10 June 2021. The list of land interests is presented in the [Book of Reference](#) (document reference number 4.1). In parallel to the Section 42 consultation, those consultees identified under Section 44 were engaged by the Applicant's land agents, Dalcour Maclaren, through requests for responses to a landowner questionnaire and request to meet.

283. Section 45(1) of the 2008 Act states that the Applicant, when consulting a stakeholder under Section 42, must provide notification of the deadline for responses to the consultation. Section 45(2) states that such a deadline must not be less than 28 days. The Applicant gave Section 42 consultees a period of 42 days (from 29 April to 10 June 2021) for consultation responses.

9.3 Preliminary Environmental Information

284. The PEIR and PEIR NTS were produced as the statutory consultation documents for the Section 42 consultation with the Section 42 consultees (and also made available for the parallel Phase Two Section 47 statutory consultation). The PEIR, a number of documents, plans and drawings, and additional application information was made available [REDACTED]. This included:

- PEIR chapters, figures and appendices;

- PEIR NTS;
 - SEP and DEP Draft Information for Habitats Regulations Assessment Report;
 - SEP and DEP Draft Information for Marine Conservation Zone Assessment Report;
 - SEP and DEP Main Construction Compound Site Selection Report;
 - SEP and DEP Offshore Work Plans;
 - SEP and DEP Onshore Work Plans; and
 - SEP and DEP Project Description Plans.
285. The PEIR comprised of the information specified in Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations, which has been compiled by the Applicant and is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the Development.
286. PEIR NTS was produced, recognising that some Section 42 consultees may wish to view a more easily digestible document.

9.4 Section 43 Local Authorities

287. **Section 5.4** of this consultation report outlines the identification of Section 43 consultees for the purposes of statutory consultation under Section 42(1)(d) of the 2008 Act.
288. In addition to the Section 43 consultees outlined in **Section 5.4**, the following additional authorities were scoped in owing to the potential to onshore visual impact.
289. Additional Authorities scoped in:
- East Lindsay District Council;
 - South Holland District Council;
 - Broads Authority; and
 - Boston Borough Council.

9.5 Section 44 Consultees

290. **Section 5.5** of this consultation report outlines the identification of Section 44 consultees for the purposes of statutory consultation under Section 42(1)(d) of the 2008 Act. The full list of Section 44 consultees is listed in **Appendix 22**.
291. As identified under Section 42(1)(d), the Applicant must consult with the relevant persons defined under Section 44 of the 2008 Act.
292. Where owners, lessees, tenants, occupiers or other Land Interests were unknown, the Applicant placed notices detailing the consultation at the relevant locations along the onshore export cable corridor (ECC). These notices were installed on 29 April 2021 and were removed on 10 June 2021, therefore being on display for a 42-day (six-week) period.
293. Where notices relating to private land could not be erected on site due to access restrictions, the notices were erected at the nearest point on the public road or right of way. Unregistered site notices were erected and left on site for six weeks.

294. During the consultation period, the notices were checked on a weekly basis, with photographs taken on each visit. If a notice was found to be damaged or missing, it was replaced at the time of inspection. A total of 61 notices were erected on site, over the course of six weeks. 25% of these were replaced due to damage or missing notices.
295. A list of all persons consulted with under Section 42(1)(d) has been requested by PINS and provided by the Applicant. This list has been checked against the **Book of Reference** (document reference 4.1), which is up to date at the time of submitting the application for a DCO. It is noted that the list of Section 42(1)(d) consultees is subject to change over time, as a result of changes in land ownership. These updates can be seen in **Appendix 22**.

9.6 Duty to Notify the Secretary of State of the Proposed Application Under Section 46 of the 2008 Act

296. Prior to commencing Section 42 consultation, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State of its intention to submit an application for development consent for the Development under Section 46 of the 2008 Act. The notification was sent to the Planning Inspectorate electronically at 15:43 on 28 April 2021, including the following attachments:
- Section 46 cover letter (please see a copy in **Appendix 5**);
 - Example covering letter to statutory consultees under Section 42 of the 2008 Act (please see a copy in **Appendix 7**);
 - Example covering letter to land interests under Section 42 of the 2008 Act (please see a copy in **Appendix 7**);
 - Notice publicising the proposed DCO application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (please see a copy in **Appendix 11**);
 - Community Consultation Leaflet (please see a copy in **Appendix 12**);
 - Feedback Form (please see a copy in **Appendix 12**);
 - The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR);
 - A non-technical summary of the PEIR;
 - Plans showing the location of SEP and DEP;
 - Draft information for Habitats Regulations Assessment;
 - Draft information for Marine Conservation Zone Assessment; and
297. Additional documents including the Statement of Community Consultation (please see a copy in **Appendix 8**) and the Phase 1 Consultation Report (please see a copy in **Appendix 10**) (included for information purposes).
298. The Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State acknowledged receipt of the notification on 13 May 2021.

9.7 Undertaking Section 42 Consultation (29 April – 10 June 2021).

299. All Section 42 consultees were provided advance notification of the statutory Section 42 consultation via email or letter on 22 April 2021 (please see a copy in [Appendix 07](#)).
300. All Section 42 consultees were provided with written or electronic notification of the commencement of the Section 42 consultation on 29 April 2021. The following documents were provided to all Section 42 consultees via email or via post on 29 April 2021:
- Section 42 cover letter (please see a copy in [Appendix 07](#)); and
 - A copy of Section 48 Notice (please see a copy in [Appendix 11](#)).
301. The following documents were available for access online, as detailed in the Section 42 cover letter:
- An electronic copy of the PEIR;
 - An electronic copy of the PEIR NTS; and
 - Electronic copies of PEIR supporting documentation.
302. The PEIR constituted the Section 42 consultation document under Section 45(3) of the 2008 Act.
303. With the Section 42 consultation period commencing on 29 April 2021 and ending on 10 June 2021, exceeding the minimum 28-day statutory period set out in Section 45(2) of the 2008 Act).
304. A reminder email to all Section 42 consultees for responses was sent on 27 May 2021 (see [Appendix 7](#)).
305. In total 61 responses were received from Section 42 consultees by the deadline of 10 June 2021. Ten late responses were received, which the Applicant still had regard to. Comments received are recorded in [Appendix 3](#) with the Applicant's response. An overview of the Section 42 feedback and Applicant's response is provided in [Section 12](#).

9.8 Statement of Compliance with Formal Consultation Under Section 42

306. In summary, the Applicant fully complied with Sections 42, 43, 44, 45 and 46 of the 2008 Act:
- The Applicant consulted with such persons as may be prescribed (Sections 42(1)(a) and relevant to SEP and DEP, including the MMO under Section 42(1)(aa) and (2), local authorities under Section 43 and all persons within the categories set out in Section 44;
 - A number of additional non-prescribed consultees were scoped in as Section 42 consultees;
 - Notification of the proposed application, together with a copy of the consultation materials, was provided to the Secretary of State on 28 April 2021 in compliance with Section 46; and

- In accordance with Section 45, the Applicant provided a deadline for receipt of responses to the consultation (10 June 2021), which exceeded the statutory minimum period of 28 days (the consultation ran from 29 April 2021 to 10 June 2021).

10 Compliance with Section 48 Of The 2008 Act (29 April 2021 – 10 June 2021)

10.1 Introduction

307. This chapter details how the Applicant has complied with Section 48 of the 2008 Act (duty to publicise).

10.2 Statutory Requirements and Guidance

308. Section 48(1) of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to publicise the proposed Application in the prescribed manner. A deadline for receipt of comments to the publicity must also be provided.

309. Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations sets out what the publicity under Section 48 of the 2008 Act should entail, which essentially is the publication of a notice in given publications, with requirements on the contents of such notice. Specifically, Regulation 4 requires an applicant to publish the notice for two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers and once in a national newspaper, once in Lloyd's List, the London Gazette and (if applicable) a fishing trade journal.

310. **Table 10-1** specifies the publications and timing of the Section 48 notice publication.

311. Paragraph 41 of the DCLG Guidance notes that publicity under Section 48 is an integral part of the community consultation process and where possible the advertisements in local newspapers should coincide with the beginning of consultation with communities under Section 47.

312. Evidence of compliance with the relevant legislation is provided in **Section 10.4**.

10.3 Publication of Notice

313. The Section 48 notice (see **Appendix 11**) publicising the proposed Application and advertising the intention to apply for a DCO was placed in the publications listed in **Table 10-1** (specified dates varied due to different publication dates).

314. All consultation bodies were provided with a copy of the Section 48 notice as required by Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations.

315. Copies of the advertisements and notices, as placed, are provided as **Appendix 11**.

316. The Section 48 notice included the required information under Regulation 4(4) of the APFP Regulations.

Table 10-1 Section 48 notice publication summary

Publication	1 st Insertion	2 nd Insertion
North Norfolk News	22 April 2021	29 April 2021
Eastern Daily Press	22 April 2021	28 April 2021
Fishing News	29 April 2021	n/a
London Gazette	28 April 2021	n/a
Lloyd's List	28 April 2021	n/a
The Times	28 April 2021	n/a

10.4 Statement of Compliance with Section 48

317. In summary, the Applicant fully complied with Section 48 of the 2008 Act:

- The Applicant publicised the proposed Application in the publications listed in **Table 10-1**. A second notice was published in the North Norfolk News and Eastern Daily Press. The second-round of notices in North Norfolk News and Eastern Daily Press coincided with the commencement of the Phase Two Section 47 consultation and Section 42 consultation.
- The Section 48 notice included the information prescribed under Regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations.
- The Applicant held the Section 48 consultation between 29 April 2021 and 10 June 2021, notifying consultees of PEIR and where the consultation documents could be reviewed, and providing a period of 42 days to provide comments (therefore beyond the statutory 28 days required).
- The Applicant placed Section 48 notices around the Development site area, a plan of which can be seen in **Appendix 26**.

11 47 Statutory Consultations: Responses Received, And Changes and Commitments Made

11.1 Introduction

318. This chapter of the Consultation Report sets out how the Applicant has complied with its duty under Section 49 of the 2008 Act to take account of consultation responses received under Section 47 of the 2008 Act.

11.2 Statutory Section 47 Phase One Consultation (09 July 2020 – 20 August 2020) Responses

319. In response to Phase One Section 47 consultation, the Applicant received 299 responses.

320. The key issues arising from feedback received during this period and how the Applicant has had regard to this is outlined in **Table 11-1**.

321. The Applicant sought to receive responses to a range of questions regarding the early-stage proposals for SEP and DEP. A copy of the feedback form is shown in **Appendix 12** of this report. The feedback form also included free-form spaces for consultees to provide more detailed information.

322. All feedback responses to the Phase One consultation received, including how the Applicant has had regard to these responses are included in **Appendix 3** of this report.

323. In summary:

- 82% of respondents were local residents;
- 75% of those who had attended the consultation events filled in a feedback form;

- 60% of respondents found the virtual exhibition or consultation materials quite informative or very informative;
- 47.6% of respondents either strongly supported or supported SEP and DEP;
- 95% of respondents agreed that climate change is an issue which should be addressed, with 89% agreeing that the UK needs to generate more energy from renewable energy, including offshore wind generation; and
- Traffic and access during construction, ecology, visual impact were the most important issues to respondents.

