



Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm

Applicant's Statement of Commonality for SoCG

Deadline 3

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[Redacted]

RWE Renewables UK Swindon Limited

Windmill Hill Business Park
Whitehill Way
Swindon
Wiltshire SN5 6PB
T +44 (0)8456 720 090

[Redacted]

Registered office:
RWE Renewables UK Swindon Limited
Windmill Hill Business Park
Whitehill Way
Swindon

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Statement of Commonality

- 1 This document provides the Examining Authority (ExA) with an overview of the position of each Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited (the 'Applicant') and the Interested Parties (IPs) (see Annex H of Rule 6 Letter PD-007) in relation to Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as 'AyM') at Deadline 3. This document will be updated and submitted at relevant Examination deadlines outlined in the Examination timetable.

1.2 Structure of this Statement of Commonality

- 2 The Statement of Commonality is structured as follows:
 - ▲ Section 1: Introduction;
 - ▲ Section 2: Approach to capturing commonality – Outlines the approach to commonality with IPs;
 - ▲ Section 3: Status of commonality – Describes the status of commonality with each IP, to be updated at each deadline;
 - ▲ Section 4: Summary of Commonality – Identifies the commonality of topic areas of interest with each IP;
 - ▲ Section 5: Additional commentary – Provides additional information on the status of agreements and notable consultation activities undertaken through the Examination; and
 - ▲ Section 6: Final positions – Where final positions have been reached with IPs, this section outlines those final positions.

2 Approach to capturing commonality

2.1 List of Commonality

- 3 Table 1 provides the list of SoCGs that have been requested by the ExA in the Rule 6 letter issued on 23 August 2022 and the Applicant's approach to capturing commonality.

2.2 Letters of Comfort and Position Statements

- 4 In some instance, Letters of Comfort (LoC) and Position Statements (PS) are being prepared instead of a full formal SoCG, with agreement from the IPs. This is because the matters on which some IPs are interested in are limited in scope (e.g. substantive matters are either agreed or can be addressed post-consent through crossing and/or proximity agreements) and so the LoCs in these cases are considered to be more appropriate than a SoCG in order to capture status of discussions. Where a LoC or PS is being prepared instead of a SoCG, this is detailed in Table 1.
- 5 A PS is substantively the same as a SoCG but follows a simpler format to allow each party to identify the issues pertinent to (for example) their commercial interests and to determine the level of detail to put before the ExA pending the conclusion of commercial discussions, which are being progressed outside the DCO process and may pertain to commercially sensitive information. The PSs will be updated in the same way as a SoCG, with updates provided to the ExA at relevant deadlines.

2.3 Statements of Common Ground

- 6 At the point of Deadline 3, the Applicant is progressing SoCGs with IPs and has been able to submit an additional seven SoCGs at Deadline 3, alongside the one SoCG that was submitted at Deadline 2. Where SoCGs have not been submitted, the Applicant has been in communication with the relevant IP and is actively working towards submitting an initial SoCG at Deadline 3a or Deadline 4.

Table 1: List of parties and the Applicant's approach to capturing commonality.

INTERESTED PARTY	APPROACH TO COMMONALITY
SoCGs requested by the ExA in Annex H of the Rule 6 Letter	
Denbighshire County Council (DCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Joint SoCG with the North Wales Local Planning Authorities (NW LPAs) on SLVIA (SoCG 01); and ▲ Standalone SoCG on non-SLVIA matters (SoCG 02).
Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Joint SoCG with the North Wales Local Planning Authorities (NW LPAs) on SLVIA (SoCG 01); and ▲ Standalone SoCG on non-SLVIA matters (SoCG 03).
Gwynedd Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Joint SoCG with the North Wales Local Planning Authorities (NW LPAs) on SLVIA (SoCG 01).
Isle of Anglesey County Council (IoACC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Joint SoCG with the North Wales Local Planning Authorities (NW LPAs) on SLVIA (SoCG 01); and ▲ Standalone SoCG on non-SLVIA matters (SoCG 04).
Flintshire District Council (FCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Joint SoCG with the North Wales Local Planning Authorities (NW LPAs) on SLVIA (SoCG 01).
Snowdonia National Park (SNP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Joint SoCG with the North Wales Local Planning Authorities (NW LPAs) on SLVIA (SoCG 01).

