



Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Projects

Draft Statement of Common Ground: Natural England
(Offshore)

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Glossary of Acronyms

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CIA	Cumulative Impact Assessment
CEA	Cumulative Effect Assessment
CMG	Coastal Management group
CSCB	Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds
CSIMP	Cable Specification and Installation Monitoring Plan
DCO	Development Consent Order
DEP	Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project
DEEP	Dornoch Environmental Enhancement Project
DML	Deemed Marine Licence
DOW	Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm
EDRs	Effective Deterrence Ranges
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIFCA	Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
FLO	Fisheries Liaison Officer
FOCI	Features of Conservation Importance
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HRA	Habitat Regulation Assessment
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MCZ	Marine Conservation zone
MEEB	Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit
MGOPP	Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes
MHWS	Mean High Water Spring

MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MMMP	Marine Mammal Management Plan
MRF	Marine Recovery Fund
MWSQ	Marine Water and Sediment Quality
NE	Natural England
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NSBLPZ	Norwich Southern Bypass Landscape Protection Zone
OLMP	Outline Landscape Management Plan
OWEIP	Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PEMP	Project Environmental Management Plan
PTS	Permanent Threshold Shift
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
RVAA	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCANS-III	Small Cetaceans in European Atlantic Waters and the North Sea Surveys
SSC	Suspended Sediment Concentration
SEP	Sheringham Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project
SIP	Site Integrity Plan
SMRU	Sea Mammal Research Unit
SNCB	Statutory Nature Conservation Body
SNS	Southern North Sea
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SOW	Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm
SPA	Special Protection Area
SLVIA	Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
SVIA	Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment
TTS	Temporary Threshold Shift
TWT	The Wildlife Trust
UK	United Kingdom

UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
UWN	Underwater Noise

Glossary of Terms

Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (DEP)	The Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension onshore and offshore sites including all onshore and offshore infrastructure.
DEP offshore site	The Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension consisting of the DEP wind farm site, interlink cable corridors and offshore export cable corridor (up to mean high water springs).
DEP North array area	The wind farm site area of the DEP offshore site located to the north of the existing Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm
DEP South array area	The wind farm site area of the DEP offshore site located to the south of the existing Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm
DEP wind farm site	The offshore area of DEP within which wind turbines, infield cables and offshore substation platform/s will be located and the adjacent Offshore Temporary Works Area. This is also the collective term for the DEP North and South array areas.
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.
Infield cables	Cables which link the wind turbine generators to the offshore substation platform(s) (commonly referred to as array cables).

Interlink cables	Cables linking two separate project areas.
Interlink cable corridor	This is the area which will contain the interlink cables between offshore substation platform/s and the adjacent Offshore Temporary Works Area.
Offshore cable corridors	This is the area which will contain the offshore export cables or interlink cables, including the adjacent Offshore Temporary Works Area.
Offshore export cable corridor	This is the area which will contain the offshore export cables between offshore substation platform/s and landfall, including the adjacent Offshore Temporary Works Area.
Offshore export cables	The cables which would bring electricity from the offshore substation platform(s) to the landfall. 220 – 230kV.
Offshore Temporary Works Area	An Offshore Temporary Works Area within the offshore Order Limits in which vessels are permitted to carry out activities during construction, operation and decommissioning encompassing a 200m buffer around the wind farm sites and a 750m buffer around the offshore cable corridors. No permanent infrastructure would be installed within the Offshore Temporary Works Area.
Order Limits	The area subject to the application for development consent, including all permanent and temporary works for SEP and DEP.
Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (SEP)	The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension onshore and offshore sites including all onshore and offshore infrastructure.
SEP offshore site	Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension consisting of the SEP wind farm site and offshore export cable corridor (up to mean high water springs).
SEP wind farm site	The offshore area of SEP within which wind turbines, infield cables and offshore substation platform/s will be located and the adjacent Offshore Temporary Works Area.
The Applicant	Equinor New Energy Limited. As the owners of SEP and DEP, Scira Extension Limited and Dudgeon Extension Limited are the named undertakers that have the benefit of the DCO. References in this document to obligations on, or commitments by, 'the Applicant' are given on behalf of SEL and DEL as the undertakers of SEP and DEP.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1. This draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by Equinor New Energy Limited (the Applicant) and Natural England. It identifies areas of the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (SEP) and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (DEP) Development Consent Order (DCO) application (the Application) where matters are agreed, not agreed or that remain under discussion between the parties.
2. The Applicant has had regard to the Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2015) when compiling this draft SoCG.
3. This draft SoCG has been structured to reflect the matters raised within the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063] in relation to Appendix A DCO, Appendix D Marine Mammals, Appendix E Marine Processes, Appendix F All Other Offshore Matters, Appendix G Cromer MCZ and Appendix H Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA). Separate Statements of Common Ground with Natural England have been prepared in relation to the following:
 - **Draft Natural England (Onshore) SoCG** [document reference 12.13]
 - **Draft Natural England (Offshore Ornithology) SoCG** [document reference 12.15]; and
 - **Draft Natural England (HRA Derogation) SoCG** [REP1-047].
4. The applicable matters considered within this draft SoCG apply to Natural England's statutory remit which is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.
5. **Table 1.1** presents the topics included in the draft SoCG with the Applicant and Natural England. It is noted that some of these documents have been updated and submitted at Deadline 1 or Deadline 2 and therefore Natural England have not had sufficient time to review these and reflect an updated position within this SoCG however a consistent approach whereby the most recent version of documents has been referenced has been taken to ensure the reader is aware of the most recent version of documents. For matters within the respective receptor topic tables which are relevant to these documents, as appropriate, Natural England's position has been deferred to the next iteration of this SoCG when it is anticipated that they will have had time to review the updated documents and form a position.

Table 1.1: Topics included in the draft SoCG. Asterisk denotes Seabed Expert Topic Group (ETG) topics

Topic/Chapter	Reference	Evidence Plan Process (EPP) (Yes/No)
Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes (MGOPP)*	APP-092	Yes
Marine Water and Sediment Quality*	APP-093	Yes
Benthic Ecology*	APP-094	Yes
Fish and Shellfish Ecology*	APP-095	Yes
Marine Mammals	APP-096	Yes
Stage 1 Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds (CSCB) Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Assessment	APP-077	Yes
In-Principle CSCB MCZ Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit (MEEB) Plan (Revision C)	[document reference 5.7.1]	Yes
Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment (SVIA)	APP-111	Yes
Outline, in-principle and draft DCO documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft MMMP (Revision B) [REP1-013] • In-Principle Site Integrity Plan for the Southern North Sea (SNS) Special Area of Conservation (SAC) [APP-290] • Offshore In Principle Monitoring Plan [APP-289] • Outline Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan [REP1-015] • Outline CSCB MCZ Cable Specification and Installation Monitoring Plan (CSIMP) [APP-291] • Outline Project Environmental Management Plan (PEMP) (Revision B) [REP1-017] • Disposal Site Characterisation Report (Revision B) [REP1-019] • Proposed Without Prejudice DCO Drafting (Revision B) [document reference 3.1.3] 	-	Yes

6. It is agreed that, whilst Natural England retains an interest in the following areas with respect to the provisions set out in the DCO and DMLs, Natural England defers to other parties for these topics and has made little or no comment in relation to the technical assessments associated with them. Therefore, these topics have not been included in the SoCG:

- Commercial Fisheries;
- Shipping and Navigation;
- Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage;
- Aviation and Radar; and
- Petroleum Industry and Other Marine Users.

7. Further detail of those topics included in the EPP can be found in the **Consultation Report Appendices** [APP-030].
8. Topic specific matters agreed, not agreed and matters that remain under discussion between the Applicant and Natural England are included within this draft SoCG. Matters that are not agreed will be the subject of ongoing discussion between the Applicant and Natural England to reach agreement on each matter wherever possible or refine the extent of disagreement between parties.
9. Throughout the draft SoCG the phrase “Agreed” identifies any point of agreement between the Applicant and Natural England. The phrase “Not Agreed” identifies any point that is not agreed between the Applicant and Natural England.

1.2 Consultation with Natural England

10. The Applicant has engaged with Natural England on the project during the pre-Application process, both non-statutory and formal consultation carried out pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.
11. During Section 42 consultation, Natural England provided comments on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) by way of a letter dated 10th of June 2021.
12. Further to the Section 42 consultation, numerous meetings were held with Natural England through the EPP. These are detailed throughout the SoCG and minutes of the meetings are provided as Appendices to the Consultation Report [APP-030].

1.3 Ongoing and Planned Workstreams Relating to Offshore Matters

13. The following documents were submitted at Deadline 1 to address, as appropriate, outstanding offshore matters with Natural England:
 - **Outline PEMP (Revision B)** [REP1-017];
 - Outline **Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan (Revision B)** [REP1-015]
 - **Draft MMMP (Revision B)** [REP1-013];
 - **Marine Processes Technical Note** [REP1-059]; and
14. In addition, the **In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan (Revision C)** [document reference 5.7.1] has been provided at Deadline 2, which seeks to address comments provided by Natural England.
15. The Applicant is intending to submit a Marine Mammals Technical Note at Deadline 3 to address matters relating to Marine Mammals.

1.4 Summary of ‘Agreed’, ‘Not Agreed’ and ‘In Discussion’ Matters

16. In order to easily identify whether a matter is ‘agreed’, ‘not agreed’ or ‘in discussion’, the colour coding system set out in **Table 1.2** has been used.
17. Details on specific topics that are ‘agreed’, ‘not agreed’ or ‘in discussion’ between the Applicant and Natural England are presented in **Section 2**.

Table 1.2: Position status key

Position Status	Position Colour Coding
Agreed The matter is considered to be agreed between the parties.	Agreed
Not Agreed – no material impact The Matter is not agreed between the parties. However, while Natural England does not agree with the approach taken by the Applicant, Natural England does not consider this will result in material impact to the assessment conclusions. The matter is considered to be closed for the purposes of this SoCG.	Not Agreed – no material impact
Not Agreed – material impact The matter is not agreed between the parties. The outcome of the approach taken by the Applicant is considered to result in a materially different impact to the assessment conclusions. Discussions on these matters have concluded.	Not Agreed – material impact
In discussion The matter is neither ‘agreed’ nor ‘not agreed’ and is a matter where further discussion is required between the parties (e.g. where documents are yet to be shared with Natural England).	In discussion

2 Statement of Common Ground

18. A summary of the consultation undertaken to date with Natural England and the matters agreed or not agreed (based on discussions and information exchanged between the Applicant and Natural England during the pre-application and examination phases of the Application) are set out below for each of the draft SoCG topic areas.

2.1 Seabed Expert Topic Group Topics

19. The Seabed ETG topics include MGOPP, marine water and sediment quality, benthic ecology and fish and shellfish ecology. A summary of the consultation relating to these topics is provided in [Table 2.1](#). Consultation with regard to the Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment and MEEB, whilst discussed at the Seabed ETG meetings, is covered separately in [Table 2.8](#). The [Seabed ETG Agreement Log](#) is provided in [Annex 1](#).

Table 2.1: Summary of consultation with Natural England regarding Seabed ETG topics

Date	Contact Type	Topic
Pre-Application		
07/10/2019	Report	Submission of the SEP and DEP Scoping Report [APP-281]. The Scoping Report outlined the existing environment, the impacts to be assessed in the ES, data gathering and key aspects of the assessment. A Scoping Opinion was received on the 6 th of November 2019.
11/09/2019	Report	Export cable corridor survey scope documents shared with MMO and Natural England for agreement / approval. The survey results were summarised in a report on Sedimentary Processes in the CSCB MCZ [APP-182] and at ETG 2. The ETG agreed that the export cable corridor

Date	Contact Type	Topic
		geophysical survey results were adequate, but that there was a need to review the benthic survey results separately.
30/10/2019	Meeting	Seabed ETG 1: Summary of the projects, consenting approach and progress of the geophysical survey of the offshore cable corridor options was provided alongside general export cable corridor site selection matters and the approach to baseline characterisation for topic specific assessments.
02/06/2020	Meeting	<p>Seabed ETG 2: ETG attendees were informed that Weybourne was selected as the preferred landfall location following a technical feasibility study. Discussion of completed, planned and potentially required surveys was also undertaken.</p> <p>Production of a physical processes method statement (see below) and MCZ assessment screening results were also presented and discussed.</p>
June 2020	Report	Physical Processes Method Statement (Appendix 6.1 [APP-180]) provided to build upon the information within the Scoping Report [APP-281, in outlining the proposed approach to be taken (e.g. assessment methodologies) and considerations to be made in the assessment of MGOPP (including the intertidal areas of the landfall) effects.
15/07/2020	Written response	Following the ETG 2 meeting, the Applicant shared a document requesting input from Natural England on a number of matters relating to e.g. adequacy of baseline data collection, impacts to be scoped in, CIA projects and activities, survey sample analysis and reporting etc.
03/02/2021	Meeting	<p>Seabed ETG 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update including requirement for an interlink cable corridor between the DEP North and South array areas provided. • ETG informed of potential requirement for cable protection within the CSCB MCZ. • ETG were provided with an update on progress relating to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). It was noted that topic specific assessments were being drafted and the approach to that drafting was presented. • ETG informed that British Geological Survey (BGS) were commissioned to review geophysical survey data and existing geotechnical information to further characterise seabed geology, including the depth of surface sediments.
06/04/2022	Report	<p>The Applicant consulted on proposals to include an additional temporary works area buffer zone to its offshore Order Limits. Revised Order Limits and Temporary Works Area, consisted of the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 750m buffer either side of the export and interlink cable corridors; and • A 200m extension buffer to the SEP and DEP wind farm sites. <p>To understand any potential impacts associated with these changes, the Applicant published an Offshore Temporary Works Order Limits Environmental Report (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2022). The report summarised the proposed changes and considered any potential impacts to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for SEP and DEP associated with the inclusion of the offshore works area.</p>

Date	Contact Type	Topic
		<p>The report identified some minor changes to the initial assessment presented in the previous consultation held between 29 April 2021 and 10 June 2021 on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The Applicant therefore undertook a targeted consultation with statutory offshore consultees between 6 April and 18 May 2022 to receive feedback on these proposed changes prior to submission of the DCO application.</p> <p>NE provided a response on 18/05/2022 that they had no objections to the extension of the Order Limits to include the temporary works area.</p>
10/06/2021	Written submission	Natural England response to section 42 consultation on PEIR. Appendix 4 of the Consultation Report [APP-033].
16/08/2021	Meeting	Seabed ETG 4: Discussions focussed on stakeholder comments received on the PEIR with a view to agreeing a way to address them where relevant.
14/03/2022	Meeting	<p>Seabed ETG 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed development of the Outline CSIMP [APP-291]. • Confirmed that numerical wave modelling (see the Wave Climate Assessment [APP-181]) was now being undertaken. • Discussed pending agreements within the Agreement Logs (see Consultation Report - Evidence Plan [APP-030]).

Table 2.2: Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to MGOPP

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
EIA – Policy and Planning			
1	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in Section 6.4 of Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 6 MGOPP [APP-092] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	As far as Natural England is aware, the correct policies have been identified. We note that all policies are soon to be updated.	Agreed
EIA – Baseline Environment			
2	Existing and Project specific survey data collected is sufficient to inform the assessment.	<p>This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in Table 2.1 which agreed the approach to survey data collection.</p> <p>Within Appendix E Physical Processes of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063], Natural England note that further characterisation of sandbanks, sandwaves and significant morphological features across the project area is required.</p> <p>As noted in Section 1.3, the Applicant has submitted a Marine Processes Technical Note [REP1-059] which, as Natural England understands, aims to address, as appropriate, outstanding matters relating to the MGOPP baseline environment. Following review of this and the Applicant’s responses to the Natural England relevant representation, Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position.</p>	In discussion
EIA – Assessment Methodology			
3	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	<p>This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in Table 2.1 which agreed the approach to assessment methodologies.</p> <p>Within Appendix E Physical Processes of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063], Natural England has raised queries relating to assessment methodologies.</p> <p>As noted in Section 1.3, the Applicant has submitted a Marine Processes Technical Note [REP1-059] which, as Natural England understands, aims to address, as appropriate, outstanding matters relating to the MGOPP assessment methodology. Following review of this and the Applicant’s</p>	In discussion

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
		responses to the Natural England relevant representation, Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position.	
4	The worst case scenario presented in the assessment is appropriate.	Within Appendix E Physical Process of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063] Natural England has raised queries relating to the worst-case scenario rationale. Following review of the Applicant's responses to the Natural England relevant representation, Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position.	In discussion
EIA – Project-Alone Assessment Conclusions			
5	The conclusions of the assessment of impacts for construction, operation and decommissioning are agreed.	<p>Within Appendix E Physical Processes of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063], Natural England requests further information / assessment in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases in suspended sediment concentrations during construction • Bedload sediment transport effects from sandwave levelling within the offshore cable corridors and other direct and indirect effects associated with sandwave levelling • Effects on the tidal current regime and the potential for changes to this to affect sandbanks during operation • Effects on sediment transport processes during operation • Scour assessment considering potential for elevated SSCs and resulting deposition • Secondary scour <p>As noted in Section 1.3, the Applicant has submitted a Marine Processes Technical Note [REP1-059] which, as Natural England understands, aims to address, as appropriate, outstanding matters relating to the MGOPP. Following review of this and the Applicant's responses to the Natural England relevant representation, Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position.</p>	In discussion
EIA – Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) Conclusions			

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
6	The conclusions of the assessment of cumulative impacts are agreed.	<p>Within Appendix E Physical Processes of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063], Natural England requests further information / assessment in relation to the cumulative effect on sediment transport processes at sandbank systems.</p> <p>As noted in Section 1.3, the Applicant has submitted a Marine Processes Technical Note [REP1-059] which, as Natural England understands, aims to address, as appropriate, outstanding matters relating to the MGOPP. Following review of this and the Applicant's responses to the Natural England relevant representation, Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position.</p>	In discussion
Project-Alone HRA Conclusions			
7	The conclusions of the assessment of effects are agreed.	Within Appendix E Physical Process of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063], Natural England are unable to agree with the LSE conclusions for Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SAC and The Wash and North Norfolk SAC and advise that further evidence be provided to support the LSE conclusions.	In discussion
In-combination HRA Conclusions			
8	The conclusions of the assessment of in-combination effects are agreed.	As above.	In discussion
Mitigation			
9	Given the predicted impacts of the Projects, the proposed mitigation outlined for MGOPP within the Schedule of Mitigation and Mitigation Routemap [APP-282] is appropriate.	In our Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England raised our concerns regarding the mitigation proposed. Natural England intends to advise the Examining Authority at Deadline 2 that we recommend the Applicant submits an updated Schedule of Mitigation and Mitigation Routemap into examination. We will provide an update on our position following review of this document.	In discussion
Draft DCO			
10	The wording of the following requirements and conditions pertaining to MGOPP are appropriate and adequate:	Within Appendix A of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided a number of comments in relation to the Draft DCO wording. As Natural England understands, the Applicant has provided responses to our relevant representation at Deadline 1 in relation to these	In discussion

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition 13(1)(c) of Schedule 10, Condition 13(1)(c) of Schedule 11, Condition 12(1)(c) of Schedule 12 and Condition 12(1)(c) of Schedule 13 with reference to development of a Construction Method Statement Condition 12(1)(e) of Schedule 12 and Condition 12(1)(e) of Schedule 13 with reference to development of a CSCB MCZ CSIMP Paragraph 2(f) of Part 1 of Schedules 10, 11, 12 and 13 with reference to the maximum volumes of material to be disposed seaward of MHWS within the SEP and DEP Order Limits 	<p>matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.</p>	

Table 2.3: Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to marine water and sediment quality

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
EIA – Policy and Planning			
1	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in Section 7.4 of ES Chapter 7 Marine Water and Sediment Quality [APP-093] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	As far as Natural England is aware, the correct policies have been identified. We note that all policies are soon to be updated.	Agreed
EIA – Baseline Environment			
2	Existing and Project specific survey data collected is sufficient to inform the assessment. Regarding contaminants, the Applicant proposes to undertake additional contaminants sampling and analysis (by an accredited lab) during the pre-construction stage for the purposes of licensing for dredge disposal material at sea. A sample plan request has been submitted to the MMO.	This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in Table 2.1 which agreed the approach to survey data collection. Within Appendix F All Other Offshore Matters of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063], Natural England has raised concerns regarding the spatial gaps in the samples collected, specifically with regard to the adequacy of their representation of the sediment disposal site (the red line boundary). We defer to the MMO with advice from CEFAS on the sufficiency of the samples in terms of spatial representation across the offshore sites.	Agreed [and Natural England Defer to Other Parties]
EIA – Assessment Methodology			
3	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in Table 2.1 which agreed the approach to assessment methodologies. Within Appendix F All Other Offshore Matters of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has stated we are generally satisfied with the EIA assessment. However, we noted to the Applicant our concerns around using a range for significance and that the higher value should be taken forward in line with the principles of the Rochdale envelope. Natural England has no concerns on the analytical methodology, analysis and interpretation of results. However, Natural England defer to MMO / CEFAS to determine the sufficiency of the chemical analysis in terms of laboratory accreditation.	Agreed [and Natural England Defer to Other Parties]