11.3 Phase One Consultation Feedback Analysis

Figure 11-1 Responses to question regarding interest in SEP and DEP

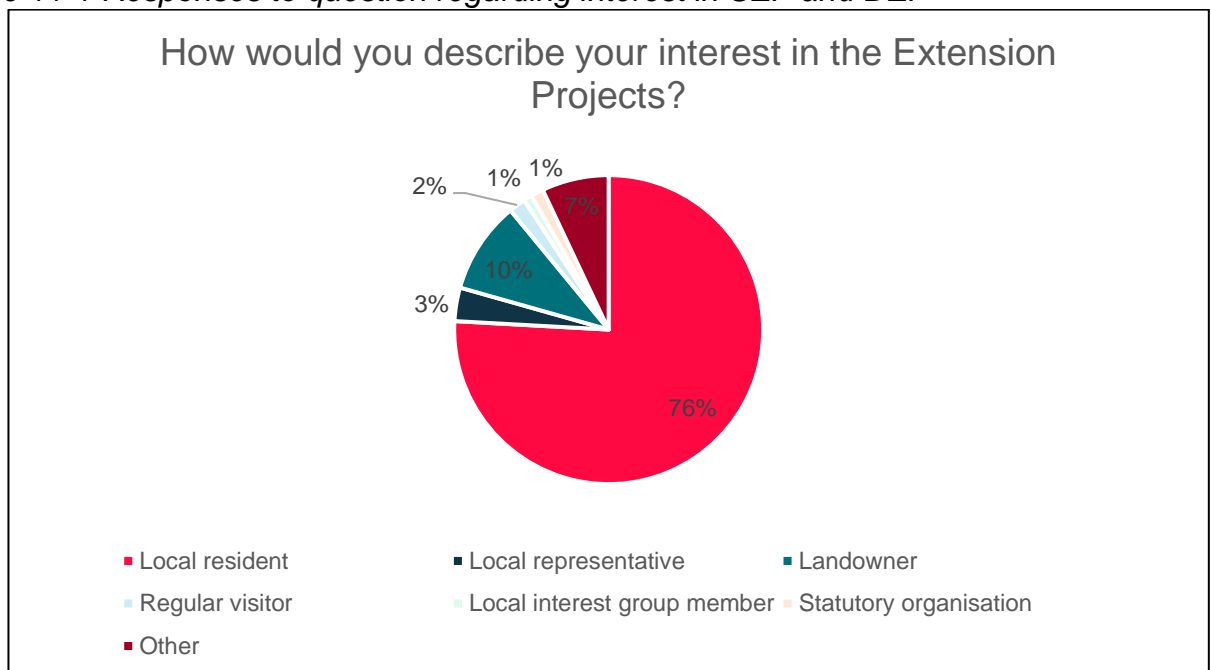


Figure 11-2 Responses to statement regarding climate change

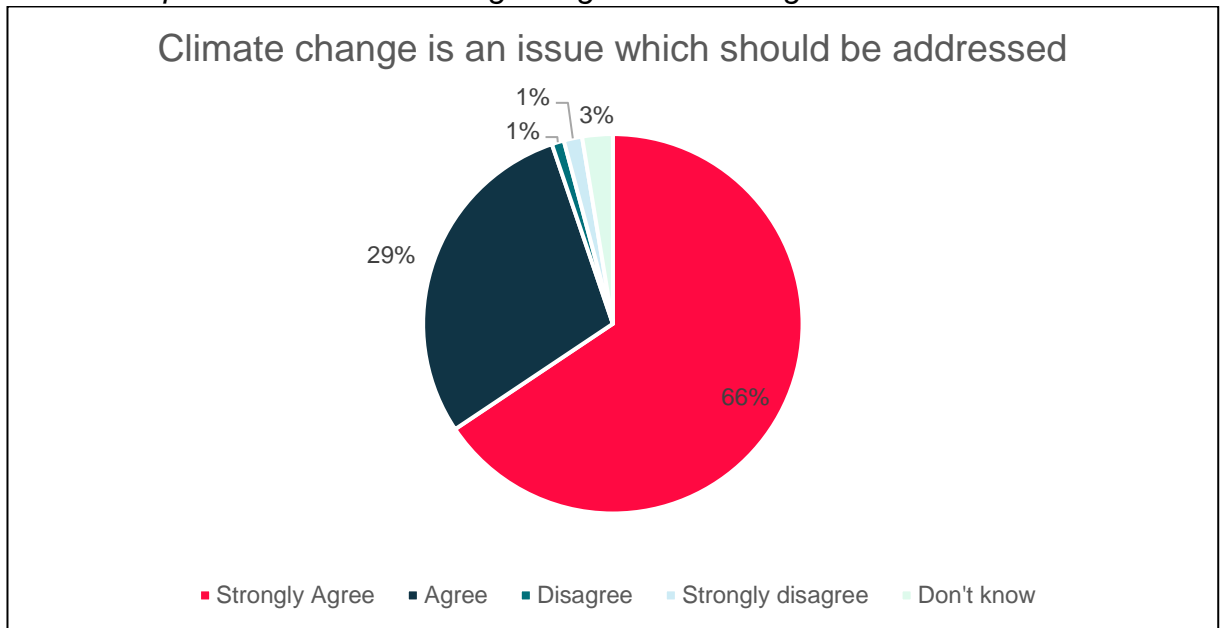


Figure 11-3 Responses to statement regarding renewable energy

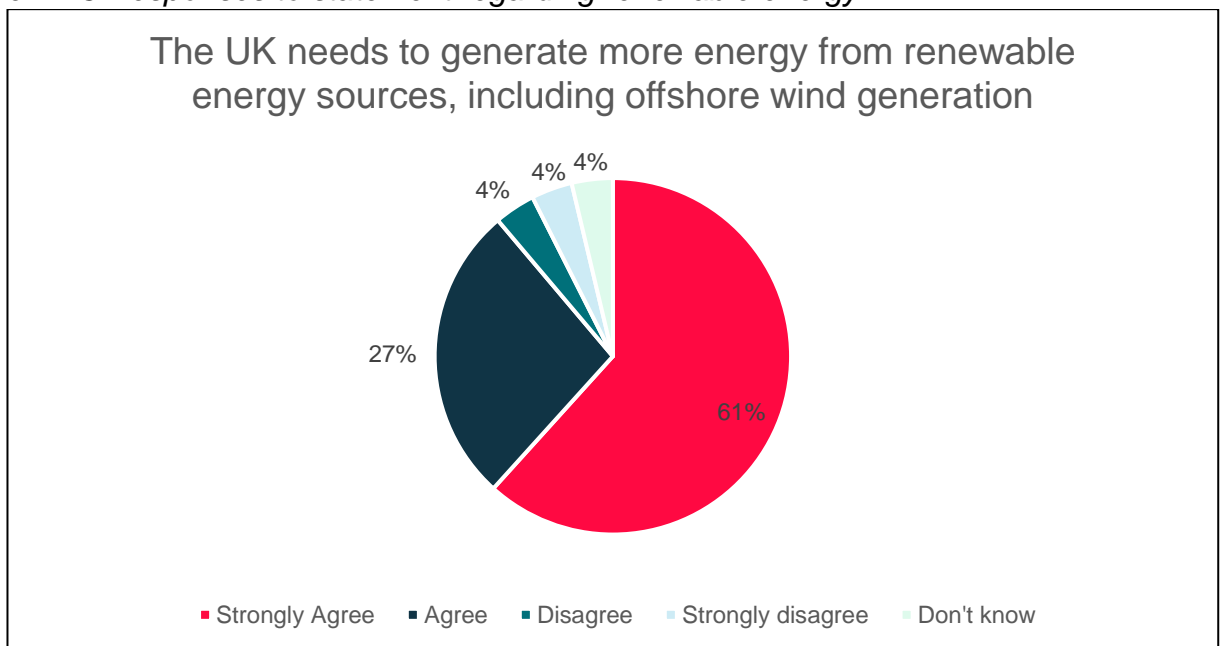


Figure 11-4 Responses to question regarding opinions about SEP and DEP

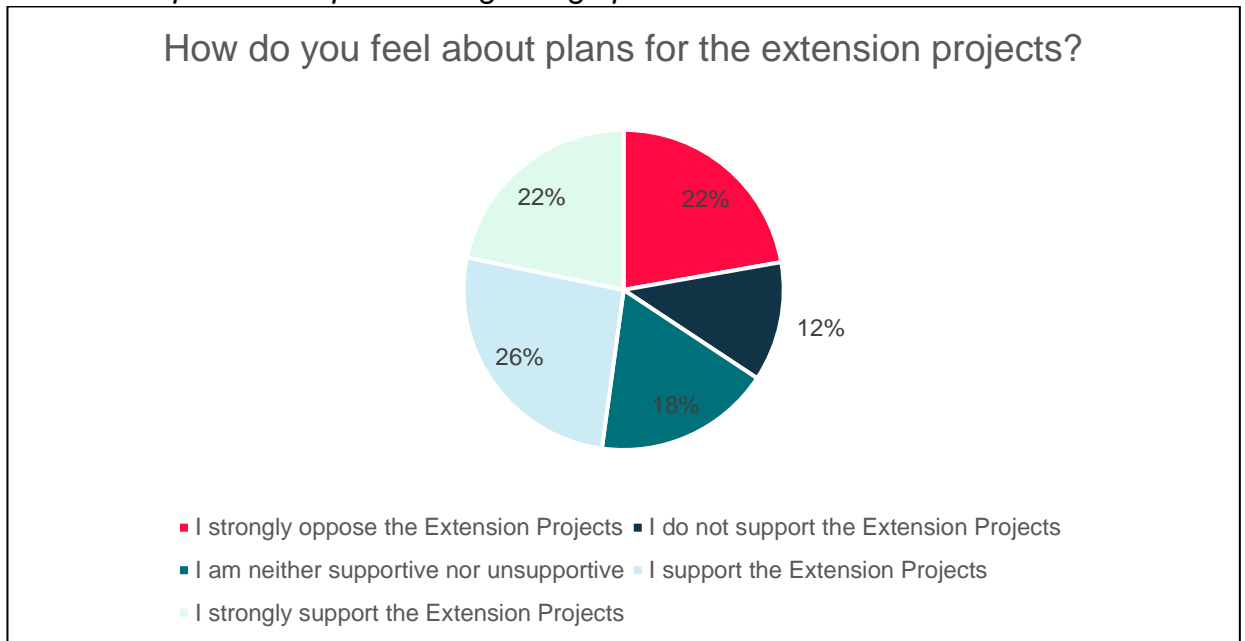


Figure 11-5 Responses to question about publicity of the consultation

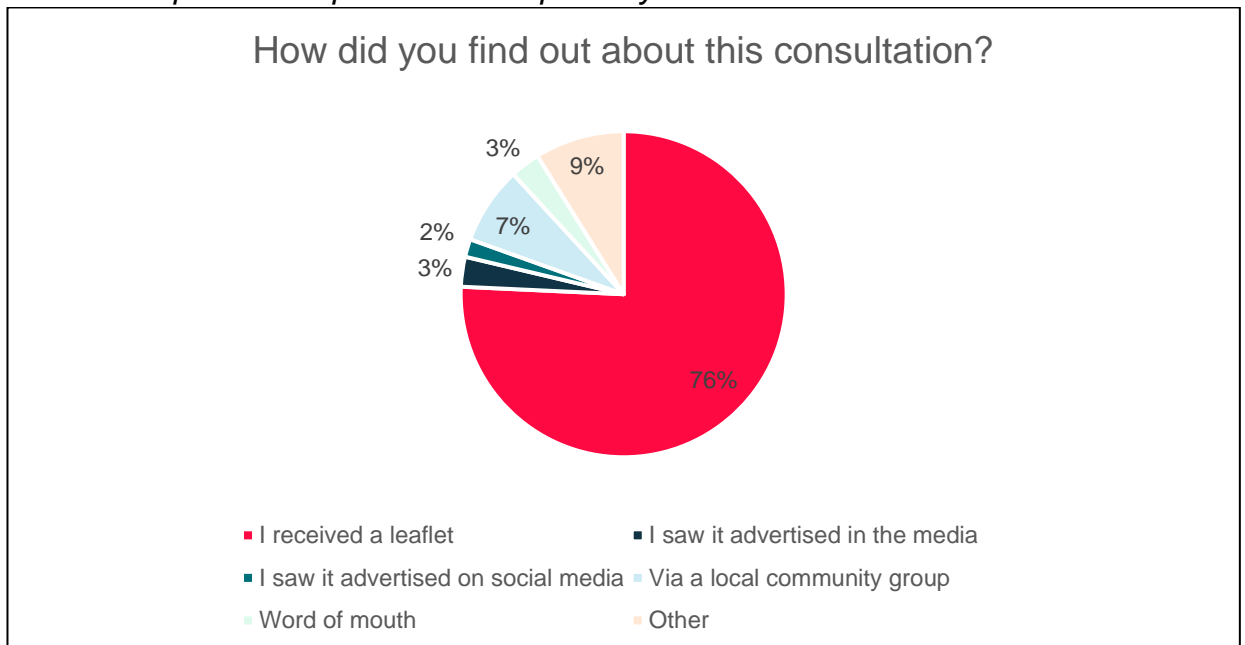


Figure 11-6 Response to question regarding consultation materials

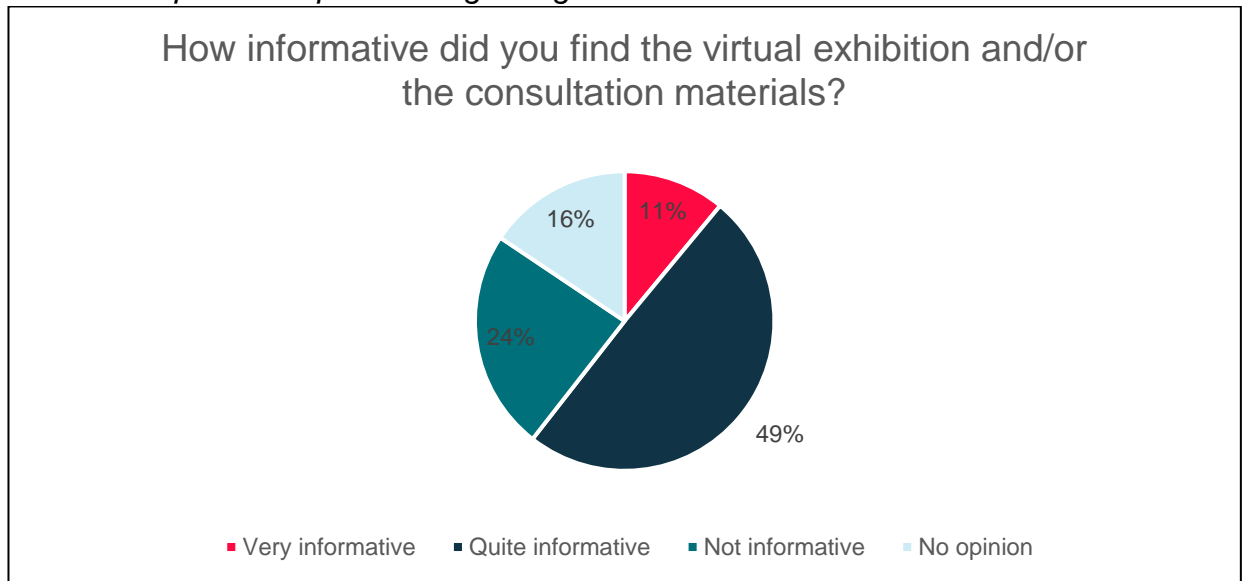
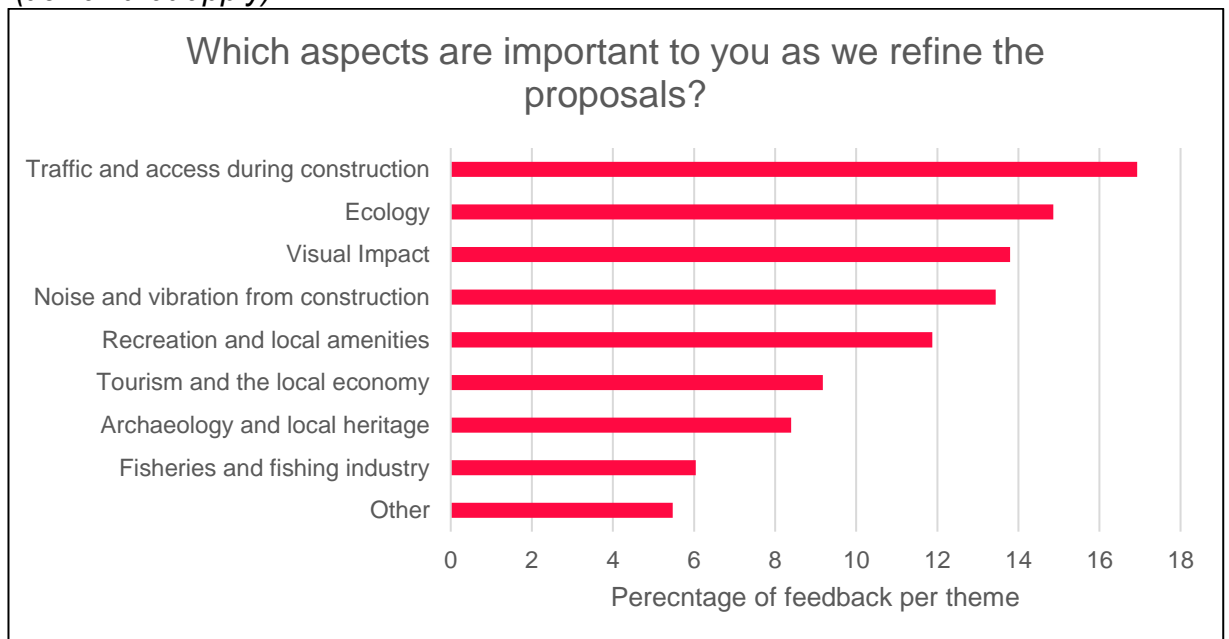


Figure 11-7 Project specific feedback: ‘Which aspect of the Development is most important to you? (tick all that apply)’



324. A summary of the free form and written responses received to the Phase One Section 47 consultation together with how the Applicant responded is provided in [Table 11-1](#).