INTERESTED PARTY	APPROACH TO COMMONALITY
Llandudno Town Council	The Applicant notes the request from the ExA for a SoCG with Llandudno Town Council. However, the responses from Llandudno Town Council have been limited and a SoCG is not considered necessary.
Betws yn Rhos and Llanelian yn Rhos Community Council	The Applicant notes the request from the ExA for a SoCG with Betws yn Rhos and Llanelian yn Rhos Community Council. However, the responses from Betws yn Rhos and Llanelian yn Rhos Community Council have been limited and a SoCG is not considered necessary.
Llanddulas and Rhyd Y Foel Community Council	The Applicant notes the request from the ExA for a SoCG with Llanddulas and Rhyd Y Foel Community Council. However, the responses from Llanddulas and Rhyd Y Foel Community Council have been limited and a SoCG is not considered necessary.
Natural Resources Wales (NRW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ SoCG covering SLVIA and LVIA matters (SoCG 05); ▲ SoCG covering offshore topics (excluding Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) (SoCG 06); and ▲ SoCG covering onshore topics (excluding Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) (SoCG 07).
Cadw	▲ SoCG covering onshore and offshore archaeology and cultural heritage (SoCG 08).
National Trust	▲ SoCG covering the matters raised in the Relevant Representation (RR-029)– Archaeology and cultural heritage, SLVIA, tourism and recreation (SoCG 09).
Isle of Man Government	SoCG covering the matters raised in their Relevant Representation (RR-027) – Commercial fisheries, offshore ornithology and marine mammals (SoCG 10).

INTERESTED PARTY	APPROACH TO COMMONALITY
National Air Traffic Services Ltd (NATS)	The Applicant notes the request from the ExA for a SoCG with NATS. However, discussions with NATS have focused on aviation safeguarding and progression of a commercial agreement to secure radar blanking mitigation. The Applicant understands that NATS is content to continue engaging on this matter via commercial means and does not consider a SoCG necessary.
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	▲ SoCG covering matters related to shipping and navigation (SoCG 11).
Trinity House	▲ SoCG covering matters related to shipping and navigation (SoCG 12).
UK Chamber of Shipping (CoS)	▲ SoCG covering matters related to shipping and navigation (SoCG 13).
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	▲ SoCG covering offshore ornithology (SoCG 14).
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	▲ SoCG covering marine mammals (SoCG 15). The Applicant received correspondence from JNCC on 13 October 2022 indicating that JNCC was content to provide advice on marine mammals only.

INTERESTED PARTY	APPROACH TO COMMONALITY
Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (GAPS)	The Applicant notes the request for a SoCG with GAPS. However, the Applicant has engaged via correspondence with GAPS and received confirmation on 8 September 2022 indicating GAPS is content to provide advice via the relevant LPA in their advisory capacity, and therefore does not require a separate SoCG.
North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT)	SoCG covering onshore and offshore ecological matters (SoCG 16).
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid)	The Applicant notes the ExA request for a SoCG with National Grid. The Applicant is continuing discussions with National Grid and will update the ExA via the Status of Landowner Negotiations Table (Document 2.26 of the Applicant's Deadline 2 submission) and therefore does not consider a SoCG necessary.
SP Energy Networks (SPEN) on behalf of SP Manweb (SPM)	The Applicant notes the ExA request for a SoCG with SPEN (on behalf of SPM). The Applicant is continuing discussions with SPEN and will update the ExA via the Status of Landowner Negotiations Table (Document 2.26 of the Applicant's Deadline 2 submission) and therefore does not consider a SoCG necessary.
Diamond Transmission Corporation	The Applicant notes the ExA request for a SoCG with Diamond Transmission Corporation. The Applicant understands that Diamond Transmission Corporation is content to continue commercial discussions and therefore does not consider a SoCG necessary.

INTERESTED PARTY	APPROACH TO COMMONALITY
EirGrid	The Applicant notes the ExA request for a SoCG with EirGrid. The Applicant understands that EirGrid is content to continue commercial discussions outside of the DCO process and therefore does not consider a SoCG necessary.
Rhyl Flats Wind Farm Limited (Rhyl Flats)	The Applicant notes the ExA request for a SoCG with Rhyl Flats. The Applicant is continuing discussions with Rhyl Flats and will update the ExA in response to Rhyl Flats' written representations (REP1-088) (Document 2.2 of the Applicant's Deadline 2 submission), and therefore does not consider a SoCG necessary.
North Hoyle Wind Farm Limited (North Hoyle)	The Applicant notes the ExA request for a SoCG with North Hoyle. The Applicant understands that North Hoyle is content to continue commercial discussions. The Applicant will update the ExA in response to North Hoyle's written representations (REP1-085) (Document 2.2 of the Applicant's Deadline 2 submission) and therefore does not consider a SoCG necessary.
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail)	The Applicant notes the ExA request for a SoCG with Network Rail. The Applicant is continuing discussions with Network Rail and will update the ExA via the Status of Landowner Negotiations Table (Document 2.26 of the Applicant's Deadline 2 submission) and therefore does not consider a SoCG necessary.
Dwr Cymru Cyfyngedig (DC) / Welsh Water	The Applicant notes the ExA request for a SoCG with Welsh Water. The Applicant is continuing discussions with Welsh Water and will update the ExA via the Status of Landowner Negotiations Table (Document 2.26 of the Applicant's Deadline 2 submission) and therefore does not consider a SoCG necessary.