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
4	The worst case scenario presented in the assessment is appropriate.	Within Appendix F All Other Offshore Matters of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063], Natural England has queried the calculations relating to displaced sediment during export cable installation and sandwave levelling parameters 'Displaced sediment during infield and interlink cable installation'. Following review of the Applicant's responses to the Natural England relevant representation, Natural England anticipates being able to provide an updated position.	In discussion
EIA – Project-Alone Assessment Conclusions			
5	The conclusions of the assessment of impacts for construction, operation and decommissioning are agreed.	Natural England is awaiting the outcome with other interested parties (ID2 and ID3) before we can comment.	In discussion
Mitigation			
6	Given the impacts of the Projects, the proposed mitigation outlined for marine water and sediment quality within the Schedule of Mitigation and Mitigation Routemap [APP-282] is appropriate.	In our Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England raised concerns regarding the mitigation proposed. Natural England intends to advise the Examining Authority at Deadline 2 that we recommend the Applicant submits an updated Schedule of Mitigation and Mitigation Routemap into examination. We will provide an update on our position following review of this document.	In discussion
Draft DCO			
7	The wording of the following requirements and conditions pertaining to marine water and sediment quality are appropriate and adequate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition 13(1)(d)(i) of Schedule 10, Condition 13(1)(d)(i) of Schedule 11, Condition 12(1)(d)(i) of Schedule 12 and Condition 12(1)(d)(i) of Schedule 13 with reference to the Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (within the Project Environmental Management Plan) to minimise impacts of spills and discharges on the marine environment 	Within Appendix A of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided a number of comments in relation to the Draft DCO wording. The Applicant has provided responses to our relevant representation at Deadline 1 in relation to these matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.	In discussion

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition 13(1)(c) of Schedule 10, Condition 13(1)(c) of Schedule 11, Condition 12(1)(c) of Schedule 12 and Condition 12(1)(c) of Schedule 13 with reference to development of a Construction Method Statement Paragraph 2(f) of Part 1 of Schedules 10, 11, 12 and 13 with reference to the maximum volumes of material to be disposed seaward of MHWS within the SEP and DEP Order Limits 		

Table 2.4: Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to benthic ecology

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
EIA – Policy and Planning			
1	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in Section 8.4 of ES Chapter 8 Benthic Ecology [APP-094] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	As far as Natural England is aware, the correct policies have been identified. We note that all policies are soon to be updated.	Agreed
EIA – Baseline Environment			
2	Existing and Project specific survey data collected is sufficient to inform the assessment.	This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in Table 2.1 which agreed the approach to survey data collection.	Agreed
EIA – Assessment Methodology			
3	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	<p>This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in Table 2.1 which agreed the approach to assessment methodologies.</p> <p>Within Appendix F All Other Offshore Matters of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has stated we are generally satisfied with the EIA assessment. However, we noted to the Applicant our concerns around using a range for significance and that the higher value should be taken forward in line with the principles of the Rochdale envelope. This becomes a material consideration within designated sites.</p> <p>Within Appendix F All Other Offshore Matters of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063], Natural England has commented on assessment methodologies (Points 18, 19, 21, 23). See also ID 6 below</p>	In discussion
4	The worst case scenario presented in the assessment is appropriate.	Within Appendix F All Other Offshore Matters of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has queried two of the calculations which it is understood the Applicant intends to address through responses to relevant representations.	In discussion

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
5	It was agreed at Seabed ETG 2 following presentation of evidence contained in ES Appendix 6.3 Sedimentary Processes in the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ [APP-182] that sea bed sediments in the offshore export cable corridor within the CSCB MCZ are static, with the exception of Holocene sand / subtidal sand, which is mobile under some conditions. Therefore, the potential for subtidal chalk to be exposed in the future is restricted to the subtidal sand areas identified by the geophysical survey.	Natural England does not agree with the Applicant's assessment that Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ Subtidal Chalk FOCI is restricted to the areas identified by the geophysical survey. We agree that areas of current outcropping chalk have been identified. However, across much of the site there are areas of subtidal chalk lying underneath a thin veneer of sand/sediment i.e. subcropping chalk. We advise that chalk with sediment veneer should be considered as subtidal chalk feature (HOCl 20) when assessing impacts. This is in accordance with our advice on fishing activities.	Agreed
EIA – Project-Alone Assessment Conclusions			
6	The conclusions of the assessment of impacts for construction, operation and decommissioning are agreed.	<p>Within Appendix F All Other Offshore Matters of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided comments in relation to assessment methodologies (Point 18, 19, 21, 23).which potentially influence the assessment conclusions.</p> <p>Natural England understands that the Applicant intends to address these through responses to relevant representations and will be able to provide an updated position following review of these.</p>	In discussion
CIA Conclusions			
7	The conclusions of the assessment of cumulative impacts are agreed.	<p>Within Appendix F All Other Offshore Matters of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided comments in relation to assessment methodologies which potentially influence the assessment conclusions.</p> <p>Natural England understands that the Applicant intends to address these through responses to relevant representations and will be able to provide an updated position following review of these.</p>	In discussion
Mitigation			
8	Given the impacts of the Projects, the proposed mitigation outlined for benthic ecology within the Schedule of	In our Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England raised concerns regarding the mitigation proposed. Natural England intends to advise the Examining Authority at Deadline 2 that we recommend the Applicant submits an updated Schedule of	In discussion

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
	<p>Mitigation and Mitigation Routemap [APP-282] is appropriate.</p>	<p>Mitigation and Mitigation Routemap into examination. We will provide an update on our position following review of this document.</p>	
Draft DCO			
9	<p>The wording of the following requirements and conditions pertaining to benthic ecology are appropriate and adequate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition 13(1)(c) of Schedule 10, Condition 13(1)(c) of Schedule 11, Condition 12(1)(c) of Schedule 12 and Condition 12(1)(c) of Schedule 13 with reference to development of a Construction Method Statement • Condition 12(1)(e) of Schedule 12 and Condition 12(1)(e) of Schedule 13 with reference to development of a CSCB MCZ CSIMP • Condition 13(1)(d)(i) of Schedule 10, Condition 13(1)(d)(i) of Schedule 11, Condition 12(1)(d)(i) of Schedule 12 and Condition 12(1)(d)(i) of Schedule 13 with reference to the Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (within the Project Environmental Management Plan) to minimise impacts of spills and discharges on the marine environment 	<p>Within Appendix A of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided a number of comments in relation to the Draft DCO wording. The Applicant has provided responses to our relevant representation at Deadline 1 in relation to these matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.</p>	In discussion

Table 2.5: Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to fish and shellfish ecology

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
EIA – Policy and Planning			
1	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in Section 9.4 of ES Chapter 9 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-095] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	As far as Natural England is aware, the correct policies have been identified. We note that all policies are soon to be updated.	Agreed
EIA – Baseline Environment			
2	The existing survey data is sufficient to inform the assessment.	This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in Table 2.1 and ID 1.3.2 of Seabed ETG Agreement Log which agreed that Project-specific fish and shellfish ecology surveys were not required due to the availability of existing datasets.	Agreed
EIA – Assessment Methodology			
3	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in Table 2.1 which agreed the approach to assessment methodologies. Within Appendix F All Other Offshore Matters of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided comments in relation to concurrent / simultaneous piling within SEP and DEP. It is understood the Applicant intends to address this through responses to our relevant representations.	In discussion
4	The worst case scenario presented in the assessment is appropriate.	Comments received from Natural England in their Section 42 response on the approach to defining and presenting the worst-case scenario were addressed for the ES.	Agreed
EIA – Project-Along Assessment Conclusions			
5	The conclusions of the assessment of impacts for construction, operation and decommissioning are agreed.	Natural England defers to CEFAS for their agreement.	In discussion
CIA Conclusions			

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
6	The conclusions of the assessment of cumulative impacts are agreed.	Natural England defers to CEFAS for their agreement.	In discussion
Mitigation			
7	Given the impacts of the Projects, the proposed mitigation outlined for fish and shellfish ecology within the Schedule of Mitigation and Mitigation Routemap [APP-282] is appropriate.	In our Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England raised concerns regarding the mitigation proposed. Natural England intends to advise the Examining Authority at Deadline 2 that we recommend the Applicant submits an updated Schedule of Mitigation and Mitigation Routemap into examination. We will provide an update on our position following review of this document.	In discussion
Draft DCO			
8	<p>The wording of the following requirements and conditions pertaining to fish and shellfish ecology are appropriate and adequate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition 13(1)(c) of Schedule 10, Condition 13(1)(c) of Schedule 11, Condition 12(1)(c) of Schedule 12 and Condition 12(1)(c) of Schedule 13 with reference to development of a Construction Method Statement Condition 13(1)(h) of Schedule 10, Condition 13(1)(h) of Schedule 11, Condition 12(1)(i) of Schedule 12 and Condition 12(1)(i) of Schedule 13 with reference to a marine mammal mitigation protocol in respect of piling activities Condition 13(1)(b) of Schedule 10, Condition 13(1)(b) of Schedule 11, Condition 12(1)(b) of Schedule 12 and Condition 12(1)(b) of Schedule 13 with reference to development of a construction programme. 	Within Appendix A of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided a number of comments in relation to the Draft DCO wording. The Applicant has provided responses to our relevant representation at Deadline 1 in relation to these matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.	In discussion

2.2 Marine Mammal Ecology

20. A summary of the consultation relating to marine mammal ecology is provided in **Table 2.6**. The **Marine Mammals ETG Agreement Log** is provided in **Annex 1**.

Table 2.6: Summary of consultation with Natural England regarding marine mammal ecology

Date	Contact Type	Topic
Pre-Application		
07/10/2019	Report	Submission of the SEP and DEP Scoping Report [APP-281]. The Scoping Report outlined the existing environment, the impacts to be assessed in the ES, data gathering and key aspects of the assessment. A Scoping Opinion was received on the 6 th of November 2019.
03/12/2019	Meeting	Marine Mammals ETG 1: Discussed the current design envelope, baseline information to be used to inform the assessment, the methodology of the digital aerial surveys, proposed impact assessment methodology and the proposed approach to mitigation and monitoring.
June 2020	Report	Marine mammal ecology method statement presented in advance of ETG 2 to aid discussion and seek agreement of approach to the assessment.
18/06/2020	Meeting	Marine Mammals ETG 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ETG attendees were informed that Weybourne was selected as the preferred landfall location following a technical feasibility study. Preliminary results from the digital aerial survey data were presented. Approach to underwater noise modelling was presented HRA screening discussed Data sources to be used in the assessment presented and discussed.
10/06/2021	Written submission	Natural England response to Section 42 consultation on PEIR. Appendix 4 of the Consultation Report [APP-033].
20/07/2021	Meeting	Marine Mammals ETG 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions focussed on stakeholder comments received on the PEIR with a view to agreeing a way to address them where relevant. Discussions around new data sources to be used in the assessment also took place. The proposed approach to drafting of the Draft MMMP (Revision B) [REP1-014] and the In-Principle SIP for the SNS SAC [APP-290] was also discussed.
14/02/2022	Meeting	Marine Mammals ETG 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overview of the planned marine mammals ES chapter and HRA updates was provided. Brief discussion around progress on the development of the Draft MMMP (Revision B) [REP1-014] and In-Principle SIP for the SNS SAC [APP-290] which were sent to the ETG for review with comments being addressed for the final application versions (see Table 2.15).

Table 2.7: Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to marine mammal ecology

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
EIA – Policy and Planning			
1	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in Section 10.4 of ES Chapter 10 Marine Mammal Ecology [APP-096] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	As far as Natural England is aware, the correct policies have been identified. We note that all policies are soon to be updated.	Agreed
EIA – Baseline Environment			
2	Existing and Project specific survey data collected is sufficient to inform the assessment.	<p>This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in Table 2.6 which agreed the approach to survey data collection.</p> <p>Within Appendix D of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England cites concerns over the characterisation of seal presence in the site and impact zones.</p> <p>As noted in Section 1.3, the Applicant intends to submit a Marine Mammals Technical Note at Deadline 3 to address Natural England’s concerns in relation to this matter and will be able to provide an updated position following review of this note.</p>	In discussion
EIA – Assessment Methodology			
3	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	<p>This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in Table 2.6 which agreed the approach to assessment methodologies.</p> <p>Within Appendix D of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided a number of comments in relation to assessment methodologies. As noted in Section 1.3, the Applicant intends to submit a Marine Mammals Technical Note at Deadline 3 and will be providing responses to our Relevant Representation at Deadline 2 in relation to these matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.</p>	In discussion
4	The worst case scenario presented in the assessment is appropriate.	Within Appendix D of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has requested clarification in relation to the worst-case scenario in relation to piling, impacts to prey and impacts from other projects in	In discussion



ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
		the CIA. As noted in Section 1.3 , the Applicant intends to submit a Marine Mammals Technical Note at Deadline 3 and will be providing responses to our Relevant Representation at Deadline 2 in relation to these matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.	
5	The approach for assessing the potential barrier effects from underwater noise on marine mammals is appropriate.	Within Appendix D of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England request to see more details in the assessment of barrier effects to seals. As noted in Section 1.3 , the Applicant intends to submit a Marine Mammals Technical Note at Deadline 3 and will be providing responses to our Relevant Representation at Deadline 2 in relation to these matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.	In discussion
EIA – Project-Alone Assessment Conclusions			
6	The conclusions of the assessment of impacts for construction, operation and decommissioning are agreed.	Within Appendix D of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided a number of comments in relation to assessment conclusions. As noted in Section 1.3 , the Applicant intends to submit a Marine Mammals Technical Note at Deadline3 and will be providing responses to our Relevant Representation at Deadline 2 in relation to these matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.	In discussion
CIA Conclusions			
7	The conclusions of the assessment of cumulative impacts are agreed.	Within Appendix D of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided a number of comments in relation to assessment conclusions. As noted in Section 1.3 , the Applicant intends to submit a Marine Mammals Technical Note at Deadline 3 and will be providing responses to our Relevant Representation at Deadline 2 in relation to these matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.	In discussion
HRA Screening			



ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
8	The marine mammals SACs and effects screened in for assessment are appropriate	<p>This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in Table 2.6 which agreed HRA screening (also see ID 2.29 of Marine Mammals ETG Agreement Log).</p> <p>Within Appendix D of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided a number of comments in relation to effects screened in to the assessment. As noted in Section 1.3, the Applicant intends to submit a Marine Mammals Technical Note at Deadline 3 and will be providing responses to our Relevant Representation at Deadline 2 in relation to these matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.</p> <p>Natural England does not agree that physical and permanent auditory injury should have been screened out of the test of likely significant effects (LSE), as mitigation is relied on. Natural England recommends that the pathways; physical and permanent auditory injury should be assessed as having a LSE.</p> <p>We do not agree that impacts to supporting habitats of the Humber Estuary SAC can be screened out of having a LSE as there could be some material effect on the behaviour of seals associated with the site. Natural England recommends that the following pathway: impacts to grey seal habitats, should be assessed as having a LSE.</p>	In discussion
HRA Methodology			
9	The RIAA assessment methodologies with respect to the assessment of effects on the Southern North Sea SAC are appropriate.	<p>Within Appendix D of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided a number of comments in relation to RIAA assessment methodologies. As noted in Section 1.3, the Applicant intends to submit a Marine Mammals Technical Note at Deadline 3 and will be providing responses to our Relevant Representation at Deadline 2 in relation to these matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.</p>	In discussion
10	The RIAA assessment methodologies with respect to the assessment of effects on the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC are appropriate.		
11	The RIAA assessment methodologies with respect to the assessment of effects on the Humber Estuary SAC are appropriate.		
HRA - Project-Alone Assessment Conclusions			



ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
12	The conclusions of the assessment of impacts for construction, operation and decommissioning are agreed.	Within Appendix D of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided a number of comments in relation to assessment conclusions. As noted in Section 1.3 , the Applicant intends to submit a Marine Mammals Technical Note at Deadline 3 and will be providing responses to our Relevant Representation at Deadline 2 in relation to these matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.	In discussion
HRA - In-Combination Assessment Conclusions			
13	The conclusions of the assessment of cumulative impacts are agreed.	Within Appendix D of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided a number of comments in relation to assessment conclusions. As Natural England understands, the Applicant intends to submit a Marine Mammals Technical Note at Deadline 3 and will be providing responses to our Relevant Representation at Deadline 2 in relation to these matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.	In discussion
Mitigation and Monitoring			
14	Given the impacts of the Projects, the proposed mitigation outlined for marine mammal ecology within the Schedule of Mitigation and Mitigation Routemap [APP-282] is appropriate.	In our Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England raised our concerns regarding the mitigation proposed. Natural England intends to advise the Examining Authority at Deadline 2 that we recommend the Applicant submits an updated Schedule of Mitigation and Mitigation Routemap into examination. We will provide an update on our position following review of this document.	In discussion
Draft DCO			
15	The wording of the following requirements and conditions pertaining to marine mammal ecology are appropriate and adequate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition 13(1)(c) of Schedule 10, Condition 13(1)(c) of Schedule 11, Condition 12(1)(c) of Schedule 12 and Condition 12(1)(c) of Schedule 13 with reference to development of a Construction Method Statement 	Within Appendix A of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided a number of comments in relation to the Draft DCO wording. The Applicant has provided responses to our relevant representation at Deadline 1 in relation to these matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.	In discussion

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition 13(1)(h) of Schedule 10, Condition 13(1)(h) of Schedule 11, Condition 12(1)(i) of Schedule 12 and Condition 12(1)(i) of Schedule 13 with reference to a marine mammal mitigation protocol in respect of piling activities • Condition 14 of Schedule 10, Condition 14 of Schedule 11, Condition 13 of Schedule 12 and Condition 13 of Schedule 13 with reference to a SIP for the SNS SAC • Condition 13(1)(b) of Schedule 10, Condition 13(1)(b) of Schedule 11, Condition 12(1)(b) of Schedule 12 and Condition 12(1)(b) of Schedule 13 with reference to development of a construction programme. • Condition 19 of Schedule 10, Condition 19 of Schedule 11, Condition 18 of Schedule 12 and Condition 18 of Schedule 13 with reference to the development of a construction monitoring plan • Condition 18 of Schedule 10, Condition 18 of Schedule 11, Condition 17 of Schedule 12 and Condition 17 of Schedule 13 with reference to pre-construction marine mammal monitoring • Condition 20 of Schedule 10, Condition 20 of Schedule 11, Condition 19 of Schedule 12 and Condition 19 of Schedule 13 with reference to post-construction marine mammals monitoring 		
Other Matters as Required			

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
16	UXO clearance will be a separate Marine Licence and not part of DCO submission. However, assessments based on potential worst-case for UXO will be provided for information in the ES, Information for the HRA report, and draft MMMP for UXO.	This was discussed and agreed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in Table 2.6 (also see ID 3.1 of Marine Mammals ETG Agreement Log).	Agreed

2.3 Stage 1 CSCB MCZA and In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan

21. The offshore export cable corridor passes through the CSCB MCZ. It is therefore possible that Project activities could be capable of significantly affecting the protected features of the MCZ. Therefore, a **Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment** [APP-077] was undertaken which concludes that the conservation objective of maintaining the protected features of the CSCB MCZ in a favourable condition or restoring them to a favourable condition will not be hindered by the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of SEP and DEP alone or cumulatively with any other plan, project or activity. However, in light of consultation from stakeholders, the Applicant has provided a Stage 2 assessment (see the **MCAA Derogation Provision of Evidence** [APP-082] and the **In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan (Revision C)** [document reference 5.7.1]), on a precautionary and without prejudice basis to enable consultation on Stage 2 to be undertaken pre-application and during DCO Examination, should it be required in the consent determination process.
22. A summary of the consultation relating to Stage 1 MCZ Assessment and MEEB is provided in **Table 2.8**. Consultation was initially undertaken through the Seabed ETG prior to a dedicated MEEB ETG (consisting of the same members) being formed in October 2021. Annex B of the **In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan (Revision C)** [document reference 5.7.1] provides a detailed record of the consultation undertaken with regard to MEEB.
23. If MEEB is deemed to be required by the Secretary of State, the planting of a native oyster bed within the CSCB MCZ would be progressed as the preferred MEEB. Table 7.1 of the **In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan (Revision C)** [document reference 5.7.1] provides a review of potential MEEB indicating measures which would be reviewed, if required, as alternatives to the preferred measure. Individual SoCG tables for each alternative measure have not been provided. Details of consultation which led to the selection of native oyster bed planting as the preferred measure are provided in **Table 2.8** below and Annex B of the **In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan (Revision C)** [document reference 5.7.1]. The **MEEB ETG Agreement Log** is provided in **Annex 1**.
24. Additionally, in light of the emerging Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package (OWEIP) and Marine Recovery Fund (MRF), the Applicant recognises that a viable strategic compensation / MEEB funding mechanism may become available prior to the construction of SEP and DEP. Therefore alternative strategic options may become available to discharge MEEB requirements. To ensure this option is available to SEP and DEP, the Applicant has included wording within the **Proposed Without Prejudice DCO Drafting (Revision B)** [document reference 3.1.3] for a contribution to be made to a Strategic Compensation Fund wholly or partly in place of the Applicant's proposed MEEB or as an adaptive management measure. A detailed explanation of the draft DCO wording covering strategic delivery of compensation via a fund is provided in Section 4.4 of the **Strategic and Collaborative Approaches to Compensation and MEEB** [APP-084] document and a further update within the **Habitats Regulations Assessment Derogation and Compensatory Measures Update** [REP1-061]. Natural England intends to review updates to [APP-084] to update our position for the final SoCG.