Table 11-1 Phase One Section 47 consultation key comments and Applicant responses

EIA Topic Area: Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives	
Comments	Applicant response
The Applicant should utilise an Offshore Ringmain to avoid the need for digging additional trenches in Norfolk, suggesting that the project should be put on hold until the alternative of an Offshore Ringmain is fully reviewed.	Whilst Equinor is supportive of the idea of an offshore transmission network (OTN), neither the technical nor regulatory frameworks exists to incorporate an OTN into the project. The Applicant has set its timeline for the SEP and DEP project and delaying it would risk not meeting the Government's offshore wind target of 50 GW by 2030.
As Hornsea Project Three is bringing power to the same onshore location, the Applicant should share an onshore cable corridor with this project to reduce onshore disruption.	SEP and DEP will not be sharing an onshore cable corridor with Hornsea Project Three. Hornsea Project Three already has DCO consent for their project design and it is due to start construction late 2022-2023. Sharing an onshore cable corridor with other developers at this stage of the projects' timelines is not possible due to a variety of permitting, landowner agreements, ecological and technical issues.
The proposed Zone B for the onshore substation was located too close to Swardeston.	The substation will be constructed in 'Zone A' as set out in the Phase One consultation materials. Further details are provided within ES Chapter 3 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (document reference: 6.1.3).
The onshore substation site should be located close to the A140.	The substation site will be located close to the A140, the chosen site is the closest of any the proposed sites as set out in Phase One consultation. Access to the substation will be taken from the A140. Further details are provided within ES Chapter 3 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (document reference: 6.1.3).
EIA Topic Area: Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes	
Comments	Applicant response
Concerns for the impact there would be to the coastline and natural movement of sediments along the coast via longshore drift.	The effects of the projects on the coastline and sediments has been assessed in ES Chapter 6 Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes (Document reference: 6.1.6). The assessments have found that there will be no significant effects due to the projects on either the coastline or sediments.
The Applicant should not alter Weybourne Beach.	Cables will be brought onshore inland of Weybourne beach using horizontal directional drilling to install cable ducts beneath Weybourne beach, minimising disruption to the shoreline. See ES Chapter 4 Project Description (document reference 6.1.4) for further information.
Concerns for disruption to the seabed.	The seabed has been subject to several surveys, the results of which can be found in the ES appendices including ES Appendix 8.4 Sheringham Extension Project Habitat Report (Document reference:

	6.3.8.3) and ES Appendix 6.3 SS nearshore cable route - BGS Shallow Geological Assessment (Document reference: 6.3.6.3). Assessment of potential impacts to the seabed are presented in ES Chapter 6 :Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes (Document reference: 6.1.6). The assessments have found that there will be negligible or no significant effects due to the projects on the seabed.
EIA Topic Area: Fish and Shellfish Ecology	
Comments	Applicant response
Concern for impacts to crab and lobster populations near Weybourne.	A variety of potential impacts on crab and lobster populations and the related mitigation has been assessed in ES Chapter 9: Fish and shellfish ecology (Document reference: 6.1.9). No significant adverse impacts have been identified.
EIA Topic Area: Marine Mammal Ecology	
Comments	Applicant response
Concern for impacts on seal, dolphin and whale populations.	The potential impacts on marine mammals during the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning phases of SEP and DEP together including cumulative impacts are set out in ES Chapter 10: Marine Mammal Ecology (document reference 6.1.10). Following the implementation of mitigation no significant residual impacts are predicted for seal, dolphin and whale populations.
EIA Topic Area: Offshore Ornithology	
Comments	Applicant response
The Applicant must consider impacts of offshore turbines on migrating birds.	The Applicant increased the minimum 'air gap' from 26m to 30m to minimise impact from collision risk for key ornithological species. For further information regarding impact assessments and mitigatory methods regarding ornithology see ES Chapter 11 Offshore Ornithology (document reference 6.1.11).
EIA Topic Area: Commercial Fisheries	
Comments	Applicant response
The Applicant should work closely with the local fishing industry during and post construction.	The Applicant has engaged consistently with the fishing industry since the inception of the project, and will continue throughout construction and operation. Further details are set out within ES Chapter 12 Commercial Fisheries (document reference 6.1.12).
EIA Topic Area: Offshore Designated Sites	
Comments	Applicant response

<p>Concern for the impact there would be to the Cromer Chalk Beds MCZ.</p>	<p>The Applicant selected a landfall option at Weybourne to avoid impacts to the exposed chalk associated with the Cromer Chalk Beds MCZ. Following technical feasibility assessments, the Applicant concluded that as the exposed chalk reef is so close to shore at Weybourne, that the planned HDD for installing the landfall also can be used to drill under the exposed chalk. The assessments set out within ES Chapter 6 Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes (Document reference: 6.1.6) detail that negligible impact to no impact is predicted on the MCZ.</p>
<p>EIA Topic Area: Water Resources and Flood Risk</p>	
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Applicant response</p>
<p>Some residents highlighted that the Applicant should not increase flood risk, as the area is prone to this issue.</p>	<p>A full Flood Risk Assessment is provided with the application (document reference: 5.3). This concluded that there would be no increase in flood risk.</p>
<p>EIA Topic Area: Land Use and Agriculture</p>	
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Applicant response</p>
<p>Concern that farmland could be destroyed as a result of project's construction.</p>	<p>All farm land will be reinstated following construction to its current state following construction meaning that agricultural practice can continue to occur. Further details are provided within ES Chapter 19 Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation (document reference: 6.1.19).</p>
<p>EIA Topic Area: Ecology and Ornithology</p>	
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Applicant response</p>
<p>Locally designated wildlife sites should be avoided, including Alderford Common, Upgate Common SSSI, Marl Pit SSSI.</p>	<p>Sites designated for their nature conservation value have been avoided, where possible, during the site selection process. Where avoidance was not possible, for example at the River Wensum, alternative construction techniques have been selected to avoid impacts (e.g. trenchless techniques to pass beneath the feature). Further detail on this can be found in the ES Chapter 3: Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (document reference 6.1.3). The three sites named have all been completely avoided.</p>
<p>Respondents highlighted multiple bird species to the Applicant to consider during the EIA process, including Sky Lark, Sandmartins, Red Kite, Nightingales, Marsh Thistle, Ringed Plover, Owls and Raggid Robin.</p>	<p>Extensive ecology surveys and a detailed ecological impact assessment have been undertaken which consider impacts to bird species. With the implementation of mitigation measure no significant impacts to bird species are anticipated. Further details can be found in ES Chapter 20: Onshore Ecology and Ornithology (document reference 6.1.20).</p>

	lowest observable adverse effect level of noise, i.e. no significant noise impacts. More information can be found in Appendix 23.4 of the ES – Onshore Substation Operational Noise Assessment (Document reference: 6.3.23.4).
EIA Topic Area: Traffic and Transport	
Comments	Applicant response
Local roads are not considered to be suitable for construction traffic.	The Applicant’s plan to mitigate the impacts of construction traffic in the area are set out in the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP) (document reference 9.16)
The Applicant should access the onshore substation directly from the A140.	A decision has been made to access the substation during both construction and operation via the A140. Access will not be taken via the B1113, unless in exceptional circumstances. See the OCTMP (document reference 9.16) for further information.
Cumulative construction traffic impacts with other local infrastructure projects should be taken into consideration.	The potential cumulative traffic impact of other infrastructure projects in the area has been taken into consideration as part of assessment presented in ES Chapter 24 Traffic and Transport (document reference 6.1.24). Where mitigation measures have been identified there are set out in the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP) (document reference 9.16).The Applicant will co-ordinate with other projects in the area to alleviate potential traffic related issues, and no significant cumulative impacts are anticipated.
Residents in Weybourne highlighted that construction traffic should not be allowed on Beach Lane.	Following feedback on the local sensitivities of Beach Lane and Beach Lane car park, the Applicant sought to avoid utilising these locations for construction traffic routing.
Residents in Cawston highlighted that construction traffic should not be routed through the village.	The Applicant has committed to avoiding utilising roads through the village of Cawston for HGV construction traffic.
EIA Topic Area: Landscape and Visual Impact	
Comments	Applicant response
The onshore substation should be well screened to reduce visual impact.	The Outline Landscape Management Plan (OLMP) (Document reference: 9.18) presents the key landscape principles and proposals to mitigate impacts and provide screening. These landscape proposals form part of the embedded mitigation measures that are considered in the assessment of effects in ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Assessment (Document reference: 6.1.26)
EIA Topic Area: Health	
Comments	Applicant response

<p>Concerns relating to health impacts associated with EMF from SEP and DEP cables.</p>	<p>All of the proposed technology options for the SEP and DEP export cables and third-party crossing points would be fully compliant with the Government policy. Specifically, all the fields produced would be below the relevant exposure limits. Therefore, there would be no significant EMF effects resulting from this proposed development. More information regarding EMFs can be found in Appendix 30.1 Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects EMF Assessment of the PEIR</p>
<p>EIA Topic Area: Tourism and Recreation</p>	
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Applicant response</p>
<p>The Applicant should consider the impact of proposals on the local tourism industry.</p>	<p>The Applicant has assessed the impacts on the tourism industry and has concluded that there would be no significant impacts. Further details are set out in ES Chapter 27: Socio-Economics and Tourism (Document reference 6.1.27)</p>
<p>There should be no long-term impacts to Public Rights of Way.</p>	<p>After the completion of construction works, all PRoW would be reinstated to their original condition or otherwise as agreed with the relevant local authority. See the Outline Public Rights of Way Strategy (document reference 9.22) for more information.</p>

11.4 Ongoing Consultation (21 August 2020 – 28 April 2021)

325. Between the close of Phase One Section 47 consultation (10 August 2020) and the start of Phase Two Section 47 consultation (29 April 2021), 10 responses were received via the Applicant's information lines.
326. As part of the ongoing statutory consultation in this period, feedback continued to be received and fed into the project design.
327. This included a number of meetings with key stakeholders as outlined in [Section 7](#).
328. The key issues arising from feedback received during this period and how the Applicant has had regard to this is outlined in [Appendix 3](#).

11.5 Phase Two Statutory S47 Consultation (29 April 2021 – 10 June 2021) Responses

329. During the Phase Two Section 47 community consultation period, 154 completed feedback forms were received via the post, 77 responses were provided via the consultation website, and 68 pieces of feedback via letters, emails or phone calls were received to the information lines, as detailed in [Appendix 3](#) Table 8-7.
330. The key issues arising from feedback received during this period and how the Applicant has had regard to this is outlined in [Table 11-2](#) Table 11-2
331. The format of the feedback form included questions regarding the refinement of main compound location options, biodiversity enhancement suggestions, onshore substation visualisations, onshore substation and access options, offshore array proposals and further Development-specific feedback. The full feedback form is reproduced in [Appendix 12](#).
332. Feedback forms also included free-form spaces for consultees to provide qualitative data. Feedback responses received, including how the Applicant has had regard to these responses are included in [Appendix 3](#).
333. In summary:
 - 50% of respondents either supported or strongly supported the Development;
 - 32% either did not support or strongly opposed SEP and DEP, and 18% provided a neutral view;
 - 72% of respondents were local residents;
 - 64% of respondents found the virtual exhibition and/or consultation materials informative;
 - Traffic and access during construction, ecology, and visual impact of the Development were the most important issues to respondents, with noise and vibration from construction, and recreation and local amenities also being viewed as important; and
 - Other topics that were highlighted during Phase Two consultation included the Offshore Transmission Network Review and Electric and Magnetic Frequencies (EMF).

