



# Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Projects

Final Statement of Common Ground with South Norfolk  
Council

**Revision C**

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## Glossary of Acronyms

CIA	Cumulative Impact Assessment
DCO	Development Consent Order
DEL	Dudgeon Extension Limited
DEP	Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project
EC	European Commission
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographical Information System
km	Kilometre
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MW	Megawatts
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPS	National Policy Statement
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
SEP	Sheringham Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project
UK	United Kingdom

## 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 onshore site	The Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension onshore area consisting of the DEP onshore substation site, onshore cable corridor, construction compounds, temporary working areas and onshore landfall area.
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.
Grid option	Mechanism by which SEP and DEP will connect to the existing electricity network. This may either be an integrated grid option providing transmission infrastructure which serves both of the wind farms, or a separated grid option, which allows SEP and DEP to transmit electricity entirely separately.
Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) zones	The areas within the onshore cable route which would house HDD entry or exit points.
Jointing bays	Underground structures constructed at regular intervals along the onshore cable route to join sections of cable and facilitate installation of the cables into the buried ducts.

Landfall	The point at the coastline at which the offshore export cables are brought onshore, connecting to the onshore cables at the transition joint bay above mean high water
Onshore cable corridor	The area between the landfall and the onshore substation sites, within which the onshore cable circuits will be installed along with other temporary works for construction.
Onshore export cables	The cables which would bring electricity from the landfall to the onshore substation. 220 – 230kV.
Onshore Substation	Compound containing electrical equipment to enable connection to the National Grid.
Order Limits	The area subject to the application for development consent, including all permanent and temporary works for SEP and DEP.
PEIR boundary	The area subject to survey and preliminary impact assessment to inform the PEIR.
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 onshore site	The Sheringham Shoal Wind Farm Extension onshore area consisting of the SEP onshore substation site, onshore cable corridor, construction compounds, temporary working areas and onshore landfall area.
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.
Study area	Area where potential impacts from the project could occur, as defined for each individual Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) topic.
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 Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by Equinor New Energy Limited (the Applicant) and South Norfolk Council (SNC). 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 or not agreed 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 SoCG.
3. This SoCG has been structured to reflect topics of the Application which are of interest to SNC. The applicable matters considered within this SoCG apply to SNC's statutory remit.
4. In addition to the project-wide considerations, **Table 1** presents the topics included in the SoCG.

*Table 1 Topics included in the SoCG*

Topic/Chapter	DCO Document Reference	Evidence Plan Process (EPP) (Yes/No)
Ground Conditions and Contamination	APP-103	No
Onshore Ecology and Ornithology (Revision C)	REP-03	Yes
Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	APP-107	Yes
Air Quality	APP-108	No
Noise and Vibration	APP-109	Yes
Landscape, Trees and Visual	APP-112	Yes

5. Further detail of those topics included in the Evidence Plan Process (EPP) can be found in the **Consultation Report Appendices** [APP-030]. Details of the consultation undertaken on those topics not included in the EPP are set out in the corresponding chapters of the Environmental Statement (ES).
6. Topic specific matters agreed, not agreed and matters that remain under discussion between the Applicant and SNC are included within this SoCG. Matters that are not yet agreed will be the subject of ongoing discussion between the Applicant and SNC to reach agreement on each matter wherever possible or refine the extent of disagreement between parties.
7. Throughout the SoCG the phrase "Agreed" identifies any point of agreement between the Applicant and SNC. The phrase "Not Agreed" identifies any point that is not agreed between the Applicant and SNC.

### 1.2 Consultation with SNC

8. The Applicant has engaged with SNC on the project during the pre-Application process, both in terms of informal non-statutory engagement and formal consultation carried out pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.

9. During formal (Section 42) consultation, SNC provided comments on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) by way of a letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
10. Further to the statutory Section 42 consultation, several meetings were held with SNC through the EPP. These are detailed throughout the SoCG and provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 1** [APP-030].

### 1.3 Summary of ‘Agreed’, ‘Not Agreed’ and ‘In Discussion’ Matters

11. In order to easily identify whether a matter is ‘agreed’, ‘not agreed’, or ‘in discussion’ the position status colour coding system set out in **Table 2** is used in the SoCG.
12. Details on specific topics that are ‘agreed’, ‘not agreed’ or ‘in discussion’ between the Applicant and SNC are presented in **Table 5, Table 7, Table 9, Table 11, Table 13** and **Table 15**.

*Table 2 Position status key*

Position Status	Position Colour Coding
<b>Agreed</b> The matter is considered to be agreed between the parties	Agreed
<b>Not Agreed – no material impact</b> The Matter is not agreed between the parties however the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicant or SNC is not considered to result in a material impact to the assessment conclusions and the matter is considered to be closed for the purposes of this SoCG. Discussions on these matters have concluded.	Not Agreed – no material impact
<b>Not Agreed – material impact</b> The matter is not agreed between the parties and the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicant or SNC is considered to result in a materially different impact to the assessment conclusions. Discussions on these matters have concluded.	Not Agreed – material impact
<b>In discussion</b> 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 SNC)	In discussion

## 2 Statement of Common Ground

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

### 2.1 Project-wide considerations

14. Table 3 provides areas of agreement and disagreement for project-wide considerations.



**Table 3 Project-wide considerations**

No.	The Applicants position	SNC Position	Position Summary
<b>Electricity Supply</b>			
1	There is a need to provide new forms of renewable energy generation and this is emphasised in UK Government policy including the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). The principle of the development of SEP and DEP is supported, as it accords with national renewable energy policy, targets and objectives.	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
<b>Good Design</b>			
2	The Applicant demonstrates in the DCO application how the project has been guided by a clear Project Vision (APP-313), overarching design principles /objectives and will deliver a project that reflects Good Design, in accordance with good practice (including safety).	SNC appreciates that the design of the Onshore Substation is functional dictated by the job that the substation needs to fulfil including health and safety requirements and the equipment that it needs to house. Therefore it fulfils the requirements of the development.	Agreed

## 2.2 Ground conditions and contamination

*Table 4 Summary of consultation with SNC regarding ground conditions and contamination*

Date	Contact Type	Topic
<b>Pre-Application</b>		
10/06/2021	Section 42 Consultation	South Norfolk District Council did not respond to section 42 consultation on the topic of Ground Conditions and Contamination. Appendix 4 of the Consultation Report [APP-033].
<b>Post-Application</b>		
11/01/2023	Meeting	The focus of the meeting was to discuss the South Norfolk Council's relevant representation and develop the draft Statement of Common Ground.
11/05/2023	Meeting	The focus of the meeting was to discuss the 'In discussion' positions of the draft Statement of Common Ground.

