NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

CONSULTATION REPORT

APPENDIX E.10 TO E.15 PART 2

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NorthFallsOffshore.com

sse Renewables | RWE

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E Appendices (continued)

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

APPENDIX E

E.10

Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation website pages

NORTH FALLS CONSULTATION

Now open until Friday 9 December 2022

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, an extension project to the existing 504 MW Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm, is being developed in the southern North Sea more than 20km off the UK coast. Its site is in two parts which together cover a total area of 150km^2. North Falls is being developed by North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited, a 50/50 joint venture company owned by SSE Renewables and RWE.

This is the second public consultation about the project and it is open from **Monday 17 October until Friday 9 December 2022**.

The initial October 2021 consultation to introduce North Falls and invite comments on how we intended to progress the project was online only. However, this is a hybrid consultation featuring both online and face-to-face opportunities to find out how the project proposals have progressed over the past 12 months and provide your feedback.

There will be another consultation and further opportunities to engage with us in 2023 prior to submission of our application however through this consultation we hope to give stakeholders the opportunity to provide their opinions and thoughts on the plans as they stand.

Welcome video

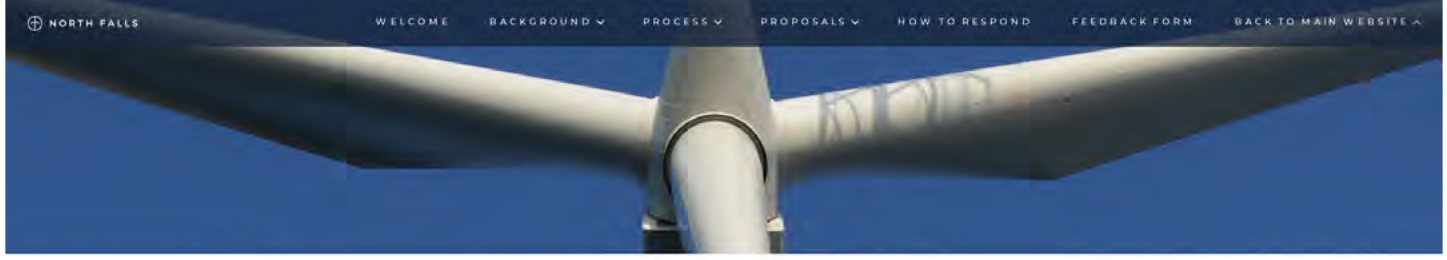
You can give your feedback in a number of ways. There are specific questions placed within the relevant sections throughout this consultation portal, and replicated in the feedback form. You can also use the consultation map to identify a location you would like to comment on and place your comment there. We will have five face-to-face consultation events and two webinars (details below).

You can also contact us directly via the website, freephone, email or post.

- Telephone: 0800 254 5340
- Email: contact@northfallsoffshore.com
- Post: FREEPOST North Falls

Programme of consultation events

Date	*Time*	*Location*
Thursday 3 November 2022	**4pm to 8pm**	**McGrigor Hall, 85 Fourth Ave, Frinton-on-Sea, CO13 9EB**
Friday 4 November 2022	**4pm to 8pm**	**Great Bromley Village Hall, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley, Colchester, CO7 7JA**



Offshoe Wind in the UK

In the past 10 years the capacity of the UK's offshore wind farms has increased from only one gigawatt (GW) in 2010 to almost 10.5GW in early-2022. The costs per megawatt hour of offshore wind have been driven down by almost two-thirds, the sector directly employs more than 26,000 people, and it supplies on average around 15% of the nation's electricity. In short, the offshore wind sector has become one of Britain's most laudable industrial success stories.

However, it is still a sector in its relative youth, with plenty of potential for further growth in the UK and for export internationally. In its Energy Security Strategy, the Government announced its ambition for the UK to install 50GW by 2030. This ambition goes even further than the Sector Deal, agreed in 2019 between the offshore wind sector and the UK Government, which aimed for 30GW of installed capacity by 2030.

The UK Government's new vision is for offshore wind to power every home in the UK by 2030 and the plan has emerged as a central plank of Britain's green recovery after the coronavirus pandemic and given the current energy crisis and situation in Ukraine. The aim is to ensure the nation "builds back better" as it works towards its 2050 climate goals including legislated decarbonisation targets.

While the green agenda needs to clear multiple hurdles to deliver on the promise of billions in investment and much-needed green jobs, projects like North Falls will play an essential role in reaching the targets. We intend to work closely with all our stakeholders, Government, local communities and the supply chain to ensure we make a positive contribution to the nation's net zero ambitions, energy security and economic prosperity.

Feedback Questions

1. Do you have any general comments you would like to make about the UK's offshore wind energy ambitions?

SAVE

Climate rationale for North Falls

Scientists continue to see changes in the Earth's climate in every region and across the whole climate system, including continued rise in sea levels and dramatic climate events. The August 2021 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, said that many of the changes are unprecedented in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years and that the role of human influence on the climate system is undisputed.

However, strong and sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2) and other greenhouse gases would limit climate change. Some benefits - such as for air quality - would come quickly, while it could take 20 to 30 years to see global temperatures stabilize.

Offshore wind farms generate clean, green electricity that powers millions of homes and businesses without burning fossil fuels. They have a vital role to play in the fight against climate change. While reducing greenhouse gases is at the core, the onus is also on developers to ensure new offshore wind farms are built responsibly, sustainably and employing the most efficient technology.

IPCC REPORT

NET ZERO STRATEGY

Feedback Questions

2. Do you believe that more offshore wind will:
Reduce energy costs for the UK?
Yes No

Improve the nation's energy security?
Yes No

3. Do you believe that offshore wind has a key role to play in the UK's energy future?
Yes No

Why/why not:

Please add any further comments here:

SAVE

Cost of offshoe wind

The price of offshore wind has fallen to an all-time low with the most recent contracts for difference auction bids coming in at £37.35 per megawatt hour (MWh). These "contracts for difference" guarantee offshore wind developers a fixed price to sell electricity for 15 years. If the market price falls below the contract price, the government subsidises the difference. If the market is higher, the companies pay money back to the government.

Since wholesale energy prices began to skyrocket last year - in May 2022, electricity prices reached a high of £263.79 - wind farms have been paying back money to the government. This means that if more offshore wind farms were operational now, electricity prices could potentially be much lower.

Energy security

As well as reduced costs, North Falls will also play a role in helping to stabilise the nation's energy prices and improve its energy security.

By generating more electricity from offshore wind, the UK will be less reliant on international energy imports, for example oil and gas, and therefore more self-sufficient. It will also become less susceptible to global price fluctuations in such commodities, which should lead to reduced costs for consumers. The invasion of Ukraine has given a stark reminder of the need for the UK to shore up its energy supplies and as one of the windiest nations in Europe, the UK is well placed to take advantage of offshore wind technology.

Other benefits of the project

As well as helping to protect the environment and contributing to the UK's net zero ambitions, North Falls will bring numerous local benefits by way of jobs, local economy and community involvement. As an extension project, North Falls would aim to emulate the initiatives of its sister project Greater Gabbard and therefore create similar, if not greater, socio-economic benefit.

Feedback Questions

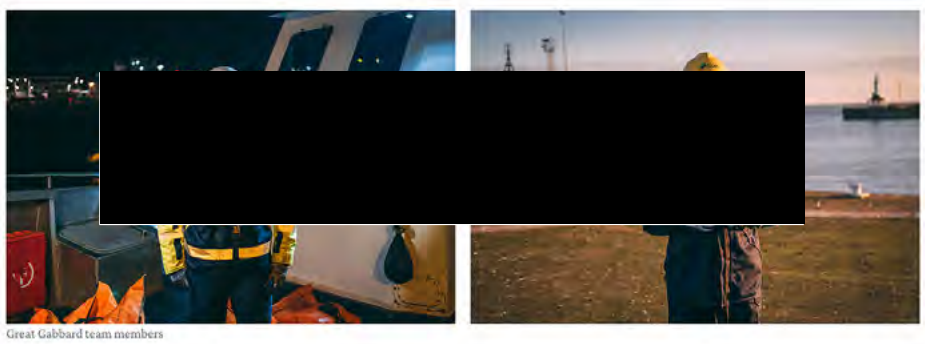
4. Do you have any preferences as to how North Falls could engage with and benefit the local community?

SAVE

Greater Gabbard benefits

Greater Gabbard represented a total investment of around £1.5 billion and a new facility was constructed in Lowestoft, Suffolk for the project's operations & maintenance base.

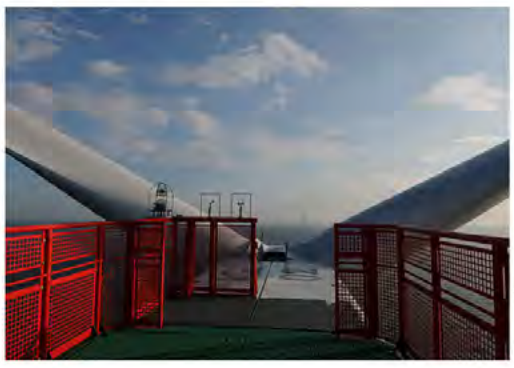
Around 120 long-term, skilled jobs were created to operate and maintain the wind farm, with 95% of those recruited from the local area. These roles were in addition to the hundreds of jobs created during construction. Greater Gabbard has engaged 10 apprentices since the start of operation, offered junior engineer roles and employed ex-fishermen on crew transfer vessels as part of the drive to find locally skilled people to fill roles. The project recently announced a five-year trainee plan to further grow apprentice numbers. Since starting operation, the project has invested more than £250,000 in community funds and local training initiatives.



Great Gabbard team members

Badgound

Together SSE Renewables and RWE have been active in the East Anglia region since the organisations developed the Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm, located 25 kilometres off the coast of Suffolk in the North Sea. The 504 megawatt (MW) project started construction in 2008 and at the time was the world's largest offshore wind farm. It has 140 wind turbines and was commissioned in September 2012. North Falls is an extension project to Greater Gabbard.



VISIT THE CROWN ESTATE WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE EXTENSION PROJECTS

Extensions timeline

In February 2017, The Crown Estate, manager of the seabed, launched a process for wind farm operators to apply for extensions to their existing projects. This opportunity closed in May 2018, with eight project applications received.

A plan level habitats regulations assessment (HRA), was undertaken to assess the possible impact of the proposed wind farm extensions on relevant nature conservation sites of European importance.

Expert independent advisors were utilised and there were consultations with the statutory marine planning authorities, the statutory nature conservation bodies and a number of non-governmental stakeholders.

In August 2019, The Crown Estate announced the conclusion of the HRA confirming that seven out of eight of the extension application projects put forward in 2017, representing a total generating capacity of 2..85GW, would progress to the award of development rights, including what is now called North Falls Offshore Wind Farm.

The Agreement for Lease between North Falls Offshore Wind Farm and The Crown Estate was signed in Autumn 2020 and the project is now in development with the aim of submitting its application in 2023 and achieving a development consent order (DCO) in 2025.

Construction would then take place in the latter part of the decade with a view to the project being operational by 2030, aligned to net zero targets.

Key facts and figures

20km off UK coast
Located 20 kilometres off the UK coast in the southern North Sea, covering area of 150km² across two sites

Up to 72 turbines
Potentially it will comprise up to 72 turbines, depending on the size of turbine selected

North Essex
Assuming a radial connection, the onshore grid location is likely to be on the Tendring Peninsula in North Essex

22km
Approximately 22km underground onshore cables to transport the power from landfall to the new substation

£1.5bn
Likely investment in UK electricity infrastructure of more than £1.5 billion

400,000
Potential to supply more than 400,000 UK homes with their annual electricity needs using clean renewable power

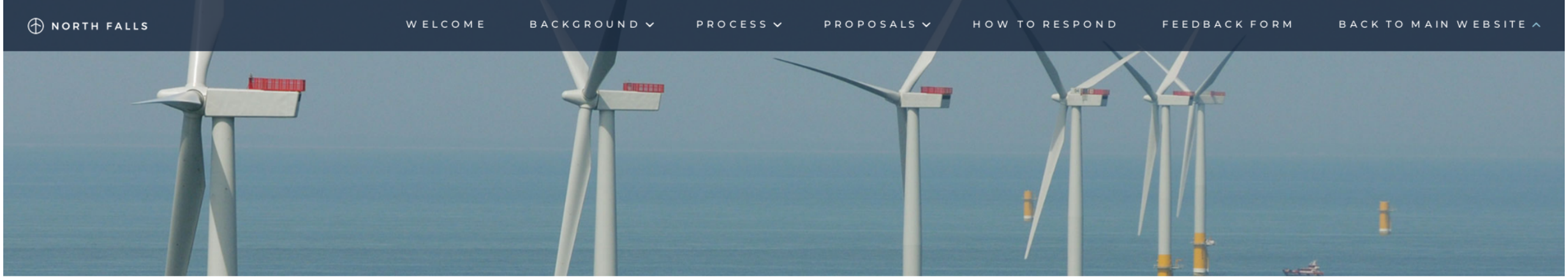
50GW by 2030
Contributing to the UK government's ambitions of 50GW of offshore wind by 2030 (current figure is around 10.5GW)

2023
The development consent order application and supporting environmental assessment and other documents is currently scheduled for submission in 2023

SSE/RWE
North Falls is being developed by a joint venture company owned equally by SSE Renewables and RWE

High level programme

Date	*Action*
2020 to 2023	Onshore and offshore surveys and studies, project planning and design, stakeholder consultation and community engagement undertaken, along with an Environmental Assessment and Project Level Habitats Regulations Assessment.
Spring 2023	Environmental Impact Assessment completed. Project Level Habitats Regulations Assessment completed.
Summer 2023	Development Consent Order and supporting Environmental Information submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.
2024/25	Planning Inspectorate makes recommendation to the Secretary of State. Secretary of State announces consent decision.
2025	Project design finalised, major component and construction contracts awarded and wind farm constructed.
2030	Wind farm expected to be operational by the end of the decade.



Ways to respond

We welcome your feedback and have provided a number of ways for you to respond to this introductory consultation.

We have asked some direct questions about specific elements of the proposals throughout the online materials. As you go through the information, you can respond to the relevant section questions.

If you would prefer to answer all the questions at the same time, you can do so via the feedback form here.

You can also pinpoint specific locations you have questions or comments on using this consultation map.

If you would prefer to send us a hardcopy response you can download the PDF Questionnaire and send it to: FREEPOST North Falls

DOWNLOAD QUESTIONNAIRE

You can also respond to us via the online contact form on our website: www.northfallsoffshore.com.

You can also send an email to: contact@northfallsoffshore.com, or by ringing us on 0800 254 5340

We thank you for taking the time to participate in this consultation.