11.6 Phase Two Statutory S47 Consultation Feedback Analysis

Figure 11-8 Responses to question regarding interest in SEP and DEP

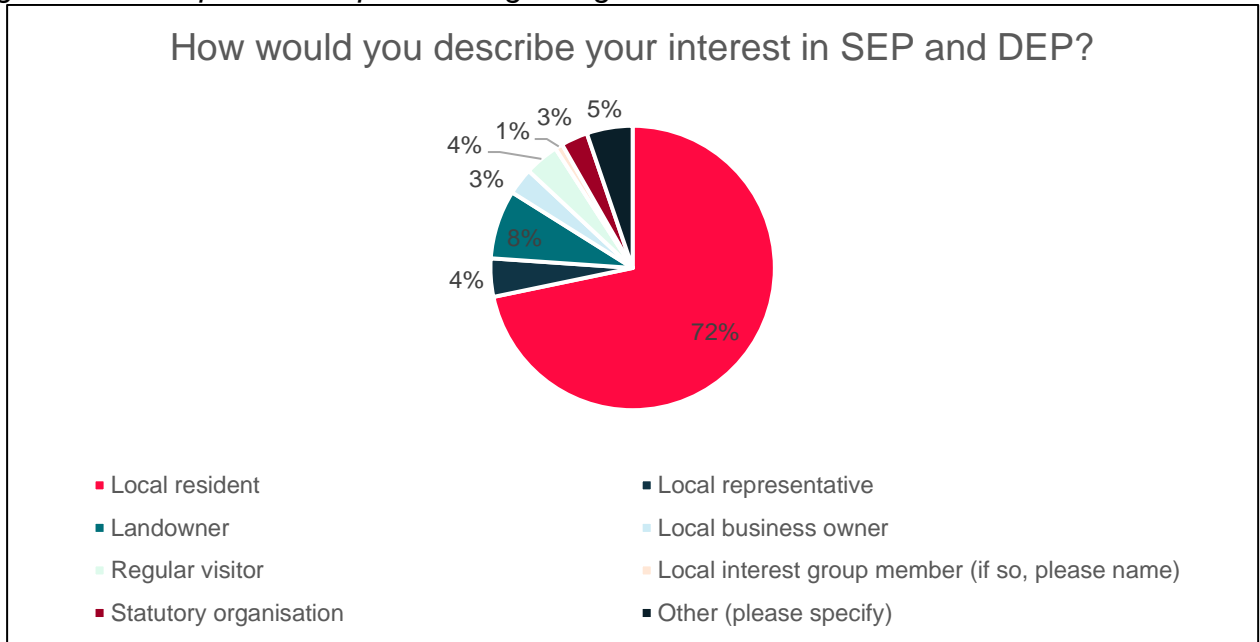


Figure 11-9 Responses to question regarding publicity of consultation

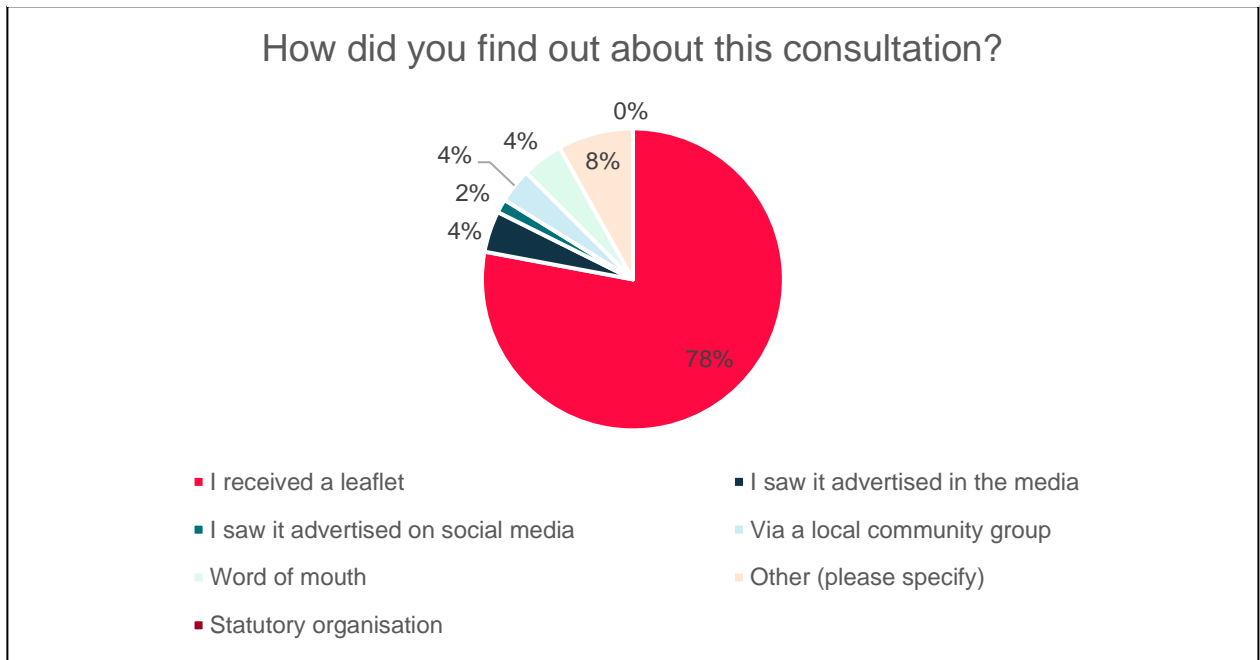


Figure 11-10 responses regarding consultation materials

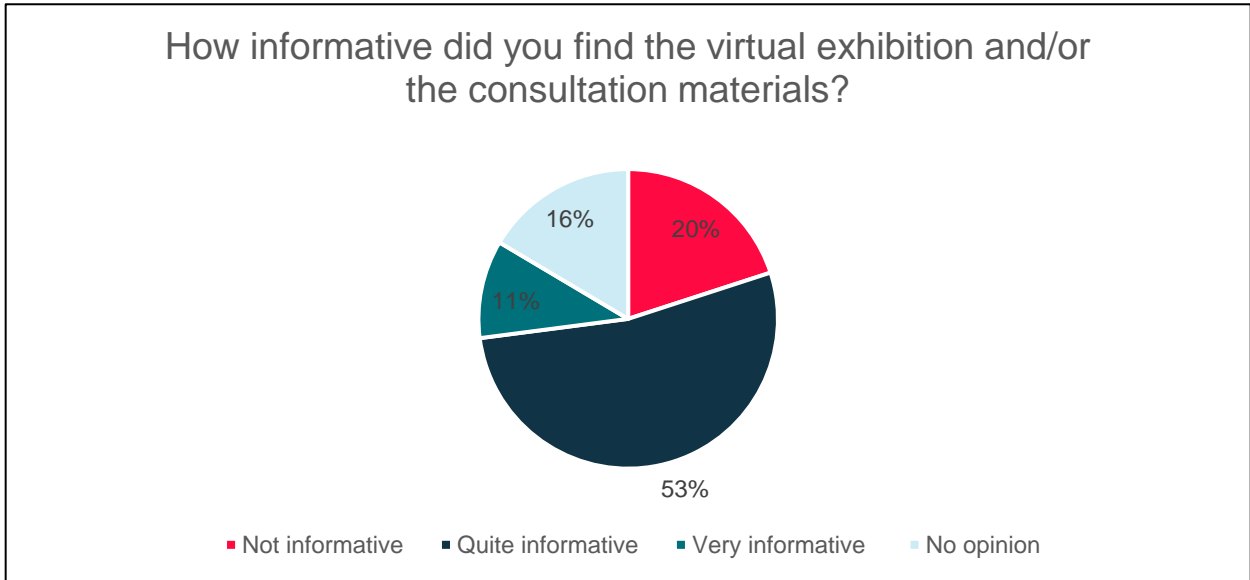


Figure 11-11 Responses regarding opinion of SEP and DEP

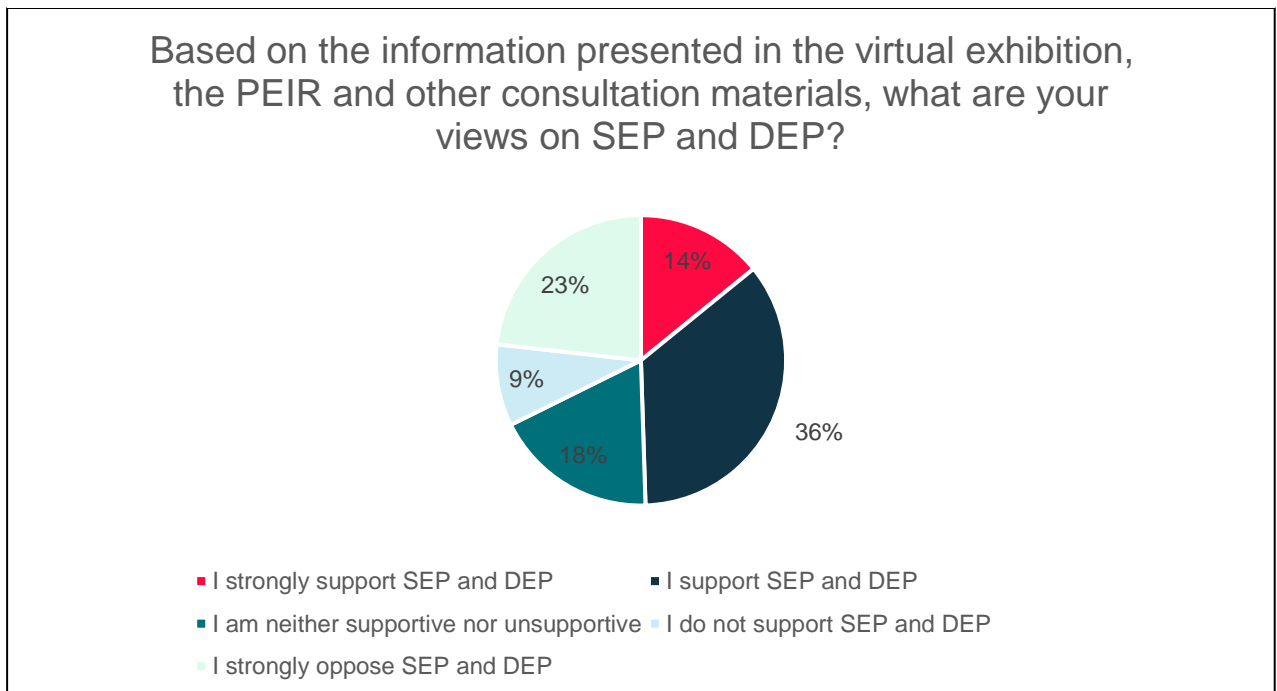


Figure 11-12 Project specific feedback: ‘Which aspect of the Development is most important to you? (tick all that apply)’

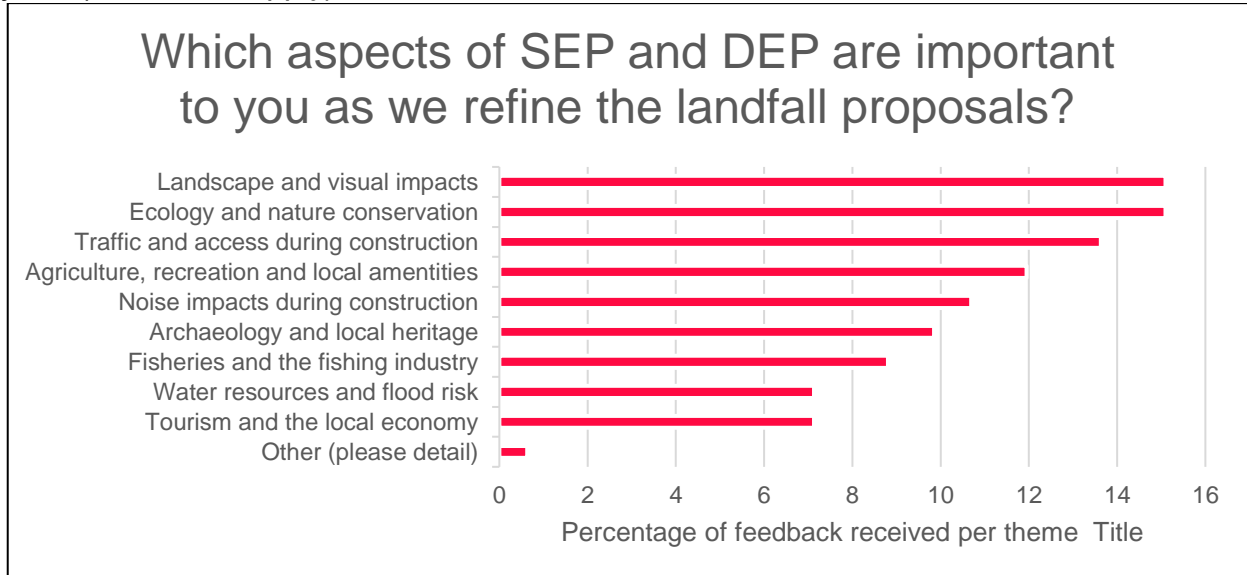


Figure 11-13 Responses regarding substation access

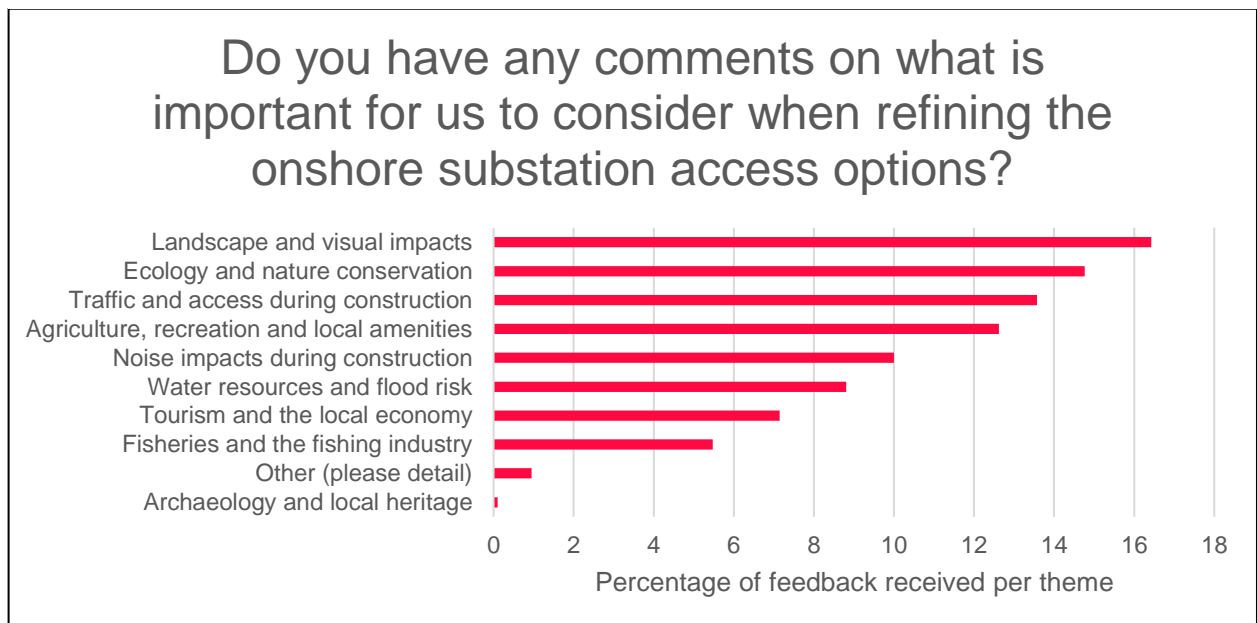
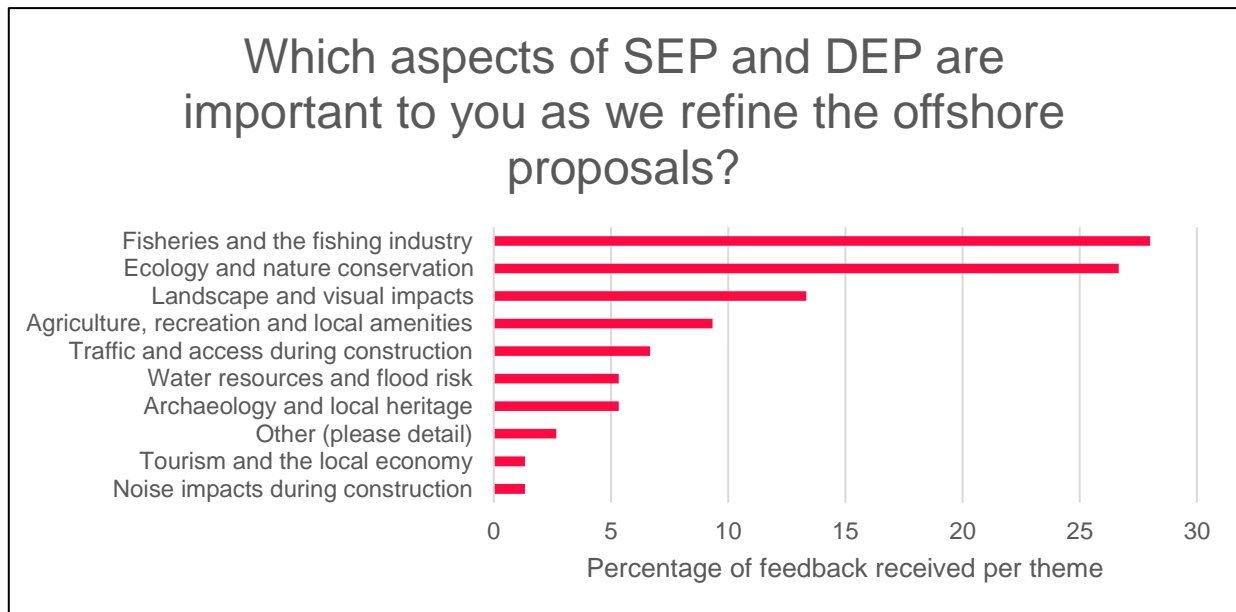


Figure 11-14 Responses regarding offshore proposals



334. A summary of the free form and written responses received to the Phase Two Section 47 consultation together with how the Applicant responded is provided in [Table 11-2](#).