INTERESTED PARTY	APPROACH TO COMMONALITY
Parties not requested by the ExA in Annex H of the Rule 6 Letter	
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	The Applicant notes that the ExA has not requested a SoCG with the CAA and has therefore not progressed a SoCG.
Ministry of Defence (MoD)	The Applicant notes that the ExA has not requested a SoCG with MoD. The Applicant has engaged with the MoD during the pre-application process (see the Evidence Plan Report and its supporting appendices (APP-301, APP-302 and APP-303, respectively)) and notes that the MoD does not consider the project will have significant effects on its operations and has therefore not deemed it necessary to progress a SoCG.
Natural England	The Applicant notes that Natural England has expressed its desire not to register an interest in the Application, and therefore a SoCG with Natural England has not been deemed necessary. Natural England has been involved in the Evidence Plan process in relation to marine mammals and offshore ornithology (see the Evidence Plan Report and its supporting appendices (APP-301, APP-302 and APP-303, respectively)).
Gwynt y Môr Offshore Transmission Owner (Gwynt y Môr OFTO)	The Applicant notes that the ExA has not requested a SoCG with Gwynt y Môr OFTO, with whom a cable crossing and cable proximity agreement is required. The Applicant understands that Gwynt y Môr OFTO is content to continue commercial discussions and therefore does not consider a SoCG necessary.

3 Status of Commonality

- 7 Table 2 lists the individual SoCGs being developed between the Applicant and IPs with a summary of the current status of the document as of Deadline 3.

Table 2: List of documents and their status at Deadline 3.

DOCUMENT	STATUS AT DEADLINE 3
SoCG 01: NW LPAs	<p>Awaiting inputs from NW LPAs.</p> <p>Email correspondence between the NW LPAs and the Applicant on 18 and 28 October.</p> <p>The SoCG was further discussed at a meeting between Deadlines 2 and 3 on 17 November 2022. The NW LPAs had not yet had a chance to provide a joint response and it was agreed that the Applicant would provide draft position statements on behalf of the NW LPAs for consideration. An updated version with this addition was submitted to the NW LPAs on DATE for review.</p>
SoCG 02: Denbighshire County Council (DCC)	<p>Awaiting input from DCC.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that DCC is content to progress with a SoCG during the Examination regarding issues not already covered by SoCG 1.</p> <p>The Applicant met with DCC on 22 November 2022. DCC had not yet had a chance to provide position statements and it was agreed that the Applicant would provide draft position statements on behalf of DCC for consideration. An updated version with this addition was submitted to DCC on 23 November 2022.</p>

DOCUMENT	STATUS AT DEADLINE 3
SoCG 03: Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC)	<p>The Applicant met with CCBC to discuss the SoCG on 17 November 2022 and notes that the SoCG is currently being reviewed by CCBC following on from discussions at this meeting.</p> <p>The Applicant understands that CCBC is content to progress a SoCG during the Examination regarding issues not already covered by SoCG 1.</p>
SoCG 04: Isle of Anglesey County Council (IoACC)	SoCG submitted as Document 3.18 of the Applicant's Deadline 3 submission. The points within the SoCG are ongoing points of discussion and the Applicant hopes to submit a progressed SoCG with IoACC at a subsequent deadline once discussions have progressed further.
SoCG 05: NRW - SLVIA	SoCG submitted as Document 3.19 of the Applicant's Deadline 3 submission. Discussions on some points are ongoing between the Applicant and NRW and the Applicant hopes to submit an updated SoCG at a subsequent deadline once discussions have progressed further.
SoCG 06: NRW - Offshore	SoCG submitted as Document 3.20 of the Applicant's Deadline 3 submission. Discussions on some points are ongoing between the Applicant and NRW and the Applicant hopes to submit an updated SoCG at a subsequent deadline once discussions have progressed further.
SoCG 07: NRW - Onshore	SoCG submitted as Document 3.21 of the Applicant's Deadline 3 submission. Discussions on some points are ongoing between the Applicant and NRW and