Your Feedback

You can leave us feedback by using our consultation map.

CONSULTATION MAP

How to respond

We welcome your feedback and have provided a number of ways for you to respond to this consultation. The consultation will run until Friday 9 December 2022.

DOWNLOADABLE PDF OF ALL QUESTIONS

LINK TO CONSULTATION MAP

Face to face events

You can attend our five face-to-face events that will be held at locations near the project search area.

Programme of consultation events

Date	*Time*	*Location*
Thursday 3 November 2022	4pm to 8pm	McGrigor Hall, 85 Fourth Ave, Frinton-on-Sea, CO13 9EB
Friday 4 November 2022	4pm to 8pm	Great Bromley Village Hall, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley, Colchester, CO7 7JA
Saturday 5 November 2022	11am to 3pm	Tendring Village Hall, Tendring, Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 0BG
Friday 11 November 2022	4pm to 8pm	Thorpe Le Soken Women's Institute Hall, High Street, Thorpe Le Soken, CO16 0EF
Saturday 12 November 2022	11am to 3pm	Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, Essex, CO7 7RS
Tuesday 15 November 2022	6pm to 7pm	Webinar registration*
Wednesday 23 November 2022	6pm to 7pm	Webinar registration*

* To register to attend a webinar please click the link above for the date you'd like to attend. Follow the instructions through Zoom to sign-up

Webinars

We will be hosting two webinars at 6pm on Tuesday November 15 and 6pm on Wednesday November 23. To register to attend an online webinar, please use the links above.

Online consultation

You can also to respond to the online consultation by using our:

Feedback form

We have asked some direct questions about specific elements of the proposals throughout the online materials. As you go through the information, you can respond to the relevant section questions.

If you would prefer to answer all the questions at the same time, you can do so via the electronic form here.

Or to send us a hardcopy response you can download the PDF feedback form and send it to: Freepost address: North Falls FREEPOST. This address can be used for all postal responses.

Consultation map

You can also pinpoint specific locations you have questions or comments on using this consultation map

Website

You can also send your comments or feedback to us via the online contact form on our website: www.northfallsoffshore.com

Email and telephone

We also welcome emails to: contact@northfallsoffshore.com, or you can ring us on 0800 254 5340

We thank you for taking the time to participate in this consultation.

To stay in touch

Sign up to email updates or let us know if you would prefer a printed version of information to be sent to your home.

Other contact details

If you are a landowner with related quieries please contact the project's land agent Dalcour Maclaren:

Address: 20 Hollingworth Court,Turkey Mill, Ashford Road
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5PP

E: northfalls@dalcourmaclaren.com

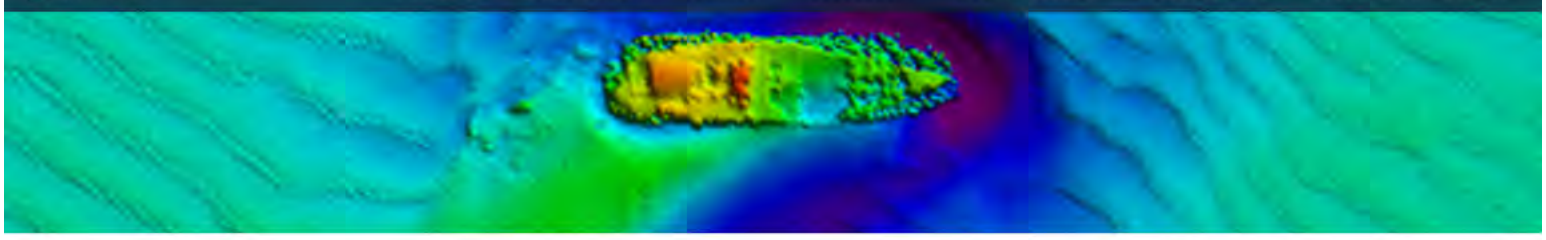
T: 01622 623025

If you are from the fisheries industry please contact our fisheries consultants Brown & May Marine Ltd:

Address: Progress Way, Mid Suffolk Business Park Eye,
Suffolk, IP23 7HU

E: northfalls@brownmay.com

T: 01379 772871



Developing North Falls

Nationally significant infrastructure project

As a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP), North Falls must be consented under the Planning Act 2008 development consent process, which was introduced to streamline the decision-making for such projects.

Applicants, such as North Falls, must go through this process to gain permission to build and operate their NSIP. The permission is called a development consent order (DCO). The government agency responsible for examining and making recommendations on applications for NSIPs is the Planning Inspectorate.

The final decision on the application will be made by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

The National Infrastructure Planning process

The Planning Act 2008 introduced a process to streamline the decision-making for major infrastructure projects like North Falls, to make it fairer and faster for communities and applicants alike. See diagram above. You can also visit the PINS website which provides more information on the planning process.

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

DOWNLOAD APPLICATION PROCESS DIAGRAM

Feedback Questions

7. Do you have any questions about the development consent application process?

SAVE

Pre-application phase

North Falls is now in the pre-application phase, which runs until its development consent order (DCO) application is finalised and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. This is the key period for local communities to input into the shaping of the project proposals. For North Falls this phase will run until application submission in 2023.

Environmental impact assessment (EIA)

The core of our current work during this pre-application phase is carrying out an environmental impact assessment (EIA). The EIA is a systematic and iterative approach to assessing the environmental, social and economic effects arising from our proposals. It will set out mitigation measures to reduce adverse impacts plus the results of further assessments with these mitigation measures applied.

The EIA provides a consistent approach to both the onshore and offshore development proposals.

Throughout this phase there is ongoing technical design and engineering work to ensure the project is deliverable.

Scoping Report

North Falls prepared a Scoping Report and requested a scoping opinion from the Secretary of State during 2021, as the first stage of the EIA process. The North Falls Scoping Report outlined the receptors that will be considered during the EIA and the proposed data gathering and methodology employed to characterise the existing environment; assess potential impacts; and develop mitigation measures. This document provides high level information which will be expanded on during consultation with technical stakeholders throughout the EIA process.

A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Secretary of State in August 2021 and can be found on the North Falls website as well as on the project page of the Planning Inspectorate's website, along with other documentation related to the project, at: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/north-falls-offshore-wind-farm/?ipcsection=docs

The feedback received on this report from the relevant local planning authorities and statutory consultees resulted in a scoping opinion which is available to read here.

SCOPING REPORT

SCOPING OPINION

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

The Scoping Report is now being followed by a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which is a technical document covering the full range of every element that has been considered to date, its potential impacts and proposed mitigations.

Since our previous consultation we have focussed on the content of this report and we are now seeking feedback on this work from local communities and relevant stakeholders, including local planning authorities and statutory nature conservation bodies, prior to completing the first draft this report.

The PEIR will form the basis of next year's statutory consultation on our proposals and will provide a status on the project's EIA process and on the progress of the preparation of the development consent application.

Feedback given on the PEIR will be used to produce the final document required for the application, the Environmental Statement.

Feedback Questions

8. Do you have any comments about the purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report?

SAVE

Environmental Statement (ES)

The Environmental Statement (ES) will be the final output of the EIA undertaken by the North Falls project team, and it will be an evolution of the PEIR. It will incorporate the results of the surveys and assessments, technical details as well as the outcomes of responses from our consultations.

The ES will also describe any changes made to the project proposals since PEIR and the mitigation measures that will be implemented and will form a key part of the submitted DCO application. This document will accompany the final application when it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Consultation

Consultation is a key element of the pre-application development process and is crucial to the progress of the EIA. The project team will ensure that stakeholders are engaged in the development and have the opportunity to comment on the proposals at key decision-making points.

The preparation and refinement of the North Falls proposals continues to be an iterative process. Feedback is received, considered and relevant changes made in a step-by-step approach. Anyone with comments or suggestions about the project can provide input throughout the development phase. However, pre-application consultation periods, such as this current consultation, will provide the best opportunity for stakeholders to review the plans, provide comments, submit feedback and, importantly, have an influence on parts of the process or shape of the project.

At these defined consultation periods North Falls will ask for input related to specific elements of its proposals where stakeholders - particularly those with key local knowledge - will be able to offer valuable insights. These insights will be carefully considered by the project team and incorporated as feasible.

Offshore Transmission Network Review

A grid connection is a key requirement for each offshore wind farm as it needs to be able to deliver the power it generates to the national transmission network.

In 2020, the Committee on Climate Change asked the government to: *Develop a strategy to coordinate interconnectors and offshore networks for wind farms and their connections to the onshore network and bring forward any legislation necessary to enable coordination*

The review, called the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR), aims to bring together the key stakeholders involved in the timing, siting, design and delivery of offshore wind to consider the existing regime and how this influences the design and delivery of transmission infrastructure. Its overall aim is to ensure that the transmission connections for offshore wind generation are delivered in the most appropriate way, considering the increased ambition for offshore wind to achieve net zero. This will be done with a view to finding the appropriate balance between environmental, social and economic costs.

It is looking at this complex issue in three timeframes.

1. Finding tactical near-term actions
2. Looking for early opportunities for project coordination in the short- to medium-term, and
3. Carrying out a longer-term strategic review to develop a new regime that can ensure a more coordinated approach for the future.

OFFSHORE TRANSMISSION NETWORK REVIEW

Project coordination

An early to short-term part of the OTNR has been the encouragement of well-advanced projects to opt-in to become what is called Pathfinders. The Pathfinder concept was created for these advanced projects to provide important learnings for future projects, inform the design of the new regulatory framework and maximise benefits for consumers, local communities, and the environment.

These projects will progress under the existing regime but with greater collaboration, and while addressing the existing policy and regulatory barriers to increased network coordination.

While not nominated as Pathfinders at this stage, North Falls along with four other projects in East Anglia: Five Estuaries, National Grid Electricity Transmission's Sea Link, and National Grid Ventures' EuroLink and Nautilus have committed to exploring coordinated network designs with a view to identifying a Pathfinder project. In the meantime, North Falls is continuing to progress the development of its offshore wind farm and grid connection aligned to the current regulatory regime. This approach aims to ensure that North Falls will be operational by 2030, contributing to the 50GW government target.

Joint statement on commitment to exploring coordinated network designs in East Anglia (July 2022):

"Onshore and offshore energy infrastructure are critical to delivering on the ambition for the UK to be Net Zero by 2050. As responsible developers, owners and operators of renewable generation and transmission infrastructure, we strongly support the government's ambition to make the UK the world leader in offshore wind. Delivering government ambitions of 50GW of offshore wind by 2030 will create green skilled jobs, strengthen UK security of supply, provide clean renewable power to fight climate change and help to reduce energy bills for British consumers.

National Grid Electricity Transmission (Sea Link), National Grid Ventures (Nautilus and EuroLink), North Falls (offshore wind farm) and Five Estuaries (offshore wind farm) are working together and exploring the potential for offshore coordination as part of the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) "Early Opportunities" workstream, with a view to identifying a future Pathfinder Project.

Offshore coordination of these projects could reduce, but not avoid, the need for coastal onshore infrastructure in east Suffolk and southern East Anglia and significant reinforcement of onshore infrastructure, such as the East Anglia Green project, is key to enabling a clean low carbon future irrespective of where energy comes ashore.

Whilst we welcome the progress the OTNR has made and recent publications from BEIS and the energy regulator, Ofgem, on enabling regulatory and policy changes, currently, the detailed commercial, regulatory and legislative frameworks needed to realise offshore coordination are not yet fully in place. We are working with the Government and Ofgem as they continue to progress the changes needed to enable greater coordination between these projects. So as not to impact the Government's 2030 offshore wind ambition, we continue to progress, in parallel, consent for grid infrastructure projects based on the existing regime."

North Falls,
Five Estuaries,
National Grid

VIEW QUOTE HERE

Strategic review

In the medium to longer-term, the Government together with National Grid ESO is looking to develop a single, integrated network design that supports the large-scale delivery of offshore wind energy across Great Britain. Published in July 2022, the Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND) aims to facilitate the connection of 23GW wind, helping to deliver the Government's ambition for 50GW offshore wind by 2030.

This is a first step towards more centralised, strategic network planning that is critical for delivering affordable, clean and secure power, as we journey towards our net zero future. It should be noted that East Anglia was not included in this HND due to the fact the various offshore wind farm projects are already advanced.

Feedback Questions

5. Do you have any comments or questions about North Falls' involvement with the Offshore Transmission Network Review?

SAVE

North Falls grid connection

As with all offshore wind farms, North Falls will require a grid connection point to export the power it generates to the national grid - the UK's high voltage electricity system. In 2019, North Falls specified what it needed in terms of a grid connection to the National Grid. The National Grid owns the national grid, and it is their responsibility to connect new sources of electricity to the grid, installing additional infrastructure at existing substation sites or constructing new substations as required.

A grid connection in Tendring, Essex has been offered to North Falls by the National Grid. Our engineering design, survey and planning work to date has been undertaken in relation to this grid connection and this consultation will seek your views on the outputs of that work.

In parallel, North Falls has committed to working with other projects in East Anglia to determine if there are opportunities to coordinate network designs (see joint statement). For the purposes of this consultation, we are eager to hear views on our current proposals based on the existing connection option in Tendring, Essex. It is possible that this will be the route the project takes forward in our application, so we encourage you to provide specific comments on the proposals in this consultation, rather than referring only to a preference for an alternative solution, which may not be feasible.

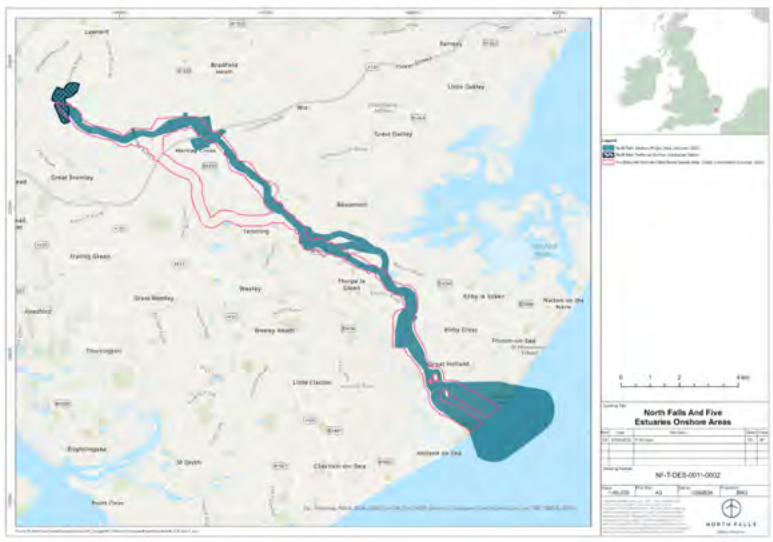
Feedback Questions

6. Do you have any comments about the location of the proposed North Falls grid connection?

SAVE

Coordination with Five Estuaries

The agreement to explore grid-related opportunities was formalised in a statement published in July 2022 as part of the Offshore Transmission Network Review. North Falls and the proposed neighbouring offshore wind farm, Five Estuaries, are already working together on key onshore elements such as the route of the corridors for the underground cable, surveys and by sharing consultation feedback.