Table 11-2 Phase Two Section 47 consultation key comments and Applicant responses

Topic Area: Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives	
Comments	Applicant response
Concern for how the Applicant is feeding into the Offshore Transmission Network Review.	The Applicant is supportive of the idea of an offshore transmission network and has engaged with both political and technical stakeholders regarding the topic. See the Scenarios Statement (document reference 9.28) for more information.
The shortlisted Woodforde Farm main compound location would not be an acceptable option due to inappropriate local roads and potential impact on Weston Longville village.	Following Phase Two consultation, the Applicant discounted Woodforde Farm as an option for the main construction compound location. See the Onshore Main Construction Compound Site Selection Report (document reference 6.3.3.3) for more information.
The onshore cable corridor from Weybourne to Bodham should not follow Sandy Hill Lane.	The Applicant has routed the onshore cables further to the east of Sandy Hill Lane to avoid direct impacts. Sandy Hill Lane will still be required for access during the works but would not result in any road closures. See ES Chapter 4 Project Description for more information (document reference 6.1.4).
The onshore cable corridor should not impact Weybourne Woods.	The Applicant has committed to cross Weybourne Woods via two HDDs, each approximately 400m long. The only tree losses would be at the central point between the two HDDs, this would require an area of approximately 100m x 50m to be subject to tree felling to accommodate a drilling compound, and would also require a permanent easement with no replacement trees. Trees would not need to be removed outside of this small compound. The Applicant has targeted a section of the woodland for the compound that has already been the subject of some commercial tree felling to minimise tree loss. See ES Chapter 4 Project Description for more information (document reference 6.1.4).
EIA Topic Area: Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives	
Comments	Applicant response
Concern for impacts to the Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ).	<p>The Applicant has committed to no more than 100m of external cable protection per export cable in the MCZ, in relation to unburied cables. This reduces the extent of any longer-term impacts on the MCZ.</p> <p>The Applicant has committed to not using loose rock type external cable protection systems in the MCZ. This facilitates the possibility of removal on decommissioning. See the CSCB MCZA (document reference 5.6) for more information.</p>

EIA Topic Area: Commercial Fisheries	
Comments	Applicant response
Weybourne is a working fishing village, and there should not be disruption to Weybourne Beach, where fishermen launch.	Weybourne Beach and Weybourne Beach Lane will remain open during construction. Access to the landfall site will be gained through existing private route at the Muckleburgh Estate, preventing the closure of Beach Lane will keep access restrictions to a minimum. Cables will come ashore at Weybourne beach using a trenchless crossing technique that will mitigate the impact on the area. See ES Chapter 4 Project Description for more information (document reference 6.1.4).
EIA Topic Area: Land Use and Agriculture	
Comments	Applicant response
Concern for long term impacts to agricultural land.	All farm land will be reinstated using stored topsoil following construction to its current state following construction meaning that any prior agricultural practice can continue once construction and reinstatement of land is complete. See ES Chapter 19 Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation (document reference 6.1.19) for more information.
EIA Topic Area: Air Quality	
Comments	Applicant response
Concerns for impacts to air quality due to construction traffic.	The conclusions of ES Chapter 24 Air Quality (document reference 6.1.24) due to construction vehicle emissions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions from non-road mobile machinery (NRMM) after implementation of mitigation measures is considered not significant; • Emissions from road vehicle exhaust emissions after implementation of mitigation are considered not significant; • Predicted pollutant concentrations were below the relevant air quality objectives at all considered receptor locations; and • Project-generated construction traffic was not predicted to cause a breach of any of the air quality objectives at any identified sensitive receptor location.
EIA Topic Area: Noise and Vibration	
Comments	Applicant response

<p>Concern that there would be noise pollution created from construction traffic.</p>	<p>Whilst it is anticipated that noise will be created from the construction traffic related to the projects, there will be measures that will mitigate against such impacts, these can be found in in ES Chapter 23 Noise and Vibration (document reference 6.1.23).</p>
<p>EIA Topic Area: Traffic and Transport</p>	
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Applicant response</p>
<p>Access to the onshore substation should not be taken from the B1113.</p>	<p>Following feedback from consultees that utilising proposed access option from the B1113 would be unacceptable, the Applicant ruled out this access when refining its access options.</p> <p>Selection and refinement of the Onshore Substation Access is described in ES Chapter 3 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (document reference 6.1.3).</p>
<p>Residents should be kept informed about possible road closures ahead of time.</p>	<p>Any closure of routes will be publicised following the local authority's standards for advertising temporary closures of routes. See the Outline Public Rights of Way Strategy (document reference 9.22) for more information.</p>
<p>The Applicant should coordinate vehicle movements with other local infrastructure projects.</p>	<p>We have coordinated with other local projects regarding transport routes and access points to mitigate the cumulative impact of traffic in the area. See ES Chapter 24 Traffic and Transport (document reference 6.1.24) for more information.</p>
<p>EIA Topic Area: Health</p>	
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Applicant response</p>
<p>The Applicant should go further to ensure that EMF levels will not cause harm to human or animal health.</p>	<p>All of the proposed technology options for the SEP and DEP export cables and third-party crossing points would be fully compliant with the Government policy. Specifically, all the fields produced would be below the relevant exposure limits. Therefore, there would be no significant EMF effects resulting from this proposed development. More information regarding EMFs can be found in ES Appendix 28.1 Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects EMF Assessment (document reference 6.3.28.1).</p>
<p>EIA Topic Area: Tourism and Recreation</p>	
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Applicant response</p>
<p>The coastal path amenity should not be impacted.</p>	<p>Public Rights of Way, including the Coastal Path, will be maintained throughout construction. If a temporary closure is required a suitable diversion will be agreed in advance with the Countryside Access Officer at Norfolk County Council. For more information see the Public Rights of Way and Cycle Route Crossing Schedule (document reference 6.3.19.1)</p>

<p>Multiple respondents suggested that the impact of the proposals on tourism, particularly in coastal areas, should be considered.</p>	<p>The ES Chapter 27: Socio-Economics and Tourism (Document reference: 6.1.27) sets out the measures that will mitigate any impacts on tourism from the projects. Specific measures associated with affected coastal areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weybourne Beach and Weybourne Beach Car Park will remain open during construction. • Access to the landfall site will be gained through existing private route at the Muckleburgh Estate, preventing the closure of Beach Lane will keep access restrictions to a minimum. • The Coastal Path, will be maintained throughout construction. If a temporary closure is required a suitable diversion will be agreed in advance with the Countryside Access Officer at Norfolk County Council. • A Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) at the landfall to minimise impacts to the beach and to keep access restrictions to an absolute minimum
---	--

12 Section 42 Statutory Consultation (29 April 2021 - 10 June 2021): Responses Received, And Changes and Commitments Made

12.1 Introduction

335. This chapter provides a summary of key comments received by consultees in response to the Section 42 consultation with Section 42 consultees and Section 44 consultees, with respect to key EIA topic areas.
336. During the Section 42 consultation, a total of 71 respondents commented on the proposed application. The complete list of all comments received, together with the Applicant responses are detailed in [Appendix 4](#).

12.2 Section 42 Consultee Comments

337. A description of the consultation responses that the Applicant received to the Section 42 consultation for each EIA topic area is presented in the individual ES chapters for these topic areas. This includes a summary of comments received to the Section 42 consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to these comments.
338. Table 12-1 provides a summary of comments received during the Section 42 consultation with respect to key EIA topic areas. It also includes a summary of whether there was a project change / no change as a result of that comment.

Table 12-1 Key comments received during Section 42 consultation

EIA Topic Area: Project Description		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
AONB; Cley Parish Council; Weybourne Parish Council	Stakeholders were concerned regarding the impact to the area of the landfall site.	The landfall works are temporary in nature with the landfall compound set back from the coast by approximately 150m (i.e. set back from the coastal path by 150m). The Applicant has committed to the use of a long HDD that will avoid direct disturbance to the beach and cliff areas. The main drilling works will last four months in total for the single project scenario, five months for the concurrent scenario, or two separate periods of four months (sequential scenario). Whilst there will be a construction presence during this four to five month period it will be set back from the areas most used by people and any impacts are not significant. For more information see ES Chapter 4 Project Description (document reference 6.1.4) for more information.
Great Melton Parish Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Natural England, North Norfolk District Council, Weybourne Parish Council	Stakeholders commented that they preferred the option of developing SEP and DEP concurrently rather than sequentially.	The intention is to reduce environmental impacts by delivering the projects at the same time. However, the final approach to delivering the projects will depend on future investment decisions and Government-led auctions. This requires some flexibility in the approach to constructing the projects which are reflected in the construction scenarios. To ensure that the worst-case impacts are considered the various build out scenarios have been assessed, including the sequential scenario, to ensure that should impacts be unavoidable that appropriate mitigation is identified. See the Scenarios Statement (document reference 9.28) for more information.
Cley Parish Council; NFU; Weybourne Parish Council	Stakeholders commented that they preferred HVDC to HVAC cabling technology.	For longer cable systems HVAC technology usually requires the introduction of a cable relay station or booster station along the onshore cable corridor. The inclusion of this element often represents a greater overall environmental impact compared to options that do not require the booster station. SEP and DEP can be delivered using HVAC technology without the need for a booster station (due to the relatively short length of cables offshore) and as such there is no significant difference in terms of environmental impact when comparing the buried cable systems alone. See ES Chapter 4 Project Description (document reference 6.1.4) for more information.

EIA Topic Area: Policy and Legislative Context		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
Norfolk Local Access Forum; Oulton Parish Council; Cley Parish Council; Cawston Parish Council; Barford & Wrampingham Parish Council; Beeston Regis Parish Council; Corpusty & Saxthorpe Parish Council; Jerome Mayhew MP; Weybourne Parish Council	The stakeholders commented that they would prefer SEP and DEP to utilise an Offshore Transmission Network rather than the currently proposed connection to the national grid.	Whilst Equinor is supportive of the idea of an offshore transmission network, neither the technical nor regulatory frameworks exists to incorporate an OTN into the project. The applicant has set its timeline for the SEP and DEP project and delaying it would risk not meeting the Government's offshore wind target of 50 GW by 2030. See the Scenarios Statement (document reference 9.28) for more information.
Topic Area: Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
Norfolk AONB	Onshore construction compounds Woodforde Farm unsuitable - too far from route and substandard access.	Woodforde Farm has not been taken forward as the main construction compound location. See the Onshore Main Construction Compound Site Selection Report (document reference 6.3.3.3) for more information.
National Grid Electricity Transmission	Access Route to Proposed Substation NGET object to the proposal to access the proposed onshore substation through the NGET Norwich Main Substation.	The Applicant has continued to engage with NGET the use of the existing National Grid access. In order to address National Grid's concerns additional means of access to the onshore substation have been included for within the DCO boundary to the north and west of Norwich Main substation. Other measures such as improvements to the existing access and vehicle holding areas have also been proposed. The SEP and DEP operational access is proposed to be via the existing National Grid access. However, SEP and DEP operational traffic would only be required for planned maintenance – equivalent to one light goods vehicle visiting the site per week. See the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (document reference 9.16) for more information.
North Norfolk District Council	NNDC recognise that the final cable route within the identified route corridor area will be refined further as the project moves towards DCO consent stage. There will be	Throughout the site selection process and associated consultation, the onshore cable route presented at the PEIR stage has been refined to a width of 60m for the DCO application, increasing to a width of 100m for trenchless crossing zones, such as main rivers and A roads. The Applicant has committed to 54

	<p>an expectation from NNDC that the route is refined and options chosen (e.g. avoiding removal of important trees and hedgerows and other interest features) and use of HDD under features where no other satisfactory re-routing alternative is available. This is important so as to minimise the impact of the project both during the construction phase and also in terms of the longer term impacts associated with constraints above laid cables.</p>	<p>trenchless crossings across the entire route, which have been included to avoid numerous features including main rivers and ecologically sensitive hedgerows with trees. See ES Chapter 4 Project Description (document reference 6.1.4) for more information.</p>
The Forestry Commission	<p>The Forestry Commission advocates that wherever possible cabling is tunnelled under woodland shelter belts without the need for excavating an open trench, which greatly disturbs a woodland and the essential root mass.</p>	<p>We have committed to crossing all woodland habitats using trenchless crossing techniques. The DCO boundary has been routed to avoid woodland habitat wherever possible, as demonstrated by the boundary alignment around woodlands such as Mossymere Wood (in the Civil Parishes of Itteringham and Corpusty and Saxthorpe), Colton Wood (in the Civil Parish of Marlingford and Colton) and Smeeth Wood (in the Civil Parish of Ketteringham). Colton Wood and Smeeth Wood are the only Ancient Woodlands in close proximity to the DCO boundary.</p>
EIA Topic Area: Marine Mammal Ecology		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
Natural England	<p>Natural England’s primary concern in relation to the assessment at this stage is in relation to the assessment of UXO and defining the WCS. We note that UXO charge weights up to 525kg have been presented. However, other offshore wind farms in the area (namely Dudgeon and Hornsea Project Two) have cleared UXOs with net explosive quantities up to 907kg (as mentioned in the Draft Information for Habitats Regulations Assessment for SEP and DEP, paragraph 378). Without evidence to confirm that UXO size within</p>	<p>As clarified at the Expert Topic Group (ETG) 3 meeting on the 20th July 2021, UXO sizes were converted from lb to kg for consistency, however, this is not the same as the Net Explosive Quantity (NEQ) or TNT equivalent charge weights. As shown in Table 10-21 of ES Appendix 10.4 (document reference 6.3.10.4), a 525kg NEQ is equivalent to a 1,000lb (907.2kg) air-delivered bomb so the worst case scenario has been assessed. See the ES Appendix Marine Mammal Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Assessment (document reference 6.3.10.4) for more information.</p> <p>As discussed at the ETG3 and agreed by Natural England in the Agreement Log dated 20/07/2021, further underwater noise modelling for maximum UXO includes:</p>

	<p>the SEP and DEP sites will not exceed 525kg, we request that the noise emissions of a 907kg UXO is also modelled, to ensure any mitigation measures are suitably precautionary and cover the worst-case scenario.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-order detonation, including donor charge, without bubble curtain; • High-order detonation, including donor charge, with bubble curtain; and • Low-order detonation, such as deflagration.
Natural England	<p>Natural England agree that from an EIA perspective, there will be no residual significant impact on marine mammals, alone or in-combination.</p> <p>However, there are sections where updates to the final magnitude / sensitivity of some of the impact assessments is required.</p>	<p>All assessments have been reviewed and updated, and the magnitude / sensitivity revised, where required. See ES Chapter 10 Marine Mammal Ecology (document reference 6.1.10) for more information.</p>
EIA Topic Area: Offshore Ornithology		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
RSPB	<p>There is a correlation between collision mortality rates and OWF.</p>	<p>Since the production of the PEIR, the air gap of SEP and DEP has been increased from 26m to 30m to reduce the collision risk of offshore ornithology receptors. Further details are provided in ES Chapter 4 Project Description (document reference 6.1.4).</p>
EIA Topic Area: Commercial Fisheries		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority	<p>We consider it very important that developers open and maintain effective dialogue with all fishing interests who may be affected by a project (commercial fishers, recreational fishers and charter boat operators).</p>	<p>Noted and understood. It is noted that impacts to recreational fishers are considered within ES Chapter 16 Petroleum Industry and Other Marine Users (Document reference: 6.1.16). The Applicant has engaged extensively with commercial fisheries as demonstrated in Sections 6 and 14 of this Consultation Report.</p>
National Federation of Fishermen's organisation	<p>With regard to surface laid cables, local potting fleets would not avoid areas of cable protection or surface laid cable. It is not expected that static gear would be a</p>	<p>Unprotected surface laid cable within the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ has been scoped out of the design envelope Cables will be buried as far as possible to avoid the need for external cable protection systems.</p>

	<p>threat to the cable, but there could be a risk to fishing operations, both in terms of loss of gear and possible capsizing of vessel.</p>	<p>The Outline CSIMP (document reference 9.7) provides further information on the anticipated cable installation and protection requirements within the MCZ</p>
<p>EIA Topic Area: Shipping and Navigation</p>		
<p>Stakeholder(s)</p>	<p>Comments</p>	<p>Applicant response</p>
<p>Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA)</p>	<p>The turbine layout design will require MCA agreement prior to construction to minimise the risks to surface vessels, including rescue boats, and Search and Rescue aircraft operating within the site. As such, MCA will seek to ensure all structures are aligned in straight rows and columns, including any platforms.</p>	<p>The project will undertake a thorough appraisal of the potential for two consistent lines of orientation. Should two consistent lines not be possible, as a minimum the position of surface structures shall be arranged in straight lines with at least one consistent line of orientation.</p> <p>Where practically possible, the position of surface structures shall be aligned with existing lines of orientation of the nearest operational wind farm. Otherwise, the position of surface structures will be arranged as stated in commitment 1 with the modification that a minimum spacing of 1 nautical mile tip to tip will be maintained between the turbines of the nearest operational wind farm and the turbines of SEP and DEP. See the Offshore Design Statement (document reference 9.26) for more information.</p>
	<p>Export cable routes, cable burial protection index and cable protections are issues that are yet to be fully developed. However due cognisance needs to address cable burial and protection, particularly close to shore where impacts on navigable water depth may become significant. Any consented cable protection works must ensure existing and future safe navigation is not compromised. The MCA would accept a maximum of 5% reduction in surrounding depth referenced to Chart Datum. Where burial depths are not achieved consultation will need to take place with MCA regarding the locations, impact and potential risk mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Noted. Cables will comply with MGN 654 under-keel clearance requirements. Any changes exceeding 5% will be discussed with the MCA and TH. For more information see ES Chapter 13 Shipping and Navigation (document reference 6.1.13)</p>

EIA Topic Area: Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
Historic England	We recommend that any outline WSI produced in support of a DCO application, states that commissioned geo-archaeologists are given direct access to the cores rather than isolated deposits as this allows for greater reliability and confidence in the resulting conclusions. We also appreciate that a strategy will be developed to deal with unexpected discoveries, establishing a protocol for archaeological discoveries (paragraph 221) and are pleased to see that the protocol will be agreed in consultation with Historic England.	Direct access to cores is included as part of the approach to geoarchaeological assessment set out in the Outline WSI (Offshore) (document reference: 9.11).
Historic England	Paragraph 54 includes a bullet point about “the perceived heritage importance of identified assets”. However, importance is scaled, not perceived using defined criteria (e.g. national or international importance) and therefore this bullet point would need to be revised in any ES prepared for submission.	The impact assessment methodology has been updated to take account of recently published guidance on cultural heritage impact assessment and this bullet point has been removed. See ES Chapter 21 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (document reference 6.1.21).
EIA Topic Area: Petroleum Industry and Other Marine Users Onshore		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
Independent Oil and Gas (IOG)	Line of sight communication is currently in place between the Blythe platform and the Bacton gas terminal. We would appreciate confirmation that this line of communication remains in place and unobstructed by any individual wind turbines of the Dudgeon Extension Project.	Line of sight communications between the Blythe platform and Bacton gas terminal will be maintained and incorporated into the final layout design. The turbine layout will be finalised post-consent.