DOCUMENT	STATUS AT DEADLINE 3
	the Applicant hopes to submit an updated SoCG at a subsequent deadline once discussions have progressed further.
SoCG 08: Cadw	Awaiting inputs from Cadw following email correspondence on 18 October, 07 November 2022 and 23 November 2022.
SoCG 09: National Trust	SoCG submitted as Document 3.22 of the Applicant's Deadline 3 submission. Discussions on some points regarding SLVIA are ongoing between the Applicant and National Trust and the Applicant hopes to submit an updated SoCG at a subsequent deadline once discussions have progressed further.
SoCG 10: Isle of Man (IoM)	Awaiting inputs from IoM Government. IoM feedback discussed at a meeting on 03 November 2022, with a revised draft issued to IoM on 07 November 2022.
SoCG 11: MCA	SoCG submitted at Deadline 2 as REP2-050 and all matters associated with the DCO are agreed. A number of issues are agreed in principle subject to MCA securing confirmation of their inclusion within the Marine Licence. There has been no update between Deadline 2 and Deadline 3, and so the Applicant has not submitted a revised SoCG at this deadline.
SoCG 12: Trinity House	SoCG submitted as Document 3.23 of the Applicant's Deadline 3 submission. Discussions on some points are ongoing between the Applicant and Trinity

DOCUMENT	STATUS AT DEADLINE 3
	House and the Applicant hopes to submit an updated SoCG at a subsequent deadline once discussions have progressed further.
SoCG 13: CoS	<p>Awaiting inputs from CoS.</p> <p>The Applicant met with the CoS on 18 November 2022. A revised draft was issued to CoS on 21 November 2022. The Applicant and CoS hope to have this SoCG ready for submission at Deadline 3a.</p>
SoCG 14: RSPB	<p>Awaiting inputs from RSPB.</p> <p>The RSPB contacted the Applicant on 15 November 2022 noting that key members of staff are not currently available to progress SoCG discussions. It agreed to get in touch once it knows their availability to help. The Applicant will be sure to progress discussions as promptly as possible once the RSPB is available.</p>
SoCG 15: JNCC	SoCG submitted as Document 3.23 of the Applicant's Deadline 3 submission. All matters are agreed.
SoCG 16: NWWT	<p>Awaiting inputs from NWWT.</p> <p>Discussed with NWWT at a meeting on 04 November 2022.</p> <p>The Applicant has since received a draft SoCG from NWWT on 23 November 2022 for discussion and is working to discuss the SoCG to be submissible at a subsequent deadline.</p>

4 Summary of Commonality

- 8 This section provides a summary of the topics covered in each of the SoCGs.
- 9 As the examination progresses, the Applicant will populate this table to show where there is a commonality in the topics or matters being discussed with the stakeholders.
- 10 Table 4 presents a summary of the topics covered in each of the stakeholder SoCGs, using the following colour coding in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of commonality key.

	Topic not relevant to the stakeholder or deferred.
	Awaiting inputs from the IP.
	Topic agreed.
	Ongoing point of discussion.
	Topic not agreed- no material impact.
	Topic not agreed – material impact.

Table 4: Summary of Commonality with each stakeholder in relation to each topic covered at Deadline 3.

SO CG	MARINE GEOLOGY, OCEANOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL PROCESSES	MARINE WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY	OFFSHORE ORNITHOLOGY	BENTHIC SUBTIDAL AND INTERTIDAL ECOLOGY	FISH AND SHELLFISH ECOLOGY	MARINE MAMMALS	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION	SEASCAPE, LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	OFFSHORE ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	OTHER MARINE USERS AND ACTIVITIES	MILITARY AND CIVIL AVIATION	ONSHORE LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	SOCIOECONOMICS	TOURISM AND RECREATION	ONSHORE BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE CONSERVATION	GROUND CONDITIONS AND LAND USE	HYDROLOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY AND FLOOD RISK	ONSHORE ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT	AIRBORNE NOISE AND VIBRATION	AIR QUALITY	PUBLIC HEALTH	
SoCG 01: NW LPAs																								
SoCG 02: DCC																								
SoCG 03: CCBC																								
SoCG 04: IoACC																								
SoCG 05: NRW - SLVIA/LVIA																								