DOWNLOAD JOINT CABLE CORRIDORS MAP

Who will we consult?

Throughout development, North Falls continues to consult with stakeholders to gather feedback on the way the project is being assessed and on the project itself as it takes shape. The groups of stakeholders, or consultees, are defined as follows:

- **Those directly affected.** This includes statutory bodies, the relevant local authorities, landowners and others with an interest in the land or who may be affected by the construction and operation of a consented scheme.
- **The local community.** Defined as those people living or working within a defined distance of the onshore infrastructure or those who may have an interest in the area, for example, local archaeology groups and mariners and the fishing community or other non-statutory groups. These are sometimes referred to as *Section 47 consultees*.
- **The general public.** These are those people beyond the local community who will primarily be reached through national newspaper advertisements and on the project website. These are sometimes referred to as *Section 48 consultees*.

We will carry out targeted activities for each group of consultees and a statement of community consultation (SoCC) will be published in 2023, which will detail our consultation approach with the local community.

Other nearby infrastructure projects

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm is a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) and as such, is required to consider its cumulative impact and in-combination effects in relation to other relevant infrastructure projects that are planned in the same geographic region, including the proposed neighbouring Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm.

There are a number of other NSIP and infrastructure developments proposed locally and the North Falls project team is already engaging and coordinating with project promoters. This engagement will continue as North Falls progresses. Part of this engagement will include monitoring and exploring opportunities for cooperation with the developers of the projects as far as is practicable, as part of the development process.

Feedback Questions

9. Do you have any comments or suggestions about how North Falls is coordinating with other major infrastructure projects in the region?

SAVE

North Falls landfall

Progress on the landfall search area

The offshore export cables are brought to shore at a location known as 'landfall'.

The previous consultation highlighted a landfall search area - the section of coastline between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea - which was defined through a process of engineering and environmental review and assessment. The process took into account a range of constraints including designated sites, nature reserves, land use, historic features and technical feasibility.

The landfall selection process has continued following the confirmation of the grid connection location and further data collection and consultation. This work has resulted in a landfall compound zone (see map), within which the temporary construction compound would be located. The precise landfall location will be identified, from within this zone, and finalised in advance of the development consent application submission.

DOWNLOAD

Construction works at landfall

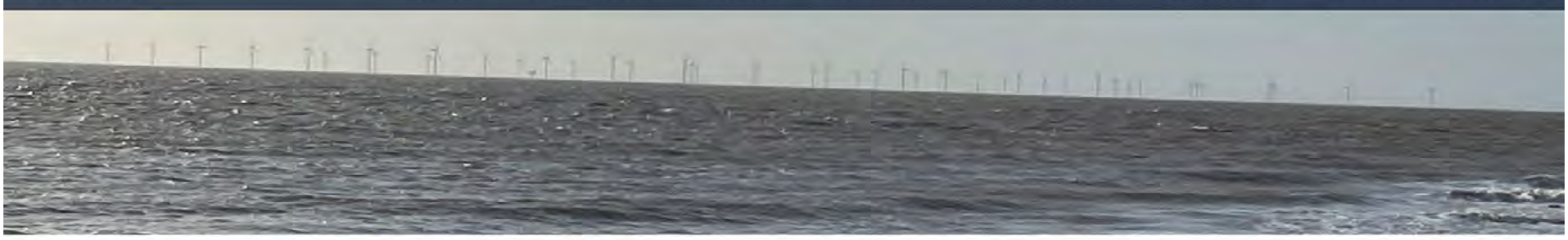
Construction works at the point of landfall will comprise the installation of underground cable ducts using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) or another trenchless technique. This will be done from the landward side, with the drill exiting beyond the beach in the sub-tidal zone. This method will bury the cable ducts deep under Holland Haven Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and so avoid crossing the site at the surface. Once the ducts are installed underground, the offshore cables will be pulled through them, before being connected to the onshore cables at transition joint bays which will also be buried once construciton is complete.

Although there would be temporary disruption during the project construction, there will be no permanent above-ground building at landfall. The objective is to keep any disruption to a minimum through considerate construction activities including the use of the HDD installation methodology mentioned above.

Feedback Questions

12. Looking at the landfall compound zone, is there anything you feel would be relevant for our project to know about this particular area to help us select our temporary construction compound location?

SAVE



North Falls offshore

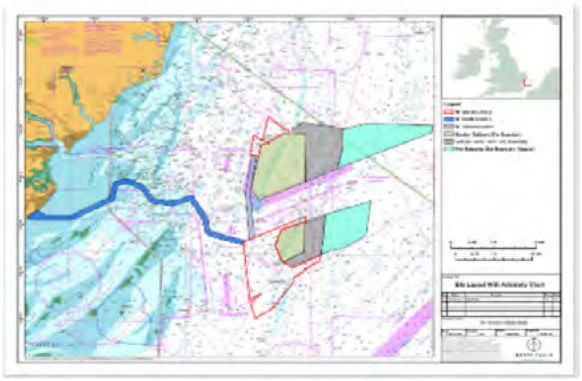
Offshore array

Like our sister project Greater Gabbard, the North Falls offshore array area is split into two separate sections, with boundaries to take the existing shipping route into account. The site boundaries have not changed since our previous consultation.

It will be within the two boundaries that turbines, array cables and offshore substation(s) will be installed. The northern section covers approximately 20km^2 and is 22.5km from shore at its closest point. The larger southern section covers approximately 130km^2 and is 38km from shore at its closest point.

There will also be an interconnector running between the northern and southern sections.

FISHERIES NEWSLETTER



DOWNLOAD

Feedback Questions

11. Do you have any comments or suggestions in relation to the offshore location or offshore infrastructure of North Falls? This could be comments on fisheries, components, marine ecology, offshore construction or anything else you feel relevant.

SAVE

Offshore infrastructure

North Falls will use conventional three bladed, horizontal axis turbines made up of a: rotor, comprised of blades, a hub and a nacelle housing the generator and electronics, and a tubular steel tower. The layout of the wind turbines will be defined post consent and will take into account wind resource, ground conditions and the turbines chosen. However, at this stage we can state that the minimum spacing between turbines would be 820m.

Like the turbines, the number and type of foundations will be finalised post-consent and following detailed design.

North Falls will require up to a maximum of two offshore substations depending on the electrical system voltage and final layout. These comprise a platform topside supported by a foundation.

A total of up to 228km of high voltage alternating current (HVAC) cables will link the turbines to the offshore converter station(s). The project design also includes an interconnector cable between the northern and southern array areas.

up to 72
Number of turbines

820m
Minimum distance between turbines

1 or 2
Number of offshore substations

228km
Total length of array cables

55km
Length of export cables

range from 5m to 59m
Water depths within the array sections

Export cable corridor

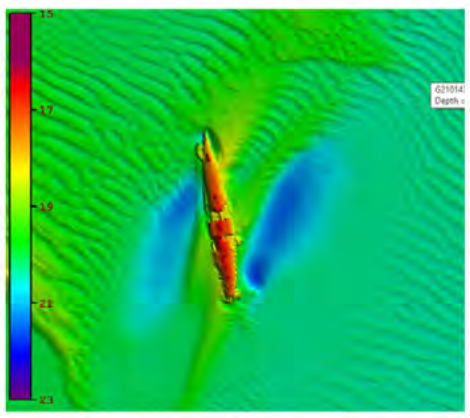
The electricity generated by North Falls will be transmitted to shore by from the offshore substation(s) via export cables which will be located within an offshore export cable corridor. Through our planning work we have identified a proposed corridor to run from the southern array area to a proposed landfall on the Essex coast near Frinton-on-Sea.

The offshore export cable corridor passes to the north, and outside of the Margate and Long Sands Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Kentish Knock East Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), with a small overlap with the Outer Thames Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) as it approaches landfall.

A number of constraints have been considered in the routing of the provisional offshore export cable corridor including: engineering feasibility; nature conservation designations; other offshore wind farms; shipping and navigation; dredging areas; existing infrastructure and wrecks. In additional to general shipping and navigation we have also taken into consideration other specific sea users in particular: fishing activity, aggregate and military use.

Offshore construction

Pre-construction seabed surveys will be undertaken along with work such as boulder removal to prepare the array site and cable route for construction of the wind farm. The construction methodologies used will depend on the final design, seabed condition and type of technology or component selected. These will be decided post-consent, with the full range of options to be included in the development consent order application.



North Falls onshore

Onshore description

Onshore, North Falls will comprise underground cables carrying the power from the landfall to a new onshore substation, which will transform the electricity so it can enter the national grid via another substation to be constructed by National Grid. From here it will be delivered to the end users' homes, businesses and industry.

Video fly-through of the onshore cable route

DOWNLOAD ONSHORE PROJECT AREA

Onshore project area

Since our previous consultation when we did not have a confirmed grid connection location, National Grid has provided North Falls with a location which has enabled us to narrow down our original scoping area to an onshore project area. This area includes the temporary works footprint for the cable landfall, onshore export cables and associated works as well as for the project's onshore substation. The onshore project area lies entirely within Tendring, Essex.

The area was identified through a site selection process which included filtering out broad constraints such as designated habitats and sites of importance for nature conservation, ancient woodlands and historic landscapes while employing design assumptions and undertaking consultation with technical stakeholders.

The subsequent onshore scoping area is approximately 150km² and located within the Tendring District of Essex. It extends from the coast, between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea, approximately 20km inland.

Our ongoing site selection activity will look within this broad onshore scoping area to identify specific locations for each elements of the onshore electrical infrastructure required for North Falls. Future consultations will present the outcome of this work and offer opportunities to input into the proposed locations.

Feedback Questions

13. Do you have any comments or questions about the methodologies proposed to be used to construct the onshore underground cable?

14. Do you have any information about the onshore substation zone that could help in finalising the location for the onshore substation?

15. Do you have any comments or suggestions in relation to the onshore cable route for North Falls? This could be comments on the route, onshore ecology or anything else you feel relevant.

SAVE

Onshore cable corridor

The onshore cable corridor is where buried export cables would be installed to transmit the electricity generated by the wind farm from landfall to the project's onshore substation. Further buried cables would connect that substation to the National Grid connection point.

The corridor runs approximately 22km inland from Great Holland on a roughly north-west alignment towards Little Bromley via Landermere, Tendring Green and Horsley Cross. The Tendring Brook is crossed to the north-east of Tendring and the Holland Brook to the north-west of Horsley Cross.

24km
Underground cables total length

Around 1.8m
Cables installed below ground level

1
Onshore substation

3-8 hectares
Area of substation

18m
Maximum height of substation equipment

8
Number of horizontal directional drills

Onshore cable construction

All onshore cables will be buried and once their construction is completed, the land along the route will be returned to landowners to use as they would have previously.

The construction works will comprise duct installation using a combination of 'open cut' trench excavation and trenchless techniques such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD) at crossings such as roads, rivers and designated sites. Once the ducts are installed, the cables would be pulled through them and joined within joint bays located along the onshore cable corridor. To facilitate construction, temporary facilities would be required including construction accesses, up to seven temporary construction compounds and HDD compounds.

The cables would be laid in up to 15 trenches, within a temporary working width of up to 60m wide, or up to 110m where HDD is used. Cables would be installed approximately 1.8m below ground level, and cables would typically be 200mm in diameter.

Before

During

After

Example of cable route construction from a previous project (Triton Knoll)

Onshore substation

North Falls will require an onshore substation for all the electrical equipment required to connect the project to the national grid. This will include electrical transformers, air / gas insulated switchgear, control and storage buildings, and other ancillary equipment. The onshore substation will also include drainage and access infrastructure, and extensive landscaping such as bunds, and woodland and hedgerow planting.

Onshore substation zone

The North Falls onshore substation would be located in an area we have called the 'onshore substation zone', located east of the village of Ardleigh and west of Little Bromley. Land heights in this zone vary from 35m Ordnance Datum (OD) around the onshore substation zone to 5m around the Holland Brook, adjacent to the coast. The footprint of the substation and its construction compounds will be located within this zone.

DOWNLOAD ONSHORE SUBSTATION ZONE

Onshore substation construction

Construction at the substation will start with stripping the topsoil then creating access points, temporary haul roads and the works compound. Earthworks will be required to create a substation platform and there may be piling (if required) before concrete is poured for the substation platform. Once the platform is completed, the electrical equipment will be installed along with drainage infrastructure. Finally, there will be reinstatement and landscaping including screening vegetation.

Offshore grid connection

North Falls continues to work towards the fact that the project's grid connection will be the one provided by National Grid in Tendring, Essex, part of the East Anglia GREEN project. However, it should be noted that had an alternative grid connection solution been offered, for example offshore, infrastructure on land would still be required to transmit the electricity produced to the national grid for use by customers.

Feedback Questions

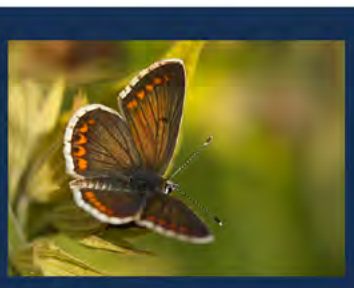
16. Although not feasible under existing regulations, do you have any comments or questions on the concept of an offshore grid connection or its associated onshore infrastructure?

SAVE

Biodiversity net gain

The Environment Act 2021 includes a condition mandating a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain for all developments including nationally significant infrastructure projects such as North Falls. Developers will be required to leave the natural environment in a better state than it was before. The biodiversity net gain process includes specific and measurable actions and outcomes to be undertaken throughout the project lifecycle. This ranges from collecting baseline data for assessment through to calculating biodiversity gains and losses from the project's development. The intention is to deliver demonstrable and quantifiable benefits to biodiversity that will apply to all habitats within the onshore project area.

North Falls will work with statutory bodies and other groups to develop biodiversity net gain proposals, with relevant progress to be included in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report which will be subject to consultation next year.