**Table 5 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to ground conditions and contamination**

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
<b>EIA – Policy and Planning</b>			
1	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in ES Chapter 17 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-103] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Baseline Environment</b>			
2	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment in terms of ground conditions and contamination as detailed in Section 17.5 of ES Chapter 17 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-103].	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
3	Sufficient desk-based data / study has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within ES Chapter 17 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-103].	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Assessment Methodology</b>			
4	The study areas identified in Section 17.3 of ES Chapter 17 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-103] is appropriate for the assessment.	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
5	The impact assessment methodologies, as presented in Section 17.4 of ES Chapter 17 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-103], provide an appropriate approach to assessing the potential impacts of the project.	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
6	The assessment of impacts presented in Section 17.6 of ES Chapter 17 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-103] are	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
	consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.		
7	Section 17.6 of ES Chapter 17 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-103] represents a comprehensive list of potential impacts.	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023 subject to intrusive investigation to be carried out post DCO award consent.	Agreed
8	The realistic worst-case assumptions presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 17.2 of ES Chapter 17 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-103] are appropriate.	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
9	The assessment of cumulative impacts, as detailed in Section 17.7 of ES Chapter 17 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-103] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Project-Alone Assessment Conclusions</b>			
10	The conclusions of the impact assessment as detailed in Section 17.6 of ES Chapter 17 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-103] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) Conclusions</b>			
11	The conclusions of the CIA as detailed in Section 17.7 of ES Chapter 17 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-103] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>			
12	As detailed in Section 17.6 of ES Chapter 17 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-103], targeted ground investigations, waste water collection, pre-construction site characterization works at medium and high sensitivity receptors are considered to be appropriate to avoid impacts.	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
13	The Outline Code of Construction Practice [APP-302] includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in ES Chapter 17 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-103] and is appropriate for managing construction and post construction impacts from the Projects on Ground Conditions and Contamination receptors.	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
14	Schedule 2, Part 1, Requirement 19 of the draft DCO [AS-009] is appropriate with regards to Ground Conditions and Contamination.	SNC agree with this statement in terms of content and request that consultees listed in the requirement are checked – 09/01/2023. Requirement 32 Contaminated Land and Groundwater Scheme includes for consultation with the relevant planning authority – 11/05/2023.	Agreed
15	Schedule 2, Part 1, Requirement 32 of the draft DCO [REP3-009] is appropriate with regards to a Contaminated Land and Groundwater Scheme.	SNC agree with this statement subject to additional wording being added to Revision G of the draft Development Consent Order [document reference 3.1] with regards to unknown contamination - 11/05/2023.	Agreed

## 2.3 Onshore ecology and ornithology

*Table 6 Summary of consultation with SNC regarding onshore ecology and ornithology*

Date	Contact Type	Topic
<b>Pre-Application<sup>1</sup></b>		
28/01/2020	ETG Meeting 1	The following topics were discussed during the ETG Meeting 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scope of ecological survey work.</li> <li>• The approach to the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey.</li> <li>• The approach to wintering bird survey and selected target species.</li> </ul>
10/12/2020	ETG Meeting 2	The following topics were discussed during the ETG Meeting 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The approach and methodology to over-wintering bird surveys and the use of available over-wintering bird survey data from other projects.</li> <li>• The approach and methodology to breeding bird surveys.</li> <li>• The approach and methodology to great crested newt surveys.</li> <li>• The approach and methodology to bat surveys.</li> <li>• The preliminary findings from Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey.</li> <li>• Opportunities for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).</li> <li>• The approach to filling data gaps.</li> </ul>
10/06/2021	Section 42 Consultation	South Norfolk Council did not respond to section 42 consultation on the topic of Onshore Ecology and Ornithology. Appendix 4 of the Consultation Report [APP-033].
01/07/2021	ETG Meeting 3	The following topics were discussed during the ETG Meeting 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of ecological survey results.</li> <li>• Discussion on the availability of bat survey data from other projects and the use of static bat detectors and bat boxes.</li> <li>• The requirements for Letter(s) of No Impediment (LoNI).</li> <li>• Opportunities for habitat improvements and BNG.</li> <li>• Cumulative Impact Assessment.</li> <li>• Approach to white clawed crayfish surveys.</li> <li>• Requirement of Fish surveys.</li> <li>• The approach to the inclusion of protected species within the water crossing method statement.</li> <li>• The approach to filling data gaps.</li> <li>• The approach to eDNA surveys.</li> <li>• Commitments to habitat monitoring and replanting.</li> </ul>
30/06/2022	ETG Meeting 4	The following topics were discussed during the ETG Meeting 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The approach taken for the initial BNG assessment.</li> <li>• The approach taken for the initial BNG enhancement options.</li> </ul>
<b>Post-Application</b>		
09/01/2023	Meeting	The focus of the meeting was to discuss the South Norfolk District Council's relevant representation and develop the draft Statement of Common Ground.

Date	Contact Type	Topic
08/06/2023	Meeting	Meeting to discuss and agree updates to the draft Statement of Common Ground.
15/06/2023	Meeting	Meeting to discuss and agree updates to the draft Statement of Common Ground.
03/07/2023	Meeting	Meeting to discuss and agree updates to the draft Statement of Common Ground.