Table 2.8: Summary of consultation with Natural England regarding Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment and MEEB

Date	Contact Type	Topic
Pre-Application		
02/06/2020	Meeting	Seabed ETG 2: MCZ assessment screening results were presented and discussed (see Appendix 1 - Screening Report [APP-078] of the Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment [APP-077]).
July 2020	Report	Consultation on ES Appendix 6.3 Sedimentary Processes in the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ [APP-182] was undertaken to inform the approach to assessment within the MCZ. This appendix, alongside ES Appendix 6.4 Sheringham Shoal Nearshore Cable Route – British Geological Survey Shallow Geological Assessment [APP-183], provides a detailed analysis of the geology and transport processes in the CSCB MCZ which fed into ES Chapter 6 MGOPP [APP-092] and the Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment [APP-077].
March 2021	Report	Draft Outline In-Principle MEEB Plan: The Applicant shared for consultation this outline document which set out the legislative and policy context for MEEB and provided an initial review of potential MEEB.
10/06/2021	Written submission	Natural England response to Section 42 consultation on PEIR. Appendix 4 of the Consultation Report [APP-033].
16/08/2021	Meeting	Seabed ETG 4: Discussions focussed on stakeholder comments received on the Stage 1 CSCB MCZ assessment submitted at PEIR with a view to agreeing a way to address them where relevant.
07/09/2021	Meeting	Separate stakeholder meetings to discuss MEEB were held due to an inability to align the diaries of ETG members in summer 2021. This meeting with Natural England enabled discussions on the MEEB options review process and the perceived merit of each of the potential options.
September 2021	Report	Draft In-Principle MEEB Plan version 1: Based on stakeholder feedback on the above, further refinement of the MEEB measures proposed was undertaken with additional detail included for measures deemed by stakeholders to be most suitable.
01/10/2021	Meeting	MEEB ETG 1: Discussed comments on the Draft In-Principle MEEB Plan version 1, including the perceived merit in the suite of proposed measures with a steer towards those which should be taken forward as preferred measures pending further feasibility studies.
December 2021	Report	Draft In-Principle MEEB Plan version 2: Based on stakeholder feedback on version 1 and at ETG 1, further refinement of the MEEB measures proposed was undertaken with additional detail included for measures deemed by stakeholders to be most suitable.
21/02/2022	Meeting	MEEB ETG 2: The following matters were discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most recent updates to the MEEB Plan noting that the planting of native oyster bed within the CSCB MCZ is the Applicant's preferred measure and was generally supported by stakeholders. • Site selection, scale, ratios, deployment, monitoring and adaptive management with respect to native oyster restoration. • Alternative MEEB if native oyster bed planting within the MCZ is deemed unfeasible.

Date	Contact Type	Topic
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed approach to delivering MEEB post consent (if required).
06/04/2022	Report	<p>The Applicant consulted on proposals to include an additional temporary works area buffer zone to its offshore Order Limits. Revised Order Limits and Temporary Works Area, consisted of the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 750m buffer either side of the export and interlink cable corridors; and A 200m extension buffer to the SEP and DEP wind farm sites. <p>To understand any potential impacts associated with these changes, the Applicant published an Offshore Temporary Works Order Limits Environmental Report (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2022). The report summarised the proposed changes and considered any potential impacts to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for SEP and DEP associated with the inclusion of the offshore works area.</p> <p>The report identified some minor changes to the initial assessment presented in the previous consultation held between 29 April 2021 and 10 June 2021 on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The Applicant therefore undertook a targeted consultation with statutory offshore consultees between 6 April and 18 May 2022 to receive feedback on these proposed changes prior to submission of the DCO application.</p> <p>Natural England provided a response on 18/05/2022 which stated that they had no objections to the extension of the Order Limits to include the temporary works area however additional comments were provided on micro-siting and anchoring in the nearshore area.</p>

Table 2.9: Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to the Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
Policy and Planning			
1	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in Section 2 of the Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment [APP-077] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	As far as Natural England is aware, the correct policies have been identified. We note that all policies are soon to be updated.	Agreed
Baseline Environment			
2	Existing and Project specific survey data collected is sufficient to inform the assessment.	This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in Table 2.8 which agreed the approach to survey data collection.	Agreed
Assessment Methodology			
3	The impact assessment methodologies used provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in Table 2.8 which agreed the approach to assessment methodologies. Within Appendix G Cromer MCZ of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063], Natural England has commented on assessment methodologies. Natural England understands that the Applicant intends to address these through responses to relevant representations and will be able to provide an updated position following review of these.	In discussion
4	The worst case scenario presented in the assessment is appropriate.	Within Appendix G Cromer MCZ of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063]. Natural England provided comments in relation to the Applicant's Stage One MCZ assessment. Natural England understands that the Applicant intends to address these through responses to relevant representations and will be able to provide an updated position following review of these.	In discussion
Project-Alone Assessment Conclusions			
5	The conclusions of the assessments of temporary habitat loss / physical disturbance from export cable installation, increased SSCs and remobilisation of contaminated sediments during	Within Appendix G Cromer MCZ of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063], Sections 6 and 7, we advised further information is required in the MCZ assessment	In discussion

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
	construction (Sections 8.1.1, 8.1.2 and 8.1.3 respectively of the Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment [APP-077]) are agreed.	on how if required (based on the installation technique) sediment will be removed at the exit pit/s, stored and redistributed. And how impacts to surrounding features can be avoided/reduced. In addition, we note secondary scouring needs further consideration in the Stage I MCZ assessment (para. 192, 197 and 209) in relation to impacts to sediment transportation.	
6	The conclusions of the assessments of temporary habitat loss / physical disturbance, increased SSCs, effects on bedload sediment transport and invasive species during operation are agreed (Sections 8.2.1, 8.2.3, 8.2.4 and 8.2.5 respectively of the Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment [APP-077]).	Natural England advises that further information within various documents has been presented however this matter is not fully resolved for operational impacts including Operation and Maintenance activities.	In discussion
7	The conclusions of the assessment of long term habitat loss during operation are agreed (Section 8.2.2 of the Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment [APP-077]).	Natural England doesn't agree with the Applicant's conclusion that there will be no significant risk of the activity hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives for Cromer Shoal MCZ.	Not agreed – material impact
Cumulative Effects Conclusions			
8	Projects, plans and activities where the impacts have been sufficiently assessed and implemented at the time of SEP and DEP data collection (field surveys etc.) are considered part of the baseline and are screened out of the cumulative assessment. With respect to the CSCB MCZ, this includes commercial fishing activity within the MCZ.	Natural England advises that projects that were built at the time of CSCB MCZ being officially proposed and designated are likely to be part of the baseline depending upon the time of the supporting surveys. However, for CSCB MCZ there has been subsequent lawful decisions where the assessment hasn't fully taken account of the predicted and/or as built impacts. Therefore, these ongoing impacts are thought to be hindering the conservation objectives for the site and must be taken into consideration in terms of the on-going carry capacity of the site for further sustainable development. Therefore, Natural England doesn't agree with the cumulative assessments for the MCZ.	Not agreed - In discussion
9	The conclusions of the assessment of cumulative temporary habitat loss / physical disturbance and increased SSCs impacts from cable installation (excluding cable protection) are agreed.		
10	The conclusions of the assessment of cumulative long term habitat loss impacts are agreed.	Natural England doesn't agree with the Applicant's conclusion that there will be no significant risk of the activity hindering the	Not agreed – material impact

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
		achievement of the conservation objectives for Cromer Shoal MCZ.	
Mitigation and Monitoring			
11	Given the impacts of the Projects, the proposed mitigation described in Table 5-3 of the Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment [APP-077] is appropriate.	Within Table 1 of Appendix G Cromer MCZ of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063], we provide our advice on the SEP and DEP mitigation measures and raise concerns regarding measures for micro-siting, cable protection and fisheries byelaws. Natural England provided further advice to the In principle monitoring plan at Deadline 1, please see our overarching advice.	In discussion
Draft DCO			
12	<p>The wording of the following requirements and conditions pertaining to the Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment are appropriate and adequate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition 13(1)(c) of Schedule 10, Condition 13(1)(c) of Schedule 11, Condition 12(1)(c) of Schedule 12 and Condition 12(1)(c) of Schedule 13 with reference to development of a Construction Method Statement Condition 13(1)(b) of Schedule 10, Condition 13(1)(b) of Schedule 11, Condition 12(1)(b) of Schedule 12 and Condition 12(1)(b) of Schedule 13 with reference to development of a construction programme. Condition 19 of Schedule 10, Condition 19 of Schedule 11, Condition 18 of Schedule 12 and Condition 18 of Schedule 13 with reference to the development of a construction monitoring plan Condition 12(1)(e) of Schedule 12 and Condition 12(1)(e) of Schedule 13 with reference to development of a CSCB MCZ CSIMP 	Within Appendix A of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided a number of comments in relation to the Draft DCO wording. The Applicant has provided responses to our relevant representation at Deadline 1 in relation to these matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.	In discussion

Table 2.10: Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to MEEB – planting of native oyster bed in the CSCB MCZ

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
Efficacy of MEEB			
1	<p>The MEEB has merit.</p> <p>The Applicant has demonstrated that the MEEB has merit through the In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan (Revision C) [document reference 5.7.1] .</p>	<p>Natural England advises that this option has ecological merit – see ID 7.1 of the MEEB ETG Agreement Log.</p>	Agreed
2	<p>If it is required, and successfully delivered, the proposed MEEB will compensate for the long term loss of habitat from the installation of external cable protection across an up to 1,800m² area of subtidal sediments.</p>	Agreed.	Agreed
3	<p>If it is required, and successfully delivered, the proposed MEEB will partially restore a historic feature (i.e. native oyster) of the CSCB MCZ and wider region.</p>	Agreed.	Agreed
Site selection, spatial scale and deployment			
4	<p>The desk-based site selection exercise undergone to identify the 1km² initial restoration site search area (Figure 8.1 of APP-083) is robust and has resulted in the identification of an appropriate initial search area. The site selection process is described in Annex C of the In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan (Revision C) [document reference 5.7.1].</p>	<p>Please see Natural England’s advice in Appendix G of our Relevant Representation [RR-063] highlighting our concerns over the location identified.</p> <p>Natural England understands that the Applicant has sought to address this concern in the updates to the In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan (Revision C) [document reference 5.7.1] to be submitted at Deadline 2. Following review of Deadline 1 submissions Natural England would support a revised location as included in Annex 4 [REP1-009].</p>	Agreed
5	<p>The phased deployment approach described in section 8.4.4 of the In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan (Revision C) [document reference 5.7.1] is appropriate.</p>	Agreed.	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
6	A 10,000m ² restoration area is an appropriately targeted spatial scale to enable a self-sustaining reef.	The scientific evidence used to inform a 10,000m ² restoration area to enable a self-sustaining reef is agreed.	Agreed
Timescale for delivery			
7	The indicative timeline in Table 8.2 of the In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan (Revision C) [document reference 5.7.1] is appropriate.	Within Para 25, Appendix G of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England recognises the time required for ecological functionality to occur and therefore would advise the implementation of Oyster restoration prior to the cable installation but reflecting that it may not be fully delivering.	Agreed
Monitoring, maintenance and adaptive management			
8	The information presented in section 8.5.1 of the In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan (Revision C) [document reference 5.7.1] relating to monitoring is appropriate.	Natural England advises this is under discussion with the Applicant as in the early stages. While not reflected in our Relevant Rep [RR-063], as under discussion, we highlight the monitoring should reflect the effort and commitments to that undertaken in the Benthic Implementation Monitoring Plan (BIMP; Norfolk Projects) and Sandbanks Implementation Plan (SIMP; Hornsea Project THREE) for benthic compensation.	In discussion
9	The information presented in section 8.5.2 of the In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan (Revision C) [document reference 5.7.1] relating to adaptive management is appropriate.	Natural England advises that while it is welcomed that strategic compensation is included as part of adaptive management, it is not yet agreed what this will include and how it will be implemented.	In discussion
10	The information presented in section 8.5.3 of the In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan (Revision C) [document reference 5.7.1] relating to management measures is appropriate.	Natural England has reviewed the In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan (Revision B) [document reference 5.7.1 submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 1 [REP1-011]. We advise that the management of biosecurity is updated within this document; however there are no further updates to other management measures in relation to planting of Native Oyster Beds. We anticipate further information will be included in subsequent revisions and submitted by the Applicant into examination.	In discussion

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
Securing consents and agreements			
11	<p>It is not anticipated that a sea bed lease from The Crown Estate will be required for restoring a designated site feature. If MEEB is deemed to be required by the SoS, a marine licence exemption or, if required, marine licence application to the MMO for the deployment of cultch would be made post consent.</p> <p>Appendix 4 Assessment of Potential Impacts on Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Marine Conservation Zone Features from Planting of Native Oyster Beds (Revision B) [REP1-009] of the Stage 1 CSCB MCZA [APP-077] provides an assessment of the potential risk of the MEEB Implementation and Monitoring Plan hindering the conservation objectives of the existing features of the CSCB MCZ and concludes that it would not.</p>	<p>As far as Natural England is aware a seabed lease is not required from the Crown Estate.</p> <p>Within Appendix G of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England advises against the placement of cultch and restoration of an Oyster bed in the middle of a mixed sediment area. For the planting of oyster beds to be considered as additionality we advise that it would be better to extend/enhance the area of the mixed sediment on the boundary with impoverished coarse sediment.</p> <p>Natural England understands that the Applicant has sought to address this concern in the updates to the In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan (Revision C) [document reference 5.7.1] to be submitted at Deadline 2 and Appendix 4 Assessment of Potential Impacts on Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Marine Conservation Zone Features from Planting of Native Oyster Beds (Revision B) [REP1-009]. Following review of this Natural England anticipates being able to provide an updated position.</p>	In discussion
DCO wording			
12	<p>The Draft DCO wording provided in Proposed Without Prejudice DCO Drafting (Revision B) [document reference 3.1.3] is appropriate and adequate.</p>	<p>Within Appendix A of the Natural England Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided a number of comments in relation to the Draft DCO wording. The Applicant has provided responses to our relevant representation at Deadline 1 in relation to these matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.</p>	In discussion

2.4 Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment (SVIA)

25. A summary of the consultation relating to SVIA is provided in **Table 2.11** and the **Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Agreement Log** is provided in **Annex 1**.

Table 2.11: Summary of consultation with Natural England regarding seascape and visual

Date	Contact Type	Topic
Pre-Application		
23/03/2020	ETG Meeting 1	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach to Visualisation. • Approach to Visual Receptors. • List of data sources. • Seascape character areas to be included in assessment. • List of potential impacts.
02/06/2020	Pre-Section 42 consultation	Consultation (via email) on the proposed approach of the Seascape and visual impact Assessment's (SVIA) study areas; representative viewpoints and approach to visualisations (at both the PEIR and ES stages)
10/06/2021	Section 42 Consultation	Natural England response to section 42 consultation on PEIR. Appendix 4 of the Consultation Report [APP-033]
21/07/2021	ETG Meeting 2 (Part 1 of 2)	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEIR • Baseline data sources. • Dark skies character. • Worst-case scenario. • Assessment methodology. • Impact significance.
02/02/2022	ETG Meeting 3 (Part 1 and 2)	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SVIA • Assessment of the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). • Project Visions and Design Statement. • Single Frame Visualisations.

Table 2.12: Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Seascape and Visual