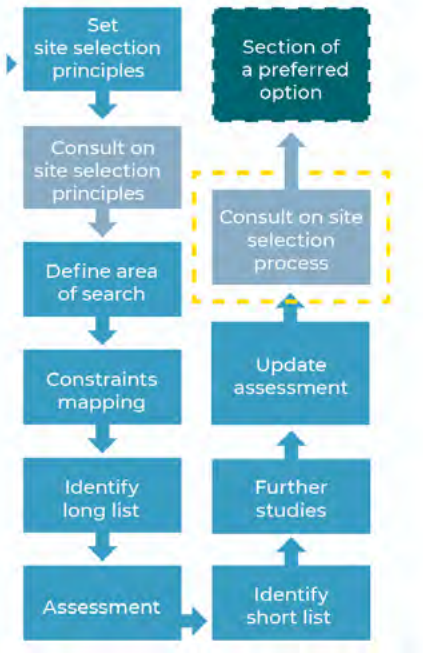


Site selection principles

To give some background into how the project has reached its current phase, this section includes information about our site selection process, in particular the principles we have followed.

North Falls and our consultants have worked to identify suitable locations for the project's infrastructure as part of our ongoing environmental assessment and to support our further design. We have used an iterative process incorporating input from a range of disciplines including environmental, engineering design, technical, planning as well as from stakeholders. Consultation feedback continues to be a critical element of the site selection process and by this we mean stakeholder and public consultation as well as consultation with other projects.

This diagram shows the step-by-step process used in refining the location of the North Falls infrastructure to date



Offshore site selection

The offshore export cable corridor site selection process commenced in 2020, with formal stakeholder consultation the following year. Selection has been based on the following principles:

- Selection of the most direct route from array to preferred landfall search area, in balance with the other key principles
- Avoid, or minimise direct impact to, designated/protected environmental sites where possible
- Minimise impact on other sea users and navigational safety
- Avoid significant sandbank features where possible
- Avoid aggregate dredging areas, anchorages and dumping grounds where possible
- Avoid locations of known archaeological importance where practicable
- Avoid existing operational or planned offshore wind farm sites
- Avoid routing through offshore oil and gas sites
- Minimise the number of subsea cable/pipeline crossings, and
- Explore options to reduce cable footprint with other known developers

Landfall site selection

The landfall site selection began consultation in early 2021 with the overarching principles to:

- Avoid direct significant impacts with European, national and local ecologically designated sites
- Avoid direct significant impacts with landscape and cultural heritage designations
- Avoid areas with substantial infrastructure or urban/recreational land use such as housing or caravan parks
- Maintain a required separation distance from other offshore cables and pipelines
- Ensure the potential horizontal directional drill length is achievable (up to four drills), and
- Consider options that could facilitate co-location of underground cable landfall infrastructure with other known developers who may be connecting to the national grid at a similar location and therefore using a similar landfall

Onshore cable corridor selection

North Falls began its onshore cable route selection process in 2021 adhering to the following principles wherever possible:

- Routing should be kept as straight and as short as practicable - avoiding tight bends
- Avoid residential titles (including whole gardens) where possible
- Avoid direct significant impacts with European, national and local ecologically designated sites
- Avoid direct significant impacts with landscape and cultural heritage designations
- Avoid direct significant impacts to mature woodland, historic woodland and important hedgerows
- Minimise the number of:
  - crossings of assets such as utilities, and of road and rail crossings
  - hedgerow and watercourse crossings, and
- Consider options that could facilitate co-location of cable infrastructure with other known developers who may be connecting to the national grid at a similar location.

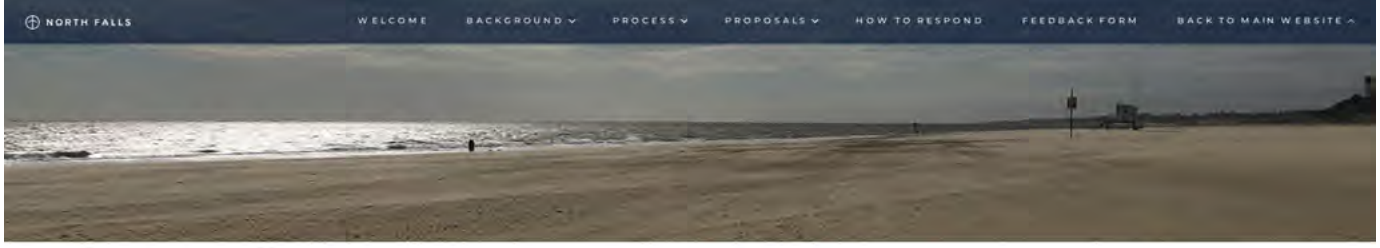
Onshore substation site - selection of options

The key principles underpinning the site selection process for North Falls onshore substation are that options should (all factors being equal):

- Be located as close as possible to the National Grid substation - with a maximum distance of 3km (to reduce electrical losses)
- Include up to 0.2km2 of land for the substation, temporary works/construction compound as well as landscaping, flood defence and drainage and other necessary infrastructure
- Include an allowance for temporary and permanent access to the highway network
- Consider sharing land and minimising spatial extent of effects, subject to the agreement of National Grid
- Facilitate co-location with other known developers who may be connecting to the national grid at a similar location
- Consider options with the least environmental effects when considered with other known developers' proposed substation location(s)
- Be technically feasible and economically viable and be subject to a constructability review
- Comply with requirements of National Policy Statement provisions and other key national and local policy relevant to alternatives and site selection
- Avoid land within residential titles (including whole gardens) where possible
- Avoid direct significant impacts with European, national and local ecologically designated sites
- Avoid direct significant impacts with landscape and cultural heritage designations
- Minimise significant impacts to the special qualities of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Avoid mature woodland and historic woodland
- Avoid areas that fall within Flood Zone 3 and areas of contaminated ground
- Locations should take advantage of the screening provided by land form and existing features and the potential use of site layout and levels to keep intrusion into surrounding areas to a reasonably practicable minimum,* and
- Options should keep the visual, noise and other environmental effects to a reasonably practicable minimum.*

** aligned to the Horlock Rules which apply to the location and design of substations.*

HORLOCK RULES FOR SITING AND DESIGNING SUBSTATIONS



North Falls project description

Design envelope

Due to the complex nature of offshore wind farm development and the fact that the proposals are still evolving, specific details of the project are still under consideration. Some final specifications are not due to be decided until after the submission of our application.

For this reason, we have incorporated a 'range' of parameters, which is known as the design envelope. By applying a design envelope, it means that we are in effect presenting a realistic 'worst case scenario' rather than what we anticipate as the final project design.

This consultation will present the information that is known plus the ranges where specific details are yet to be finalised related to: the offshore array, proposed offshore cable route and landfall, onshore cable corridor and onshore substation search area.

Feedback Questions

10. Do you have any comments or questions about the concept of a design envelope?

SAVE

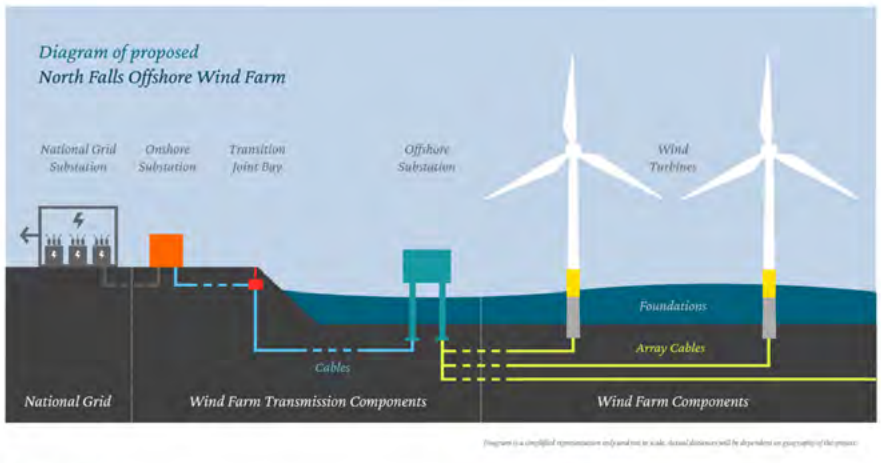


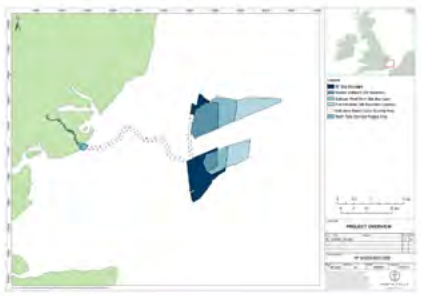
Diagram is a simplified representation and not to scale. Actual distances will be dependent on geography of the project.

Project description

North Falls has an offshore array area of 150km^2 split into two sections within the Outer Thames Estuary, in the southern North Sea. Its closest point to land is 22.5km from the East Anglia coast near Orford.

The current proposals for North Falls include wind turbines on fixed foundations, the design of which is still to be determined. Array cables will connect the turbines in strings to either one or two offshore substations, also on foundation(s). An interconnector will join the project's northern and southern sections.

At this stage it is planned for subsea export cables to bring the power to shore at a location known as 'landfall', with underground onshore cables carrying the power to a new onshore substation. From here the power will be transmitted to the national grid.



DOWNLOAD PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP

22.5km
Closest distance to shore - 22.5km

150km^2
Site size - 150km^2 across two sections

504MW
Installed capacity - currently up to 504MW

£1.5bn
Potential investment in UK electrical infrastructure - at least £1.5bn

400,000
Number of UK homes to be powered - at least 400,000

Turbines

As turbine technology is likely to evolve between now and the possible start of construction for North Falls, we are looking at a range of machines in terms of size and the final number installed. The project has the potential for up to 72 turbines in total.

Foundations

Each turbine and the offshore substation(s) will sit on top of a foundation. The type and design of foundations will be informed by site investigations and a procurement process, after the project has been consented. They may be: monopiles; jackets on pin piles or on suction caissons, or gravity base structures.

Offshore views

To view what the wind farm could look like offshore we have prepared this 3D interactive model with viewpoints from onshore locations. The model features the potentially smallest and largest turbines in our scoping report, so you can compare the difference in potential visual impact by switching between the screens. Please read the instructions to ensure you get the most out of the model.

MODEL

Offshore electrical infrastructure

This will comprise the array cables between the turbines, the offshore substation(s), an interconnector between the two array sections and export cables bringing the power to shore.

The array cables transmit the power between the turbines and the offshore substation(s). The length of the array cables will depend on the spacing of the turbines and their placement in relation to the offshore substation. The final turbine, interconnector and array layout will be decided post-consent. Likewise the location and design of the offshore substations will also be finalised during the design phase of the project.

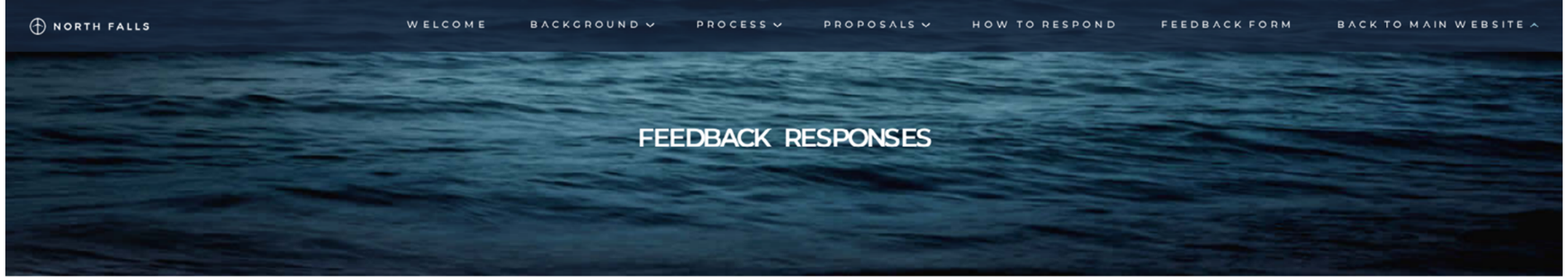
Landfall

Landfall is where the offshore export cables which bring power from the wind farm come to shore underground. For North Falls this will be on the coast near Frinton-on-Sea, with the final location still subject to review.

Onshore electrical infrastructure

From landfall, power will be transmitted by underground cables to a new onshore substation. From there, it will be further transported to a National Grid substation and then on to the national grid.

A grid connection in Tendring, Essex was offered to the project by the National Grid, so the project has been working to design the best way to bring power into that connection.



FEEDBACK RESPONSES

Need and rationale

1. Do you have any general comments you would like to make about the UK's offshore wind energy ambitions?

2. Do you believe that more offshore wind will:
Reduce energy costs for the UK?

Yes No

Improve the nation's energy security?

Yes No

3. Do you believe that offshore wind has a key role to play in the UK's energy future?

Yes No

Why/why not:

Please add any further comments here:

4. Do you have any preferences as to how North Falls could engage with and benefit the local community?

CONTINUE→

FEEDBACK RESPONSES

Offshore Transmission Network Review

5. Do you have any comments or questions about North Falls' involvement with the Offshore Transmission Network Review?

6. Do you have any comments about the location of the proposed North Falls grid connection?

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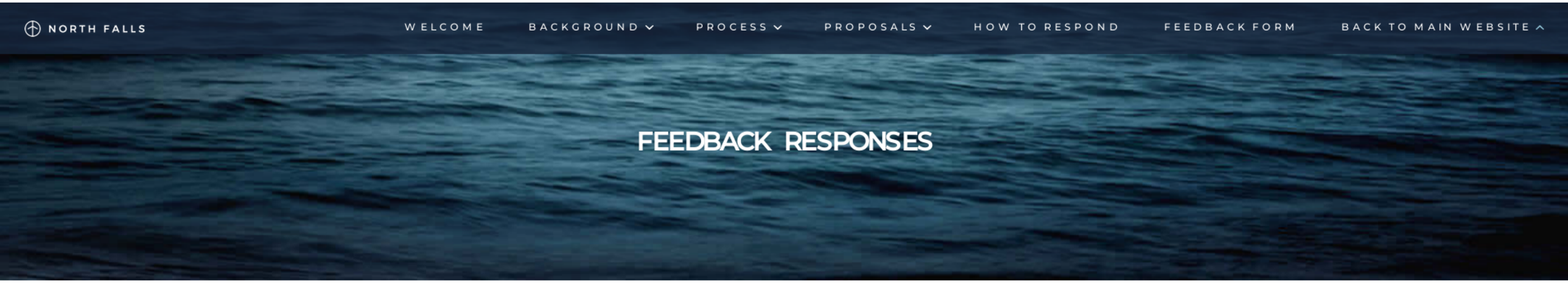
CONTINUE→

Feedback Sections



FEEDBACK RESPONSES

Development process

7. Do you have any questions about the development consent application process?

8. Do you have any comments about the purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report?

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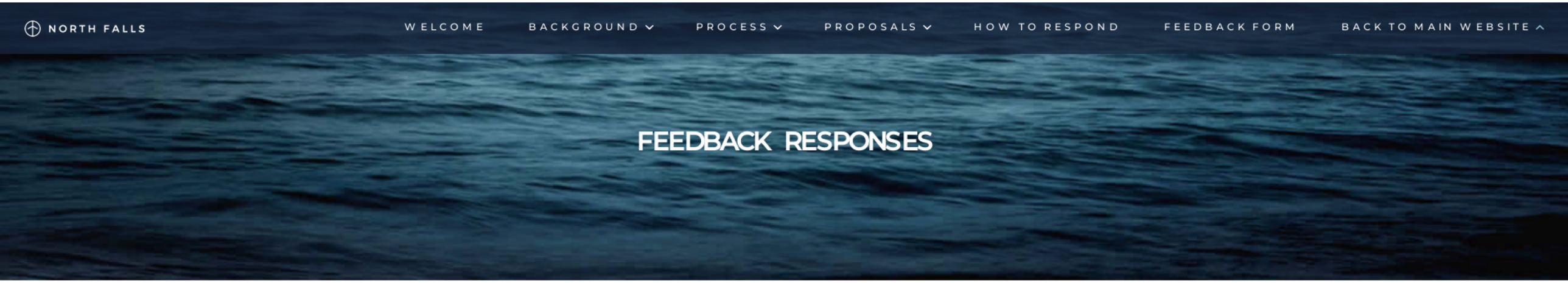
CONTINUE→

Feedback Sections



FEEDBACK RESPONSES

Stakeholders

9. Do you have any comments or suggestions about how North Falls is coordinating with other major infrastructure projects in the region?