<sup>1</sup> SNC did not attend ETG Meetings 2, 3 and 4.

**Table 7 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to onshore ecology and ornithology**

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
<b>EIA – Policy and Planning</b>			
1	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in Section 20.4 of ES Chapter Onshore Ecology and Ornithology [APP-106] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Baseline Environment</b>			
2	<p>The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment in terms of onshore ecology and ornithology as detailed in Section 20.5 of ES Chapter 20 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology [APP-106].</p> <p>The Ecological Management Plan (secured under Requirement 13 of the Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [AS-009]) will be based on an updated desk study which would take into account updated survey information.</p> <p>Section 2.3.1 Wintering birds in the Outline Ecological Management Plan [REP3-068] sets out the commitment to a prepare a Pink-Footed Geese mitigation plan. This will be approved by the relevant regulatory authority prior to construction.</p> <p>With regards to new designations, the project has gone through a site selection process and considers the location of the cable corridor appropriate. Pre-construction surveys will update the existing project baseline to take into account emerging designations and bespoke mitigation will be provided. This will be captured within the Ecological Management Plan (secured by Requirement 13 of the draft DCO [REP5-006]). Pre-construction ecological surveys will inform micro-sitting of cable route and HDD compounds. Both the cable route and the HDD compounds</p>	<p>SNC in its Relevant Representation [AS-304] stated that: “The Council would also encourage the applicant to update the desk top study as our County Wildlife Sites were recently updated.”</p> <p>SNC have advised the Applicant of a recent county wildlife designation, Common Fields Farm Barford CWS 2328 which is intersected by the Order Limits - 09/01/23. SNC is aware that the Applicant has committed to undertake pre-construction surveys (including ecological and soil surveys). These pre-construction surveys will identify up-to-date ecological baseline and inform any mitigation requirements.</p> <p>SNC acknowledge that pre-construction ecological surveys will inform micro-sitting of cable route and HDD compounds. Both the cable route and the HDD compounds will be located in the least ecologically sensitive areas, as far as practicably possible.</p> <p>SNC advised that Natural England are considering the area of Wensum Woods in its designations programme – 09/01/23. SNC is aware that the Applicant has committed to undertake pre-construction ecological surveys. These pre-construction surveys will identify up-to-date ecological baseline and inform any mitigation requirements.</p>	Agreed



ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
	<p>will be located in the least ecologically sensitive areas, as far as practicably possible.</p> <p>As detailed in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision D) [document reference 9.17, Section 6.1], a Soil Management Plan, including a Construction Method Statement for soil handling, will be completed in advance of construction by a suitable and competent soil specialist, who will have experience of working in the Norfolk region if reasonably possible, and agreed with the relevant planning authority in advance of the works. This is secured via Requirement 19 of the draft DCO [REP5-006].</p>	<p>SNC acknowledges the emerging Natural England guidance with regards to Pink-Footed Geese. All parties will continue to work together to develop an appropriate management plan / resolution. This may take time, beyond the Examination.</p>	
3	<p>Survey methodologies for Phase 1 Habitat Surveys and Phase 2 surveys are appropriate and sufficient to inform the assessment. Onshore ecology surveys were undertaken in accordance with industry accepted guidance.</p> <p>Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 1, 28/01/2020 that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hedgerows and trees surveys would be undertaken in accordance with the Hedgerow Regulations and associated methodology.</li> <li>• that static bat detectors are used rather than transect surveys.</li> <li>• eDNA surveys will be used for great crested newt surveys presence/absence. Some population assessments may be progressed depending on the findings.</li> <li>• wintering bird surveys are extended throughout October (pink-footed geese will be arriving, and their presence could influence timing of works).</li> </ul>	<p>SNC recommended the upcoming hedgerows and trees surveys should also be undertaken in accordance with the Hedgerow Regulations and associated methodology. Discussed and agreed in ETG Meeting 1 28/01/2020.</p>	Agreed
4	<p>Survey data, as presented in ES Chapter 20 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology [APP-106] and its associated appendices, are suitable for the assessment.</p> <p>See ID 2 for statement regarding Pink-Footed geese.</p>	<p>SNC agree with this statement and notes Natural England's emerging guidance regarding Pink Footed Geese (See ID 2).</p>	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
		There is an outstanding query regarding badger surveys – 09/01/23. SNC agree that dialogue will continue with regards to the location badger setts in the vicinity of the OnSS in the development of the final Ecological Management Plan.	
5	The suite of ecological surveys undertaken and presented in ES Chapter 20 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology [APP-106] and its associated appendices is relevant and suitable for the assessment.	Discussed and agreed in ETG Meeting 1, 28/01/2020. SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
6	The use of existing data sets which cover the SEP DEP order limits, including NBIS, is appropriate to inform the desk-based assessment and to fill data gaps.	SNC agree with this statement and notes ID 2 above with regards the CWS and Wensum Woods and Natural England's designation programme – 09/01/23	Agreed
<b>EIA – Assessment Methodology</b>			
7	The study areas identified in Section 20.3 of ES Chapter 20 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology [APP-106] are appropriate for the assessment of impacts.	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
8	The impact assessment methodologies as detailed in Section 20.4 of ES Chapter 20 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology [APP-106] are appropriate for the assessment of impacts.	SNC agree with this statement and notes ID 2 above with regards the CWS and Wensum Woods and Natural England's designation programme. – 09/01/23.	Agreed
9	The assessment of impacts presented in Section 20.6 of ES Chapter 20 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology [APP-106] are consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies. See ID 2 for statement regarding Pink-Footed Geese.	SNC agree with this statement and notes Natural England's emerging guidance regarding Pink Footed Geese (See ID 2)..	Agreed
10	The realistic worst-case assumptions presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 20-3 of ES Chapter 20 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology [APP-106] are appropriate for the assessment. See ID 2 for statement regarding Pink-Footed Geese.	SNC agree with this statement and notes Natural England's emerging guidance regarding Pink Footed Geese (See ID 2).	Agreed
11	Section 20.6 of ES Chapter 20 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology [APP-106] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts.	SNC agree with this statement and notes Natural England's emerging guidance regarding Pink Footed Geese (See ID 2)	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
	See ID 2 for statement regarding Pink-Footed Geese. Dialogue will continue with regards to the location badger setts in the vicinity of the OnSS to develop the final Ecological Management Plan (secured by Requirement 13 of the draft DCO [REP5-006])	Further confirmation on some of the badger sett information is required. SNC agree that dialogue will continue with regards to the location badger setts in the vicinity of the OnSS in the development of the final Ecological Management Plan.	
12	The assessment of cumulative impacts, as detailed in Section 20.7 of ES Chapter 20 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology [APP-106] is consistent with the agreed methodologies. See ID 2 for statement regarding Pink-Footed Geese. See ID 11 for statement regarding badger setts at the OnSS.	SNC agree with this statement and notes Natural England's emerging guidance regarding Pink Footed Geese (See ID 2)  SNC refer to ID 11 for statement regarding badger setts at the OnSS.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Project-Alone Assessment Conclusions</b>			
13	The conclusions of the impact assessment as details in Section 20.6 of ES Chapter 20 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology [APP-106] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms. See ID 2 for statement regarding Pink-Footed Geese. See ID 11 for statement regarding badger setts at the OnSS.	SNC agree with this statement and notes Natural England's emerging guidance regarding Pink Footed Geese (See ID 2)  SNC refer to ID 11 for statement regarding badger setts at the OnSS.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) Conclusions</b>			
14	All projects and plans will be identified and considered in the CIA that will be presented in the ES; only those projects/plans with publicly available information will be included.	SNC agree with this statement – 09/01/23.	Agreed
15	The conclusions of the CIA, as detailed in Section 20.7 of ES Chapter 20 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology [APP-106] is appropriate and based on currently available information and proposed mitigation impacts are non-significant in EIA terms. See ID 2 for statement regarding Pink-Footed Geese.	SNC agree with this statement and notes Natural England's emerging guidance regarding Pink Footed Geese (See ID 2)	Agreed
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>			