	IOG would be open to discussing alternative communication systems, such as the use of existing optical fibre, that may already be planned by Equinor for its own communication requirements.	
Natural England	There is a potential clash with the timelines of SEP and DEP and Planned Blythe Hub surface and subsea infrastructure which is located near to the DEP Offshore Windfarm (OWF). Its pipeline will route directly north of DEP (S), stopping S of DEP (N). This raises the prospect of in-combination issues. Elgood is the first of five planned development wells in IOG's Phase 1 project and is expected to take approx. three months to drill and complete, after which the rig will move on to Blythe in early Q3. The production of 'first gas' is scheduled for Q3 2021. The assessment should consider the implications of a potential clash with construction and/or O&M activities for the Blythe Hub and subsea infrastructure near DEP OWF.	The Applicant has consulted with IOG who advised that the Blythe platform was successfully installed in June 2021, and that the Noble Hans Deul jack-up rig was on location at the Elgood gas field in June 2021. The projects remain on schedule with flow testing undertaken in Q3 2021. The earliest commencement of construction activities for SEP and DEP are not planned until 2025.
EIA Topic Area: Land Use and Agriculture		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
Environment Agency	The proposed crossing of Spring Beck is an area of concern. The cable run appears to bisect an area of natural flood management which was finished in 2019. This area acts to hold water to help protect Weybourne from flooding downstream. The presence of the cable run will displace some of that storage capacity and may create other drainage routes. It is very	All onshore projects including the mentioned area of natural flood management is assessed in the Flood Risk Assessment (Document reference: 5.3). Further information regarding flood risk as well as mitigation measures is set out in ES Chapter 18 Water Resources and flood risk (Document reference: 6.1.18)

	important that this area is analysed further for any offsite increase in flood risk.	
NFU	The NFU understands that the route corridor is presently 200m wide and will be refined to 60m to 100m for where trenchless crossing is required. The NFU requests that it does hold face to face meetings with landowners affected by the proposed 200m route corridor so that it understands what features are on the ground including agricultural buildings, boreholes / reservoirs which supply irrigation systems, main access points to land etc which could be avoided by the final route. Equinor should not only rely on the information it receives to this consultation.	The Applicant has contacted all landowners affected by the proposal and has sought to have face to face meetings with all affected landowners. The site selection exercise has been informed by landowner feedback with regards to the positioning of the cable corridor across individual land parcels.
Norfolk County Council	Members enquired if there is potential opportunity to use the cable corridor as a cycle path?	The majority of the land would be returned to its former use following the installation of the cable corridor and there are no plans to repurpose the land into a cycle path. see ES Chapter 4 Project Description (document reference 6.1.4) for more information.
EIA Topic Area: Air Quality		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
North Norfolk District Council	<p>The contents of PEIR Chapter 24 Air quality are noted together with the technical appendices.</p> <p>These issues have not been considered in detail by NNDC at this time but, in the main the most likely air quality impact will arise from transport and construction activities. NNDC would wish to work with Equinor in the preparation of any Outline Codes of Construction Practice and Outline Traffic</p>	Noted. The assessment of construction phase impacts is provided in ES Chapter 22 Air Quality (Document reference 6.2.22). Any mitigation measures recommended in this chapter will be included in the outline Code of Construction Practice (oCoCP) (document reference 9.17).

	Management Plans which can help avoid, or mitigate and potential adverse air quality impacts.	
EIA Topic Area: Traffic and Transport		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
Highways England	We have previously indicated that if Oulton is to be considered as a location for a compound that traffic impacts need to be investigated.	A secondary construction compound site has been selected at Oulton. Impacts on traffic in all of the onshore project area are assessed in ES Chapter 24 Traffic and Transport (document reference 6.1.24). Further analysis can be found in the Transport Assessment (document reference 6.3.24.1) and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document reference 9.16).
Swardeston Parish Council	Substation access not via B1113	The Applicant can confirm that an access to the onshore substation from the B1113 is no longer proposed unless in exceptional circumstances. The Applicant and Norfolk County Council have agreed in principle (at a meeting on the 31 March 2022) proposed access designs for the onshore substation from the A140 and Mangreen Lane. Details of the final access strategy is be provided within the Transport Assessment (document reference 9.2.24.1) that accompanies the Development Consent Order application.
EIA Topic Area: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
Norfolk County Council	We would expect to see phased and layered planting around the substation sites to afford long distance screening in the landscape without creating block planting that will not appear congruent with the landscape. As well as losses minimised where possible and suitable mitigation proposed, we would support a “no net loss” approach	The Outline Landscape Management Plan (document reference 9.18) presents the key landscape principles and proposals to minimise impacts and provide screening. These proposals include planting native hedgerows and trees to complement the existing vegetation. These landscape proposals form part of the embedded mitigation measures that are considered in the assessment of effects in ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual assessment (document reference 6.1.26)

EIA Topic Area: Socio-Economics		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
Weybourne Parish Council	The village depends on tourism, especially in the peak April-October period, with the pub and shop, campsites, B&Bs and holiday lets and the North Norfolk Railway all vulnerable to the effects of any road closures and construction activity.	<p>The vulnerability of the tourism sector and specific businesses is an important point, especially given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is difficult to say how exactly COVID-19 has impacted locally at this point in time and how this may evolve in the coming years (it is likely that there are mix of positives and negatives). Additionally, the UK Government put in place a number of economic initiatives to support the businesses in the tourism sector to address the challenges of the pandemic.</p> <p>Equinor has made several commitments to reduce impacts on tourism within the area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) at the landfall to minimise impacts to the beach and to keep access restrictions to an absolute minimum; • Locating the landfall on private land, with access through the Muckleburgh estate only and no access via Beach lane; • No compound for the onshore cable works will be located at the landfall; • Weybourne Woods will be crossed using HDD to avoid closing Sandy Hill Lane and to reduce impacts to recreational users of the woods; • A commitment to avoid closing any of the roads leading in and out of Weybourne; and • Enhanced measures within a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP), such as a Community liaison officer to help effectively manage deliveries during local planned events (see Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (document ref. 9.16)).
EIA Topic Area: Health		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
Public Health England (UK Health Security Agency)	In relation to cumulative impact these schemes will have particular importance to the assessment of construction staff accommodation needs, traffic and transport and the impact on the local	The assessment on health in the project area have been furthered since the publication of the PEIR. For a full analysis of potential impacts to health on the population within the project area and mitigation measures see ES Chapter 28 Health (document reference 6.1.28).

	health care system and community cohesion from the introduction of a large external workforce across a number of infrastructure schemes. These potential impacts have been acknowledged within the PEIR but have not been adequately assessed and considered not significant partly on the basis that any impact or effects are temporary.	
EIA Topic Area: Tourism and Recreation		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
Weybourne Parish Council	Weybourne is a working fishing village, with the fishermen launching from the beach.	<p>The potential impacts to commercial fishers has been assessed within the Commercial Fisheries Technical Report contained in ES Appendix 12.1 (document reference 6.3.12.1).</p> <p>The project will develop an appropriate Fisheries Engagement strategy and use an onshore FLO to facilitate engagement and information sharing with local fisheries during the project development/construction phase.</p> <p>With regards to recreational fishing along Weybourne Beach, the HDD works should not require any prolonged periods of restrictions or closures to the beach for public access, although it is possible that some work activities would be required to be performed on the beach that may require short periods of restricted access. For more information see ES Chapter 4 Project Description (document reference 6.1.4).</p>
EIA Topic Area: Consultation		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
North Norfolk AONB	Obviously running the consultation like this was inevitable due to Coronavirus however this will not be suitable for everyone. Therefore the consultation may not be fully representative.	<p>The Applicant endeavoured to make both stages of statutory consultation as accessible as possible. This included hosting a virtual exhibition which had all the same information materials an in-person event would have. The team was also contactable through various contact lines such as email, telephone, and letters, so that individuals had a variety of methods of asking questions and providing feedback.</p> <p>Acknowledging the community's preference for face-to-face engagement, following an extension to the DCO submission date, the Applicant held four</p>

		<p>Project Information Days in March 2022 in order to provide the opportunity for face-to-face engagement with the project team and community stakeholders. These events were held in Aylsham, Weston Longville, Swardeston, and Sheringham. An additional event was also hosted in Weybourne on the 1 June 2022.</p>
--	--	---

12.3 Section 44 Consultee Comments

339. In response to the Section 42 consultation carried out with Section 44 consultees under Section 42(1)(d) of the 2008 Act, 17 responses were received from Landowners to the PEIR.
340. Full comments received and how the Applicant has responded is set out in [Appendix 4](#).
341. The Applicant continued discussions with Section 44 consultees regarding their land interests and in order to seek agreement with Landowners to secure the land use powers it needs by agreement with the parties that own and occupy the land which the Project would affect. To that end, the Applicant has initiated and engaged in negotiations with the affected parties, which remain ongoing, as detailed in [Section 13](#) of this consultation report.

12.4 Section 48 Comments

342. No specific responses were received to the Section 48 notice.

13 Targeted Consultations

13.1 Onshore Targeted Consultation under Section 42 (6 January – 16 February 2022)

343. Owing to the refinement of the onshore cable corridor and main construction compound location, the Applicant undertook an additional round of targeted consultation, hereby referred to as the onshore targeted consultation.
344. The Applicant notified 230 selected Section 44 consultees (see [Appendix 22](#)) who were likely to be affected by the revised onshore cable corridor boundary, selected main construction compound location and those affected by the *ad medium filum* rule (legal presumption that states that where the boundary between two properties lies either side of a highway or non-tidal river or stream, the assumed boundary runs down the middle line of the highway, river, or stream). Section 44 consultees were identified in line with [Section 5.5](#). The consultation with Section 44 stakeholders was undertaken on a statutory basis as a result of changes to the onshore cable corridor, to ensure that any newly identified consultees were given the opportunity to comment on the Applicant's proposals for SEP and DEP, in accordance with section 42(1)(d) of the 2008 Act.
345. In addition to the Section 44 consultees, the Applicant also consulted selected prescribed consultees, alongside selected non-prescribed consultees, who were deemed to have an interest in the refined main construction compound location at Attlebridge, on a non-statutory basis. The list of consultees can be found within [Appendix 19](#). Consultees were identified on the following grounds:
- Onshore prescribed Section 42 consultees with an interest in the main construction compound location;
 - All relevant statutory undertakers;
 - All host Section 43 local authorities;
 - Non-prescribed Section 42 consultees with an interest in the main construction compound location; and
 - Utilities with potential interest in the main construction compound location.
346. The Applicant informed the consultees of the consultation by issuing the following package of correspondence on 04 January 2022 (as provided in [Appendix 19](#)):
- Section 42 Targeted Consultation Letter Notification;
 - Onshore Main Construction Compound Updated Site Selection Report;
 - Onshore Main Construction Compound Additional Environmental Information Report; and
 - Additional documents including the Statement of Community Consultation, the Phase 1 Consultation Summary Report, and the Phase 2 Consultation Summary Report (which are included for information purposes).

347. In total nine Section 42 and Section 44 responses were received by the deadline of 16 February 2022. Key comments and project changes are summarised in **Table 13-1**. Comments received and how the Applicant has responded is set out in **Appendix 23**.

Table 13-1 Key comments received during Section 42 Onshore Targeted consultation

EIA Topic Area: Project Description		
Stakeholder(s)	Comments	Applicant response
Norfolk County Council	The team would like to highlight the adjacent County Wildlife Site (Attlebridge Hills Ref No: 1343) which immediately abuts the boundary to the south east. Along this boundary, a minimum of 10m stand-off would be required to ensure the protection of the trees	There is a 50 metre gap between the edge of the final DCO boundary for the Main construction compound and the County Wildlife Site. For more information see ES Chapter 4 Project Description (document reference 6.1.4).
Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd	the A1067 (the main route serving the preferred SEP and DEP main construction compound location) is also a road link for construction traffic for both NV and NB. VWPL would expect the reported NV and NB construction traffic numbers to be factored into Equinor’s assessment of cumulative traffic impacts on the A1067 as part of their application.	The Applicant is mindful of the commitments made by Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas along the B1149 and B1145. The reported traffic numbers from these projects along with Hornsea Project Three have been incorporated into the traffic cumulative impact assessment, which is presented in ES Chapter 24 Traffic and Transport (Document reference: 6.1.24).
Norfolk Wildlife trust	Recommend: Full breeding bird surveys of proposed site, to established the full range of ground nesting bird species and territory numbers.	An ecological survey was undertaken for the Fakenham Road site, and no protected species or protected habitats were identified. The field where the compound is proposed does however contain skylark territories and appropriate mitigation would therefore be required for this species. For more information see ES Chapter 20 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology (document reference 6.1.20).