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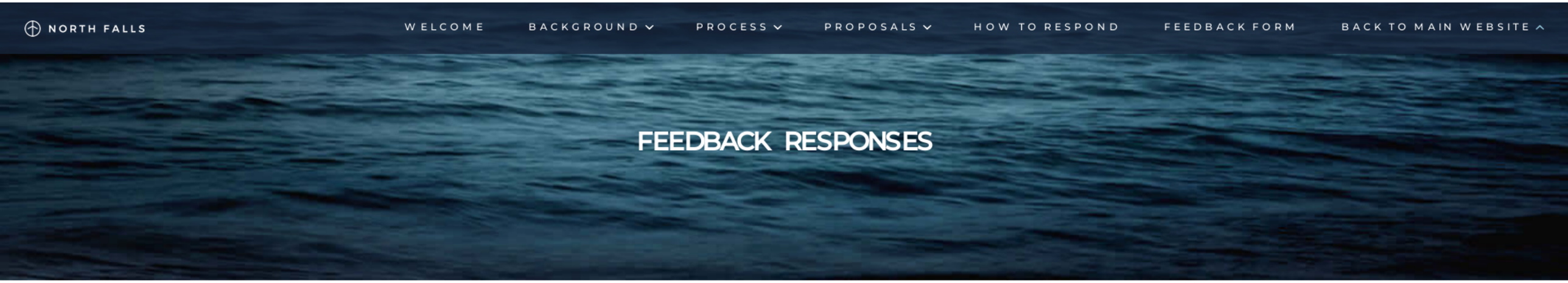
CONTINUE→

Feedback Sections



FEEDBACK RESPONSES

The wind farm

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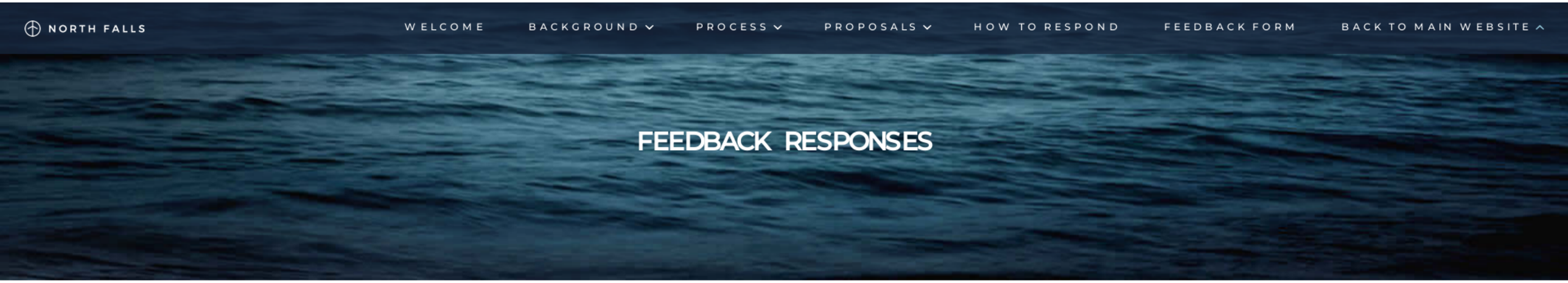
CONTINUE→

Feedback Sections



FEEDBACK RESPONSES

Offshore

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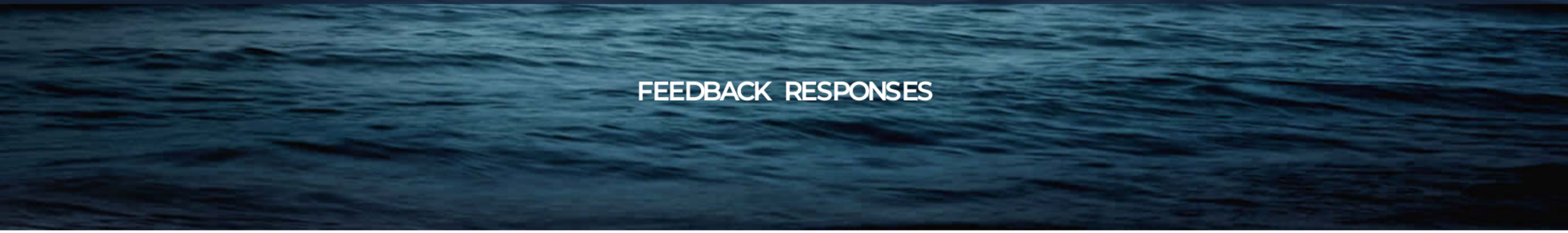
CONTINUE→

Feedback Sections



FEEDBACK RESPONSES

Landfall

Page 7 of 9

12. Looking at the landfall compound zone, is there anything you feel would be relevant for our project to know about this particular area to help us select our temporary construction compound location?

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CONTINUE→

Feedback Sections

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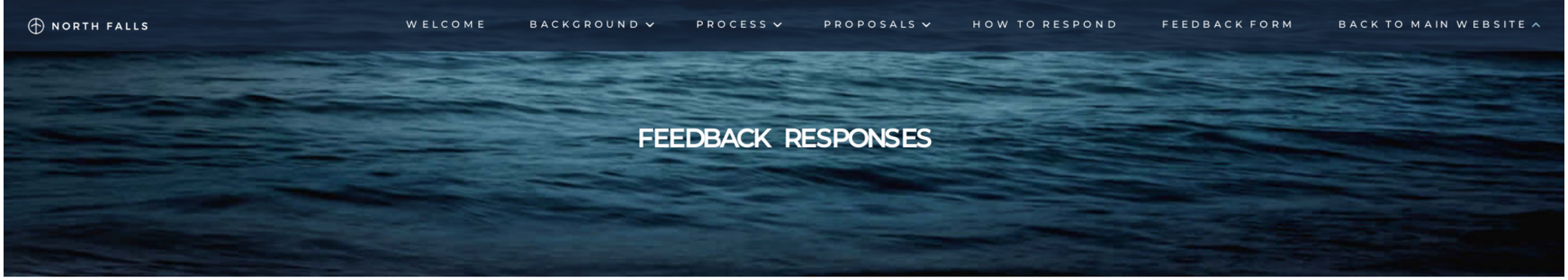

FEEDBACK RESPONSES

Onshore

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16. Although not feasible under existing regulations, do you have any comments or questions on the concept of an offshore grid connection or its associated onshore infrastructure?

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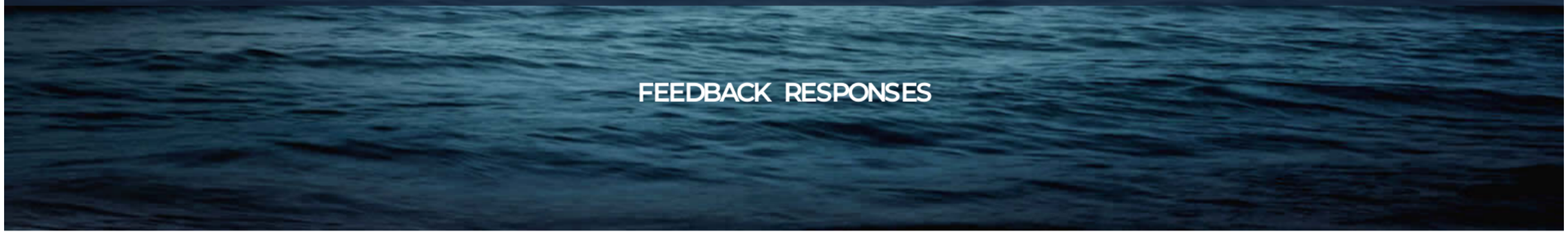
Feedback Sections

Need and rationale
Offshore Transmission Network Review
Development process
Stakeholders
The wind farm
Offshore
Landfall
Onshore
Personal Details



FEEDBACK RESPONSES

Personal Details

Page 9 of 9

Personal details

First Name *

Last Name *

Postcode *

Email Address

Telephone Number

Do you represent an organisation, if so, which one?

Do you wish to be kept updated on the project?

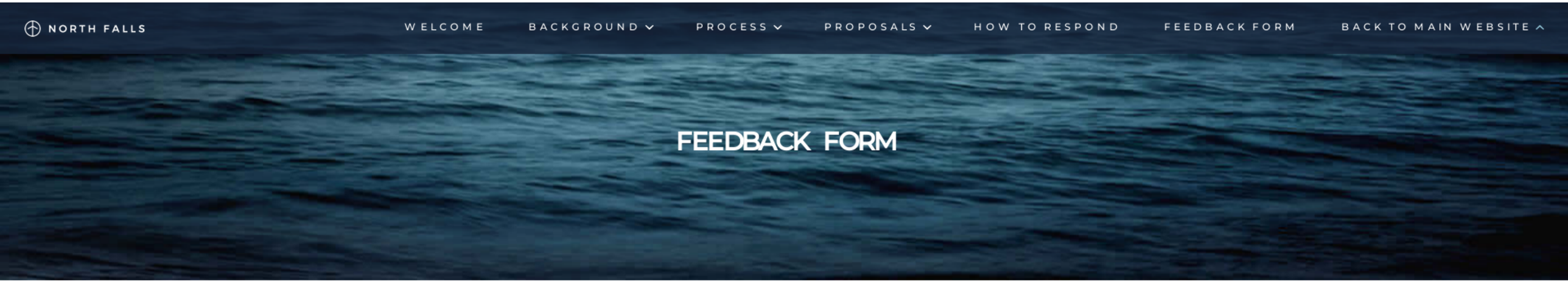
Yes No

←GO BACK

CONTINUE→

Feedback Sections

- Need and rationale
- Offshore Transmission Network Review
- Development process
- Stakeholders
- The wind farm
- Offshore
- Landfall
- Onshore
- *Personal Details*



FEEDBACK FORM

Review your feedback

Field name	Your response

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SUBMIT FEEDBACK →

Feedback Sections

- Need and rationale
- Offshore Transmission Network Review
- Development process
- Stakeholders
- The wind farm
- Offshore
- Landfall
- Onshore
- Personal Details

Success

Thank you for your submission

Thank you for contacting us. If you've registered for our online event, we'll send you registration details. If you've asked us a question, we'll get back in touch with you as soon as possible.

← BACK HOME

Your Feedback

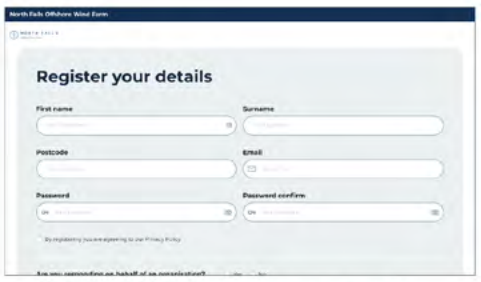
You can leave us feedback by using our consultation map.

CONSULTATION MAP

Using our Consultation Map

Register

To give us your feedback on the project, you will need to register. Please provide us with your name, email, and postcode and tell us if you are responding on behalf of an organisation or as an individual.

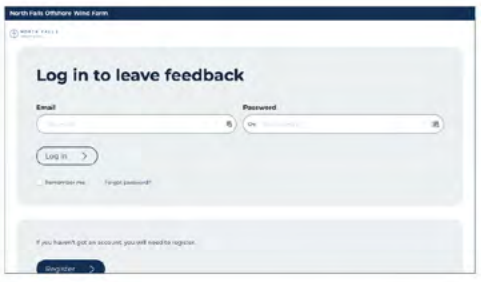


You will be sent an email to confirm your identity. Please click the link in the email to confirm. If you are not automatically logged in please click on login.

Click here to view our GDPR Policy on how we manage data for this project.

Login

Visit Login and enter your email and password.



Add your feedback

You can zoom and move the map around to the location you wish to leave feedback.

Click on the map and a panel will pop out to allow you to leave a comment at that point:

You can select the "theme" that is the closest match to the point that you want to make to us. If your comment doesn't match a theme please select "Doesn't apply to any of these themes".

Type your comment into the text box. If you wish to provide lengthy feedback (greater than 1000 characters), please write your comment in a document i.e. Word and upload it as an attachment at the bottom of the page.

Click on 'Add my comment' to add your feedback to the map. Your pointer will appear on the map. This is important as your comment will not be registered unless you click here to send it to us.

Please note: You are unable to edit a comment once it has been submitted. If you wish to leave additional feedback please add a further comment.

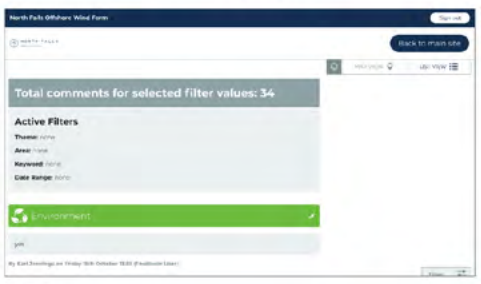
Features

Masterplan Outline and Plot your location

You are able to turn the masterplan graphic on and off by clicking on the layers icon and selecting 'Show masterplan outline'. You can also enter your postcode and plot your home on the map to see how close you are to the area (please note that locations further than 2km from the consultation area are not viewable).

List view

You can view a list of all of your feedback either on the map or using the 'list view':



Filter view

You can filter multiple feedback comments by theme if you assigned any.