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
16	<p>Schedule 2, Part 1, Requirement 13 of the draft DCO [AS-009] is sufficient to secure that an Ecological Management Plan is submitted and approved by the relevant planning authority in consultation with Natural England prior to the commencement of onshore works including pre-commencement site clearance.</p> <p>The final Ecological Management Plan will clarify the frequency of monitoring and reporting records to be sent to South Norfolk Council.</p>	<p>SNC agree with this statement subject to including information on how the Applicant will report monitoring information to the LPA – 09/01/23. SNC agree that the monitoring and reporting requirements in the Outline Ecological Monitoring Plan (Section 5) would be developed and agreed in the final Ecological Management Plan.</p>	Agreed
17	<p>The Outline Ecological Management Plan [APP-304] includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in ES Chapter 20 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology [APP-106] and is appropriate for managing construction and post construction impacts of the Project.</p> <p>See ID 2 for statement regarding Pink-Footed Geese.</p> <p>The final Ecological Management Plan will clarify the frequency of monitoring and reporting records to be sent to South Norfolk District Council.</p> <p>Section 2.3.2 Breeding birds in the Outline Ecological Management Plan [REP3-068] sets out appropriate bird deterrence measures.</p>	<p>SNC recommends engaging with NE regarding their emerging guidance surrounding Pink Footed Geese – 09/01/23. (See comment in ID2)</p> <p>SNC agree that the monitoring and reporting requirements in the Outline Ecological Monitoring Plan (Section 5) would be developed and agreed in the final Ecological Management Plan.</p> <p>SNC recommend incorporating bird deterrence as necessary – 09/01/23. Mitigation measures will be set out within the final Ecological Management Plan.</p>	Agreed
18	<p>The Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP5-029] includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in ES Chapter 20 Chapter 20 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology [APP-106] and is appropriate for managing construction and post construction impacts from Projects on terrestrial ecology and ornithology. Paragraph 178 of REP5-029 (Revision E) details biosecurity measures which would be implemented including the ‘check, clean, dry’ protocol.</p>	<p>SNC agree that the final CoCP will be updated to clarify who will be responsible for checking equipment, vehicles and facilities as part of ‘Check Clean Dry’.</p>	Agreed
19	<p>The Applicant is committed to replacement planting of hedgerow and hedgerow trees and has committed to 10-year monitoring and maintenance period as per the Outline Landscape</p>	<p>SNC agree with this statement subject to provision of further information on how monitoring data will be provided to the LPA – 09/01/23.</p>	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
	<p>Management Plan [APP-303] and Outline Ecological Management Plan [APP-304].</p> <p>This is secured by Requirements 11 ‘Provision of Landscaping’, 12 ‘Implementation and Maintenance of Landscaping’ and 13 ‘Outline Ecological Management Plan’ of the draft DCO [AS-009] within Schedule 2 Part 1. This aligns with the commitments of other similar projects.</p> <p>The final Ecological Management Plan will clarify the frequency of monitoring and reporting records to be sent to South Norfolk Council.</p>	<p>SNC agree that the monitoring and reporting requirements in the Outline Ecological Monitoring Plan (Section 5) would be developed and agreed in the final Ecological Management Plan.</p>	
<b>Other Matters as Required</b>			
20	<p>The approach to Biodiversity Net Gain, as presented in the Outline Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy [APP-306], provides an appropriate approach to consideration of net gain within the Projects.</p>	<p>SNC agree with this statement – 09/01/23.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
21	<p>The assessment methodologies used for the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment, as presented in the Initial Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [APP-219], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.</p>	<p>SNC agree with this statement – 09/01/23.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>

## 2.4 Onshore archaeology and cultural heritage

*Table 8 Summary of consultation with SNC regarding onshore archaeology and cultural heritage*

Date	Contact Type	Topic
<b>Pre-Application</b>		
10/06/2021	Section 42 Consultation	SNC response to section 42 consultation on the topic of Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage [APP-033].