SO CG	MARINE GEOLOGY, OCEANOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL PROCESSES	MARINE WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY	OFFSHORE ORNITHOLOGY	BENTHIC SUBTIDAL AND INTERTIDAL ECOLOGY	FISH AND SHELLFISH ECOLOGY	MARINE MAMMALS	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION	SEASCAPE, LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	OFFSHORE ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	OTHER MARINE USERS AND ACTIVITIES	MILITARY AND CIVIL AVIATION	ONSHORE LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	SOCIOECONOMICS	TOURISM AND RECREATION	ONSHORE BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE CONSERVATION	GROUND CONDITIONS AND LAND USE	HYDROLOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY AND FLOOD RISK	ONSHORE ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT	AIRBORNE NOISE AND VIBRATION	AIR QUALITY	PUBLIC HEALTH
SoCG 06: NRW - Offshore	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
SoCG 07: NRW - Onshore	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Grey	Green	Grey
SoCG 08: Cadw	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	White	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	White	Grey	Grey	Grey
SoCG 09: National Trust	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Green	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
SoCG 10: Isle of Man	Grey	Grey	White	Grey	Grey	White	White	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
SoCG 11: MCA	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Green	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey

SoCG	MARINE GEOLOGY, OCEANOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL PROCESSES	MARINE WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY	OFFSHORE ORNITHOLOGY	BENTHIC SUBTIDAL AND INTERTIDAL ECOLOGY	FISH AND SHELLFISH ECOLOGY	MARINE MAMMALS	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION	SEASCAPE, LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	OFFSHORE ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	OTHER MARINE USERS AND ACTIVITIES	MILITARY AND CIVIL AVIATION	ONSHORE LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	SOCIOECONOMICS	TOURISM AND RECREATION	ONSHORE BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE CONSERVATION	GROUND CONDITIONS AND LAND USE	HYDROLOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY AND FLOOD RISK	ONSHORE ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT	AIRBORNE NOISE AND VIBRATION	AIR QUALITY	PUBLIC HEALTH	
SoCG 12: Trinity House																								
SoCG 13: CoS																								
SoCG 14: RSPB																								
SoCG 15: JNCC																								
SoCG 16: NWWT																								

5 Additional commentary

5.1 Deadline 1

11 The Applicant has not been in a position to provide initial SoCGs to the ExA at Deadline 1. However, initial SoCGs have been issued to all parties (except where noted above in Table 2 and are actively engaging positively with all IPs identified). The ExA should be confident that, whilst the Applicant has not provided initial SoCGs at Deadline 1, that outstanding matters are being discussed with the relevant IPs, and an update will be provided at subsequent deadlines. As noted in Section 8 of the Preliminary Meeting Note (EV-008), the Applicant advised that submissions of SoCGs at Deadline 1 are not generally considered to be helpful unless it has been agreed with the IP. It is also noted that the LPAs present at the Preliminary Meeting were in agreement with this position.

5.2 Deadline 2

12 The Applicant has been progressing SoCGs with parties since Deadline 1. The Applicant has re-contacted all parties to progress SoCGs and hopes to be able to submit progressed SoCGs at Deadline 3.

13 The ExA should be confident that, whilst the Applicant has not provided a complete set of initial SoCGs at Deadline 2, outstanding matters are being discussed with the relevant IPs, and an update will be provided at subsequent deadlines.

5.3 Deadline 3

14 The Applicant is pleased to be progressing with the SoCGs and has submitted seven SoCGs into the Examination at this deadline, in addition to the SoCG with MCA submitted at Deadline 2. The Applicant is making good progress with other SoCGs yet to be submitted and is engaging with IPs to ensure these can be submitted as soon as practical for both parties. The Applicant is also continuing discussion in regard to topics under ongoing discussions and hopes to be able to submit updated SoCGs at subsequent deadlines once positions have been reached.

6 Final positions

- 15 These will be completed and submitted to the ExA at the relevant deadlines that final positions are reached with IPs.
- 16 At Deadline 3, the Applicant is not in a position to report on the final positions of any IPs with SoCGs.



RWE Renewables UK Swindon Limited

Windmill Hill Business Park

Whitehill Way

Swindon

Wiltshire SN5 6PB

T +44 (0)8456 720 090

Registered office:

RWE Renewables UK Swindon Limited

Windmill Hill Business Park

Whitehill Way

Swindon