Your Feedback

You can leave us feedback by using our consultation map.

CONSULTATION MAP

Using our Feedback Form

Add Feedback

Please navigate around our site and add your feedback using the question boxes that appear on each page. Alternatively, you can view and complete all the questions in one go, by using our feedback form

You can add your feedback on any page and will be notified of your section submission once you click on the **+ add to my feedback** button.

Please note that it won't be submitted until you complete the **Your Details** section and submit your response on the feedback form. This is a little like adding items to your 'shopping basket' before 'checking out' on a retail website.

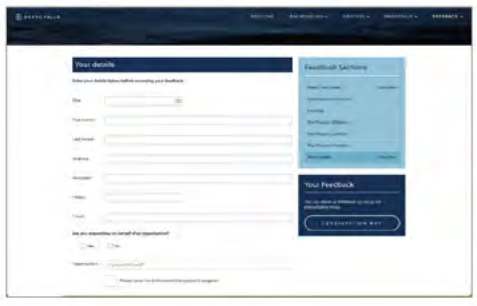
Editing your feedback

You can edit your feedback at any stage before you submit your final response

Simply navigate to the correct section you wish to edit and amend your choices and comments.

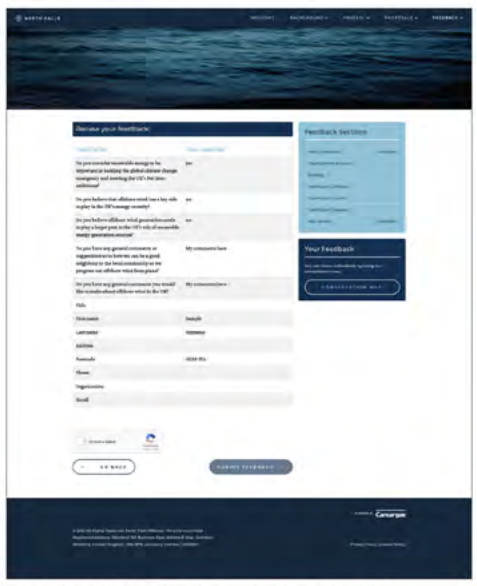
Add your details

Before you submit your response, we will ask you for some additional details to help us register your feedback accurately. Your first and last name and postcode are required fields.

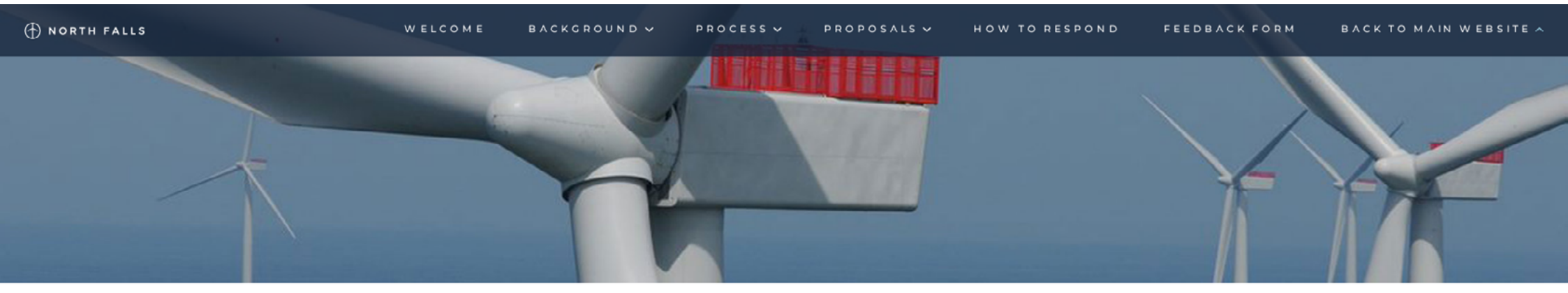


Review and submit

Once your details are entered, you will then be able to review your response



Once you are happy, tick the **ReCaptcha** box and submit your feedback, you will be notified that your submission was successful.



Cookie Policy

Cookie policy for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Consultation

Our website uses cookies to distinguish you from other users of our website, help operate the site and for analytical purposes.

This helps us to provide you with a good experience when you browse our website and also allows us to improve our site.

Cookies are small text files of letters and numbers that we store on your browser or the hard drive of your computer, smartphone, Smart TV or other smart device, if you agree. Cookies contain information that is transferred to your computer's hard drive or browser. Cookies are widely used in order to make websites work, or work more efficiently. Cookies also provide anonymous information to the owners of the site about how people are using their site. Our cookies don't store sensitive or personally identifiable information about you. Nor do they pass personally identifiable data to third parties.

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Consultation uses the following cookies:

- Strictly necessary cookies. These are cookies that are required for the operation of our website. They include, for example, cookies that enable you to log into secure areas of our website.
- Analytical/performance cookies. These cookies allow us to recognise and count the number of visitors and to see how visitors move around our website when they are using it. This helps us to improve the way our website works, for example, by ensuring that users are finding what they are looking for easily.

You can find more information about the individual cookies we use and the purposes for which we use them in the table below:

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Consultation

Cookie	Purpose
_ga	**Google Analytics - used to collect anonymous information about how visitors use our website. We use the information to compile reports and help us improve our website. The information collected is anonymous and includes the number of visitors to the website, what pages they visited and where they have come to the website from.**
_gid	**Google Analytics - used to collect anonymous groupings of user data.**

Some features used on this website may involve a cookie being sent to your computer by a third party. For example, if you view or listen to any embedded audio or video content you may be sent cookies from the site where the embedded content is hosted. Likewise, if you share any content on this website through social networks (for example by clicking a Facebook "like" button or a "Tweet" button) you may be sent cookies from these websites.

We do not control the setting of these cookies so please check the websites of these third parties for more information about their cookies and how to manage them.

You can block cookies by activating the setting on your browser that allows you to refuse the setting of all or some cookies. However, if you use your browser settings to block all cookies (including essential cookies) you may not be able to access all or parts of our site. Each browser is different, so check the 'Help' menu of your particular browser (or your mobile phone's handset manual) to learn how to change your cookie preferences.

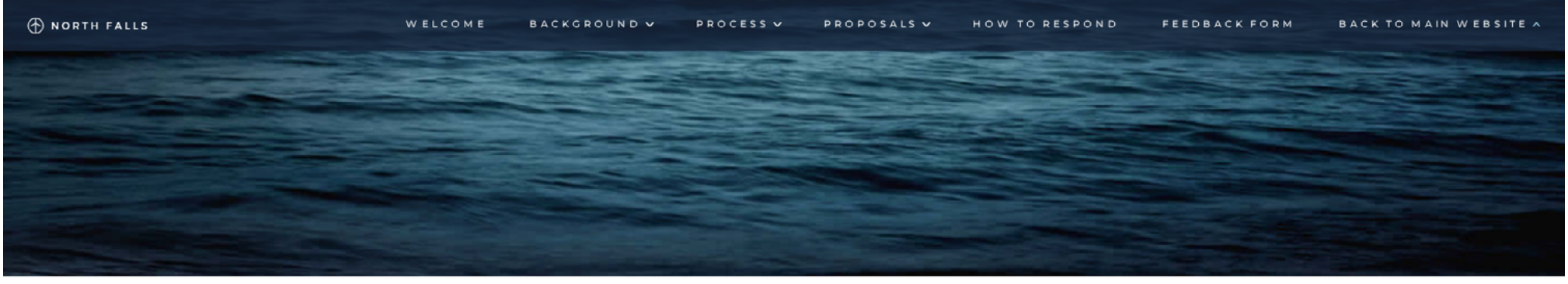
For more information about cookies, visit: www.allaboutcookies.org.

For further information about cookies and how to disable them please go to the Information Commissioner's webpage on cookies: https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/online/cookies/.

Your Feedback

You can leave us feedback by using our consultation map.

CONSULTATION MAP



Privacy Policy for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Consultation

Data Privacy Notice

Camargue Group Limited is supporting North Falls Offshore Wind Farm with its consultation process. Camargue Group Limited ("we" or "us") is committed to ensuring the privacy of your personal information. In this notice we explain how we hold, process and retain your personal data.

How we use your personal data

We may process information that you provide to us. This data may include the following:

- Your name;
- Your address;
- Your telephone number;
- Your email address;
- Your employer or any group on whose behalf you are authorised to respond; and
- Your feedback in response to the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm consultation

We will use your personal data for the following purposes:

- To record accurately and analyse any questions you raise during the consultation or feedback you have provided in response to the consultation.
- To report on our consultation, detailing what issues have been raised and how we have responded to that feedback (please note that the information contained in the consultation report will be aggregated and will not identify specific individuals).
- To personalise communications with individuals we are required to contact as part of future consultation or communications.
- The legal basis for processing this data is that it is necessary for our legitimate interest, namely for the purpose of ensuring the consultation process, analysis and reporting are accurate and comprehensive.
- In addition to the specific purposes for which we may process your personal data set out above, we may also process any of your personal data where such processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which we are subject.
- Providing your personal data to others

We may provide your personal data to the following recipients:

- SSE Renewables and RWE on whose behalf we are collecting your feedback in order to analyse and report on the responses received.
- Third party service providers and professional advisors who provide services to the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm project. This includes but is not limited to Barton Willmore.
- Any relevant local planning authority or council.
- Our insurers/ professional advisers. We may disclose your personal data to our insurers and/or professional advisers insofar as reasonably necessary for the purposes of obtaining and maintaining insurance cover, managing risks, obtaining professional advice and managing legal disputes.
- Retaining and deleting personal data
- Personal data that we process for any purpose shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose.

Unless we contact you and obtain your consent for us to retain your personal data for a longer period, we will delete your personal data as soon as practicable following the outcome of the consultation process.

We may retain your personal data where such retention is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which we are subject.

Your rights

The rights you have in relation to your personal information under data protection law are:

- The right to access;
- The right to rectification;
- The right to erasure;
- The right to restrict processing;
- The right to object to processing;
- The right to data portability; and
- The right to complain to a supervisory authority.

You may exercise any of your rights in relation to your personal data by writing to us using the details below.

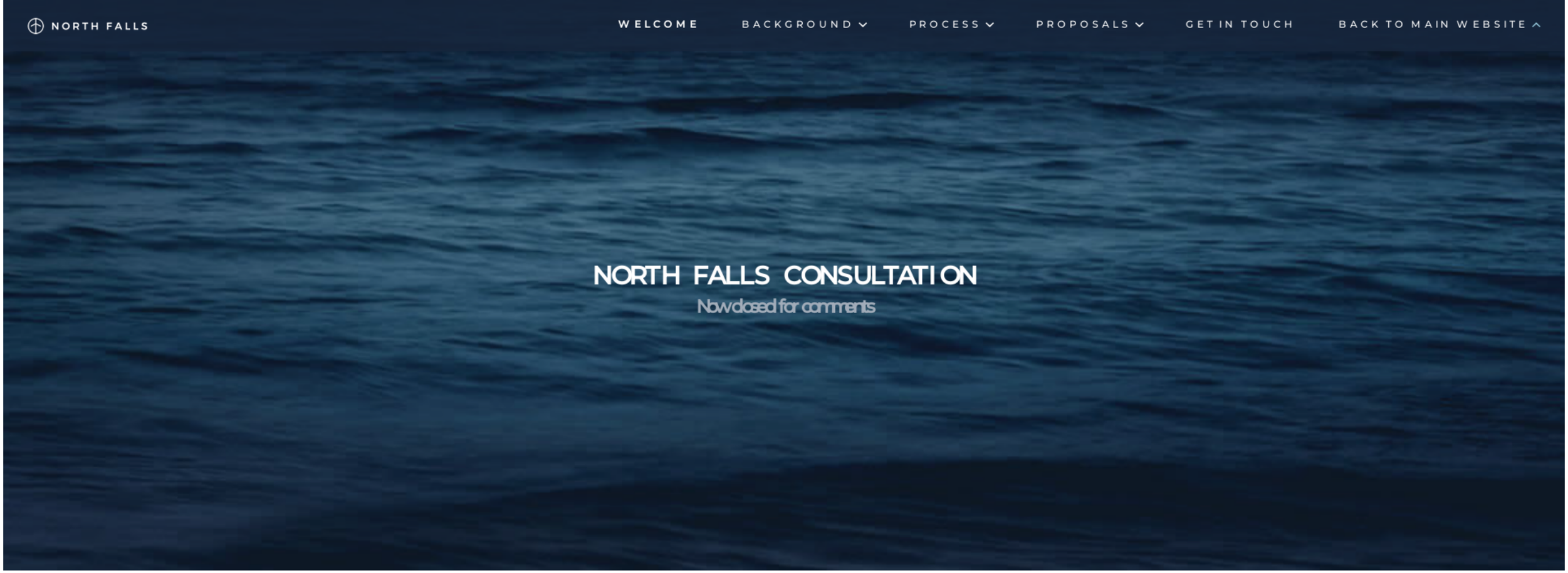
Our details

We are registered in England and Wales under registration number 3954008, and our registered office is at Eagle Tower, Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL50 1TA.

Your Feedback

You can leave us feedback by using our consultation map.

CONSULTATION MAP



NORTH FALLS CONSULTATION

Now closed for comments

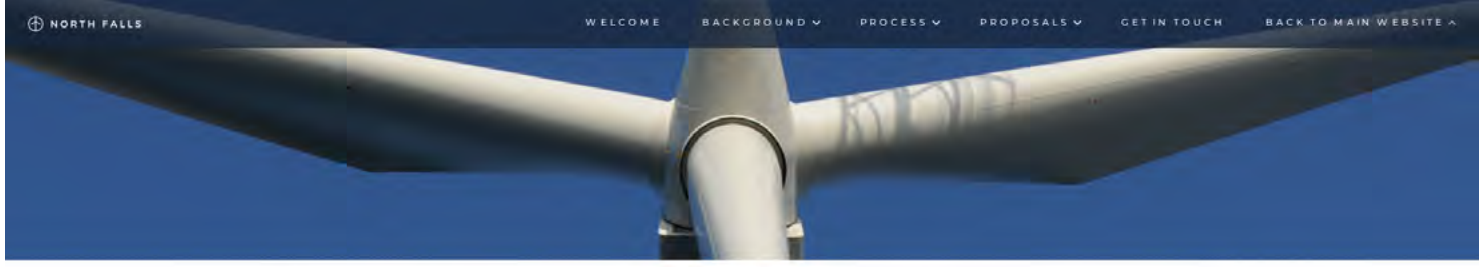
Our non-statutory consultation closed on 9 December 2022, and we would like to thank everyone who took time to attend one of our events, fill in a feedback form or respond in another way.