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
EIA – Policy and Planning			
1	<p>All relevant plans and policies have been identified in Section 25.4 of ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.</p> <p>Discussed and agreed at ETG meeting 2 (Part 1 of 2), 21/07/2021.</p>	<p>As far as Natural England is aware, the correct policies have been identified. We note that all policies are soon to be updated.</p>	Agreed
EIA – Baseline Environment			
2	<p>The ES adequately defines the baseline environment in terms of seascape and visual as detailed in Section 25.5 of ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111].</p> <p>ETG meeting 2 (part 1 of 2), 21/07/2021 discussed and confirmed that the existing Dudgeon windfarms would form part of the baseline assessed against.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges Natural England’s reference to Section 3 of Appendix H of RR-063 and refers to the Applicant’s response at ID 3 in Table 4.18.7 of The Applicant’s Comments to Relevant Representations [REP1-033].</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges Natural England’s comment on supplying “...text detailing a comparison between SEP and DEP and other consented arrays...” and refers to the Applicant’s response at ID 20 (g) in Table 4.18.7 of The Applicant’s Comments to Relevant Representations [REP1-033].</p>	<p>Please see Section 3 of Appendix H of our relevant representation [RR-063]. NE “agree that the existing OWFs form a part of the seascape and visual baseline”</p> <p>Natural England notes that at the ETG meeting on 2nd February 2022, the Applicant agreed to supply text detailing a comparison between SEP and DEP and other consented arrays visible from the NCAONB. We note that this document is not part of the ES, however we advise, such a document should be included as part of the determination process to assist the ExA and the decision maker.</p>	Agreed
3	<p>Appropriate datasets have been presented to inform the assessments as detailed in ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111].</p> <p>The following list of data sources will be appropriate to inform the assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Landscape Character Area Profiles; 	Agreed.	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'North Norfolk Landscape Character Assessment' Supplementary Planning Document 2021; • 'North Norfolk Landscape Sensitivity Assessment' Supplementary Planning Document 2021; • 'Broadland District Landscape Character Assessment' 2008 (updated 2013); • 'South Norfolk District Landscape Character Assessment' 2001 (updated 2006 and 2008); • 'South Norfolk District Landscape Designations Review' 2012; • 'Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 2019-24 Management Plan', Norfolk Coast Partnership; and • 'Norfolk Coast AONB Integrated Landscape Character Guidance', Norfolk Coast Partnership. <p>Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2, 21/07/2021.</p>		
4	<p>The following list of visual receptors for SVIA was identified for assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine: ferry routes, recreational vessels, fishing boats. • Land: England Coast Path / Norfolk Coast Path, beach / coastal margin and other accessible landscapes, coastal settlements, specific viewpoints. <p>Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2 21/07/2021.</p>	Agreed.	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
	ETG meeting 3 (Part 1 of 2) 02/02/2022, discussed and agreed the ES SVIA chapter would take into account the update its ratings on the susceptibility and sensitivity of users of long-distance walking routes, PRowS, accessible and recreational landscapes, valued / specific viewpoints and Dark Sky Discovery Sites within designated landscapes to 'high'.		
5	The Seascape character area assessment East Inshore and East Offshore marine plan areas, Marine Management Organisation 2012 is appropriate for use as the baseline for assessing seascape effects, informed by other documents and site assessment. Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2, 21/07/2021.	Agreed.	Agreed
EIA – Assessment Methodology			
6	The study areas identified in Section 25.3 of ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111] is appropriate for the assessment. Discussed and agreed to in ETG meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2 21/07/2021, and as part of the pre-Section 42 consultation. See Table 25-1 of the ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111] for details.	Agreed.	Agreed
7	For the purposes of ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111], the Norfolk Coast AONB was divided into three discrete geographical areas, as described in paragraph 229 of the SVIA [APP-111]. It is agreed that the central section (which runs along the north Norfolk coast between Hunstanton and Paston) is the area of relevance to the assessment in terms of potentially significant effects on seascape, landscape and/or visual receptors.	Agreed.	Agreed
8	Visuals have been produced from agreed representative viewpoints, in accordance with Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals, September	Agreed.	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
	<p>2019 and Visual Representation of Wind Farms Version 2.2, Scottish Natural Heritage, February 2017.</p> <p>Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2, 21/07/2021, and as part of the pre-Section 42 consultation. See Table 25-1 of the ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111] for details.</p>		
9	<p>ETG meeting 3 (part 1 of 2) (02/02/2022) agreed with the decision to use ground level viewpoint and historic photography from the Sheringham Shoal offshore wind farm SLVIA within Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111], as an alternative viewpoint location, in reaching judgements on effects on visitors to the viewing gazebo at Oak Wood. It was explained that the viewing gazebo at the National Trust Oak Wood is presently inaccessible, and the National Trust agrees to the SVIA's proposed approach.</p> <p>Discussed in ETG meeting 3 (Part 1 of 2). Details of consultation and agreements reached with the National Trust prior to submission is set out in Table 25-1 of the ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111].</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges that Natural England did not comment at ETG meeting 3 (Part 1 of 2) on this matter, as they do not have local knowledge of the viewing gazebo at Oak Wood and defer to the Norfolk Coast Partnership on this matter.</p>	Defer to the position of Norfolk Coast Partnership.	N/A
10	<p>Illustrative photomontages showing the proposed SEP and DEP projects during operation have been produced showing: The offshore wind turbine array with the largest potential turbines (from land - daytime), and Night-time photomontages of the offshore wind turbine array from selected land-based viewpoints to illustrate lighting.</p> <p>Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2 21/07/2021, and as part of the pre-Section 42 consultation. See Table 25-1 of the ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111] for details.</p>	Agreed. However please see comment for ID16 regarding requirements for visualisations.	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
11	<p>Night-time photomontages from three viewpoints are appropriate for inclusion in relation to the wind farm extensions and potential impacts to dark skies character of North Norfolk.</p> <p>Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 2 (Part 1 of 2), 21/07/2021, and as part of the pre-Section 42 consultation. See Table 25-1 of the ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111] for details.</p> <p>The Applicant notes Natural England's concerns below in ID 12 and refers to the Applicant's response at ID 22 in Table 4.18.7 of The Applicant's Comments to Relevant Representations [REP1-033] in relation to Natural England's Points 4d, 4e and 4f of RR-063.</p>	<p>Natural England agrees that the three night time viewpoints to inform the assessment is appropriate to undertake the assessment.</p>	Agreed
12	<p>The impact assessment methodologies, as presented in Section 25.4 of ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111], are appropriate to assess the potential impacts of the projects.</p> <p>Discussed and agreed to in ETG meeting 2 21/07/2021, and as part of the pre-Section 42 consultation. See Table 25-1 of the ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111] for details.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges Natural England's reference to their concerns outlined in RR-063. The Applicant refers to their responses to RR-063; noting within this document (at ID 17, 16, 13 and 11) where the Applicant has responded to Natural England's comments in Table 4.18.7 of The Applicant's Comments to Relevant Representations [REP1-033].</p>	<p>Appendix H of Natural England's relevant representation [RR-063] notably outlines our concerns in relation to (i) lack of CIA ref ID 17; (ii) comments on worst case scenarios ref ID 16; (iii) the difference between the Applicant's judgement of impact significance on the NCAONB ref ID13 ,</p> <p>Natural England's concerns regarding the three night time photomontages referred to in ID11 are described in Points 4d, 4e and 4f of Appendix H of our relevant representation [RR-063].</p>	In discussion
13	<p>The assessment of impacts presented in Section 25.6 of ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111] are consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.</p> <p>Discussed and agreed to in ETG meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2 21/07/2021, and as part of the pre-Section 42 consultation. See Table 25-1 of the ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111] for details.</p>	<p>The difference between the Applicant's judgement of impact significance on the NCAONB (medium-low magnitude, moderate-slight significance) and Natural England's judgement of impact significance (medium magnitude and major-moderate significance) has <u>increased</u> since the assessment within the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), without any obvious justification</p>	Not agreed – material impact

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the comment made by Natural England in RR-063 and refers to the Applicant's responses at ID 12 in Table 4.18.7 of The Applicant's Comments to Relevant Representations [REP1-033].</p>	<p>from the applicant. See Appendix H of Natural England's relevant representation [RR-063].</p>	
14	<p>ETG meeting 1 (23/03/2020) agreed with the following list of potential impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary impacts during construction and decommissioning, • Long term impacts during operation, • Effects on seascape character, • Effects on landscape character where offshore elements would be visible from land, • Effects on visual receptors both sea based and land based, • Effects on designated landscapes Norfolk Coast AONB, North Norfolk Heritage Coast and, potentially, the Norfolk Broads, National Park. <p>Reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2, 21/07/2021.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
15	<p>The 'Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Five Year Strategy 2019-2024' remains the current management plan for the Norfolk Coast AONB, and as used to inform the SVIA.</p> <p>ETG meeting 3 (Parts 1 and Part 2), 02/02/2022 and 08/02/2022 agreed that the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan Strategy 2014-2019 should be used to inform the SVIA, due to the uncertainty of the ratification of the latest Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Five Year Strategy 2019-2024.</p> <p>This was confirmed by the Norfolk Coast Partnership (via email on 23 February 2022).</p>	<p>Natural England advises the best available information should be used to inform the assessment. We defer to the AONB Norfolk Coast Partnership to determine the ongoing relevance of this strategy.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
16	<p>The realistic worst-case assumptions presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 25-2 of ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111] are appropriate.</p> <p>Wireframes for impact assessment presents the ‘realistic worst-case’ in accordance with the Rochdale Envelope approach e.g. they will show the maximum outline development envelope.</p> <p>Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2 21/07/2021, and as part of the pre-Section 42 consultation. See Table 25-1 of the ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111] for details.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges the comment made by Natural England in RR-063 and refers to the Applicant’s responses at ID 33 in Table 4.18.7 of The Applicant’s Comments to Relevant Representations [REP1-033].</p>	<p>The impact of Worst Case Scenario 1 has the potential to be as harmful to the NCAONB’s statutory purpose as the impact of Worst Case Scenario 2. Visualisations showing how 53 265m high turbines may appear in views from the NCAONB should be used to inform the EIA process .Please see point 7 of Appendix H of our relevant representation [RR-063].</p>	<p>Not agreed - material impact</p>
17	<p>The assessment of cumulative impacts, as detailed in Section 25.7 of ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.</p> <p>No specific schemes were identified, thus a CIA was not required, as reported at paragraph 90 and 550 of ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111]. The existing OWFs are considered to be part of the baseline.</p> <p>ETG meeting 3 (part 1 of 2), 02/02/2022 discussed and agreed that it would be helpful to provide a comparison with SEP and DEP and other existing windfarms and draft a description and comparison between existing and proposed schemes.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges the comment made by Natural England in RR-063 and refers to the Applicant’s responses at ID 3 in Table 4.18.7 of The Applicant’s Comments to Relevant Representations [REP1-033].</p>	<p>As summarised in Point 3 Appendix H of our Relevant Representation [RR-063] Natural England agrees that the existing OWFs form a part of the seascape and visual baseline. However Natural England seeks to determine the additional harm that SEP and DEP will present to the statutory purpose of the NCAONB. We advise that a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) should be undertaken to inform the EIA to ensure that the impact of SEP and DEP on the statutory purpose of the NCAONB, in the context of the existing OWFs, can be made. We advise that this is a requirement pursuant of Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations.</p>	<p>Not Agreed – material impact</p>
<p>EIA – Project-Alone Assessment Conclusions</p>			

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
18	<p>The conclusions of the impact assessment, which are presented in Section 25.6 of the ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111], are appropriate in identifying and assessing the significance of (in EIA terms) and effects of change resulting from the construction, operation and decommissioning of SEP and/or DEP on landscape and visual receptors.</p> <p>In accordance with the impact assessment's methodology (see Section 25.4 of ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111]), effects which have been assessed to be 'major-moderate' or 'major' are considered significant in EIA terms.</p> <p>Significant effects (in EIA terms) occurring as a result of SEP and/or DEP, have been identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the operational phase of SEP, significant effects would occur on the settlements of Cromer and Sheringham; the Peddars Way, Norfolk Coast Path and England Coast Path; visual receptor group Blakeney to Mundesley; and the viewing gazebo at Oak Wood. • During the operational phase of DEP, significant effects would occur on the Peddars Way, Norfolk Coast Path and England Coast Path. • During the construction and decommissioning phases of SEP, significant effects would occur on the Peddars Way, Norfolk Coast Path and England Coast Path, and visual Receptor Group Blakeney to Mundesley. <p>The conclusions of the impact assessment on the landscape and visual receptors identified within the study areas are appropriate, and assuming the inclusion of embedded mitigation measures, would not be considered significant in EIA terms.</p> <p>The differing professional judgements were discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 2 (Part 1 of 2), 21/07/2021.</p>	<p>As advised within Appendix H of Natural England's Relevant Representation [RR-063] Natural England's advice on the impact significance of SEP and DEP on these landscape types is Major to Moderate, significant in EIA terms and adverse.</p>	<p>Not Agreed – material impact</p>

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the comment made by Natural England in RR-063 and refers to the Applicant's responses at IDs 1, 2 and 3 in Table 4.18.7 of The Applicant's Comments to Relevant Representations [REP1-033].</p>		
19	<p>The Applicant and Natural England agreed to disagree as a result of differing professional judgements on the significance of effect for 4 LCTs.</p> <p>Natural England's position is that they consider there to be a potential significant impact to the special qualities of the AONB.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges the comment made by Natural England in RR-063 and refers to the Applicant's responses at IDs 36 to 40 in Table 4.18.7 of The Applicant's Comments to Relevant Representations [REP1-033].</p>	<p>Natural England agrees with the Applicant's statement to agree to disagree. For detail, please refer to point 8 of Appendix H of NE relevant representation.</p>	Agreed
EIA – Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) Conclusions			
20	<p>The conclusions of the CIA, as detailed in Section 25.6.4 of ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111] are appropriate, consistent with the agreed methodologies, and based on currently available information.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges the comment made by Natural England in RR-063 and refers to the Applicant's responses at ID 3 in Table 4.18.7 of The Applicant's Comments to Relevant Representations [REP1-033].</p>	<p>As ID17 above. As summarised in Point 3 Appendix H of our Relevant Representation [RR-063] Natural England agrees that the existing OWFs form a part of the seascape and visual baseline. However Natural England seeks to determine the additional harm that SEP and DEP will present to the statutory purpose of the NCAONB. We advise that a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) should be undertaken to inform the EIA to ensure that the impact of SEP and DEP on the statutory purpose of the NCAONB, in the context of the existing OWFs, can be made. We advise that this is a requirement pursuant of Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations</p>	Not Agreed – material impact
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring			
21	<p>The Outline Code of Construction Practice [APP-302] includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in ES Chapter 25 SVIA [APP-111] and is appropriate for managing construction and post</p>	<p>Natural England is unable to agree with the statement as written. We would anticipate something written around</p>	In discussion

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
	construction impacts from the Projects on seascape and visual receptors. The Code of Construction Practice is secured under Requirement 19 (within Schedule 2, Part 1) of the Draft DCO (Revision D) [document reference 3.1].	mitigation in relation to windfarm design consideration of modifications to minimise impacts to seascape.	
Other Matters as Required			
22	<p>The ETG agreed to the outline of the factors that influenced the changes to the offshore layout from that presented in the PEIR and acknowledged the amount of work which had been undertaken since the previous ETG. These factors included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proportion of the view affected by the development; the angle of view in relation to main receptor activity; the degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape / view would be altered; and the relationship between existing / proposed / future wind farms. <p>The ETG requested whether design principles could be transferred into the DCO to ensure the principles of design currently being applied are secured. The Applicant confirmed that as part of the work being undertaken for the Navigation Risk Assessment, layout commitments are being secured through the Draft DCO (Revision D) [document reference 3.1], although these primarily address layout requirements set out in MGN 654. The Applicant also confirmed the reason for its decision to include the maximum sized turbine was to future proof the Projects.</p> <p>Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 3 (Part 1 of 2), 02/02/2022.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges the comment made by Natural England in RR-063 and refers to the Applicant's responses at IDs 6 and 26 to 30 in Table 4.18.7 of The Applicant's Comments to Relevant Representations [REP1-033].</p>	<p>See point 6 of Appendix H of Natural England relevant representation [RR-063]. Natural England supports in principle the Design Objective 11, which commits SEP and DEP to 'Respond to the distinctive and unique character of the local landscape / seascape, including the Norfolk Coast AONB and views out to sea', although we are uncertain as to how the design of SEP and DEP meets this objective.</p>	Not Agreed – material impact

2.5 Draft Development Consent Order

26. A summary of the consultation relating to the draft DCO and DMLs is provided in **Table 2.13**. Matters with respect to Schedule 17 of the **Draft DCO (Revision D)** [document reference 3.1] are covered in the **Draft SoCG with Natural England (HRA Derogation)** [REP1-047].

Table 2.13: Summary of consultation with the Natural England regarding the Draft DCO and DMLs

Date	Contact Type	Topic
Pre-Application		
Monthly during 2022	Meeting	Regular monthly meeting with Natural England to provide general project updates which on occasion included discussion of matters related to the drafting of the DCO and DMLs.
Post-Application		
September to February	Meeting	Continuation of the regular monthly meeting described above

Table 2.14: Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Draft DCO and DMLs

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary						
1	The wording of Requirement 2 Part 1 of Schedule 2 and Condition 1 Part 2 of Schedule 10 is appropriate and adequate.	Natural England has requested for the maximum number of turbines to be secured in this requirement. Natural England understands that the Applicant has responded to these at Deadline 1. Following review of these, Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position.	In discussion						
2	The wording of the following conditions is appropriate and adequate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition 13 (pre-construction plans and documentation) of Schedule 10 • Condition 13 (pre-construction plans and documentation) of Schedule 11 • Condition 12 (pre-construction plans and documentation) of Schedule 12 • Condition 12 (pre-construction plans and documentation) of Schedule 13 	Within their Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided a number of queries in relation to these conditions. Natural England understands that the Applicant has responded to these at Deadline 1. Following review of these, Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position. Also see ID 4 of this table regarding the timeframes for approval of documents included in these conditions.	In discussion						
3	The SIP condition (condition 14 of Schedule 10, condition 14 of Schedule 11, condition 13 of Schedule 12 and condition 13 of Schedule 13) is appropriate and adequate.	Within their Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided queries in relation to the SIP condition including around the timescales associated with its submission. Natural England understands that the Applicant has responded to these at Deadline 1. Following review of these, Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position.	In discussion						
4	The timeframes for the approval of all plans and documentation is appropriate and adequate. Relevant conditions and plans as follows: <table border="1" data-bbox="241 1189 1151 1380"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="241 1189 495 1264">Reference</th> <th data-bbox="495 1189 831 1264">Document</th> <th data-bbox="831 1189 1151 1264">Timeline as drafted in the DCO</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="241 1264 495 1380">Schedule 10, Part 2, Paragraph 13(1)(a)</td> <td data-bbox="495 1264 831 1380">Project details and plans</td> <td data-bbox="831 1264 1151 1380">At least four months prior to commencement of licensed activities</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Reference	Document	Timeline as drafted in the DCO	Schedule 10, Part 2, Paragraph 13(1)(a)	Project details and plans	At least four months prior to commencement of licensed activities	Within our Relevant Representation [RR-063], Natural England has provided queries in relation to the timing requirements of pre-construction documentation, including around the timescales associated with its submission. Natural England understands that the Applicant has responded to these at Deadline 1. Following review of these, Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position.	In discussion
Reference	Document	Timeline as drafted in the DCO							
Schedule 10, Part 2, Paragraph 13(1)(a)	Project details and plans	At least four months prior to commencement of licensed activities							

ID	The Applicant Position			Natural England Position	Position Summary
	Schedule 10, Part 2, Paragraph 13(1)(b)	Construction programme and monitoring plan (save for where specified otherwise)	At least four months prior to commencement of licensed activities		
	Schedule 10, Part 2, Paragraph 13(1)(b)(iii)(aa)	Details of pre-construction surveys, baseline report format and content, construction monitoring, post construction surveys and monitoring and related reporting	At least four months prior to the first survey, details of pre-construction surveys and proposed pre-construction monitoring At least four months prior to construction, detail on construction monitoring At least four months prior to commissioning, detail on post construction monitoring		
	Schedule 10, Part 2, Paragraph 13(1)(c)	Construction method statement	At least four months prior to commencement of licensed activities		
	Schedule 10, Part 2, Paragraph 13(1)(d)	Project environmental management plan	At least four months prior to commencement of licensed activities		
	Schedule 10, Part 2, Paragraph 13(1)(e)	Archaeological written scheme of investigation in relation to the offshore order limits	At least four months prior to commencement of licensed activities		

ID	The Applicant Position			Natural England Position	Position Summary
	Schedule 10, Part 2, Paragraph 13(1)(f)	An offshore operations and maintenance plan	At least four months prior to commencement of operation of the licensed activities		
	Schedule 10, Part 2, Paragraph 13(1)(g)	Aids to navigation and management plan	At least four months prior to commencement of licensed activities		
	Schedule 10, Part 2, Paragraph 13(1)(h)	Where part-driven pile foundations are proposed a marine mammal mitigation protocol	At least four months prior to commencement of licensed activities		
	Schedule 10, Part 2, Paragraph 13(1)(i)	Mitigation scheme for Benthic habitats of conservation, ecological and/or economic importance constituting annex 1 reef habitats	At least four months prior to commencement of licensed activities		
	Schedule 10, Part 2, Paragraph 13(1)(j)	An ornithological monitoring plan	At least four months prior to commencement of licensed activities		
	Schedule 10, Part 2, Paragraph 14(3)	SIP	No later than six months prior to commencement of piling activities		
5	The interpretations of all terms within the following sections of the DCO and DMLs are appropriate and adequate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 2 (Interpretation) 			Natural England has provided queries in relation to 'Interpretations' within their Relevant Representation [RR-063]. Natural England understands that the Applicant has responded to these at Deadline 1.	In discussion

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph 1 (Interpretation), Part 1 of Schedules 10, 11, 12 and 13 	Following review of these, Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position.	
6	Condition 19 (construction monitoring and surveys) of Schedule 10 and 11 and Condition 18 (construction monitoring and surveys) of Schedule 12 and 13 is appropriate and adequate.	Natural England has provided queries in relation to monitoring of noise generated from the first four piled foundations within their Relevant Representation [RR-063]. Natural England understands that the Applicant has responded to these at Deadline 1. Following review of these, Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position.	In discussion
7	Condition 18 and 20 (pre and post construction monitoring) of Schedule 10 and 11, conditions 19 and 20 of Schedule 12 and 13 is appropriate and adequate.	<p>In our Relevant Representations [RR-063] Natural England has provided queries in relation to the monitoring captured within the IPMP and if the wording of both the plan and conditions is appropriate. Natural England understands the Applicant has responded to these at Deadline 1. Following review of these, Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position.</p> <p>Natural England has submitted further comments on the IPMP at Deadline 1.</p>	In discussion
8	The wording in the Proposed Without Prejudice DCO Drafting (Revision B) [document reference 3.1.3] is appropriate and adequate.	Natural England notes this is a new document being submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 2 which draws together the various without prejudice DCO drafting. Following review of this, Natural England anticipates being able to provide an updated position	In discussion

2.6 Draft, Outline and In-Principle DCO Documents

27. A summary of the consultation relating to the following draft, outline and in-principle DCO documents is provided in **Table 2.15**:

- **Draft MMMP (Revision B)** [REP1-013]
- **In-Principle Site Integrity Plan for the SNS SAC** [APP-290]
- **Offshore In Principle Monitoring Plan** [APP-289]
- **Outline Project Environmental Management Plan (Revision B)** [REP1-019]
- **Outline Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan** [REP1-015]
- **Outline CSCB MCZ CSIMP** [APP-291]
- **Disposal Site Characterisation Report** [REP1-019]

Table 2.15: Summary of consultation with Natural England regarding draft, outline and in-principle DCO documents

Date	Contact Type	Topic
Pre-Application		
02/06/2020	Meeting	Seabed ETG 2: Matters which led to the development of the Outline CSCB MCZ CSIMP were discussed at this meeting e.g. external cable protection decommissioning considerations.
20/07/2021	Meeting	Marine Mammals ETG 3: The proposed approach to drafting of the Draft MMMP and the In-Principle SIP for the SNS SAC was discussed
16/08/2021	Meeting	Seabed ETG 4: Discussions focussed on stakeholder comments received on the PEIR some of which were relevant to development of the Outline CSCB MCZ CSIMP , Offshore In Principle Monitoring Plan and Disposal Site Characterisation Report .
14/02/2022	Meeting	Marine Mammals ETG 4: Brief discussion around progress on the development of the Draft MMMP and In-Principle SIP for the SNS SAC which were sent to the ETG for review with comments being addressed for the final application versions.
10/06/2021	Written submission	Natural England response to Section 42 consultation on PEIR (Appendix 4 of the Consultation Report [APP-033]) provided comments of relevance to draft, outline and in-principle DCO documents.
01/02/2022	Report	Draft versions of the Draft MMMP and In-Principle SIP for the SNS SAC were shared with the marine mammals ETG for pre-application consultation. Comments received and the Applicant's responses are presented within the versions submitted with the DCO application.
03/02/2022	Report	A draft version of the Outline CSCB MCZ CSIMP was shared for pre-application consultation. Comments received and the Applicant's responses are presented within the version submitted with the DCO application.