13.2 Offshore Targeted Consultation under Section 42 (6 April – 18 May 2022)

348. Owing to the proposed extension to the offshore order limits, the Applicant undertook an additional round of targeted consultation, hereby referred to as offshore targeted consultation.
349. The decision to extend the offshore Order Limits assessed within the PEIR was to ensure that there is sufficient space for the offshore temporary works to be accommodated.
350. The Applicant consulted 90 selected prescribed and non-prescribed Section 42 consultees who may be affected and/or interested in the proposed changes to the offshore order limits, on a non-statutory basis. These consultees are listed within [Appendix 19](#).
351. The Applicant informed the consultees of the consultation by issuing the following package of correspondence on 05 April 2022.
- S42 Targeted Consultation Letter Notification (As provided in [Appendix 19](#));
 - Offshore Temporary Works Order Limits Environmental Report;
 - Map showing proposed changes to PEIR boundary; and
 - Additional documents including the Phase 1 Consultation Summary Report, and the Phase 2 Consultation Summary Report (which are included for information purposes).
352. In total seven Section 42 consultees responded by the deadline of 18 May 2022. Key Comments received and how the Applicant has responded is set out in [table 13-2](#). A full set of comments and responses can be found in [Appendix 24](#).

Table 13-2 Key comments received and Applicant response to Offshore Targeted Consultation

Stakeholder	Comment	Response
Historic England	We therefore concur with the matters summarised for inclusion with any Outline WSI such as avoidance through Archaeological Exclusion Zones; geophysics and geoarchaeology assessment methodology; and application of a reporting protocol for discoveries will be inclusive of the proposed additional temporary works area buffer zone. We also welcome the commitment made in paragraph 23 that the Archaeology Expert Topic Group (ETG) will be consulted on the revised Outline WSI as part of the ongoing Evidence Plan Process.	The Outline WSI (Offshore) (document reference: 9.11) includes consideration of the offshore temporary works area following the amendment to the proposed Order Limits. A draft of the Outline WSI (Offshore) has been forwarded to Historic England for review prior to submission
Historic England	Further to the acknowledgment of further geoarchaeological assessment as a component of any Outline WSI, we consider it relevant that any further discussion directed through the ETG allows for consideration of palaeo-channel features to be encountered. We are aware that utilising geophysical and geotechnical survey should be extended to include the additional temporary works area buffer zone and thereby build of the assessment provided in PEIR Appendix 16.1 (Archaeological Assessment of Geophysical Data), such an approach would give an indication of the potential for prehistoric landscape and channel features to be impacted in the extended area.	
Eastern IFCA	We consider that enlarging the works area by 750m either side of the cable corridor is likely to result in more extensive fisheries exclusion areas during cable works (survey, pre-lay clearance, laying operations and post-lay works). This could result in significant displacement for inshore fishers – particularly those using the small vessels typical of the Cromer/Sheringham area, whose working range is very limited. We request that this matter is considered further. We also strongly recommend that local fishing industry representatives are engaged with from an early stage, well in advance of any required exclusions, and that meaningful engagement is maintained throughout the project lifespan.	To further clarify this statement, the temporary works and associated impacts of exclusion, displacement and disruption etc, have been assessed within ES Chapter 14 Commercial Fisheries (document reference 6.1.14). The total surface area, duration and other maximum design scenarios for these works remain consistent, the 750m extension means that these (already assessed) activities have the opportunity to occur in a wider area, while the measure of the impact activities themselves do not change. The fishing fleets and nature of fishing activities within these wider areas are considered to be consistent with the project areas already assessed (e.g., no new fisheries to those already assessed have been identified specifically within the 750m extended temporary

		<p>works area). As a result, the original assessment, which considers exclusion areas and displacement of inshore vessels for the range of commercial fishing fleets operating across the project, remains valid.</p>
<p>Eastern IFCA</p>	<p>If the footprint of works is likely to increase as a result of extending the works area, we consider this should be carefully assessed in relation to the location of sensitive MCZ habitats (including subtidal chalk underlying sediment veneers). We highlight that Eastern IFCA has agreed fisheries restriction areas for towed, demersal fishing gear, (e.g. dredges and trawls) across most of the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ to prevent physical damage to surface chalk as well as that underlying sediment, on the basis (and following Natural England’s advice) that sediment could be mobile and expose the chalk. These restrictions will be implemented when Eastern IFCA’s Closed Areas Byelaw 2021 is signed off by Defra (likely within 6-12 months). Stakeholders are likely to raise concerns if protected areas closed to certain fishing activities, for conservation purposes, are subsequently affected by wind farm cabling works.</p>	<p>The extended area for the export cable corridor will not increase impacts to the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ as the maximum footprints remain unchanged . HDD will be used to install the export cables at the landfall, with the HDD exit point located approximately 1,000m offshore in an area identified by the project characterisation surveys as sand (refer to the CSCB MCZA (document reference 5.6). No anchoring or use of jack-up vessels will be undertaken in the nearshore area of the MCZ where the outcropping chalk feature is identified by pre-construction survey. Therefore, there will be no direct impacts on the outcropping chalk feature in the nearshore from permanent or temporary works. All effects from SEP and DEP on the MCZ more generally will be limited to the broadscale marine habitat features, namely subtidal coarse sediment; subtidal mixed sediments; and subtidal sand. As broadscale habitats, these are commonplace and widely distributed throughout the southern North Sea and are the same habitats that have been identified in the project surveys that have been conducted to date. Pre-construction surveys will confirm the habitats that are present in the offshore export cable corridor prior to construction and will inform detailed project design and any micro-siting requirements.</p>

MMO	Marine plans will inform and guide decision makers on development in marine and coastal areas. Proposals should conform with all relevant policies, taking account of economic, environmental and social considerations. Marine plans are a statutory consideration for public authorities with decision making functions.	Noted. The Applicant has ensured that the proposal for the Projects has conformed with all relevant polices. Economic, environmental and social issues have all been considered as part of the development of the proposals. For more information see the Planning Statement (document reference 9.1)
MMO	If this consultation request relates to a project capable of falling within either set of EIA regulations, then it is advised that the Applicant submit a request directly to the MMO to ensure any requirements under the MWR are considered adequately at the following link	The Applicant has engaged with the MMO to ensure that the EIA regulations for the projects have been abided by.

14 Ongoing Consultation Activities (11 June 2021- Application submission)

14.1 Introduction

353. This chapter outlines consultation activities undertaken with consultees following the close of the statutory consultation period on 10 June 2021.
354. It also provides a summary of continued discussions with a number of consultees to respond to the comments raised in response to the Section 42 consultation to reach positions of agreement or understanding on the DCO application.

14.2 Ongoing Consultation with Section 47 Consultees

Community Consultees

355. The Applicant was committed to continued engagement with community consultees, as defined in [Section 5](#) of this consultation report, following the close of Phase Two Section 47 consultation and Section 42 consultation.
356. The Applicant received 5 responses from the community following 10 June 2021, which have been recorded and responded to in [Appendix 3](#).
357. The Applicant sought to keep the community updated with the latest news regarding SEP and DEP via community newsletters (see [Appendix 26](#)). This included a newsletter shared ahead of DCO submission, providing further detail on the acceptance and examination process.
358. In January 2022 Equinor appointed a Regional Stakeholder Manager for Norfolk and East Anglia to work alongside the SEP and DEP Stakeholder Manager and Community Liaison Officer. This has significantly bolstered the capacity for broader face to face discussions and presentations and skills activities relevant to local communities,
359. Following an extension to the DCO submission date and acknowledging Phase Two community feedback of a preference for face-to-face engagement, The Applicant held Project Information Days between 07 March and 10 March 2022 in, Aylsham, Weston Longville, Swardeston, and Sheringham respectively. These events were attended by 313 stakeholders. The locations of the information day venues were chosen due to proximity to proposed infrastructure, an equal geographical spread across the project area, and the availability of venues. Following Phase One consultation in 2020, Bacton was no longer being considered as a landfall option so was discounted as a potential location for a Project Information Event.
360. The Applicant also held a Project Information Day on the 1 June 2022 in Weybourne. This event was attended by 19 stakeholders.

361. The Applicant has taken considerable time to respond to the concerns of a Weybourne resident and the MP Duncan Baker about the combined levels of EMF emission from the existing Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon onshore cables and the proposed SEP and DEP cables, in particular on the Muckleburgh Estate land. Members of the Applicant’s project team visited the Weybourne property with Duncan Baker MP on 11 March 2022. This visit was in addition to visits to the property on 14 July 2021 by the CLO and Dalcour Maclaren, and a visit by the CLO in June 2021.

Hard-to-Reach Groups and Interest Groups

362. The Applicant was committed to continued engagement with hard-to-reach groups and interest groups, as defined in **Section 5.2** of this consultation report, following the close of Phase Two Section 47 consultation and Section 42 consultation.

363. The Applicant shared advance notification of the March 2022 Project Information Days with hard-to-reach groups and interest groups listed in **Table 5-1** and encouraged organisations to publicise the events in internal newsletters and on social media.

364. The Applicant has engaged consistently with Parish Councils which signed up to the Norfolk Parish Movement, acknowledging the group’s ongoing interest in the Development. The key topic of engagement was the OTNR; the Norfolk Parish Movement are supporters of an Offshore Ring Main. Engagement with the Applicant and the group has been through writing and meetings, including discussions with the Projects’ director at the March 2022 project information days.

Table 14-1 Summary of meetings with hard-to-reach groups between 11 June 2021 and application submission

Date	Stakeholder(s)	Issues discussed
07/03/2022	Aylsham School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEP and DEP project information; and • Careers.
10/03/2022	Sheringham Woodfield School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEP and DEP project information.
10/03/2022	Reepham High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEP and DEP project information; and • Careers.
04/05/2022	Sheringham History Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon – past, present and future; • Finds to date and how we protect finds; and • The broader context – Skills and supply chain.

MPs

365. The Applicant is committed to continued engagement with MPs, as defined in **Section 5** of this consultation report, following the close of Phase Two Section 47 consultation and Section 42 consultation. **Table 14-2** summarises the meetings held with MPs from 11 June 2021 – Applicant submission.

366. MPs also received regular updates on the status of the Development, including:

- Email invitation on 22 July 2021 inviting host MPs to attend the Applicant’s Offshore Transmission Network Virtual Information Session;
- Email update on 05 October regarding the DCO submission date extension; and
- Email update on 18 March 2022 regarding the March 2022 Project Information Days.

Table 14-2 Summary of meetings with MPs between 11 June 2021 and application submission

Date	Stakeholder(s)	Issues discussed
22.07.2021	Duncan Baker MP, Jerome Mayhew MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two MPs attended the Applicant’s Virtual Information Session on the Offshore Transmission Network Review.
06.12.2021	Duncan Baker MP, Jerome Mayhew MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update presentation on SEP and DEP; • Consultation; • OTNR; and • Next steps.

Elected Members and Parish Councils

367. The Applicant was committed to continued engagement with elected members and parish councils, as defined in **Section 5** of this consultation report, following the close of Phase Two Section 47 consultation and Section 42 consultation.

368. The Applicant sought to arrange update meetings with relevant elected members from each of the host Section 43 consultees between 11 June 2021 and application submission. These meetings are included in **Table 14-3**.

369. Acknowledging the importance of parish councils as local stakeholders, the Applicant sought to continue pro-active engagement with this stakeholder group following the close of Phase Two Section 47 consultation and Section 42 consultation. The Applicant carried out the following engagement activities with parish councils, as detailed in **Table 14-3**:

- Email update sent on 05 October 2021 regarding the DCO submission date extension (**Appendix 21**);
- Email invitation sent on 16 November 2021 to parish council update webinar and Q&A session (**Appendix 25**);
- Parish council update webinar and Q&A session, on 08 December 2021; and

- Invitation to March 2022 Project Information Days, sent on 18 February 2022.
370. Acknowledging that the Development has potential to impact some parish councils to a great extent, the Applicant has sought further individual engagement with particularly impacted parish councils that host the landfall location, main construction compound location, and onshore substation location. This is detailed in **Table 14-3**.
371. Acknowledging that certain parish councils have expressed particular interest in remaining updated on proposals for SEP and DEP, the Applicant offered meetings with specific parish councils and made itself available for meetings with all parish councils.

Table 14-3 Summary of engagement with elected members and parish councils between 11 June 2020 and application submission

Date	Engagement	Stakeholder(s)	Issues discussed
06/10/2021	Meeting	Weybourne Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and introductions; • Project update and next steps; • Landfall proposals; • Cable route from landfall to Bodham; • Construction traffic management; and • Q&A.
08/12/2021	Meeting	All parish councils invited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on SEP and DEP; • Phase Two consultation feedback; • Next steps; and • Q&A.
10/12/2021	Meeting	Swardeston Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on SEP and DEP; • Onshore substation; • Onshore substation access; • Community benefit funding; and • AOB.
13/12/2021	Meeting	Attlebridge Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on SEP and DEP; • Main construction compound site selection; • Main construction compound activities and access; • Community benefit funding; and • AOB.
11/01/2022	Meeting	Haveringland Parish Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on SEP and DEP;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore cable corridor and construction traffic near Haveringland; AOB; Cumulative impact with other projects; OTNR; and Secondary compound on Easton Way.
15/02/2022	Meeting	Barford and Wrampingham Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project overview and next steps; Phase Two consultation; and Project updates.
13/07/2022	Meeting	Cawston Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project status; DCO schedule; Substation; Cable route; OTNR; Skills, jobs and supply chain; and Timeline and collaboration with communities.
27/07/2022	Letter	Weybourne Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid connection point selection process & assessment of alternatives; Offshore cable route crossing the MCZA and the wash, and measures to mitigate impacts on these areas; Equinor's contribution to the OTNR;
05/08/2022	Letter	Bawdeswell Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid connection point selection and assessment of the alternatives (particular reference to biodiversity and traffic related issues); Offshore cable route crossing the MCZA and the wash, and measures to mitigate impacts on these areas; Addressing Traffic/ HGV related concerns & setting out measures to mitigate potential impacts;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing concerns regarding hedgerows and the management plan; and Equinor's contribution to the OTNR.
05/08/2022	Letter	Oulton Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid connection point selection process & assessment of alternatives; Offshore cable route crossing the MCZA and the wash, and measures to mitigate impacts on these areas; and Equinor's contribution to the OTNR.
05/08/2022	Letter	Shouldham Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid connection point selection process & assessment of alternatives; Offshore cable route crossing the MCZA and the wash, and measures to mitigate impacts on these areas; and Equinor's contribution to the OTNR.

14.3 Ongoing Consultation with Section 42 Consultees

372. The Applicant continued to engage with Section 42 consultees, as defined in **Section 5.3** of this consultation report, following the close of Section 42 consultation.
373. The Applicant engaged with Ofgem, BEIS and National Grid regarding the coordinated approach to SEP and DEP during this period. Information regarding this engagement can be found within the **Scenarios Statement** (document reference 9.28)
374. As part of the ongoing consultation with statutory stakeholders and ETGs, feedback continued to be received and fed into the project design.

Commercial Fisheries

375. **Table 14-4** sets out discussions that the Applicant had with commercial fisheries groups outside of the Evidence Plan Process following the close of the Section 42 consultation from 11 June 2021 until application submission. All discussions within the EPP process are documented in **Appendix 1**.

Table 14-4 Summary of meetings with commercial fisheries consultees between 11 June 2021 and application submission excluding ETG meetings.