While the consultation is closed, you can still read the proposals that were consulted on using the dropdown menu above. The information covers our story so far, rationale and benefits, the development process, and the project proposals to date - both onshore and offshore.

We are now reviewing the consultation input and will update this portal with a summary of the feedback form responses and our initial answers, in the new year. We will also produce a consultation report and newsletter to summarise all the written feedback we received – as well as the feedback forms that included freepost cards, direct emails and letters.

In 2023 we will hold out statutory consultation where we will be asking people for their feedback on our preliminary environmental information report (PEIR), which will feed into the final development consent application that we submit to the Planning Inspectorate. This consultation will be both online and face-to-face and will follow a similar format to our recently completed non-statutory consultation.

In the meantime, you can continue to contact us with queries or comments via our online contact form, freephone, email or post.



Offshore Wind in the UK

In the past 10 years the capacity of the UK's offshore wind farms has increased from only one gigawatt (GW) in 2010 to almost 10.5GW in early-2022. The costs per megawatt hour of offshore wind have been driven down by almost two-thirds, the sector directly employs more than 26,000 people, and it supplies on average around 15% of the nation's electricity. In short, the offshore wind sector has become one of Britain's most laudable industrial success stories.

However, it is still a sector in its relative youth, with plenty of potential for further growth in the UK and for export internationally. In its Energy Security Strategy, the Government announced its ambition for the UK to install 50GW by 2030. This ambition goes even further than the Sector Deal, agreed in 2019 between the offshore wind sector and the UK Government, which aimed for 30GW of installed capacity by 2030.

The UK Government's new vision is for offshore wind to power every home in the UK by 2030 and the plan has emerged as a central plank of Britain's green recovery after the coronavirus pandemic and given the current energy crisis and situation in Ukraine. The aim is to ensure the nation "builds back better" as it works towards its 2050 climate goals including legislated decarbonisation targets.

While the green agenda needs to clear multiple hurdles to deliver on the promise of billions in investment and much-needed green jobs, projects like North Falls will play an essential role in reaching the targets. We intend to work closely with all our stakeholders, Government, local communities and the supply chain to ensure we make a positive contribution to the nation's net zero ambitions, energy security and economic prosperity.

Climate rationale for North Falls

Scientists continue to see changes in the Earth's climate in every region and across the whole climate system, including continued rise in sea levels and dramatic climate events. The August 2021 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, said that many of the changes are unprecedented in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years and that the role of human influence on the climate system is undisputed.

However, strong and sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2) and other greenhouse gases would limit climate change. Some benefits - such as for air quality - would come quickly, while it could take 20 to 30 years to see global temperatures stabilize.

Offshore wind farms generate clean, green electricity that powers millions of homes and businesses without burning fossil fuels. They have a vital role to play in the fight against climate change. While reducing greenhouse gases is at the core, the onus is also on developers to ensure new offshore wind farms are built responsibly, sustainably and employing the most efficient technology.

IPCC REPORT

NET ZERO STRATEGY

Cost of offshore wind

The price of offshore wind has fallen to an all-time low with the most recent contracts for difference auction bids coming in at £37.35 per megawatt hour (MWh). These "contracts for difference" guarantee offshore wind developers a fixed price to sell electricity for 15 years. If the market price falls below the contract price, the government subsidises the difference. If the market is higher, the companies pay money back to the government.

Since wholesale energy prices began to skyrocket last year - in May 2022, electricity prices reached a high of £263.79 - wind farms have been paying back money to the government. This means that if more offshore wind farms were operational now, electricity prices could potentially be much lower.

Energy security

As well as reduced costs, North Falls will also play a role in helping to stabilise the nation's energy prices and improve its energy security.

By generating more electricity from offshore wind, the UK will be less reliant on international energy imports, for example oil and gas, and therefore more self-sufficient. It will also become less susceptible to global price fluctuations in such commodities, which should lead to reduced costs for consumers. The invasion of Ukraine has given a stark reminder of the need for the UK to shore up its energy supplies and as one of the windiest nations in Europe, the UK is well placed to take advantage of offshore wind technology.

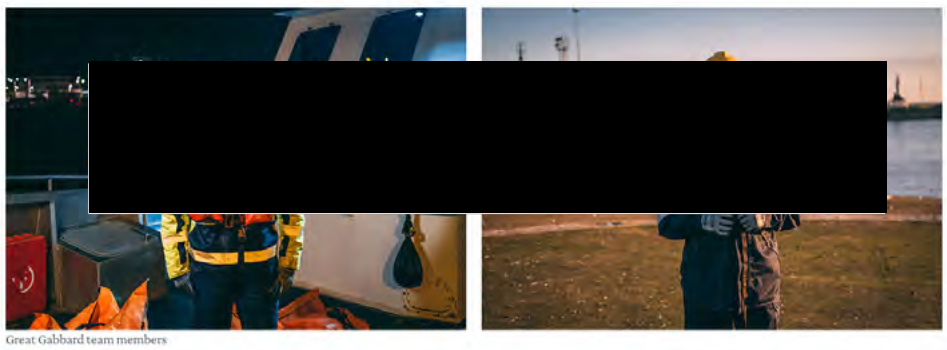
Other benefits of the project

As well as helping to protect the environment and contributing to the UK's net zero ambitions, North Falls will bring numerous local benefits by way of jobs, local economy and community involvement. As an extension project, North Falls would aim to emulate the initiatives of its sister project Greater Gabbard and therefore create similar, if not greater, socio-economic benefit.

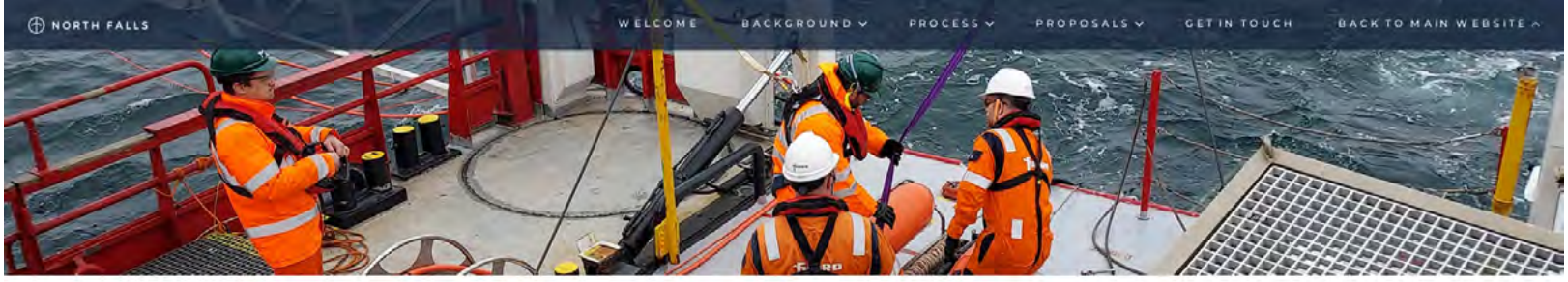
Greater Gabbard benefits

Greater Gabbard represented a total investment of around £1.5 billion and a new facility was constructed in Lowestoft, Suffolk for the project's operations & maintenance base.

Around 120 long-term, skilled jobs were created to operate and maintain the wind farm, with 95% of those recruited from the local area. These roles were in addition to the hundreds of jobs created during construction. Greater Gabbard has engaged 10 apprentices since the start of operation, offered junior engineer roles and employed ex-fishermen on crew transfer vessels as part of the drive to find locally skilled people to fill roles. The project recently announced a five-year trainee plan to further grow apprentice numbers. Since starting operation, the project has invested more than £250,000 in community funds and local training initiatives.

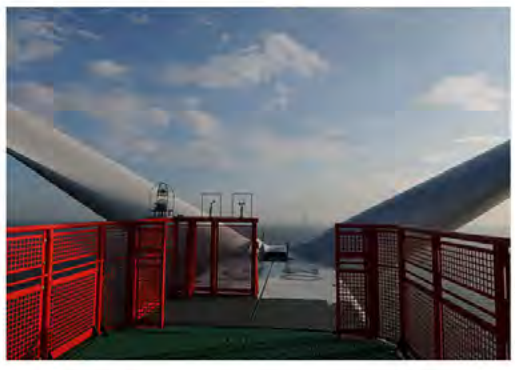


Great Gabbard team members



Background

Together SSE Renewables and RWE have been active in the East Anglia region since the organisations developed the Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm, located 25 kilometres off the coast of Suffolk in the North Sea. The 504 megawatt (MW) project started construction in 2008 and at the time was the world's largest offshore wind farm. It has 140 wind turbines and was commissioned in September 2012. North Falls is an extension project to Greater Gabbard.



VISIT THE CROWN ESTATE WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE EXTENSION PROJECTS

Extensions timeline

In February 2017, The Crown Estate, manager of the seabed, launched a process for wind farm operators to apply for extensions to their existing projects. This opportunity closed in May 2018, with eight project applications received.

A plan level habitats regulations assessment (HRA), was undertaken to assess the possible impact of the proposed wind farm extensions on relevant nature conservation sites of European importance.

Expert independent advisors were utilised and there were consultations with the statutory marine planning authorities, the statutory nature conservation bodies and a number of non-governmental stakeholders.

In August 2019, The Crown Estate announced the conclusion of the HRA confirming that seven out of eight of the extension application projects put forward in 2017, representing a total generating capacity of 2.85GW, would progress to the award of development rights, including what is now called North Falls Offshore Wind Farm.

The Agreement for Lease between North Falls Offshore Wind Farm and The Crown Estate was signed in Autumn 2020 and the project is now in development with the aim of submitting its application in 2023 and achieving a development consent order (DCO) in 2025.

Construction would then take place in the latter part of the decade with a view to the project being operational by 2030, aligned to net zero targets.

Key facts and figures

20km off UK coast
Located 20 kilometres off the UK coast in the southern North Sea, covering area of 150km² across two sites

Up to 72 turbines
Potentially it will comprise up to 72 turbines, depending on the size of turbine selected

North Essex
Assuming a radial connection, the onshore grid location is likely to be on the Tendring Peninsula in North Essex

22km
Approximately 22km underground onshore cables to transport the power from landfall to the new substation

£1.5bn
Likely investment in UK electricity infrastructure of more than £1.5 billion

400,000
Potential to supply more than 400,000 UK homes with their annual electricity needs using clean renewable power

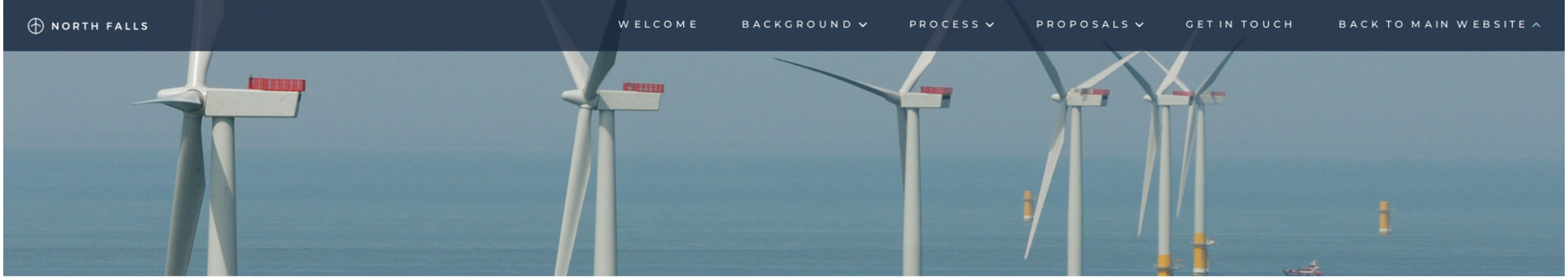
50GW by 2030
Contributing to the UK government's ambitions of 50GW of offshore wind by 2030 (current figure is around 10.5GW)

2023
The development consent order application and supporting environmental assessment and other documents is currently scheduled for submission in 2023

SSE/RWE
North Falls is being developed by a joint venture company owned equally by SSE Renewables and RWE

High level programme

Date	*Action*
2020 to 2023	Onshore and offshore surveys and studies, project planning and design, stakeholder consultation and community engagement undertaken, along with an Environmental Assessment and Project Level Habitats Regulations Assessment.
Spring 2023	Environmental Impact Assessment completed. Project Level Habitats Regulations Assessment completed.
Summer 2023	Development Consent Order and supporting Environmental Information submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.
2024/25	Planning Inspectorate makes recommendation to the Secretary of State. Secretary of State announces consent decision.
2025	Project design finalised, major component and construction contracts awarded and wind farm constructed.
2030	Wind farm expected to be operational by the end of the decade.



Ways to respond

We welcome your feedback and have provided a number of ways for you to respond to this introductory consultation.

We have asked some direct questions about specific elements of the proposals throughout the online materials. As you go through the information, you can respond to the relevant section questions.

If you would prefer to answer all the questions at the same time, you can do so via the feedback form here.

You can also pinpoint specific locations you have questions or comments on using this consultation map.

If you would prefer to send us a hardcopy response you can download the PDF Questionnaire and send it to: FREEPOST North Falls

DOWNLOAD QUESTIONNAIRE

You can also respond to us via the online contact form on our website: www.northfallsoffshore.com.

You can also send an email to: contact@northfallsoffshore.com, or by ringing us on 0800 254 5340

We thank you for taking the time to participate in this consultation.

Get in touch

Although this consultation is now closed, you can still contact us or send us questions and comments using one of the following methods:

Website

For project details or to get in touch via the online contact form, please visit our website: www.northfallsoffshore.com

Email and telephone

We also welcome emails to: contact@northfallsoffshore.com, or you can ring us on 0800 254 5340

Sign up

To hear directly from the project please sign up to receive information, letting us know if you would like email updates or if you would prefer printed versions of information sent to your postal address.

Other contact details

If you are a landowner with related queries, please contact the project's land agent Dalcour Maclaren:

Address: 20 Hollingworth Court, Turkey Mill, Ashford Road
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5PP

E: northfalls@dalcourmaclaren.com

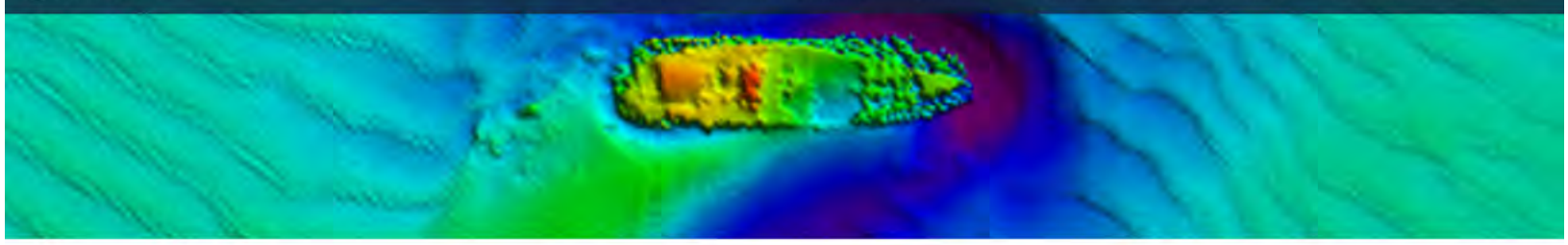
T: 01622 623025

If you are from the fisheries industry please contact our fisheries consultants Brown & May Marine Ltd:

Address: Progress Way, Mid Suffolk Business Park Eye,
Suffolk, IP23 7HU

E: northfalls@brownmay.com

T: 01379 772871



Developing North Falls

Nationally significant infrastructure project

As a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP), North Falls must be consented under the Planning Act 2008 development consent process, which was introduced to streamline the decision-making for such projects.