Table 2.16: Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to draft, outline and in-principle DCO documents

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
1	The Draft MMMP (Revision B) [REP1-013] is adequate and appropriate.	As noted in Section 1.3 , the Applicant submitted an updated version of the Draft MMMP (Revision B) [REP1-013] which aims to address, as appropriate, outstanding matters relating to this document. Following review of this, the Marine Mammals Technical Note to be submitted at Deadline 3 and the Applicant's responses to Appendix D of Natural England's Relevant Representation, Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position.	In discussion
2	The In-Principle Site Integrity Plan for the SNS SAC [APP-290] is adequate and appropriate.	The Applicant is intending to submit a Marine Mammals Technical Note at Deadline 3 and will be providing responses to our Relevant Representation at Deadline 1 in relation to these matters. Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.	In discussion
3	The Offshore In Principle Monitoring Plan [APP-289] is adequate and appropriate.	<p>In our Relevant Representation [RR-063] Natural England advised contaminants sampling is included in the In-Principle Monitoring Plan (IPMP) to ensure pre-construction monitoring for further sampling ensures the suitability of sediments for disposal across the DCO boundary.</p> <p>In relation to marine mammal monitoring Natural England understands the Applicant intends to submit a Marine Mammals Technical Note at Deadline 3 and will be providing responses to Natural England's Relevant Representation [RR-63] at Deadline 2 in relation to these matters.</p> <p>Natural England has submitted further comments on the IPMP at Deadline 1 in relation to securing adaptive monitoring and the requirement to implement adaptive management measures should monitoring demonstrate impacts are greater than predicted or unforeseen. In addition, further comments on the monitoring expectation for ornithology, benthic ecology, marine processes, marine mammals will be provided.</p> <p>Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following the Applicant's review of this advice.</p>	In discussion
4	The Outline Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan (Revision B) [REP1-015] is adequate and appropriate.	Within Appendix F All Other Offshore Matters of the Natural England relevant representation [RR-063], Natural England has raised a number of queries in relation to this document. The Applicant has provided responses to Natural England's Relevant Representation at Deadline 1 in relation to these matters.	In discussion

ID	The Applicant Position	Natural England Position	Position Summary
		Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position following review of these.	
5	The CSCB MCZ CSIMP [APP-291] is adequate and appropriate.	In Appendix G of our Relevant Representation, Natural England has provided advice on the CSCB MCZ CSIMP, particularly with regards to monitoring of the shallow veneer of sediment overlying subtidal chalk and the requirement to implement adaptive management measures should monitoring demonstrate impacts are greater than predicted or unforeseen.	In discussion
6	The Disposal Site Characterisation Report [APP-300] is adequate and appropriate.	Natural England defer to the MMO / CEFAS as the regulator for sample disposal licensing for their approval in relation to licensing the array areas, export cable and interlink corridors for sediment disposal.	In discussion
7	The Outline PEMP (Revision B) [REP1-017] is adequate and appropriate.	<p>As noted in Section 1.3, the Applicant submitted an updated version of the Outline PEMP [REP1-017] at Deadline 1. Natural England understand that the updated document now incorporates a Vessel Good Practice and Code of Conduct to Avoid Marine Mammal Collisions which was originally included in Annex 1 of the Draft MMMP [APP-288].</p> <p>Following review of this and the Applicant's responses to Appendix D of Natural England's relevant representation, Natural England anticipate being able to provide an updated position.</p>	In discussion

3 Signatures

28. The above draft Statement of Common Ground is agreed between Equinor New Energy Limited and Natural England on the day specified below.

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Date: _____

Duly authorised for and on behalf of **Natural England**

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Date: _____

Duly authorised for and on behalf of **Equinor New Energy Limited**

References

Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent. [online]

Royal HaskoningDHV (2022). Offshore Temporary Works Order Limits Environmental Report. [online]

Annex 1

Seabed ETG Agreement Log

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
1	ETG1 30 th October 2019							
Agreement of baseline status								
1.1	Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes							
1.1.1	Agreement that the baseline should describe tidal currents, waves and bedload sediment and transport, and suspended sediment	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report and ETG meeting slides. Bedload sediment and transport within the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ is of particular interest to understand the distribution, depth and persistence/transience of sediment veneers overlying chalk bedrock.
1.1.2	Agreement on the relevance, appropriateness and sufficiency of proposed baseline data sources (including both site specific and contextual data) as defined in the Method Statement	-	-	-	-	-		Method Statement shared with the ETG in advance of the second ETG meeting, along with a report on Sedimentary Processes in the Cromer Shoals Chalk Beds MCZ (PB8164-RHD-ZZ-XX-RP-Z-0001). Agreement provisional on review of project survey data, including geophysical and benthic survey results.
1.1.3	Agreement on the survey scope and methods for the export cable corridor geophysical survey	-	-	-	-	-		Survey scope documents shared with MMO and NE on 11 th September 2019.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
1.1.4	Agreement on the adequacy of the export cable corridor geophysical survey results to describe seabed type, shallow geology, bathymetry and seabed features/anomalies	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	-		<p>Survey report has been shared with ETG members and results summarised in report on Sedimentary Processes in the Cromer Shoals Chalk Beds MCZ and in ETG2 presentation.</p> <p>The ETG agrees that the export cable corridor geophysical survey results are adequate, but need to review the benthic survey results separately.</p>
1.1.5	Agreement on the survey scope and methods for the array and interconnector cable corridors geophysical survey	-	-	-	-	-		
1.1.6	Agreement on the adequacy of the array and interconnector cable corridors geophysical survey results to describe seabed type, shallow geology, bathymetry and seabed features/anomalies	-	-	-	-	-		Awaiting geophysical survey report which will be shared with ETG members.
1.1.7	Agreement on the survey scope and methods for the targeted benthic survey (from a marine physical processes perspective)	-	-	-	-	-		An outline scope of work has been shared with the Natural England, MMO and Cefas. A detailed benthic survey design will be shared with the ETG on 22 nd July 2020 for approval in advance of survey mobilisation.
1.1.8	Agreement on the adequacy of the targeted benthic survey results to describe seabed type and seabed features/anomalies (from a	-	-	-	-	-		Awaiting results. Survey expected to be completed by the end of August 2020, but full reporting will be later and will be shared with the ETG when available.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
	marine physical processes perspective)							
1.1.9	Agreement on the requirement for pre-application geotechnical investigations to understand the feasibility of cable installation within the MCZ	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	-		It was agreed that the onus is on the Applicant to determine whether or not there is enough evidence to inform cable installation and provide a realistic figure for the amount of cable protection that may be required (including within MCZ). This evidence should be presented in a cable installation/trenching report (i.e. CSIP/PTA or similar).
1.1.10	Agreement on the adequacy of the Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes baseline description	-	-	-	-	-		The full baseline description will be shared at PEI submission. Results of the geophysical and benthic surveys will be made available to the ETG. The ETG would expect post-construction surveys for Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal OWFs and existing MetOcean data will also be used in this analysis.
1.2	Benthic Ecology							
1.2.1	Agreement that the baseline should describe all subtidal and intertidal habitats and species with potential to be impacted by the projects with a focus on the MCZ and any other particularly sensitive receptors identified.	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report and ETG meeting slides. Designated features within the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ are of particular interest, with a focus on the distribution and nature of any chalk areas (either at the surface or shallow subsurface). Annex I habitats and areas that might be important for e.g. herring and sandeel (see below) are also of interest.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
1.2.2	Agreement on the relevance, appropriateness and sufficiency of proposed baseline data sources (including both site specific and contextual data)	-	-	-	-	-		As described in the Scoping Report and ETG meeting slides. Includes reference to other surveys in the area including from Sheringham Shoal, Dudgeon, Hornsea Three, and MCZ surveys.
1.2.3	Agreement on the survey scope and methods for the targeted benthic survey	-	-	-	-	-		An outline scope of work has been shared. A detailed benthic survey design will be shared with the ETG on 22nd July 2020 for approval in advance of survey mobilisation.
1.2.4	Agreement on the adequacy of the geophysical survey results and targeted benthic survey results to describe benthic ecology	-	-	-	-	-		Results will be shared with ETG.
1.2.5	Agreement of adequacy of benthic ecology baseline description	-	-	-	-	-		
1.3	Fish and Shellfish Ecology							
1.3.1	Agreement that the baseline should describe the fish and shellfish community in the project area, including species of commercial importance, spawning and nursery areas, feeding grounds, migration routes and overwintering areas for crustaceans	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report, Scoping Opinion and ETG meeting slides.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
1.3.2	Provisional agreement on the relevance, appropriateness and sufficiency of proposed baseline data sources	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report, Scoping Opinion and ETG meeting slides. New fish characterisation surveys are not necessary as the sources of data proposed to inform the desk-based assessment will be adequate. Assessment of herring potential spawning habitat and sandeel habitat will use MarineSpace method (published 2013).
1.3.3	Agreement of adequacy of fish and shellfish ecology baseline description	-	-	-	-	-		
2	ETG2 2 nd June 2020							
Agreement of assessment methodology								
2.1	Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes							
2.1.1	Agreement of potential impacts to be assessed and those scoped out	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion. To include assessment of effects on seabed features, including likely significant effects of changes to hydrodynamic and sedimentary processes on designated features of the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ, Greater Wash SPA and any other designated sites within the zone of influence.
2.1.2	Agreement that the expert judgement method (without the need for detailed	-	-	-	-	-		As described in the Scoping Report and ETG meeting slides.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
	numerical modelling) proposed for the Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes PEI/ES for Dudgeon, Sheringham Shoal and cumulative impacts is appropriate and proportionate							<p>Assessed via conceptual model using existing resources, including the data collected for the Sheringham and Dudgeon projects. No numeral modelling required.</p> <p>ETG members note that the existing modelling being proposed to be used was conducted prior to construction but as both projects are now constructed, they question whether this modelling is fit for purpose.</p> <p>The ETG would expect that the use of the previous modelling is supported by post construction surveys and will provide further comment on the adequacy of this approach once the method statement has been updated to reflect this.</p>
2.1.3	Agreement that the methods for identifying the worst-case scenarios are appropriate and that the worst-case scenarios presented in the Method Statement are comprehensive and identify the elements of the project that will form the worst-case scenarios for Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes	Agreed (02/06/20)	Agreed (02/06/20)	Agreed (02/06/20)	Agreed (02/06/20)	-		<p>No objections in the ETG meeting or in written responses.</p> <p>However, GBS foundations are now in the project envelope and the Method Statement will be updated accordingly.</p> <p>Furthermore, Natural England pointed out that several wind farms have recently committed to not using jack-up barges for installation due to the impact that this method has on the seabed. Natural England would therefore recommend re-considering their use at an early stage for all projects. The Applicant understands that this comment was made in relation to the</p>

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
								export cable corridor only, and only within the MCZ.
2.1.4	Agreement that a combined approach of 1.) effects (where they are manifest as impacts on other receptors) and 2.) impacts (where they are defined as directly affecting receptors which possess their own intrinsic morphological value) is acceptable	Agreed (02/06/20)	Agreed (02/06/20)	Agreed (02/06/20)	Agreed (02/06/20)	-		No objections in the ETG meeting or in written responses.
2.1.5	Agreement on the list of projects and impacts for inclusion in the cumulative impact assessment	-	-	-	-	-		List of other plans, projects and activities provided in the draft Method Statement. Natural England recommend that TIER 5 projects should be included if a PEIR has been undertaken. This has been done for Norfolk Vanguard, Norfolk Boreas and Hornsea Project Three. Final list of other plans, projects and activities will be included in PEIR.
2.2	Benthic Ecology							
2.2.1	Agreement of potential impacts to be assessed and those scoped out	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion. To include assessment of likely significant effects on designated features of the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ, Greater Wash SPA and any other designated sites within the zone of influence.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
2.2.2	Agreement of proposed approach to the benthic ecology impact assessment methodology	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report. The Marine Evidence Based Sensitivity Assessment (MarESA) method will be used to determine sensitivity using data from the MarLIN. 'Advice on Operations' will also be used to assess impacts within the designated sites.
2.3	Fish and Shellfish Ecology							
2.3.1	Agreement of potential impacts to be assessed and those scoped out	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion.
2.3.2	Agreement of proposed approach to the fish and shellfish ecology impact assessment methodology	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion.
2.4	Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ and other marine designated sites							
2.4.1	Agreement of proposed approach to MCZ Assessment and potential effects to be assessed	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	-		As described in the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion. A draft MCZ screening assessment has been shared with ETG members. The ETG stated that effects on bedload sediment transport should be screened in. The screening report will be updated accordingly. This will be followed by MCZ Assessment, supported by a cable installation/trenching assessment e.g. CSIP or similar.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
								The proposed approach and potential effects to be assessed will be informed by the results of the relevant project surveys.
2.4.2	Agreement of proposed approach to HRA and potential effects to be assessed	-	-	-	-	-		<p>As described in the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion.</p> <p>A HRA screening exercise will be completed as part of the EIA process to determine if the Projects are likely to have a significant effect on the interest features of European sites, followed by shadow appropriate assessment as necessary.</p> <p>Conservation advice package 'Advice on Operations' will also be used to assess impacts within the designated sites.</p> <p>The proposed approach and potential effects to be assessed will be informed by the results of the relevant project surveys.</p>
2.4.3	Agreement on MCZ Assessment conclusions	-	-	-	-	-		The ETG stated that it is expected that the final MCZ Assessment, as a minimum, will follow the Hornsea Project Three MCZ assessment.
3	ETG3 3 rd February 2021							
Agreement of mitigation measures and monitoring								
3.1	Agreement of mitigation measures	-	-	-	-	-		See 3.2 notes
3.2	Agreement of Measures of Equivalent Environmental	-	-	-	-	-		Natural England stated they anticipate having any upfront discussions on avoiding, reducing and mitigating impacts as soon as

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
	Benefit (MEEB) with the Cromer Shoal MCZ							possible so that should a stage two assessment be required MEEB can be explored prior to the start of examination.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO/Cefas	TWT	EIFCA	Notes
4	ETG4 16 August 2021					
General Cross-Topic Matters						
4.0	HDD will be used to install the export cable(s) at landfall (exiting ~1,000m from the coastline in the subtidal) and therefore intertidal impacts are avoided and do not require assessment.	Agreed as long as no access to intertidal by vehicles/machinery during installation works. (29/9/2021). There will need to be a new assessment and permissions if HDD become no longer feasible.	Defer to Natural England	Not present	Defer to Natural England	
Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical processes (MGOPP)						
4.1	Sandbanks to be included as separate receptor within MGOPP assessment. The list of MGOPP receptors is therefore agreed i.e: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ 	Agreed (29/9/2021)	Agreed (12/08/21)	Not present	Defer to Natural England	

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO/Cefas	TWT	EIFCA	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastline Sandbanks 					
4.2	RHDHV to use CEFAS, 2016 report ¹ on suspended sediment climatologies which will ensure adequate consideration of the baseline SSC environment.	Not agreed. Discussion to be had with CEFAS before agreeing this	Agreed (03/02/21)	n/a	n/a	Cefas stated agreement at ETG5
4.3	Additional scour pit modelling not required since scour protection will be used in areas subject to scour and monitoring of scour and secondary scour will be undertaken to be secured through the In-Principle Monitoring Plan	Not agreed. Secondary scour not considered here so unable to agree	Defer to Natural England	Not present	Defer to Natural England	
4.4	Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm (DOW) and Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm (SOW) plume modelling results provide suitable analogues and following further interpretation of these results within the ES chapter, project specific plume modelling is not required for SEP and DEP.	This is still under discussion as the minutes reflect	Defer to Natural England	Not present	Defer to Natural England	

¹ Cefas (2016). Suspended Sediment Climatologies around the UK. Report for the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy offshore energy Strategic Environmental Assessment Programme.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO/Cefas	TWT	EIFCA	Notes
4.5	In order to demonstrate the lack of significant effects on waves, RHDHV will review wave modelling undertaken for the Hornsea Projects and incorporate any findings within the SEP and DEP MGOPE ES assessment.	Ongoing, the best available evidence should be used		Not present	n/a	Superseded by 5.4. Wave modelling now being undertaken.
4.6	Footprints of secondary scour will not be factored into the worst case scenarios for direct impacts because they cannot be quantified and are not comparable in terms of impact pathways to the use of scour protection.	n/a	n/a	Not present	n/a	
MWSQ						
4.7	The suite of contaminants tested for (as set out within the MWSQ chapter and benthic characterisation appendices) is agreed.	Pending update / agreement by the MMO	Still under discussion	Not present	n/a	NE comment: See Comments above [response to ETG4 minutes], there is additional PAH data within Appendix 10.2 [and Appendix 10.1 of the PEIR] Baseline report that meets the MMO analyte requirements. However the issue of the Fugro laboratory methodology requires approval by the MMO.
Benthic						
4.8	Cumulative zone of potential influence of 10km is appropriate for benthic cumulative assessment.	Agreed (29/9/2021)	Agreed	Not present		
Fish and Shellfish Ecology						

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO/Cefas	TWT	EIFCA	Notes
4.10	Underwater noise modelling from concurrent piling between SEP and DEP to be undertaken and included in the assessment. Behavioural contours to also be included.	Agreed (29/9/2021)	Defer to Natural England	Not present	Defer to Natural England	
Cromer Shoal Chalk beds MCZ Assessment						
4.11	Seabed disturbance from UXO detonation to be included in the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ assessment, following the same approach and assumptions as adopted for the marine mammals assessment for consistency.	Agreed (29/9/2021)	Defer to Natural England	Not present	Defer to Natural England (Fisheries Liaison Officer liaise with fishermen)	
4.12	Only SOW and DOW operation impacts to be included in the MCZ cumulative assessment. It is not appropriate to include SOW and DOW construction impacts however detail from SOW and DOW monitoring to be considered as appropriate.	Agreed (29/9/2021)	Defer to Natural England	Not present	Defer to Natural England	
5	ETG5 14 March 2022					
General CSIMP/MCZA Matters						
5.1	It is agreed that an HDD exit point in a soft sediment area of the MCZ (avoiding areas of outcropping chalk reef) will minimise impacts on the most	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	Not present	Defer to Natural England (FLO	

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO/Cefas	TWT	EIFCA	Notes
	sensitive features of the MCZ.				liaise with fishermen)	
5.2	The range of embedded and additional mitigation measures described in the draft Outline Cable Specification and Installation Monitoring Plan (CSIMP) [now the Outline Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ CSIMP] (section 1.6) are appropriate for avoiding, minimising and mitigating potential impacts in the MCZ.	Still under discussion	Still under discussion	Not present	Defer to Natural England	
Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes						
5.4	It is agreed that modelling of potential changes to wave regime as a result of the presence of the SEP, DEP, SOW and DOW offshore wind farms only, is appropriate to inform the EIA.	n/a	Still under discussion	Not present	n/a	Wave climate modelling provided within Appendix 6.2 (document reference 6.3.6.2) of the ES
Benthic Ecology						
5.5	Deviation from the MarESA sensitivity classifications for the biotopes recorded is acceptable since the assessment considers the wider presence of the biotope across the region and therefore a reduction in sensitivity from 'high' to	This is still under discussion	This is still under discussion	Not present	Defer to Natural England	Cefas indicated that this approach sounded sensible during meeting

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO/Cefas	TWT	EIFCA	Notes
	'medium' is appropriate. However, Annex I / UK BAP priority habitat <i>S. spinulosa</i> reefs that can be associated with biotope A5.611 and the UK BAP priority habitat 'peat and clay exposures with piddocks' which can be associated with biotope A4.231, will remain as high sensitivity.					