*Table 9 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to onshore archaeology and cultural heritage*

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
<b>EIA – Policy and Planning</b>			
1	Archaeological matters are covered by NCC and therefore not repeated here.	SNC agree with this statement.	Agreed
2	The Applicant notes the comments raised by SNC in its Relevant Representation with reference to Ketteringham Park and can confirm that Ketteringham Park is covered within the Non-designated Heritage Assets [APP-230a] and covered in Chapter 21 of the ES: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage [APP-107] appropriately.	SNC agree with this statement.	Agreed

## 2.5 Air quality

*Table 10 Summary of consultation with SNC Regarding air quality*

Date	Contact Type	Topic
<b>Pre-Application</b>		
10/06/2021	Section 42 Consultation	South Norfolk Council did not respond to section 42 consultation on the topic of Air Quality. Appendix 4 of the Consultation Report [APP-033].
<b>Post-Application</b>		
11/01/2023	Meeting	The focus of the meeting was to discuss the South Norfolk Council's relevant representation and develop the draft Statement of Common Ground.
11/05/2023	Meeting	The focus of the meeting was to discuss the 'In discussion' positions of the draft Statement of Common Ground.



**Table 11 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to air quality**

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
<b>EIA – Policy and Planning</b>			
3	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in ES Chapter 22 Air Quality [APP-108] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Baseline Environment</b>			
4	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment in terms of air quality as detailed in Section 22.5 of ES Chapter 22 Air Quality [APP-108].	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
5	Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within ES Chapter 22 Air Quality [APP-108].	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
6	Appropriate datasets have been presented to inform the assessments as detailed in ES Chapter 22 Air Quality [APP-108].	SNC agree with this statement 11/01/23.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Assessment Methodology</b>			
7	The study areas identified in Section 22.3 of ES Chapter 22 Air Quality [APP-108] is appropriate for the assessment.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
8	The impact assessment methodologies, as presented in Section 22.4 of ES Chapter 22 Air Quality [APP-108], are appropriate to assess the potential impacts of the Project.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
9	The assessment of impacts presented in Section 17.6 of ES Chapter 22 Air Quality [APP-108] are consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
10	Section 22.6 of ES Chapter 22 Air Quality [APP-108] represents a comprehensive list of potential impacts.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
11	The realistic worst-case assumptions presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 22.2 of ES Chapter 22 Air Quality [APP-108] are appropriate.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
12	The assessment of cumulative impacts, as detailed in Section 22.7 of ES Chapter 22 Air Quality [APP-108] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Project-Alone Assessment Conclusions</b>			
13	The conclusions of the impact assessment, as presented in Section 22.6 of ES Chapter 22 Air Quality [APP-108] during construction and operation are	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
	appropriate, and assuming the inclusion of proposed mitigation, are considered not significant in EIA terms		
<b>EIA – Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) Conclusions</b>			
14	The conclusions of the CIA as detailed in Section 22.7 of ES Chapter 22 Air Quality [APP-108] is appropriate and based on currently available information and proposed mitigation impacts are non-significant in EIA terms.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>			
15	The Outline Code of Construction Practice [APP-302] includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in ES Chapter 22 Air Quality [APP-108] and is appropriate for managing construction and post construction impacts from the Project on Air Quality receptors.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
16	The Code of Construction Practice, which will include information on how air quality impacts will be managed and mitigated is secured under Schedule 2, Part 1, Requirement 19 of the draft DCO [AS-009] and is appropriate with regards to the protection of air quality receptors.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed

## 2.6 Noise and vibration

*Table 12 Summary of consultation with SNC regarding noise and vibration*

Date	Contact Type	Topic
<b>Pre-Application</b>		
04/11/2020	ETG Meeting 1	The following topics were discussed during the ETG Meeting 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project approaches, methodology and risks</li> </ul>
10/06/2021	Section 42 Consultation	South Norfolk Council responded to section 42 consultation on the topic of Noise and Vibration, with no concern at that stage of the application. Appendix 4 of the Consultation Report [APP-033].
24/02/2022	ETG Meeting 2	The following topics were discussed during the ETG Meeting 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project update and overview of the site selection process</li> <li>• Discussion of baseline noise surveys</li> <li>• An update on 3D noise modelling, consideration of requirements related to noise from Onshore Substation (OnSS) site and identification of noise parameters</li> </ul>
<b>Post-Application</b>		
11/01/2023	Meeting	The focus of the meeting was to discuss the South Norfolk Council's relevant representation and develop the draft Statement of Common Ground.
11/05/2023	Meeting	The focus of the meeting was to discuss the 'In discussion' positions of the draft Statement of Common Ground.