Date	Stakeholder(s)	Issues discussed
13/09/2021	NFFO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service operational vehicles used for routine maintenance may require 500m safety zones; • local potting fleets would not avoid areas of cable protection or surface laid cable; • It is not expected that static gear would be a threat to the cable; and • There could be a risk to fishing operations, both in terms of loss of gear and possible capsizes of vessel.
13/10/2021	EIFCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questioned length of protected cable in MCZ; • Requested HDD entry and exit points are provided; • Small vessels cannot easily displace elsewhere due to limited operational range and limited availability of grounds; • A number of MPAs exist in the region. If displacement alters effort, HRA's may need revisiting; • Disruption in supply could lead to potential loss of relationships with buyers; • With the unique features of the MCZ and current scale of fishing, fishermen are likely to consider it not possible to displace; and • There have been cases where cables in The Wash have become exposed and are not behaving in a predictable manner.
28/02/2022	EIFCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding upcoming surveys, EIFCA queried if conversations had been held with the fishing industry regarding gear entanglement; • We request disruption is minimised, via frequent dialogue with local fishery stakeholders, and if possible timing works to avoid busier fishing periods; and • Applicants FLO liaise with the fishing industry to ascertain if they have or have had, any issues with the original cable installations and what lessons might be learnt.
29/06/2022	NFFO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleased to see an evidence-based approach being taken; and • Timely communication is key.

Commercial Interests

376. **Table 14-5** sets out ongoing engagement that the Applicant had with commercial interest groups outside of the Evidence Plan Process following the close of the Section 42 consultation from 11 June 2021 until application submission. All discussions within the EPP process are documented in **Appendix 1**.

Table 14-5 Summary of meetings with Commercial Interest groups between 11 June 2021 and application submission excluding ETG meetings.

Date	Stakeholder(s)	Issues Discussed
15/06/2021	Anglian Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crossing agreements of cable corridor and Anglian Water assets.
16/07/2021	IOG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is anticipated that the [Blythe] field will be visited twice per month for 4-5 days total, reducing to one visit per month for 4-5 days total; Standard Multi Role Vessels (MRV) will be used, and they will likely mobilise from either Lowestoft or Great Yarmouth; and No further rig or jack-up operations planned.
10/08/2021	Perenco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queries around pipeline access.
10/08/2021	RYA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on recreational users; Request for visual survey data; and Mitigation to recreational users.
20/09/2021	Ørsted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hornsea Project Three project update; Issues raised by Ørsted in response to the Section 42 consultation; Interactions with other projects; and Community engagement in Norfolk.
20/12/2021	Anglian Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project overview; Project updates; Substation drainage; and Crossing agreements.
19/01/2022	Perenco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project overview and next steps; and Offshore developments.
09/02/2022	EDF Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project updates: onshore infrastructure decisions, substation access, timelines; and Bloys Grove Solar Park project update.
10/03/2022	Perenco /Bristow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing access will be required;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A drilling rig will be required for decommissioning works, including for the subsea pipeline between Waveney and Durango; • Bristow's policy is that a minimum 0.5nm buffer is available to make a stabilised approach in fair weather; • An Airborne Radar Approach in poor weather would not be possible at the site [Waveney] as it is; • As it stands, Perenco could make a bad weather approach from any direction in 0.75 visibility; • Approaches are always done into wind; • It is unlikely that the Durango well will be opened up again, but Durango still needs to be accessed occasionally for inspections; and • [500m buffer either side of the pipelines] should be adequate for most operations, the only issue would be if equipment needs to be removed.
10/03/2022	Sustainable Seaweed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearing the end of application process/ Commencement of operations unknown at this stage.
01/06/2022, 20/07/2022	Perenco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aviation follow up; and • Update on potential loss of flights.

Shipping and Navigation

377. **Table 14-6** sets out ongoing engagement that the Applicant had with Shipping and Navigation stakeholders outside of the Evidence Plan Process following the close of the Section 42 consultation from 11 June 2021 until application submission. All discussions within the EPP process are documented in **Appendix 1**.

Table 14-6 Summary of meetings with Shipping and Navigation stakeholders between 11 June 2021 and application submission excluding ETG meetings.

Date	Stakeholder(s)	Issues Discussed
09/07/2021	P&O Ferries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed that P&O content with baseline assessment. • No Navigational safety concerns. • Concern regarding increased cost due to additional journey distance. Consideration of shipping routes during layout design process could help with deviations. • Consideration of crossing angles with existing shipping routes.

16/07/2021	COS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Layout of array needs to consider shipping traffic including adverse weather routing. • Navigational risk on a holistic basis/cumulative reduction in sea room is the main concern. • Loss of searoom could increase collisions. • 1nm passing distance in assessment suitable for assessment purposes. Other sources recommend 2nm. • Mitigation via marine coordination controlling and promulgating the movements. • Strict application of corridor widths in MGN 654 means additional loss of sea room is not accounted for. • Potential for increased passing distances to account for radar interference issues.
10/08/2021	P&O/COS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial concern. • Concern over loss of sea room on a cumulative basis. • Management of project vessels via marine coordination to ensure that impacts on third party movements were minimised.
10/08/2021	Cobelfret	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative reduction of sea room could lead to emergency anchor or need for salvage tugs.
10/08/2021	ABP Humber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted that there is no foreseen direct impact on ports.
10/08/2021	RYA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative assessment should include Sustainable Seaweed. • General boating areas should be considered for small vessels. • Concerns to recreational users primarily in nearshore areas. • Mitigation in the form of targeted promulgation of information and marking.
10/08/2021	NFFO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing vessels will likely seek to transit through and fish in wind farm.
10/02/2022	COS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COS do appreciate that the area is very constrained. • Worst-case layout shown is as expected, albeit not what the CoS would have liked to see. • Pleased that its comments have been retained within the NRA. • Happy with the level of engagement to date.

29/06/2022	MCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In reference to the summer survey data being 1 month over the stipulated 24-month validity period within MGN 654, the MCA confirmed that the MCA would accept it as the Project has gone beyond the requirements of MGN 654 with the inclusion of additional data sources.
------------	-----	--

Aviation and Radar

378. **Table 14-7** sets out ongoing engagement that the Applicant had with Aviation and Radar stakeholders outside of the Evidence Plan Process following the close of the Section 42 consultation from 11 June 2021 until application submission. All discussions within the EPP process are documented in **Appendix 1**.

Table 14-7 Summary of meetings with Aviation and Radar stakeholders between 11 June 2021 and application submission excluding ETG meetings.

Date	Stakeholder(s)	Issues Discussed
02/07/2021	MOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MOD will object based on Trimmingham ADR.
19/10/2021	NATS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanking together with an extension of the Greater Wash TMZ would mitigate the predicted affect to the Claxby and Cromer PSRs.
16/12/2021	NATS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A two-step approach of radar blanking followed by extension to the TMZ, via the (Civil Aviation Publication (CAP 1616) process, was identified by NATS as the preferred mitigation solution.
04/02/2022	Norwich Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising the MSA may lead to increased risk of icing; [Norwich Airport] would be happy to support an extension to the TMZ; and HMR's to the north do cross the proposed extension projects.
08/02/2022	MOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a Wide Area Multilateration (WAM) surveillance network employing multiple remote sensors in vicinity of the onshore cable corridor; and Within 750m [of the Weybourne transmitter] any large buildings, shrubs, trees, or soil engineering/soil piling should be avoided.
28/04/2022	Norwich Helicopter Operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helicopters may be subject to icing in certain conditions; A number of routes are taken north to oil and gas /wind farm operations;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEP South array has a disproportionately large impact for the given small overlap with NE quadrant; • Not putting 330m turbines in DEP N would free up access to that whole quadrant; and • A re-route of aircraft would increase the km flown, reduce payload, increased fuel costs and would produce a 'bottleneck'.
12/07/2022	Norwich Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A change to the Norwich Airport ATCSMAC will require an amendment to the extant Letter of Agreement between Norwich Airport, NATS (Anglia Radar) and Norwich based offshore helicopter operators (CHC, Bristow and NHV); and • Raising the ATCSMAC as discussed [within the segmented area] will not impact Norwich Airport ATC; the Airport would not object to the suggested amendment.

14.4 Ongoing Consultation with Section 43 Consultees

379. The Applicant sought a continued dialogue with Section 43 Local Planning Authority Planning Officers, as defined in **Section 5.4** of this consultation report, following the close of Section 42 consultation.

380. As part of the ongoing statutory consultation in this period, feedback continued to be received and fed into the Development design.

Table 14-8 Summary of meetings with Section 43 consultees between 11 June 2021 and application submission.

Date	Stakeholder(s)	Issues discussed
18/11/2021	Norfolk County Council Planning Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and introductions; • Project overview and next steps; • Phase Two consultation; • Landfall and Weybourne Woods; • Construction compounds; • Onshore substation; • Offshore proposal and turbines; • Offshore transmission network review; • Project updates; • Next steps; and • AOB.
22/11/2021	Norfolk County Council Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and introductions; • Project overview and next steps; • Phase Two consultation;

Date	Stakeholder(s)	Issues discussed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project updates; • Next steps; and • AOB.
02/12/2021	North Norfolk District Council Planning Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and introductions; • Project overview and next steps; • Phase Two consultation; • Project updates – landfall focus and Weybourne Woods; • Construction compounds; • Offshore proposals and turbines; • Offshore Transmission Network Review; • Next steps; and • AOB.
09/12/2021	South Norfolk and Broadland Planning Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and introductions; and • Project overview and next steps. • Phase Two consultation; • Project updates – onshore cable corridor and onshore substation focus; • Construction compounds; • Offshore proposals and turbines; • Offshore Transmission Network Review; • Next steps; and • AOB.
06/01/2022	Norfolk County Council Planning Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project updates; • Next steps; and • AOB.
06/04/2022	Norfolk County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree methods for Health impact assessment.
23/05/2022	South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council planning officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project updates; and • Schedule going forward.
24/05/2022	Norfolk County Council planning officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project updates; • Schedule going forward; • Cost recovery; • Skills, jobs, and supply chain; and • Service department questions.
01/08/2022	Geoff Lion, Major Projects Manager (North Norfolk District Council)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project status; • DCO schedule and process;

Date	Stakeholder(s)	Issues discussed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substation; • Cable Route; • Interaction with communities; and • OTNR.

14.5 Ongoing Consultation with Section 44 Consultees

- 381. The Applicant sought a continued dialogue with Section 44 consultees, as defined in **Section 5.5** of this consultation report, following the close of Section 42 consultation.
- 382. Landowner knowledge and feedback was critical in shaping the final onshore cable corridor prior to, during, and following the Section 42 consultation period and round of targeted statutory consultation.
- 383. As part of the ongoing statutory consultation in this period, feedback continued to be received and fed into the Development design.
- 384. Ongoing landowner engagement meetings were offered. To date, 53 meetings have been held with 68 Landowners post Section 42 consultation period and there has been ongoing consultation and engagement during negotiations of Heads of Terms as set out within **Statement of Reasons Appendix 1: Summary of Land Referencing and Engagement with Landowners** (document reference 4.3).
- 385. 8 new land interests were identified during a refresh of HMLR data undertaken immediately prior to the submission of the Application. The land interests were written to on 12 August 2022 to advise that the land in which their interest was held was to be included in the Application and that they would be notified of when in the process they would be able to provide comments on the submissions. A copy of the letter sent is included in **Appendix 16**.

14.6 Ongoing Consultation Under the EIA and Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 386. A detailed account of all the consultation undertaken in relation to Applicant’s HRA derogation case and specifically in the development of compensatory measures following the close of Section 42 consultation is provided in the **Record of HRA Derogation Consultation** (document reference 5.5.1.4). This record includes all engagement up to 12 August 2022 however, engagement with stakeholders is ongoing.
- 387. In some cases, consultation on HRA compensation and MEEB has been undertaken in tandem. For a full record of MEEB derogation consultation during this period, see the **In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan** (document reference 5.7.1).

15 Conclusion

389. The Applicant has carried out a comprehensive pre-application consultation on SEP and DEP which has complied with and gone beyond the requirements of the 2008 Act and associated legislation and guidance.
390. The Applicant has clearly demonstrated compliance with all of the relevant statutory requirements, including under the Planning Act 2008, EIA Regulations, the APFP Regulations, the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Compliance with this legislation is demonstrated in [Appendix 2](#)
391. The Applicant has demonstrated compliance with all the relevant Guidance and Advice Notes, including the CLG Guidance 2015, PINS Advice Note 3, and PINS Advice Note 14. Compliance with this guidance is demonstrated in [Appendix 2](#).
392. The Applicant has had regard to comments received through Section 47 and Section 42 consultations. The key project changes in response to consultation have been clearly set out in [Table 1-2](#).
393. The Applicant has undertaken an iterative and multi-phased consultation process with the community to commence engagement early on the development of the plans for SEP and DEP and to enable feedback to genuinely inform the development of the project.
394. The Applicant has clearly demonstrated that it has complied with the commitments made in its SoCC, as demonstrated in [Appendix 25](#).
395. Throughout the consultation, the Applicant has carried on the engagement with the community and stakeholders by way of regular updates, and dedicated stakeholder forums. These have enabled the Applicant to have a continued understanding of important issues to the local community as proposals developed.
396. Extensive consultation has been undertaken with Landowners, and the Applicant is in the process of reaching voluntary agreements with them where possible.
397. The Applicant has ensured that its consultation process could be accessed by all members of the community by providing a range of consultation tools and methods, including online and offline engagement methods.
398. The Applicant has increased its reach within the community through its dedicated CLO, who has developed meaningful local relationships and enabled a continuous dialogue with the community.
399. The Applicant has continued to update its consultation strategy as its understanding of proposals developed, and has engaged appropriately with Section 43 consultees, elected members and parish councils and community stakeholders regarding potential impacts from main construction compound location and seascape visual impacts.

400. Consultation responses to each round of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of the on-going development of SEP and DEP, with stakeholders having a clear influence on the proposals. Where the Applicant has not taken forward a recommendation for a change to the application, this has been duly explained in this Consultation Report or within the supporting Appendices.
401. Through the EPP, the Applicant has consulted extensively with stakeholders involved in the ETGs to enable a focused discussion on key issues where feedback has informed the development of SEP and DEP in conjunction with the EIA process, community consultation and technical considerations. The Applicant is developing SoCG with technical stakeholders to conclude the status of these discussions.

16 References

<p>PINS (2020). Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Six: Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (version 9). [Online] Available at: Advice Note Six: Preparation and submission of application documents National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk). Accessed 25/08/21.</p>
<p>Department for Communities and Local Government (2008) Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (2015) [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418009/150326_Pre-Application_Guidance.pdf</p>
<p>UK Government (2017) Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 [online] Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents/made</p>
<p>UK Government (2009) Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 [online] Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2264/contents/made</p>
<p>Department for Communities and Local Government (2008) Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (2015) [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418009/150326_Pre-Application_Guidance.pdf</p>
<p>PINS (2017). The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Three: EIA Consultation and Notification ('Advice Note 3') [online] Available at: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-three-eia-notification-and-consultation-2/</p>
<p>PINS (2020). The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 7: Environmental Impact Assessment ('Advice Note 7') [online] Available at: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-seven-environmental-impact-assessment-process-preliminary-environmental-information-and-environmental-statements/#1</p>
<p>PINS (2021). The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 14: Compiling the Consultation Report ('Advice Note 14') [online] Available at: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-fourteen-compiling-the-consultation-report/</p>
<p>Defra (2021) Best practice guidance for developing compensatory measures in relation to Marine Protected Areas. Version: For consultation. [online] Available at: https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine-planning-licensing-team/mpa-compensation-guidance-consultation/supporting_documents/mpacompensatorymeasuresbestpracticeguidance.pdf</p>