Marine Mammals ETG Agreement Log

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
1 ETG 1 2/12/2019						
1.1 Agreement of baseline status						
1.1.1	Marine mammal species of interest are harbour porpoise, white-beaked dolphin, minke whale, grey seal, and harbour seal	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	
1.1.2	Agreement of data sources for marine mammal baseline	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	As listed in the scoping Report and ETG meeting slides.
1.1.3	Agreement of site specific surveys approach	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	As described in the Scoping Report and further in ETG meeting slides.

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
1.1.4	Agreement of approach to estimating marine mammal density	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	Density estimates from site-specific surveys (where possible) SCANS-III density estimates for survey block O SMRU seal at sea data Density estimates will be based on relevant worst-cast (i.e. highest) values.
1.1.5	Agreement of marine mammal reference populations	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	As listed in the scoping report and ETG meeting slides. Not currently known when reference populations will be updated. ETG agreed that PEI review stage is the cut off for inclusion of new baseline data and impact reassessment, although a clarification note may be required after this cut off. The harbour porpoise population estimate for the SNS SAC should be referenced in the assessment, e.g. as an appendix to the PEIR that can be referred to in the ES, in addition to the MU estimate
1.1.6	Agreement of key seal haul-out sites	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	As described in the Scoping Report and ETG meeting slides.
1.2 Agreement of assessment methodology						
1.2.1	Agreement of marine mammal SACs to be assessed in the HRA	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC Humber Estuary SAC

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
						Southern North Sea SAC Other European Designated Sites where there is the potential effect on foraging seals, e.g. designated sites within 80km for harbour seal and 100km for grey seal (this may be extended to 125km for grey seal – see minutes of ETG1).
1.2.2	Agreement of potential impacts to be assessed and those scoped out	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	As listed in the Scoping Report, Scoping Opinion and ETG meeting slides.
1.2.3	Agreement of proposed approach to underwater noise modelling	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	As described in the Scoping Report and ETG meeting slides. Impact piling and UXO clearance to be modelled. NOAA (2018) thresholds will be used in addition to Southall <i>et al.</i> (2019).
1.2.4	Agreement of proposed approach to the impact assessment methodology	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	As described in the Scoping Report and ETG meeting slides.
1.2.5	Agreement of proposed approach to the cumulative impact assessment methodology	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	As described in the Scoping Report and ETG meeting slides.
1.2.6	Agreement of proposed approach to HRA and potential effects to be assessed	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	As described in the Scoping Report and ETG meeting slides.
1.2.7	Agreement of proposed approach to HRA of the Southern North Sea SAC	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	As described in the Scoping Report and ETG meeting slides.
1.3 Agreement of mitigation measures and monitoring						

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
1.3.1	Agreement of proposed approach to Marine Mammal Mitigation Plans (MMMPs), detailing mitigation measures to reduce the risk of any physical or permanent auditory injury (PTS) to marine mammals during all piling and UXO clearance operations	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	As described in ETG meeting slides. Separate MMMPs will be produced pre-construction for piling and UXO clearance operations. TWT to be named in the draft MMMP and included in discussions related to post-consent monitoring and mitigation.
1.3.2	Agreement of proposed approach to developing an In Principle Southern North Sea SAC Site Integrity Plan (SIP), if required.	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	As described in ETG meeting slides. TWT to be named in the In Principle SIP and included in discussions related to post-consent monitoring and mitigation.
1.3.3	Agreement of proposed approach to developing an In-Principle Monitoring Plan	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	The In-Principle Monitoring Plan will identify relevant offshore monitoring as required by the deemed marine licence conditions, establish the objectives of such monitoring and set out the guiding principles for delivering any monitoring measures as required. TWT to be named in the In-Principle Monitoring Plan and included in discussions related to post-consent monitoring.
1.3.4	Agreement of proposed approach to consultation	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (3/12/19)	Agreed (16/12/19)	ETG meetings will be scheduled following completion of key milestones.
2 ETG 2 18/06/20						

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
2.2	Does the ETG agree with the marine mammal species to be assessed in the PEIR and ES for DEP & SEP?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	Agreed	-	-	MMO response: The marine mammal species proposed appear to be reasonable (those being harbour porpoise, white-beaked dolphin, minke whale, grey seal and harbour seal). These species cover the four main functional hearing groups as per the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (NMFS, 2018) criteria. However, the MMO defer overall to Natural England for confirmation on the marine mammals to be assessed for the PEIR and ES.
2.3	Does the ETG have any questions on the marine mammal surveys for DEP & SEP?	Natural England has no further questions at this stage.	The MMO defer comments to Natural England on this matter.	-	-	
2.4	Does the ETG agree with the approach for the harbour porpoise density estimates and reference population (NS MU) to be used in the PEIR and ES assessments for DEP & SEP?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	The MMO defer comments to Natural England on this matter.	-	-	
2.5	Does the ETG agree with the approach for the white-beaked dolphin density estimates and reference population to be used in the PEIR and ES assessments for DEP & SEP?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	The MMO defer comments to Natural England on this matter.	-	-	

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
2.6	Does the ETG agree with the approach for the minke whale density estimates and reference population to be used in the PEIR and ES assessments for DEP & SEP?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	The MMO defer comments to Natural England on this matter.	-	-	
2.7	Does the ETG agree with the approach for the grey seal density estimates and reference population to be used in the PEIR and ES assessments for DEP & SEP?	Natural England is broadly in agreement with the approach. However, the assessments should be presented both with and without the Wadden Sea seal population included in the reference population.	The MMO defer comments to Natural England on this matter.	-	-	
2.8	Does the ETG agree with the approach for the harbour seal density estimates and reference population to be used in the PEIR and ES assessments for DEP & SEP?	Natural England is broadly in agreement with the approach. However, the assessments should be presented both with and without the Wadden Sea seal population included in the reference population.	The MMO defer comments to Natural England on this matter.	-	-	

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
2.9	Does the ETG agree with the approach for determining marine mammal sensitivity to be used in the PEIR and ES assessments for DEP & SEP?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	The MMO defer comments to Natural England on this matter.	-	-	
2.10	Does the ETG agree with the approach for determining marine mammal value and how it will be used in the PEIR and ES assessments for DEP & SEP?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	The MMO defer comments to Natural England on this matter.	-	-	
2.11	Does the ETG agree with the approach for determining magnitude in the PEIR and ES assessments for DEP & SEP?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	The MMO defer comments to Natural England on this matter.	-	-	
2.12	Does the ETG agree with the approach for determining impact significance in the PEIR and ES assessments for DEP & SEP?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	The MMO defer comments to Natural England on this matter.	-	-	
2.13	Should modelling also be conducted using the Lucke et al. (2009) criteria for PTS, TTS and behavioural response in harbour porpoise?	The Lucke <i>et al</i> (2009) criteria for TTS and PTS have been absorbed in to the Southall <i>etal</i> (2019) criteria, but can still be used for behavioural response in harbour porpoise.	Given that the noise modelling will utilise the most recent, peer-reviewed marine mammal noise exposure criteria (e.g. Southall et al., 2019 and NOAA, 2018), the MMO do not believe it is necessary to also include criteria from Lucke et al. (2009) to	-	-	

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
			assess PTS and TTS impacts.			
2.14	Does the ETG agree with the approach for underwater noise modelling?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	Agreed	-	-	<p>MMO response: Overall, the MMO agree with the approach for the underwater noise modelling, as detailed in slides 19 – 27 of the presentation pack. The approach refers to recent, peer reviewed noise exposure criteria, e.g. Southall <i>et al.</i> (2019) and NOAA (NMFS, 2018). Furthermore, it appears as though all the potential impacts have been identified and will be assessed.</p> <p>Please note that the MMO will disseminate information in due course regarding the behavioural assessment (details in Annex I for reference), as soon as a position has been agreed. The MMO are aware that Cefas have provided comments on the JNCC draft guidance document (JNCC, 2020).</p> <p>The MMO have no questions regarding the underwater noise modelling at this stage.</p>
2.15	Are there any questions regarding the underwater noise modelling?	None at this time. Natural England notes details such as the maximum hammer energy stated in the method statement	The MMO do not have any further comments regarding the potential impacts to be assessed at this stage. As noted above, it appears as though all the potential	-	-	

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
		are currently being reviewed and may therefore provide further comment on this at a later date.	impacts have been identified and will be assessed.			
2.16	The ETG agreed with the potential impacts to be assessed at the previous ETG meeting - are there any further comments on the potential impacts to be assessed for the PEIR and ES for DEP & SEP?	None at this time.	The MMO do not have any further comments regarding the potential impacts to be assessed at this stage. As noted above, it appears as though all the potential impacts have been identified and will be assessed.	-	-	
2.17	Does the ETG agree with the approach for assessing the potential impacts from underwater noise on marine mammals during UXO clearance?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	Based on the information provided to date, the MMO believe the proposed general approach for assessing the potential impacts from underwater noise on marine mammals during the construction activities (as noted above) is appropriate. The MMO understand that for the UXO assessment, underwater noise modelling will be undertaken based on	-	-	

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
			the worst-case scenario, with no mitigation, for the types and sizes of UXO that could be present at DEP, SEP and in the cable route (see slide 23). However, specific details of the UXO modelling are limited at this stage.			
2.18	Does the ETG agree with the approach for assessing the potential impacts from underwater noise on marine mammals during piling at DEP & SEP?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	Based on the information provided to date, the MMO believe the proposed general approach for assessing the potential impacts from underwater noise on marine mammals during the construction activities (as noted above) is appropriate.	-	-	
2.19	Does the ETG agree with the approach for assessing the potential impacts of underwater noise on marine mammals from other construction and maintenance activities at DEP & SEP?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	Based on the information provided to date, the MMO believe the proposed general approach for assessing the potential impacts from underwater noise on marine mammals during the construction activities (as noted above) is appropriate.	-	-	

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
2.20	Does the ETG agree with the approach for assessing the potential impacts on marine mammals from underwater noise and disturbance from vessels at DEP & SEP?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	Based on the information provided to date, The MMO believe the general approach for assessing the potential impacts on marine mammals from underwater noise and disturbance from vessels is reasonable.	-	-	
2.21	Does the ETG agree with the approach for assessing the potential impacts of underwater noise from operational turbines on marine mammals at DEP & SEP?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	Based on the information provided to date, the MMO believe the proposed general approach for assessing the potential impacts from underwater noise on marine mammals during the construction activities (as noted above) is appropriate.	-	-	
2.22	Does the ETG agree with the approach for assessing the potential barrier effects from underwater noise on marine mammals for DEP & SEP?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	The MMO believe the general approach for assessing the potential barrier effects from noise is reasonable, although defer to Natural England for further comments.	-	-	
2.23	Does the ETG agree with the approach for assessing the	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	The MMO defer comment to Natural England (and other	-	-	

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
	potential vessel collision risk for marine mammals at DEP & SEP?		relevant advisory bodies) on this matter.			
2.24	Does the ETG agree with the approach for assessing the potential disturbance at seal haul-out sites for DEP & SEP?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	The MMO defer overall comment to Natural England for comments on this matter.	-	-	
2.25	Does the ETG agree with the approach for assessing the potential changes to marine mammal prey resources for DEP & SEP?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	The MMO believe the general approach for assessing the potential changes to marine mammal prey resources is reasonable, although defer to Natural England for specific comments on this matter.	-	-	MMO response: The MMO believe that the general approach proposed for assessing the potential disturbance at seal haul-out sites is reasonable. Of relevance, slide 30 states that “ <i>the potential for any disturbance at seal haul-out sites, taking into account breeding and moulting periods for grey and harbour seal, will be assessed based on known haul-out sites and their proximity to activities associated with DEP, SEP, the cable route and vessel routes</i> ”.
2.26	Does the ETG agree with the approach for assessing the potential impacts of changes to water quality on marine mammals and prey for DEP & SEP?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	The approach to assessing changes to water quality seems reasonable, however, the MMO defer to Natural England for further comment.	-	-	
2.27	Does the ETG agree with the approach for assessing the potential impacts of	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	The MMO believe this approach is appropriate.	-	-	

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
	decommissioning on marine mammals for DEP & SEP?					
2.28	Does the ETG agree with the approach for assessing the potential cumulative impacts for marine mammals?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	The MMO have no major concerns regarding the approach for assessing the potential cumulative impacts for marine mammals. However, please note that cumulative effects are difficult to assess, and EIA-based cumulative effects assessments (CEAs) led by developers of individual projects have clear shortcomings (when compared to CEAs led by government agencies on a regional and strategic level) (Willsteed et al., 2017).	-	-	
2.29	Does the ETG agree with the HRA Screening for marine mammals?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.	The MMO defer to Natural England as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body (SNCB) for comments on the HRA. The MMO do not have any major comments or concerns to raise at this time.	-	-	
2.30	Does the ETG agree with the approach for the marine mammal assessments to inform the HRA?	Yes, Natural England is in agreement.		-	-	

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
2.31	Are there any other recent data sources, information and guidance?	None at this time. If Natural England becomes aware of any data/sources, information or guidance that are relevant to this project and the assessment, we will pass this on as appropriate.	See notes	-	-	<p>MMO response: The MMO's advisers at Cefas advised it is acceptable to include (and implement) the recent guidance from JNCC (JNCC Report no.654 2020). This report sets out the SNCBs' advice on assessing the risk of significant disturbance as a result of noise and consequently managing noise disturbance within harbour porpoise sites (e.g. SACs), to avoid a potential adverse effect on site integrity. The report recognises that it will be a challenge for regulators or industry to monitor the daily proposed area/time thresholds i.e. 20% limit per day, in 'real' time. Therefore, careful planning and a good understanding of all the various developments will be required by the regulator.</p> <p>Please note however, that this JNCC guidance does not supersede the EIA process, where each development and the risks to harbour porpoise are reviewed on a case by case basis.</p> <p>It the MMO's understanding that the Applicant wishes to apply the Effective Deterrence Ranges (EDRs) provided in the above JNCC guidance document (e.g. 26 km EDR during piling) to the marine mammal disturbance assessments in their ES. Another alternative is to assess disturbance impacts based on an</p>

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
						<p>appropriate dose response curve. This would be the Applicant's decision on which approach they wish to use, but either approach would be acceptable.</p> <p>Cefas have noted that they will endeavour to pass on any new relevant information that may be useful and/or relevant.</p>
3 Marine Mammal ETG3 July 2021						
3.1	<p>UXO clearance will be a separate Marine Licence and not part of DCO submission. However, assessments based on potential worst-case for UXO will be provided for information in the ES, Information for the HRA report, and draft MMMP for UXO.</p>	<p>Agreed (20/07/2021)</p>	<p>Agreed (19/08/2021)</p>	-	<p>No comment (18/08/2021)</p>	
3.2	<p>Further underwater noise modelling for maximum UXO to include:</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 Low-order detonation, such as deflagration Low-yield detonation, such as Hydra method 	<p>Agreed (12/08/2021)</p>	<p>Agreed (19/08/2021)</p>	-	<p>No comment (18/08/2021)</p>	<p>This information will be used for the draft MMMP for UXO.</p>

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
	Low-yield detonation, such as Hydra method, with bubble curtain					
3.3	<p>Presentation outlined the proposed options that were being considered for further underwater noise (UWN) modelling.</p> <p>It was agreed that ETG would indicate within this agreement log if any additional information should be included in the further UWN modelling.</p>	Pending	Agreed (19/08/2021)	-	No comment (18/08/2021)	<p>Natural England advises that there were also two clarifications on the underwater noise modelling provided in our statutory response:</p> <p>Modelling continuous sources for 12 hours only in a 24 hour period;</p> <p>Modelling of operational turbine noise sounds.</p> <p>Natural England requests a response on how these are going to be considered before agreeing to this point.</p>
3.4	<p>Presentation outlined the proposed updated data sources and information in relation to the marine mammal baseline to be included in the updated assessments.</p> <p>It was agreed that ETG would indicate within this agreement log if any additional data sources and information should be included in the updated assessments.</p>	Agreed (24/09/2021)	Defer to Natural England	-	No comment (18/08/2021)	<p>Natural England requests that the wording of this agreement is clarified; specifically that the “presentation outlined the proposed update data sources and information in relation to the marine mammal baseline to be included in the updated assessments”. This clarification is needed as there are several other references, not related to the marine mammal baseline, which Natural England advised including in our statutory response but have not been discussed in the ETG.</p> <p>In our statutory response Natural England also advises that the Conservation Objectives of the Moray</p>

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
						Firth SAC should be updated. This wasn't included in the presentation but should be included in the updated assessments.
3.5	<p>Updates to CIA and in-combination assessments.</p> <p>All comments will be addressed.</p> <p>It is proposed to circulate a list of projects / activities to be considered in the CIA and in-combination assessments prior to the next ETG meeting.</p> <p>ETG to review and agree or indicate any other projects / activities that should be included, within two weeks of receiving.</p> <p>To be agreed that cut-off for updates to the CIA and in-combination assessments for the DCO submission would be receiving comments from the ETG on the circulated list.</p> <p>However, any further changes would be addressed, if required, in submissions as part of the examination process.</p>	Agreed (12/08/2021)	Defer to Natural England	-	No comment (18/08/2021)	Natural England agree to the approach noting that we will need to agree to the list once circulated.
3.6	Draft MMMPs for UXO and piling to be provided for comments prior to the next ETG meeting.	Agreed (24/09/2021)	Agreed (19/08/2021)	-	No comment (18/08/2021)	Natural England notes that, as per number 9, the draft MMMPs for UXO and piling will be provided prior to the

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
						next ETG meeting. Could this please be clarified in the agreement log.
3.7	The draft In Principle Site Integrity Plan (IPSIP) to be provided for comments prior to the next ETG meeting.	Agreed (24/09/2021)	Agreed (19/08/2021)	-	No comment (18/08/2021)	Natural England advises that an IPSIP is needed for the project. This should be clarified within this agreement wording.
4 ETG 4 14/02/2022						
4.1	The assessments in the ES and RIAA will be based on the worst-case density estimates for grey and harbour seal.	Not agreed – see note.	No comments	-	Not present	<p>Natural England comments received by email on 24th September 2021:</p> <p>We acknowledge that the Carter <i>et al.</i> (2020) paper presents ‘relative’ at-sea maps, whereas Russell <i>et al.</i> (2017) presents ‘absolute’ at-sea maps, the latter of which is more readily useable by industry in impact assessments. However, Appendix 2 at the end of Carter <i>et al.</i> (2017) gives an example of how to convert the relative into absolute using scalars. There is a caveat to this approach in that the scalars are currently under review (as detailed in Carter <i>et al.</i> (2020)). Nevertheless, Carter <i>et al.</i> (2020) can be used to generate absolute densities needed in impact assessments, using the method in Appendix 2. We note that the scalars used by Carter <i>et al.</i> (2020) are the same as those used to calculate the absolute density estimates in Russell <i>et al.</i> (2017), therefore any issues</p>

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
						<p>with the scalars applies to both papers.</p> <p>More generally, the entire report by Carter <i>et al.</i> (2020) is an upgrade on the papers (e.g. Russell <i>et al.</i> 2017) that has come before it, and is written by the same team. The habitat preference maps include the most recent data from seal telemetry and an updated approach to habitat usage. Our understanding from the authors is that there are uncertainties with both the usage maps and the habitat maps, but the habitat maps have fewer uncertainties. Carter <i>et al.</i> (2020) have presented a relative index, so that when (if) scalars are updated, they can be applied and the maps are still of use. We are open to developers using Carter <i>et al.</i> (2020) alongside Russell <i>et al.</i> (2017) if they wish, for context, however we consider that Carter <i>et al.</i> (2020) is the more appropriate to use.</p> <p>Natural England comments following ETG meeting on 14th February 2022</p> <p>Natural England maintains the aforementioned position on the preferential use of Carter <i>et al.</i> (2020) over Russell <i>et al.</i> (2017). For the reasons mentioned above, we advise that Carter <i>et al.</i> (2020) should be used as it is the most accurate</p>

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
						<p>representation of seal density, even if it does not produce the highest densities for the project area when compared to Russell <i>et al.</i> (2017).</p> <p>Applicant response: Carter <i>et al.</i> (2020) has been used in the ES and Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment to estimate grey and harbour seal at sea densities.</p>
4.2	<p>In the ES CIA, geophysical survey assessments are based on all marine mammals within 5km of the vessel being disturbed.</p> <p>However, as a precautionary approach, the assessment of the potential disturbance of harbour porpoise in the SNS SAC in the RIAA will also include the possible disturbance from the survey area as assessed in BEIS (2020).</p>	<p>Agree with paragraph 2.</p> <p>More information needed to support paragraph 1 (see notes).</p>	No comments	-	Not present	<p>Natural England comments following ETG meeting on 14th February 2022</p> <p>The Applicant's rationale behind using a 5km disturbance range from the vessel as a point source is in part reliant on the assumption that animals will return to the area immediately once the vessel has passed and disturbance has ceased. Evidence is required to support this point.</p> <p>With regard to the RIAA, any disturbance within a day is assumed to last for 24 hours for the purposes of assessing against the 20% daily threshold. This is in accordance with the SNCB noise guidance (JNCC, 2020). Therefore the Applicant must take into account the total area of noise disturbance from geophysical surveys that could occur within a 24 hour period. BEIS (2020) present a scenario for this in paragraph 18.170. We do not object to the Applicant</p>

ID		Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	Notes
						using this figure in BEIS (2020) if it is the best available estimate at the time.
4.3	CIA will be based on the latest information available at the time. In-combination effects for the SNS SAC will be further assessed during the development of the final SIP.	Further clarification required (see notes).	No comments	-	Not present	Natural England comments following ETG meeting on 14 th February 2022 Does the Applicant propose a cut-off date for identifying the latest information for projects in the CIA and in-combination assessments?