**Table 13 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to noise and vibration**

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
<b>EIA – Policy and Planning</b>			
1	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in Section 23.4 of ES Chapter 23 Noise and Vibration [APP-109] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Baseline Environment</b>			
2	The assessment, as presented in Section 23.5 of ES Chapter 23 Noise and Vibration [APP-109], adequately characterises the baseline environment.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
3	The noise sensitive receptor locations that have been identified are appropriate and sufficient to inform the assessment of impacts.	SNC agree with this statement subject to prior consent being obtained under Section 61 of the Control of Pollution Act (1974) for high risk construction compounds (as detailed in Section 10.1 of the Outline Code of Construction Practice [document reference 9.17], secured by Requirement 19 of the draft Development Consent Order [document reference 3.1]) – 11/05/223.	Agreed
4	The amendments and/or additions of survey locations are appropriate and sufficient to inform the assessment of impacts.	SNC agree with this statement subject to Section 61 consent being obtained prior to construction (as detailed in Section 10.1 of the Outline Code of Construction Practice [document reference 9.17]. secured by Requirement 19 of the draft Development Consent Order [document reference 3.1]) – 11/05/2023.	Agreed
5	Appropriate consideration has been given to the potential effects of Covid-19 and the recent countrywide lockdown on the current soundscape around the proposed onshore infrastructure location.	Agreed at ETG Meeting 1, 04/11/2020. SNC agree with this statement. - 11/01/23.	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
6	Appropriate datasets have been presented to inform the assessments as detailed in ES Chapter 23 Noise and Vibration [APP-109].	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Assessment Methodology</b>			
7	The study area identified in Section 23.3 of ES Chapter 23 Noise and Vibration [APP-109] is appropriate for the assessment.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
8	The impact assessment methodologies, as presented in Section 23.4 of ES Chapter 23 Noise and Vibration [APP-109], are appropriate to assess the potential impacts of the Project.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
9	The assessment of impacts presented in Section 23.6 of ES Chapter 23 Noise and Vibration [APP-109] are consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
10	Section 23.6 of ES Chapter 23 Noise and Vibration [APP-109] represents a comprehensive list of potential impacts.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
11	The realistic worst-case assumptions presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 23.2 of ES Chapter 23 Noise and Vibration [APP-109] are appropriate.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
12	The assessment of cumulative impacts, as detailed in Section 23.7 of ES Chapter 23 Noise and Vibration [APP-109] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Project-Alone Assessment Conclusions</b>			
13	The conclusions of the impact assessment, as presented in Section 23.6 of ES Chapter 23 Noise and Vibration [APP-109] during construction and operation are appropriate, and assuming the inclusion of proposed mitigation, are considered not significant in EIA terms.	SNC agree with this statement, subject to obtaining Section 61 prior consent for high risk construction compounds and the submission and agreement of a Construction Noise (and vibration) Management Plan before construction works commence (as detailed in Section 10.1 of the Outline Code of Construction Practice)– [document reference 9.17], secured by Requirement 19 of the draft	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
		Development Consent Order [document reference 3.1]) – 11/05/2023.	
<b>EIA – Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) Conclusions</b>			
14	The conclusions of the CIA as detailed in Section 23.7 of ES Chapter 23 Noise and Vibration [APP-109] is appropriate and based on currently available information and proposed mitigation impacts are non-significant in EIA terms.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>			
15	Schedule 2, Part 1, Requirements 21 ‘Control of Noise During Operational Phase’ of the draft DCO [AS-009] are appropriate with regards to control of noise during operations at the onshore substation.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed
16	The Construction Noise Management Plan as part of the Outline Code of Construction Practice [APP-302] and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [APP-301] includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in ES Chapter 23 Noise and Vibration [APP-109] and is appropriate for managing construction and post construction impacts from the Project on Noise and Vibration receptors. The Code of Construction Practice is secured under Requirement 19 (within Schedule 2, Part 1] of the draft DCO.	SNC agree with this statement - 11/01/23.	Agreed

## 2.7 Landscape, trees and visual

*Table 14: Summary of consultation with SNC regarding landscape and visual*

Date	Contact Type	Topic
<b>Pre-Application<sup>4</sup></b>		
23/03/2020	ETG Meeting 1	The following topics were discussed during the ETG Meeting 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The approach to visualisations.</li> <li>• The approach to data sources.</li> <li>• An agreement on the landscape character areas to be included in assessment.</li> <li>• The approach to visual receptors.</li> <li>• The key landscape designations and features to be included in the assessment.</li> <li>• Agreement to the list of potential impacts</li> <li>• The approach to the assessment of visual amenity.</li> <li>• The approach to the assessment of effects on the AONB.</li> </ul>
02/06/2021	Pre-Section 42 consultation	Consultation (via email) on the proposed approach of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment's (LVIA) study areas; representative viewpoints; and approach to visualisations at both the PEIR and Environmental Statement (ES) stages.
10/06/2021	Section 42 Consultation	South Norfolk Council (SNC) response to section 42 consultation on PEIR. Appendix 4 of the Consultation Report [APP-033].
28/07/2021	ETG Meeting 2 (Part 2 of 2)	The following topics were discussed during the ETG Meeting 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LVIA as presented in PEIR and S42 consultation.</li> <li>• The requirements for an Outline Landscape Management Plan (OLMP) and Outline Ecological Management Plan (OEMP).</li> <li>• The commitment to a 10-year replanting period.</li> </ul>
08/02/2022	ETG Meeting 3 (Part 2 of 2)	The following topics were discussed during the ETG Meeting 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OLEMP.</li> <li>• Assessment of the Norfolk AONB.</li> <li>• LVIA.</li> <li>• OLEMP and Arboricultural surveys.</li> <li>• Project Vision and design and access statement.</li> </ul>
<b>Post-Application</b>		
09/01/2023	Meeting	The focus of the meeting was to discuss the South Norfolk Council's relevant representation and develop the draft Statement of Common Ground.

<sup>4</sup> SNC were absent at ETG Meeting 1; Meeting 2 Part 1; and Meeting 3 Part 1, which focussed on the SVIA and related offshore matters.

**Table 15 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to landscape and visual impact**

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
<b>EIA – Policy and Planning</b>			
1	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in Section 26.4 of ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 2 (Part 2 of 2), 28/07/2021. SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023	Agreed
<b>EIA – Baseline Environment</b>			
2	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment in terms of landscape and visual as detailed in Section 26.4 of ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual [APP-112].	Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 2 (Part 2 of 2), 28/07/2021.  SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
3	Appropriate datasets have been presented to inform the assessments as detailed in ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual [APP-112].	The following list of data sources was identified for assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Landscape Character Area Profiles, 'North Norfolk Landscape Character Assessment' DRAFT Supplementary Planning Document 2018;</li> <li>• 'North Norfolk Landscape Sensitivity Assessment' DRAFT Supplementary Planning Document 2018;</li> <li>• 'Broadland District Landscape Character Assessment' 2008 (updated 2013);</li> <li>• 'South Norfolk District Landscape Character Assessment' 2001 (updated 2006 and 2008);</li> <li>• 'South Norfolk District Landscape Designations Review' 2012;</li> </ul>	Agreed



ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 2019-24 Management Plan', Norfolk Coast Partnership; and</li> <li>'Norfolk Coast AONB Integrated Landscape Character Guidance', Norfolk Coast Partnership.</li> </ul> <p>Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2 (Part 2 of 2), 28/07/2021.</p> <p>Subsequent to the above, ETG meeting 3 (Part 2 of 2), 08/02/2022 agreed 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.</p> <p>SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.</p>	
4	<p>The following list of visual receptors is appropriate for assessing visual effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Settlements,</li> <li>Public Rights of Way,</li> <li>Beach / coastal margin and other accessible landscapes,</li> <li>Key routes road and rail,</li> <li>Key routes recreational (long distance walking routes, cycle routes),</li> <li>Specific viewpoints.</li> </ul>	<p>Discussed and agreed in ETG Meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2, 28/07/2021.</p> <p>SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.</p>	Agreed
5	<p>The following landscape designations and areas or features protected by policy will be considered in regard to onshore landscape and visual impact assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Norfolk Coast AONB;</li> </ul>	<p>Discussed and agreed in ETG Meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2, 21/07/2021.</p>	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural River Valleys and Valley Urban Fringe landscape character types (South Norfolk Local Plan DMPD Policy DM 4.5);</li> <li>Norwich Southern Bypass Landscape Protection Zone (NSBLPZ),</li> <li>Key Viewing Cones and Undeveloped Approaches to Norwich (South Norfolk Local Plan DMPD Policy DM 4.6).</li> </ul>	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	
6	Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual [APP-112].	<p>SNC were consulted in September 2020 (at the outset of the assessment) with regard to the proposed representative viewpoints, study areas and visualisations (wireframes and photomontages) for the PEIR Report and ES Stages.</p> <p>SNC acknowledged that no formal comments on representative viewpoint locations for the substation prior to the PEIR submission were returned following Equinor's request on 8 September 2020 and 24 November 2020.</p> <p>It was agreed that the viewpoint information presented at the PEIR (and subsequently taken forward to ES) would cover what is necessary to produce a robust assessment for this DCO application. No further photography has been undertaken since winter 2021. See Table 26-1 of the ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112] for details.</p> <p>SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.</p>	Agreed
<b>EIA – Assessment Methodology</b>			
7	The study areas identified in Section 26.3 of ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112] is appropriate for the assessment.	Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting, 2 28/07/2021 (Part 2 of 2), and as part of the pre-Section 42 consultation. See Table 26-1	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
		of the ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112] for details. SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	
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 2019, Visual Representation of Wind Farms Version 2.2, Scottish Natural Heritage, February 2017.	Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2 (Part 2 of 2), 28/07/2021, and as part of the pre-Section 42 consultation. See Table 26-1 of the ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112] for details. SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
9	Illustrative photomontages showing potential scheme during operation have been produced.	Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2 (Part 2 of 2), 28/07/2021, and as part of the pre-Section 42 consultation. See Table 26-1 of the ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112] for details. SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
10	It is appropriate that night-time photomontages of the substation are not provided however, assessment of the effects of lighting have been included in the LVIA at Environmental Statement (ES).	Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2 (Part 2 of 2), 28/07/2021, and as part of the pre-Section 42 consultation. SNC agreed night-time photomontages of the substation would not be required; although SNC/BDC noted the expectation of the potential effects of lighting to be considered in the LVIA at ES. See Table 26-1 of the ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112] for details. SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
11	The impact assessment methodologies, as presented in Section 26.4 of ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112], are appropriate to assess the potential onshore impacts of the project.	Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2 (Part 2 of 2), 28/07/2021. SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
12	The assessment of impacts presented in Section 26.6 of ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual [APP-112] are consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies, as detailed.	Discussed and agreed to in ETG meeting 2 (Part 2 of 2), 28/07/2021 and as part of the pre-Section 42 consultation. See Table 26-1 of the ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112]. SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
13	Section 26.6 of ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (APP-112) represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts.	ETG meeting 1, 23/03/2020 agreed with the following list of potential impacts with regards to onshore cable corridor including landfall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary effects during construction,</li> <li>• No significant effects during decommissioning,</li> <li>• Effects due to removal and reinstatement of hedgerows and trees,</li> <li>• 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 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</li> </ul>	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
		<p>landscape effects should be assessed (while planting matures)).</p> <p>ETG meeting 2 (Part 2 of 2), 28/07/2021 discussed and agreed to the list of potential impacts assessed with regards to the onshore cable corridor (including landfall) and onshore substation, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the landscape character areas / types identified and assessed;</li> <li>• the visual receptors identified and assessed; and</li> <li>• the designated landscapes identified and assessed.</li> </ul> <p>SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.</p>	
14	<p>The approach to the assessment of effects on residential visual amenity is appropriate as stated in 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).</p>	<p>Discussed and agreed in ETG Meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2 (Part 2 of 2), 28/07/2021.</p> <p>SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.</p>	Agreed
15	<p>The realistic worst-case assumptions presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 26-2 of ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112] are appropriate. 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.</p>	<p>Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 1, 23/03/2020, reaffirmed at ETG meeting 2 (Part 2 of 2), 28/07/2021, and as part of the pre-Section 42 consultation. See Table 26-1 of the ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112] for details.</p> <p>SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.</p>	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
16	The assessment of cumulative impacts, as detailed in Section 26.7 of ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual [APP-112] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Project-Alone Assessment Conclusions</b>			
17	<p>The conclusions of the impact assessment, which are presented in Section 26.6 of the ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112], 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 26.4 of ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112]), effects which have been assessed to be ‘major-moderate’ or ‘major’ are considered significant in EIA terms.</p> <p>The conclusions of the impact assessment on the landscape and visual receptors identified within the study areas on the onshore cable corridor and substation are appropriate, and assuming the inclusion of embedded mitigation measures, would conclude that significant effects (in EIA terms) have been assessed during construction, operation and decommissioning of the onshore substation on users of a group of PRoWs, a permissive bridleway and Gowthorpe Lane which encircle the fields the site lies within and adjacent to. Beyond this groups of receptors, assuming the inclusion of embedded mitigation measures, effects on landscape and visual receptors would not be considered significant in EIA terms.</p> <p>Additional Supporting Material – Onshore Substation Visualisations [REP3-103] submitted at Deadline 3 are deemed appropriate and the conclusions acceptable.</p>	<p>SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.</p> <p>SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.</p> <p>SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.</p> <p>In line with the conclusion of the LVIA Chapter, SNC consider there to be significant LVIA impact on users of PRoWs at the OnSS.</p>	Agreed
<b>EIA – Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) Conclusions</b>			
18	The approach to the CIA, which is presented in Sections 26.4.4 and 26.7 of ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112], is appropriate in identifying and assessing the significance of (in EIA terms) and cumulative effects of change resulting from the construction, operation and decommissioning of SEP and/or DEP and other projects within the LVIA’s study area on landscape and visual receptors; and based on currently available information	SNC agree with this statement - 28/06/2023.	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
19	The conclusions of the CIA, as detailed in Section 26.7 of ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112], are appropriate in concluding that the combination of effects of SEP and/or DEP and the other projects are unlikely to be greater than SEP and/or DEP alone.	SNC does not agree that the CIA impacts at the OnSS will be non-significant - Disagree	Not Agreed – material impact
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>			
20	Schedule 2, Part 1, Requirements 11 'Provision of Landscaping' & 12 'Implementation and Maintenance of Landscaping' of the draft DCO [REP5-006] are appropriate with regards to the provision, implementation and maintenance of landscaping.	SNC acknowledges the data already available and accepts the approach to further survey of both existing trees and hedgerows in order to facilitate the least impactful micro-siting of the cable route and the maximum retention of existing vegetation and safeguarding of veteran trees and important hedgerows.	Agreed
21	The Outline Landscape Management Plan [APP-303] includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112] and is appropriate for managing construction and post construction impacts from the Project on landscape and visual receptors. Requirement 11 of the DCO [AS-009], mentioned above under 20, states that the Written Landscape Management Plan will accord with the Outline Landscape Management Plan submitted in support of the DCO application.	<p>ETG meeting 2 (Part 2 of 2), 28/07/2021 discussed and 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.</p> <p>ETG meeting 3 (Part 2 of 2), 08/02/2022 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.</p> <p>The Applicant confirmed its commitment to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining planting along the onshore cable corridor for the first 10 years</li> </ul>	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
		<p>following implementation, before being handed over to landowner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting and habitat creation around the onshore substation would be managed for the operational life of SEP and DEP.</li> </ul> <p>SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.</p>	
22	<p>A 10-year replacement period for trees, hedgerows, and other vegetation was discussed and agreed during ETG meeting 2 (part 1 of 2), 21/07/2021.</p> <p>During this meeting SN and BDC were not in attendance.</p>	<p>The Applicant confirmed at ETG meeting 3 (Part 2 of 2), 08/02/2022 its commitment to maintaining planting along the onshore cable corridor for the first 10 years following implementation, before being handed over to landowner. SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023.</p>	Agreed
23	<p>The Outline Ecological Management Plan [APP-304] includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in ES Chapter 26 Landscape and Visual [APP-112] and is appropriate for managing post construction impacts from Projects on landscape receptors.</p> <p>The final Ecological Management Plan will include details of monitoring and reporting including the frequency of reporting to South Norfolk District Council, This will be secured under Requirement 13 of the draft DCO [REP5-006] (within Schedule 2, Part 1) and approved by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Natural England and the Environment Agency where relevant.</p>	<p>SNC agree with this statement subject to including information on how the Applicant will report monitoring information to the LPA – 09/01/23.</p>	Agreed
24	<p>The approach to Biodiversity Net Gain, as presented in the Outline Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy [APP-306], provides an appropriate approach to consideration of net gain within the Projects.</p>	<p>SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023</p>	Agreed