MEEB ETG Agreement Log

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
ETG2 1 st October 2022							
0.1 EIFCA added agreement	Management of fisheries Section 6.3.1 In connection with reduction of fishing pressures	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	We acknowledge that measures to reduce fishing pressure have been removed as a potential MEEB option at project level. As recorded in Minute Ref. PB8164-RHD-ZZ-XX-MI-Z-0001 (01/10/2021 Section 3) and paragraph 129 and 132 of the Draft MEEB Plan version 2 Dec 2021. IFCAs and MMO assess and manage fisheries within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) (including Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)) to ensure fishing activities are compatible with the conservation objectives of these sites.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
1 Removal of marine litter/debris within the CSCB MCZ							
1.1	Do you agree with the value and function of this MEEB, discussed in Section 6.1.1.2 of the Draft In Principle MEEB Plan?	Natural England advises as with compensation that the removal of marine litter has wider marine benefits but doesn't provide MEEB as a singular option	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> The category "Marine Litter" is very broad, and it is difficult to be specific as to the value of this MEEB without understanding what type of "litter" is under consideration. Potential impacts from pots and ropes on chalk could be mitigated by removal of this type of "litter"; However, this removal is already planned for other reasons, and so the "additionality" test would not be met. EIFCA defer to Natural England.
1.2	Do you agree with the proposed delivery mechanism discussed in Section 6.1.1.3?	Natural England highlights the expanded upon requirements of Boreas and Vanguard from that of the HP3 approach.	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> Needs consideration of impacts on fishing opportunities of removal methods. EIFCA defer to Natural England.
1.3	Do you agree with the proposed spatial scale discussed in Section 6.1.1.4?	Not agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> Para 60 seems to suggest that an area of 1800m ² would be surveyed, and debris removed from that. This is not the same as removing 1800m ² of debris, as the seabed would not be 100% covered. EIFCA defer to Natural England.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
1.4	Do you agree with the proposed timescale discussed in Section 6.1.1.6?	Agreed as all compensation should be delivered prior to construction	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
1.5	Do you agree with the potential impacts of the MEEB discussed in Section 6.1.1.7?	Not Agreed as dredging would also remove site interest feature	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
1.6	Do you agree with the options for monitoring discussed in Section 6.1.1.8?	Not Agreed – please see responses to HP3 21 January 2022	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
1.7	Do you agree with the feasibility conclusions discussed in Section 6.1.1.9?	No Agreed due to on going discussions with regulators and challenges with deliver as currently this is something that should be being done within this site as site management.	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> Technical feasibility of removing debris is likely to be high. Whether this delivers the required benefits is much more open to question. EIFCA defer to Natural England.
2 Removal of disused cables and pipelines within the CSCB MCZ							
2.1	Do you agree with the value and function of this MEEB, discussed in Section 6.1.2.2 of the Draft In Principle MEEB Plan?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
2.2	Do you agree with the proposed delivery mechanism discussed in Section 6.1.2.3?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> Need to consider impacts of removal on fishing productivity/opportunities. EIFCA defer to Natural England.
2.3	Do you agree with the proposed spatial scale discussed in Section 6.1.2.4?	Natural England doesn't agree with a 1:1 ratio. Please see HP3 response 21 January 2022. Where there is the potential for ecological debt then there needs to be a overall net positive to MEEB not just offsetting	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
2.4	Do you agree with the proposed timescale discussed in Section 6.1.2.6?	Agreed as long as ecological debt is addressed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
2.5	Do you agree with the potential impacts of the MEEB discussed in Section 6.1.2.7?	Agreed – dependent on removal methodology	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> We note that there is an acceptance that there will be effects (temporary / localised). Consideration should be given to the assessment of any potential effects, particularly relevant would be reported/recorded effects of any previous removals of infrastructure from chalk areas. EIFCA defer to Natural England.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
2.6	Do you agree with the options for monitoring discussed in Section 6.1.2.8?	Not Agreed – please see responses to HP3 21 January 2022	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
2.7	Do you agree with the feasibility conclusions discussed in Section 6.1.2.9?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
3 Removal of anthropogenic features outside the CSCB MCZ							
3.1	Do you agree in-principle with the proposed removal of anthropogenic features from within similar habitats to the ones impacted by the Project, but from another location, e.g. an alternative MCZ as discussed in Section 6.2.1 of the Draft In Principle MEEB Plan?	Agreed - as long as stepwise approach to the compensation/MEEB hierarchy has been followed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> Any such activity (Removal of Anthropogenic Features) would require careful appraisal and design to ensure that it did not impact on fisheries productivity or fishing opportunities. EIFCA defer to Natural England.
4 Planting of native oyster beds within the CSCB MCZ							
4.1	Do you agree with the value and function of this MEEB, discussed in Section 6.1.3.2 of the Draft In Principle MEEB Plan?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Partially agreed	EIFCA agree that creation of an oyster bed is likely to increase biodiversity locally. However until all factors (size, location, and future fishability) are known we can't give our full agreement to this MEEB.
4.2	Do you agree with the proposed delivery mechanism discussed in Section 6.1.3.3?	This is really in Section 7 and Not agreed due to not commissioning specialists pre	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Partially agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> There is a need to understand why oysters have not “made a comeback” on their own. What is preventing the natural re-establishment of beds? If these conditions

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
		consent to design the mechanism					are not addressed, the chances of successful planting may be slim. (We believe the benefits could be delivered by oyster bed establishment outside the Cromer MCZ, although probably in the vicinity, as discussed in Section 6.4.1)
4.3	Do you agree with the proposed spatial scale discussed in Section 6.1.3.4?	Agreed	See notes	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> Not possible to provide an answer, as the spatial scale is not defined but rather left open for future agreement with Natural England.
4.4	Do you agree with the proposed timescale discussed in Section 6.1.3.6?	Under discussion and dependent on 4.2 above	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Partially agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> It may well be possible to conduct the steps required to achieve initial planting within these timeframes (the UK – DEEP – is probably the closer to local conditions) however we don't feel the bed could be considered "established" within this timeframe.
4.5	Do you agree with the potential impacts of the MEEB discussed in Section 6.1.3.7?	Agreed, but recognise that careful consideration of location is needed as all designated features and also there may be other wider implications	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Not agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> Negative impacts which could arise from any required associated management must also be considered. For instance, if there is a requirement that the area identified be closed to certain activities, this should be considered.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
4.6	Do you agree with the options for monitoring discussed in Section 6.1.3.8?	Not Agreed as delivery over the lifetime of the project and beyond must be maintained and managed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Partially agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> It is likely that some form of ongoing monitoring would be required for a considerable number of years to ensure that the bed has truly become self-sustaining.
4.7	Do you agree with the feasibility conclusions discussed in Section 6.1.3.9?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> There is a need to understand why oysters have not “made a comeback” on their own. What is preventing the natural re-establishment of beds? If these conditions are not addressed, the chances of successful planting may be slim.
5 Planting of native oyster beds within the SEP and DEP wind farm sites							
5.1	Do you agree with the value and function of this MEEB, discussed in Section 6.4.1.2 of the Draft In Principle MEEB Plan?	Not Agreed as it needs to enhance natural biodiversity of the seabed in those locations	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> Any such activity (Planting of native oyster beds) would require careful appraisal and design to ensure that it did not impact on existing fisheries productivity or fishing opportunities.
5.2	Do you agree with the proposed delivery mechanism discussed in Section 6.4.1.3?	Not agreed due to not commissioning specialists pre consent to design the mechanism	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> It is likely that significantly more work would be needed to identify a suitable site than would be the case if restoration was to be within Cromer MCZ. If restrictions to activities such as commercial fishing become necessary, this must be in dialogue with the local industry and (if relevant) local IFCA.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
5.3	Do you agree with the proposed spatial scale discussed in Section 6.4.1.4?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> Not possible to provide an answer, as the spatial scale is not defined but rather left open for future agreement with Natural England.
5.4	Do you agree with the proposed timescale discussed in Section 6.4.1.6?	Under discussion and dependent on 4.2 above	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
5.5	Do you agree with the potential impacts of the MEEB discussed in Section 6.4.1.7?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> Agree that these are likely impacts. Impacts on fishing opportunities would need to be carefully assessed and mitigated in some way.
5.6	Do you agree with the options for monitoring discussed in Section 6.4.1.8?	Not Agreed as delivery over the lifetime of the project and beyond must be maintained and managed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Partially agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> It is likely that some form of ongoing monitoring would be required for a considerable number of years to ensure that the bed has truly become self-sustaining.
5.7	Do you agree with the feasibility conclusions discussed in Section 6.4.1.9?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> There is a need to understand why oysters have not “made a comeback” on their own. What is preventing the natural re-establishment of beds? If these conditions are not addressed, the chances of successful planting may be slim.
6 Site extension / designation of a feature in a different location							

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
6.1	Do you agree with the value and function of this MEEB, discussed in Section 6.2.2.2 of the Draft In Principle MEEB Plan?	No agreed as there is expectation it would more than offset the impacts	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
6.2	Do you agree with the proposed delivery mechanism discussed in Section 6.2.2.3?	Agreed – but would be for expanding the MPA network not just focusing on MCZs	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Not agreed	<p><u>EIFCA</u></p> <p>The current MPA network has been designed to meet the legislative requirements. Any additional designations will impose restrictions on other legitimate activities, without providing any benefit to those activities.</p> <p>Were this option to be taken forward, as well as site selection and designation process costs - which the applicant has offered to financially support, there would also be ongoing additional burden on managers/regulator. The applicant should also provide ongoing financial support for assessment, management and enforcement of activities and condition monitoring in any new additional designated area.</p>
6.3	Do you agree with the proposed spatial scale discussed in Section 6.2.2.4?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Not Agreed	<p><u>EIFCA</u></p> <p>Disagree (with the fundamental principle, therefore not possible to “Agree” with this).</p>

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
6.4	Do you agree with the proposed timescale discussed in Section 6.2.2.6?	Agreed – that it will take several years for designation but protection mechanisms may be possible prior to designation	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> No comment
6.5	Do you agree with the potential impacts of the MEEB discussed in Section 6.2.2.7?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> As this would be an action that would impose restrictions on one or more commercial activities for the benefit of another commercial activity, any such impacts must be carefully and thoroughly considered, quantified and minimised /mitigated.
6.6	Do you agree with the options for monitoring discussed in Section 6.2.2.8?	Under discussion	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
ETG 3 21 st February 2022							
7.1	Do you agree that the planting of oyster reef in the MCZ is the primary measure to be investigated by Equinor?	Natural England advises that this option has ecological merit	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> Agree that this should be the primary measure to be investigated, however Eastern IFCA will not be supportive of measures that will have an overall adverse impact upon fishing activities and opportunities (as agreed by Eastern IFCA 41 ST Authority meeting 9 th September 2020.)

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
7.2	Do you agree that most appropriate backup measure is the planting of oyster reef in the array areas?	This is subject to further information being presented as set out above	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> Should the creation of an oyster reef within the MCZ have an adverse impact upon current fishing activities, Eastern IFCA will consider this option to be their preferred option, as this location is unlikely to conflict with current fishing activity.
7.3	Do you agree that given that the subtidal sand feature which will potentially be lost does not support a diverse community, oyster reef would provide an enhanced function in terms of biodiversity e.g. potential nursery grounds for fish etc?	Not agreed as the cable protection could also impact on reef like areas. This is really two separate points.	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> Whilst we agree that a future oyster reef would likely provide higher biodiversity than an equivalent area of subtidal sand, it should be noted that the two habitats are not directly comparable. It is not the case that oyster reef provides a higher “score” on the same scale than subtidal sand, but rather that they provide different habitat services.
7.4	In terms of defining the stage at which the oyster reef could potentially be sustainably fished, do you agree that this should be discussed post consent in consultation with the steering group and would form part of the existing review of fisheries management measures in the MCZ?	Natural England believe that realistic high level criteria should be agreed as early as possible given interested party concerns	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Not agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> This must be considered pre consent. The approach to be taken in connection with this will shape Eastern IFCA’s position on the proposed MEEB measure. Eastern IFCA suggests that the potential to fish the oyster bed should be set out in the MEEB plan (i.e. for agreement in the DCO) as an additional, planned benefit of the measure, in recognition that MCZs are sustainable-use sites, not no-take zones. The same plan should include criteria for when the oyster bed could be fished, for

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
							<p>example when the bed is recognised as being “established” (based on density? Age composition? Self-stocking? Extent?), and make it clear that any fishing activity on the bed would be subject to it being managed in alignment with the MCZ’s conservation objectives as well as with fishery sustainability goals. Although we will not know in advance when the bed will be deemed suitable for fishing, and it could be a long time (25 years +), we can and should state (in the MEEB plan) these criteria that would need to be met before it could be fished.</p> <p>N.B. Eastern IFCA has an agreed position (see comment in 7.1 above).</p> <p>Disagree that this “would form part of the existing review of fisheries management measures in the MCZ”. Over time, if the measure is successful, the oyster bed and a potential fishery for it would be incorporated into the local fisheries regulator (Eastern IFCA)’s routine work of managing fisheries within marine protected areas. But initially the placement of the bed and potential need for fisheries restrictions over it represents an additional work burden for Eastern IFCA and we would seek for this work to be funded by Equinor, including the ongoing monitoring of the bed.</p>

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
7.5	Do you agree that the area of search for determining feasibility of oyster reef planting should focus on the areas identified in Plate 1 (see below) of Natural England's advice broadening out to the wider north western portion of the MCZ and focus on subtidal sediment features avoiding potentially sensitive habitats e.g. chalk, reef etc.?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Not agreed	<p><u>EIFCA</u></p> <p>Concerns raised that the 'previous oyster bed evidence' relates to historic fisheries shell deposit grounds. In this context, we don't agree that Plate 1 should be titled "...evidence of previous native oyster beds..".</p> <p>Any potential site should be selected based on current environmental factors that are most agreeable to support the success of the MEEB.</p> <p>An effective appraisal of all environmental factors, to gain an understanding as to why native oysters have not re-established naturally should be undertaken. It would also be beneficial to find out whether native oyster beds were present in the MCZ historically – although it could be difficult to find any evidence for this. It should not be assumed that fishing is the only cause of decline in oyster stocks and distribution, and all relevant environmental factors must be considered.</p> <p>As this is an MCZ social and economic factors should be considered when evaluating any intervention, even those for conservation benefits such as MEEB.</p>

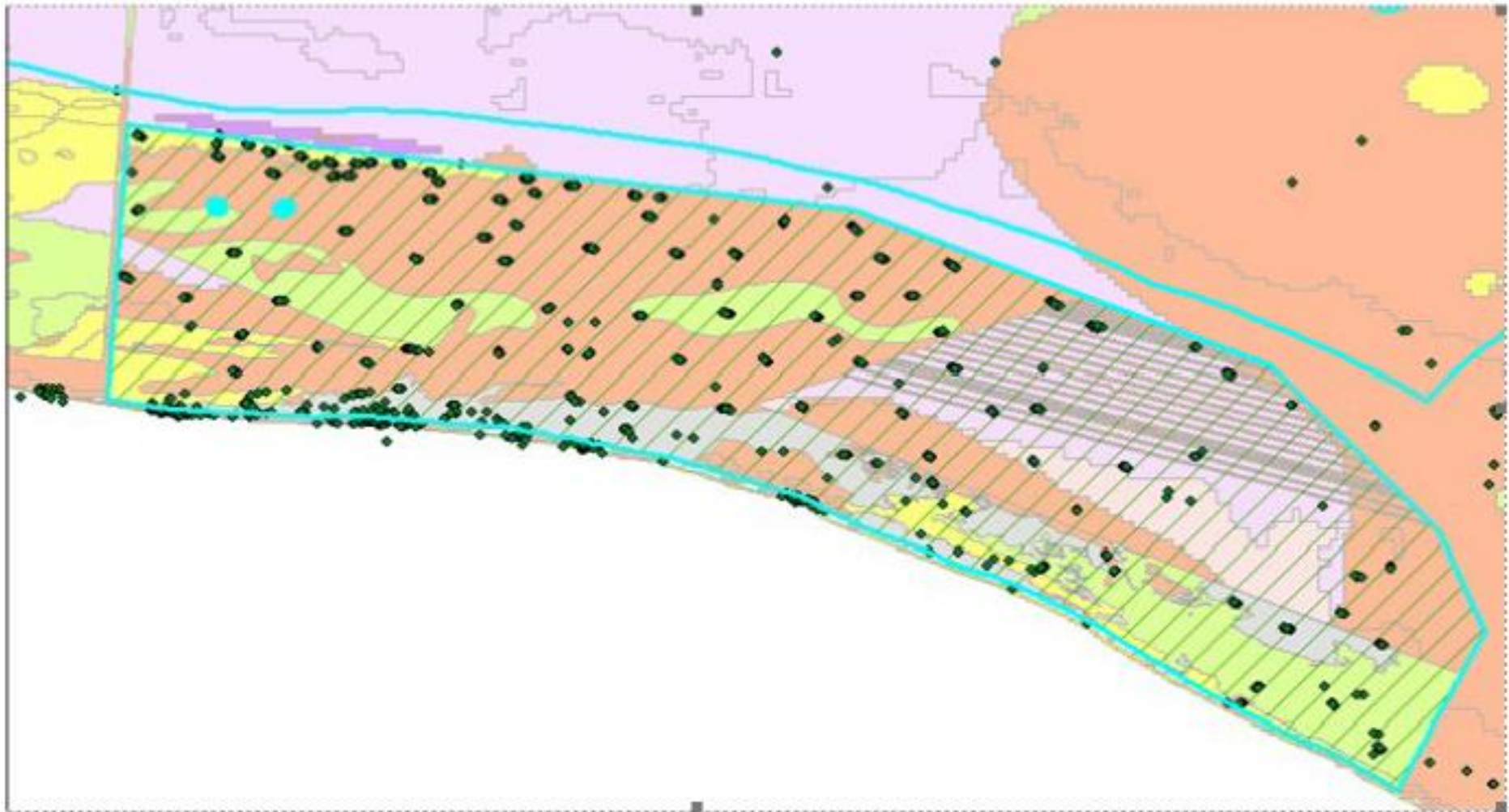


Plate 1: Location (Light Blue Dots) of Evidence of Previous Native Oyster Beds within Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds (CSCB) MCZ

Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Agreement Log

Meetings	Discussion Points	ID	Agreements and Notes	Stakeholders							Outstanding agreements	Project Response
				NE	HE	NCC	NNDC	SNC BDC	NorCC	Norfolk Coast Partnership		
ETG 1 23/03/2020	Seascape: approach to visualisation	1.1	Expert Topic Group (ETG) agreed the following approach to visuals: Visuals will be produced from agreed representative viewpoints, in accordance with: Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals, September 2019 and Visual Representation of Wind Farms Version 2.2, Scottish Natural Heritage, February 2017.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Absent NA	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
		1.2	Wireframes for impact assessment will present the 'worst case' in accordance with the Rochdale Envelope approach. E.g. they will show the maximum outline development envelope.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Absent NA	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
		1.3	Illustrative photomontages showing the proposed SEP and DEP projects during operation will also be produced showing: The offshore wind turbine array with the largest potential turbines (from land - daytime), and Night-time photomontages of the offshore wind turbine array from selected land-based viewpoints to illustrate lighting.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Absent NA	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Seascape: approach to visual receptors	1.4	ETG agreed the following list of visual receptors for Seascape Visual Impact Assessment (SVIA): Marine: ferry routes, recreational vessels, fishing boats. Land: England Coast Path / Norfolk Coast Path, beach / coastal margin and other accessible landscapes, coastal settlements, specific viewpoints.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Absent NA	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Seascape: list of data sources	1.5	ETG agreed with the following list of data sources: 'Seascape character area assessment East Inshore and East Offshore marine plan areas', Marine Management Organisation 2012; Historic Seascape Characterisation East Yorkshire to Norfolk Section, University of Newcastle unpublished report for English Heritage 2013; Admiralty charts; Recorded visibility data Met Office; 'Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 2019-24 Management Plan', Norfolk Coast Partnership; and 'Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Integrated Landscape Character Guidance', Norfolk Coast Partnership	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Absent NA	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Seascape: seascape character areas to be included in assessment	1.6	The ETG agreed that the Seascape character area assessment East Inshore and East Offshore marine plan areas, Marine Management Organisation 2012 should be used as the baseline for assessing seascape effects, informed by other documents and site assessment.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Absent NA	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A

Meetings	Discussion Points	ID	Agreements and Notes	Stakeholders							Outstanding agreements	Project Response
				NE	HE	NCC	NNDC	SNC BDC	NorCC	Norfolk Coast Partnership		
	Seascape: list of potential impacts	1.7	The ETG agreed with the following list of potential impacts: Temporary impacts during construction and decommissioning, Long term impacts during operation, Effects on seascape character, Effects on landscape character where offshore elements would be visible from land, Effects on visual receptors sea based and land based, Effects on designated landscapes Norfolk Coast AONB, North Norfolk Heritage Coast and, potentially, the Norfolk Broads, National Park.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Absent NA	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Landscape: approach to visualisation	1.8	ETG agreed the following approach to visuals: Visuals will be produced from agreed representative viewpoints, in accordance with: Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals, September 2019, Visual Representation of Wind Farms Version 2.2, Scottish Natural Heritage, February 2017.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	None	N/A
		1.9	Wireframes for impact assessment will present the 'worst case' in accordance with the Rochdale Envelope approach. e.g. they will show the maximum outline development envelope.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	None	N/A
		1.10	Illustrative photomontages showing potential scheme during operation will also be produced.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Landscape: list of data sources	1.11	ETG agreed with the following list of data sources: National Landscape Character Area Profiles, 'North Norfolk Landscape Character Assessment' DRAFT Supplementary Planning Document 2018; 'North Norfolk Landscape Sensitivity Assessment' DRAFT Supplementary Planning Document 2018; 'Broadland District Landscape Character Assessment' 2008 (updated 2013); 'South Norfolk District Landscape Character Assessment' 2001 (updated 2006 and 2008); 'South Norfolk District Landscape Designations Review' 2012; 'Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 2019-24 Management Plan', Norfolk Coast Partnership; and 'Norfolk Coast AONB Integrated Landscape Character Guidance', Norfolk Coast Partnership.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Landscape: landscape character areas to be included in assessment	1.12	The ETG agreed that the North Norfolk, Broadland and South Norfolk district landscape character assessments should be used as the baseline for assessing landscape effects, informed by other reports and assessments.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	None	N/A

Meetings	Discussion Points	ID	Agreements and Notes	Stakeholders							Outstanding agreements	Project Response
				NE	HE	NCC	NNDC	SNC BDC	NorCC	Norfolk Coast Partnership		
	Landscape: approach to visual receptors	1.13	The ETG agreed with the following list of visual receptors for assessing visual effects: Settlements, Public Rights of Way, Beach / coastal margin and other accessible landscapes, Key routes road and rail, Key routes recreational (long distance walking routes, cycle routes), Specific viewpoints.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Landscape: key landscape designation and features	1.14	ETG agreed with the following list of landscape designations and areas or features protected by policy for consideration with regard to onshore landscape and visual impact assessment. Norfolk Coast AONB. Rural River Valleys and Valley Urban Fringe landscape character types (South Norfolk Local Plan DMPD Policy DM 4.5). Norwich Southern Bypass Landscape Protection Zone (NSBLPZ), Key Viewing Cones and Undeveloped Approaches to Norwich (South Norfolk Local Plan DMPD Policy DM 4.6).	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Landscape: List of potential impacts	1.15	The ETG agreed with the following list of potential impacts with regard to onshore cable corridor including landfall. Temporary effects during construction, No significant effects during decommissioning, Effects due to removal and re-instatement of hedgerows and trees, Effects during the first few years of operation as re-instated vegetation matures, (Noting that Planning Inspectorate for England and Wales (PINS) scoping opinion states that that visual effects from the onshore cable route (including the landfall) during operation are unlikely to be significant and can be scoped out of the assessment, but that landscape effects should be assessed (while planting matures)).	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Landscape: approach to the assessment of visual amenity	1.16	ETG agreed with the approach to the assessment of effects on residential visual amenity as the following summary: Will be assessed for onshore substation only as necessary. Assessment undertaken to identify whether the substation would be sufficiently "oppressive" or "overbearing" that the residential property would be rendered an unattractive place in which to live (consistent with Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 2/19, Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) 15 March 2019). (Landscape Institute 2019)	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Landscape: assessment of effects on the AONB	1.17	ETG agreed with the following approach to the assessment of effects on the documented 'Special Qualities' of the Norfolk Coast AONB within the LVIA. The LVIA will assess effects on the Special Qualities of Natural Beauty that underpin the designation of the Norfolk Coast AONB that are relevant to seascape, landscape and visual.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	None	N/A

Meetings	Discussion Points	ID	Agreements and Notes	Stakeholders							Outstanding agreements	Project Response
				NE	HE	NCC	NNDC	SNC BDC	NorCC	Norfolk Coast Partnership		
ETG2 (Part 1 of 2) 21/07/2021	Seascape: as presented in Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Chapter 27	2.1	It was confirmed that the ETG agreed with the following, as presented in PEIR Chapter 27: The data sources (i.e. character assessment, SPDs and Management Plans) used for the SVIA; the seascape, landscape character areas / types identified and assessed in the SVIA; the visual receptors identified and assessed in the SVIA; the designated landscapes identified and assessed in the SVIA; the list of potential impacts assessed for the offshore development; the approach to the assessment of effects on the 'Special Qualities of Natural Beauty of the Norfolk Coast AONB within the LVIA; the proposed approach to the visualisations. ETG members had no comment on the points raised.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent NA	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Seascape: baseline	2.2	Confirmed that the existing Dudgeon windfarms would form part of the baseline assessed against. ETG agreed the importance of following the most recent guidance and to learn from these previous examples (including Dudgeon). Referenced recently published reports by White Associates - which compared predicted and actual visual impacts of windfarms off the Welsh Coast. This research was considered important in calibrating professional judgement when undertaking the assessments of the project, along with experience of other developments, including Dudgeon.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent NA	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Seascape: dark skies character	2.3	Agreed with the ETG that in relation to the windfarm extensions and potential impacts to dark skies character of North Norfolk, night-time photomontages from three viewpoints would be included.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent NA	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Seascape: worst case scenario	2.4	ETG agreed with the worst-case scenario presented at PEIR, which was considered to be fewer larger turbines. The maximum height parameter was confirmed as 325m (26MW).	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent NA	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Seascape: assessment methodology	2.5	ETG agreed with the suitability of the methodology for assessing the effect on the AONB and Heritage Coast.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent NA	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Seascape: impact significance	2.6	Confirmed that NE disagreed in the significance of effect for 4 LCTs. ETG agreed that the assessments were adequate, and were not being challenged; however, the conclusions of the assessment and the judgement of significance differed. Considered that this was a result of differing professional judgements. NE's position is that they consider there to be a potential significant impact to the special qualities of the AONB.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent NA	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A

Meetings	Discussion Points	ID	Agreements and Notes	Stakeholders							Outstanding agreements	Project Response
				NE	HE	NCC	NNDC	SNC BDC	NorCC	Norfolk Coast Partnership		
	Landscape: as presented in PEIR Chapter 28	2.7	Provided a review of previous consultation, agreements, and project responses (see attached, slides 25-32). It was confirmed that the ETG agreed with the following as presented in the PEIR Chapter 28: The methodological approach to the Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA); the data sources (i.e. character assessment, SPDs and Management Plans) used for the LVIA; the landscape character areas / types identified and assessed in the LVIA; the visual receptors identified and assessed in the LVIA; the designated landscapes identified and assessed in the LVIA; the list of potential impacts assessed with regards to the onshore cable corridor (including landfall) and onshore substation; the approach to the assessment of effects on residential visual amenity; the approach to the assessment of effects on the Special Qualities of Natural Beauty of the AONB within the LVIA; and, the proposed approach to the visualisations.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent NA	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Landscape: OLEMP	2.8	Agreed that an outline Landscape Management Plan (OLMP) would be submitted as part of the DCO application. The landscape proposals would aim to minimise potential visual effects as far as possible and create new opportunities for ecological enhancements.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent NA	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Landscape: 10-year replanting period	2.9	10-year replacement period for trees, hedgerows, and other vegetation requested by the ETG	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent NA	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
ETG2 (Part 2 of 2) 28/07/2021	Landscape: as presented in PEIR Chapter 28	2.10	Confirmed that the ETG agreed with the following: The methodological approach to the LVIA; the data sources (i.e., character assessment, SPDs and Management Plans) used for the LVIA; the landscape character areas / types identified and assessed in the LVIA; the visual receptors identified and assessed in the LVIA; the designated landscapes identified and assessed in the LVIA; the list of potential impacts assessed for the onshore developments in the LVIA.	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Landscape: visual receptors identified and assessed in the LVIA	2.11	There had not been any formal comment from South Norfolk District Council (SNDC) or Broadland District Council) on the viewpoints taken forward in the PEIR assessment. There would not be sufficient time in the programme to include additional viewpoint photography, and that the viewpoint information presented at the PEIR covered what is considered necessary to produce a robust assessment.	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Landscape: assessment of	2.12	Confirmed that night-time photomontages of the substation would not be provided; however, assessment of the effects of lighting would be	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A

Meetings	Discussion Points	ID	Agreements and Notes	Stakeholders							Outstanding agreements	Project Response
				NE	HE	NCC	NNDC	SNC BDC	NorCC	Norfolk Coast Partnership		
	the effects of lighting		included in the LVIA at Environmental Statement (ES).									
ETG 3 (Part 1 of 2) 02/02/2022	Seascope: SVIA	3.1	The ETG agreed that it would be helpful to pre-empt the examiner's potential request with regard to the comparison with SEP and DEP and other existing windfarms and draft a description and comparison between existing and proposed schemes for discussion and agreement with NE in advance of the DCO submission. Equinor agreed to prepare this text and share with NE.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Seascope: SVIA	3.2	In response to the outstanding action at Minute Item 24 from the previous ETG meeting on 21st July 2021, NE confirmed its agreement that 4 of the 7 LCTs assessed in the PEIR SVIA chapter can be scoped out of the assessment.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Seascope: SVIA	3.3	The ETG welcomed and agreed to the updates proposed for the next ES SVIA Chapter, which would take into account the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refinement of project proposals; Section 42 comments from consultees; and Susceptibility and sensitivity of users of long-distance walking routes, PRoWs, accessible and recreational landscapes, valued viewpoints and Dark Sky Discovery Sites within designated landscapes changed to high. 	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Seascope: SVIA	3.4	The ETG agreed with the decision to use ground level viewpoint and historic photography from the Sheringham Shoal offshore wind farm SLVIA within the ES SVIA Chapter be referred to in reaching judgements on effects on visitors to the viewing gazebo at Oak Wood. It was explained that the viewing gazebo at the National Trust Oak Wood is presently inaccessible, and the National Trust agrees to the SVIA's proposed approach. The Applicant acknowledges that Natural England did not comment at ETG meeting 3 (Part 1 of 2) on this matter, as they do not have local knowledge of the viewing gazebo at Oak Wood and defer to the Norfolk Coast Partnership on this matter.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Seascope: Assessment of the Norfolk Coast AONB	3.5	The ETG welcomed and agreed to the presentation of the assessments of the Norfolk Coast AONB from all relevant topics in a sperate document. NE suggest undertaking a gap analysis between the two management plans – Equinor agreed to review and request clarity on the timings of each	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	It was confirmed by the Norfolk Coast Partnership (via email on 23 February 2022) that the 'Norfolk Coast

Meetings	Discussion Points	ID	Agreements and Notes	Stakeholders							Outstanding agreements	Project Response
				NE	HE	NCC	NNDC	SNC BDC	NorCC	Norfolk Coast Partnership		
			management plans directly from the Norfolk cost Partnership.									Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Five Year Strategy 2019-2024' remains the current management plan for the Norfolk Coast AONB, and as used to inform the SVIA.
	Seascape: SVIA	3.6	The ETG agreed that the realistic worst case turbine layout presented will be assessed in the SVIA, and recognised the on-going work that has been undertake since the PEIR / consultation responses to improve the layout that work has gone into developing the illustrative layout.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Seascape: Project Visions and Design Statement	3.7	<p>The ETG agreed to the outline of the factors that influenced the changes to the offshore layout from that presented in the PEIR, and acknowledged the amount of work which had been undertaken since the previous ETG. These factors included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proportion of the view affected by the development; • the angle of view in relation to main receptor activity; • the degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape /view would be altered; and • the relationship between existing/ proposed/ future wind farms. <p>The ETG requested whether design principles could be transferred into the DCO to ensure the principles of design currently being applied are secured.</p> <p>Equinor confirmed that as part of the work being undertaken for the Navigation Risk Assessment, layout commitments are being secured, although these primarily address layout requirements set out in MGN 654. Equinor also confirmed the reason for its decision to include the maximum sized turbine was to future proof the project.</p>	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Seascape: Project Visions and Design Statement	3.8	<p>NE agreed to provide copies of the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Rampion 1 document that set out the how this project secured aesthetic led design principles via the marine authority whose interest / duty relates to safety and navigation during the examination. 	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A

Meetings	Discussion Points	ID	Agreements and Notes	Stakeholders							Outstanding agreements	Project Response
				NE	HE	NCC	NNDC	SNC BDC	NorCC	Norfolk Coast Partnership		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A NE document that provided general design principles to the Crown Estate in 2017/18. These were received post-meeting. 									
	Seascape: Single Frame Visualisations	3.9	NE requested copies of the single frame visualisations presented at the ETG meeting to agree the focal points of each view. This was submitted and agreement reached post meeting.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Seascape: AOB	3.10	The ETG agreed that it was not necessary to meet again prior to the submission of the DCO, unless any material comments were recorded as part of the sperate planned meetings with the Norfolk Coast Partnership.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
ETG 3 (Part 2 of 2) 08/02/2022	Landscape: OLEMP	3.11	The ETG agreed that a biodiversity net gain (BNG) plan, which details biodiversity opportunities at Weybourne Woods, should be produced. NE requested this is shared with them for information. This BNG Plan is to be provided by Wild Frontier Ecology.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	A BNG Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO submission.
	Landscape: Assessment of the Norfolk Coast AONB	3.12	The ETG agreed with that Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan Strategy 2014-2019 should be used to inform the LVIA, due to the uncertainty of the ratification of the latest Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Five Year Strategy 2019-2024.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Landscape: LVIA	3.13	The ETG requested that a review was undertaken of the cable corridor's routes in relation to Mossy Mere Wood (close to Saxthorpe) due to its sensitivity.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	This matter falls outside of the scope of the LVIA, but will be addressed as part of the documentation submitted for the DCO submission.
	Landscape: OLEMP and Arboricultural Surveys	3.14	Concerns were raised by the ETG that a full arboricultural survey would not be carried out until post-consent and considers that the information is needed earlier to inform the Examiners decision. Equinor agreed to review approach to tree survey.	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	
	Landscape: Project Vision and Design & Access Statement	3.15	The ETG agreed with the proposed approach to how Equinor will demonstrate, in the DCO application, how the project has been guided by overarching design principles / objectives, and will deliver a project that is in accordance with good practice (including safety), and demonstrates Good Design	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A
	Landscape: OLEMP	3.16	The ETG confirmed that the landscape proposals, related to the landscape management of the onshore cable corridor and the onshore substation, were broadly acceptable and responded well to the local landscape and its existing framework. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equinor confirmed its commitment to the following: 	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Present Agreed	Absent TBC	Absent TBC	None	N/A

Meetings	Discussion Points	ID	Agreements and Notes	Stakeholders							Outstanding agreements	Project Response
				NE	HE	NCC	NNDC	SNC BDC	NorCC	Norfolk Coast Partnership		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining planting along the onshore cable corridor for the first 10 years following implementation, before being handed over to landowner. Planting and habitat creation around the onshore substation would be managed for the operational life of SEP and DEP. 									
Meeting just with Norfolk Coast Partnership 08/03/2022	Assessment of the Norfolk Coast AONB	3.17	<p>The meeting welcomed and agreed to the presentation of the assessments of the Norfolk Coast AONB from all relevant topics in a separate document.</p> <p>Status of 2014 plan to be confirmed</p> <p>AONB confirmed that the Heritage Coast interests are covered by the County Heritage team, being essentially a Heritage matter</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Present Agreed	None	It was confirmed by the Norfolk Coast Partnership (via email on 23 February 2022) that the 'Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Five Year Strategy 2019-2024' remains the current management plan for the Norfolk Coast AONB, and as used to inform the SVIA.
	Seascape: SVIA	3.18	The meeting agreed that the realistic worst case turbine layout presented will be assessed in the SVIA, and recognised the on-going work that has been undertaken since the PEIR / consultation responses to improve the layout that work has gone into developing the illustrative layout.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Present Agreed	None	N/A
	Seascape: 9Project Visions and Design Statement	3.19	<p>The meeting agreed to the outline of the factors that influenced the changes to the offshore layout from that presented in the PEIR and acknowledged the amount of work which had been undertaken. These factors included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proportion of the view affected by the development; the angle of view in relation to main receptor activity; the degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape /view would be altered; and the relationship between existing/ proposed/ future wind farms. 	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Present Agreed	None	N/A

Meetings	Discussion Points	ID	Agreements and Notes	Stakeholders							Outstanding agreements	Project Response
				NE	HE	NCC	NNDC	SNC BDC	NorCC	Norfolk Coast Partnership		
			Equinor confirmed that as part of the work being undertaken for the Navigation Risk Assessment, layout commitments are being secured, although these primarily address layout requirements set out in MGN 654. Equinor also confirmed the reason for its decision to include the maximum sized turbine was to future proof the project.									
	Seascape: Project Visions and Design Statement	3.20	Equinor agreed to provide copies of the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline CSIMP • OTNR Review- guide to communities • Equinor FAQ • PEIR site selection and alternatives chapters These were received post-meeting.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Present Agreed	None	N/A
	Landscape: Project Vision and Design & Access Statement	3.21	The meeting agreed with the proposed approach to how Equinor will demonstrate, in the DCO application, how the project has been guided by overarching design principles / objectives, and will deliver a project that is in accordance with good practice (including safety), and demonstrates Good Design	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Present Agreed	None	N/A
	Landscape: LVIA	3.22	The meeting requested further information regarding the extent of HDD under the AONB and cable depths. This was all provided after the meeting, with Equinor confirming that it was not necessary, appropriate or justifiable to use trenchless methods to cross the entire AONB	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Present Agreed	None	The AONB subsequently raised no concerns
	Landscape: OLEMP	3.23	The meeting agreed that a biodiversity net gain (BNG) plan, which details biodiversity opportunities at Weybourne Woods and more generally, should be produced. Carbon sequestration to be considered	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Present Agreed	None	A BNG Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO submission.
	General	3.24	The meeting agreed that it was not necessary to meet again prior to the submission of the DCO, unless any material comments were recorded following a briefing at the Coastal Management Group (CMG) of the Norfolk Coast Partnership.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Present Agreed	None	AONB confirmed nothing was raised at the CMG , other than the need for all stakeholders to keep talking and work together as much as possible to add value to existing schemes and contribute to nature recovery where possible.

Meetings	Discussion Points	ID	Agreements and Notes	Stakeholders							Outstanding agreements	Project Response
				NE	HE	NCC	NNDC	SNC BDC	NorCC	Norfolk Coast Partnership		
												A BNG Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO submission