ID	The Applicant Position	SNC Position	Position Summary
25	The assessment methodologies used for the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment, as presented in the Initial Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [APP-219], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	SNC agree with this statement - 09/01/2023	Agreed
26	Whilst it is recognised that the Outline Landscape Management Plan and Outline Ecological Management Plan are linked, they remain separate documents and are controlled by separate Requirements. This helps ensure flexibility during the discharge of the Requirements.	SNC agree with this statement – 15/06/2023	Agreed
<b>Other Matter as Required</b>			
27	The Onshore Design and Access Statement [APP-287] is appropriate for setting out overarching design principles /design objectives in relation to the onshore cable corridor trees and hedges and will deliver a project that is in accordance with good practice (including safety) and demonstrates Good Design.	Discussed and agreed in ETG meeting 3 (Part 2 of 2), 08/02/2022 that proposed approach to how the Applicant 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.	Agreed

### 3 Signatures

15. The above draft Statement of Common Ground is agreed between the Applicant and SNC on the day specified below.


Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Claire Curtis \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Claire Curtis \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Area Team Manager (lead officer for NSIP's) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 10 July 2023 \_\_\_\_\_

Duly authorised for and on behalf of the **SNC**

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sheery Atkins \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Onshore Consents Manager \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 10 July 2023 \_\_\_\_\_

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] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/418015/examinations\\_guidance-\\_\\_final\\_for\\_publication.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418015/examinations_guidance-__final_for_publication.pdf) Accessed 05/07/2022.