Applicants, such as North Falls, must go through this process to gain permission to build and operate their NSIP. The permission is called a development consent order (DCO). The government agency responsible for examining and making recommendations on applications for NSIPs is the Planning Inspectorate.

The final decision on the application will be made by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

DOWNLOAD APPLICATION PROCESS DIAGRAM

The National Infrastructure Planning process

The Planning Act 2008 introduced a process to streamline the decision-making for major infrastructure projects like North Falls, to make it fairer and faster for communities and applicants alike. See diagram above. You can also visit the PINS website which provides more information on the planning process.

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

Pre-application phase

North Falls is now in the pre-application phase, which runs until its development consent order (DCO) application is finalised and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. This is the key period for local communities to input into the shaping of the project proposals. For North Falls this phase will run until application submission in 2023.

Environmental impact assessment (EIA)

The core of our current work during this pre-application phase is carrying out an environmental impact assessment (EIA). The EIA is a systematic and iterative approach to assessing the environmental, social and economic effects arising from our proposals. It will set out mitigation measures to reduce adverse impacts plus the results of further assessments with these mitigation measures applied.

The EIA provides a consistent approach to both the onshore and offshore development proposals.

Throughout this phase there is ongoing technical design and engineering work to ensure the project is deliverable.

Scoping Report

North Falls prepared a Scoping Report and requested a scoping opinion from the Secretary of State during 2021, as the first stage of the EIA process. The North Falls Scoping Report outlined the receptors that will be considered during the EIA and the proposed data gathering and methodology employed to characterise the existing environment; assess potential impacts; and develop mitigation measures. This document provides high level information which will be expanded on during consultation with technical stakeholders throughout the EIA process.

A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Secretary of State in August 2021 and can be found on the North Falls website as well as on the project page of the Planning Inspectorate's website, along with other documentation related to the project, at: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/north-falls-offshore-wind-farm/?ipcsection=docs

The feedback received on this report from the relevant local planning authorities and statutory consultees resulted in a scoping opinion which is available to read here.

SCOPING REPORT

SCOPING OPINION

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

The Scoping Report is now being followed by a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which is a technical document covering the full range of every element that has been considered to date, its potential impacts and proposed mitigations.

Since our previous consultation we have focussed on the content of this report and we are now seeking feedback on this work from local communities and relevant stakeholders, including local planning authorities and statutory nature conservation bodies, prior to completing the first draft this report.

The PEIR will form the basis of next year's statutory consultation on our proposals and will provide a status on the project's EIA process and on the progress of the preparation of the development consent application.

Feedback given on the PEIR will be used to produce the final document required for the application, the Environmental Statement.

Environmental Statement (ES)

The Environmental Statement (ES) will be the final output of the EIA undertaken by the North Falls project team, and it will be an evolution of the PEIR. It will incorporate the results of the surveys and assessments, technical details as well as the outcomes of responses from our consultations.

The ES will also describe any changes made to the project proposals since PEIR and the mitigation measures that will be implemented and will form a key part of the submitted DCO application. This document will accompany the final application when it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Consultation

Consultation is a key element of the pre-application development process and is crucial to the progress of the EIA. The project team will ensure that stakeholders are engaged in the development and have the opportunity to comment on the proposals at key decision-making points.

The preparation and refinement of the North Falls proposals continues to be an iterative process. Feedback is received, considered and relevant changes made in a step-by-step approach. Anyone with comments or suggestions about the project can provide input throughout the development phase. However, pre-application consultation periods, such as this current consultation, will provide the best opportunity for stakeholders to review the plans, provide comments, submit feedback and, importantly, have an influence on parts of the process or shape of the project.

At these defined consultation periods North Falls will ask for input related to specific elements of its proposals where stakeholders - particularly those with key local knowledge - will be able to offer valuable insights. These insights will be carefully considered by the project team and incorporated as feasible.

2. Looking for early opportunities for project coordination in the short- to medium-term, and

3. Carrying out a longer-term strategic review to develop a new regime that can ensure a more coordinated approach for the future.

OFFSHORE TRANSMISSION NETWORK REVIEW

Project coordination

An early to short-term part of the OTNR has been the encouragement of well-advanced projects to opt-in to become what is called Pathfinders. The Pathfinder concept was created for these advanced projects to provide important learnings for future projects, inform the design of the new regulatory framework and maximise benefits for consumers, local communities, and the environment.

These projects will progress under the existing regime but with greater collaboration, and while addressing the existing policy and regulatory barriers to increased network coordination.

While not nominated as Pathfinders at this stage, North Falls along with four other projects in East Anglia: Five Estuaries, National Grid Electricity Transmission's Sea Link, and National Grid Ventures' EuroLink and Nautilus have committed to exploring coordinated network designs with a view to identifying a Pathfinder project. In the meantime, North Falls is continuing to progress the development of its offshore wind farm and grid connection aligned to the current regulatory regime. This approach aims to ensure that North Falls will be operational by 2030, contributing to the 50GW government target.

Joint statement on commitment to exploring coordinated network designs in East Anglia (July 2022):

"Onshore and offshore energy infrastructure are critical to delivering on the ambition for the UK to be Net Zero by 2050. As responsible developers, owners and operators of renewable generation and transmission infrastructure, we strongly support the government's ambition to make the UK the world leader in offshore wind. Delivering government ambitions of 50GW of offshore wind by 2030 will create green skilled jobs, strengthen UK security of supply, provide clean renewable power to fight climate change and help to reduce energy bills for British consumers.

National Grid Electricity Transmission (Sea Link), National Grid Ventures (Nautilus and EuroLink), North Falls (offshore wind farm) and Five Estuaries (offshore wind farm) are working together and exploring the potential for offshore coordination as part of the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) "Early Opportunities" workstream, with a view to identifying a future Pathfinder Project.

Offshore coordination of these projects could reduce, but not avoid, the need for coastal onshore infrastructure in east Suffolk and southern East Anglia and significant reinforcement of onshore infrastructure, such as the East Anglia Green project, is key to enabling a clean low carbon future irrespective of where energy comes ashore.

Whilst we welcome the progress the OTNR has made and recent publications from BEIS and the energy regulator, Ofgem, on enabling regulatory and policy changes, currently, the detailed commercial, regulatory and legislative frameworks needed to realise offshore coordination are not yet fully in place. We are working with the Government and Ofgem as they continue to progress the changes needed to enable greater coordination between these projects. So as not to impact the Government's 2030 offshore wind ambition, we continue to progress, in parallel, consent for grid infrastructure projects based on the existing regime."

North Falls,
Five Estuaries,
National Grid

VIEW QUOTE HERE

Strategic review

In the medium to longer-term, the Government together with National Grid ESO is looking to develop a single, integrated network design that supports the large-scale delivery of offshore wind energy across Great Britain. Published in July 2022, the Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND) aims to facilitate the connection of 23GW wind, helping to deliver the Government's ambition for 50GW offshore wind by 2030.

This is a first step towards more centralised, strategic network planning that is critical for delivering affordable, clean and secure power, as we journey towards our net zero future. It should be noted that East Anglia was not included in this HND due to the fact the various offshore wind farm projects are already advanced.

North Falls grid connection

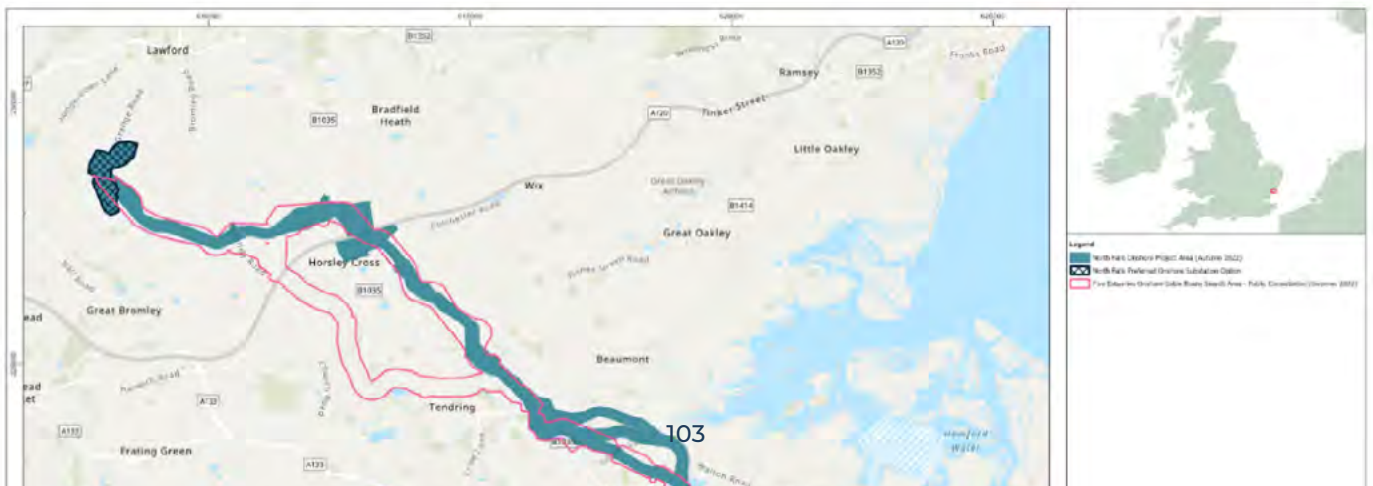
As with all offshore wind farms, North Falls will require a grid connection point to export the power it generates to the national grid - the UK's high voltage electricity system. In 2019, North Falls specified what it needed in terms of a grid connection to the National Grid. The National Grid owns the national grid, and it is their responsibility to connect new sources of electricity to the grid, installing additional infrastructure at existing substation sites or constructing new substations as required.

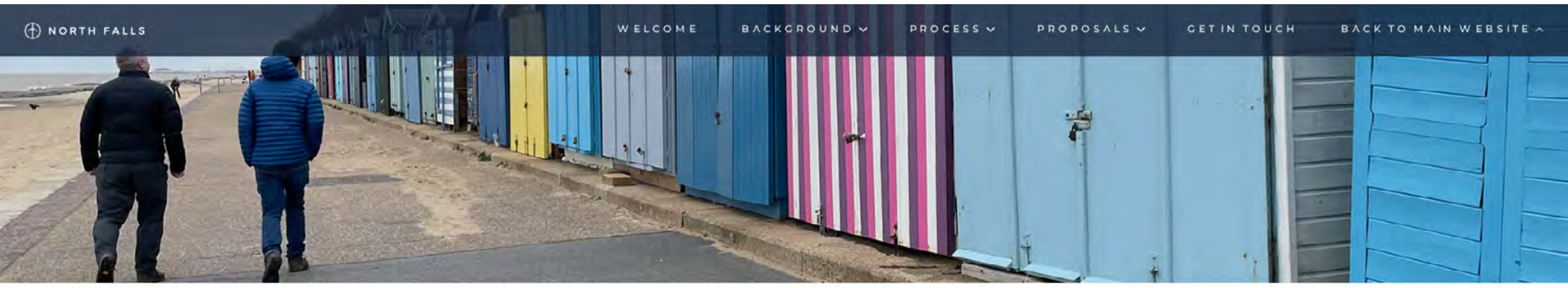
A grid connection in Tendring, Essex has been offered to North Falls by the National Grid. Our engineering design, survey and planning work to date has been undertaken in relation to this grid connection and this consultation will seek your views on the outputs of that work.

In parallel, North Falls has committed to working with other projects in East Anglia to determine if there are opportunities to coordinate network designs (see joint statement). For the purposes of this consultation, we are eager to hear views on our current proposals based on the existing connection option in Tendring, Essex. It is possible that this will be the route the project takes forward in our application, so we encourage you to provide specific comments on the proposals in this consultation, rather than referring only to a preference for an alternative solution, which may not be feasible.

Coordination with Five Estuaries

The agreement to explore grid-related opportunities was formalised in a statement published in July 2022 as part of the Offshore Transmission Network Review. North Falls and the proposed neighbouring offshore wind farm, Five Estuaries, are already working together on key onshore elements such as the route of the corridors for the underground cable, surveys and by sharing consultation feedback.





Who will we consult?

Throughout development, North Falls continues to consult with stakeholders to gather feedback on the way the project is being assessed and on the project itself as it takes shape. The groups of stakeholders, or consultees, are defined as follows:

- **Those directly affected.** This includes statutory bodies, the relevant local authorities, landowners and others with an interest in the land or who may be affected by the construction and operation of a consented scheme.
- **The local community.** Defined as those people living or working within a defined distance of the onshore infrastructure or those who may have an interest in the area, for example, local archaeology groups and mariners and the fishing community or other non-statutory groups. These are sometimes referred to as *Section 47 consultees*.
- **The general public.** These are those people beyond the local community who will primarily be reached through national newspaper advertisements and on the project website. These are sometimes referred to as *Section 48 consultees*.

We will carry out targeted activities for each group of consultees and a statement of community consultation (SoCC) will be published in 2023, which will detail our consultation approach with the local community.

Other nearby infrastructure projects

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm is a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) and as such, is required to consider its cumulative impact and in-combination effects in relation to other relevant infrastructure projects that are planned in the same geographic region, including the proposed neighbouring Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm.

There are a number of other NSIP and infrastructure developments proposed locally and the North Falls project team is already engaging and coordinating with project promoters. This engagement will continue as North Falls progresses. Part of this engagement will include monitoring and exploring opportunities for cooperation with the developers of the projects as far as is practicable, as part of the development process.

North Falls landfall

Progress on the landfall search area

The offshore export cables are brought to shore at a location known as 'landfall'.

The previous consultation highlighted a landfall search area - the section of coastline between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea - which was defined through a process of engineering and environmental review and assessment. The process took into account a range of constraints including designated sites, nature reserves, land use, historic features and technical feasibility.

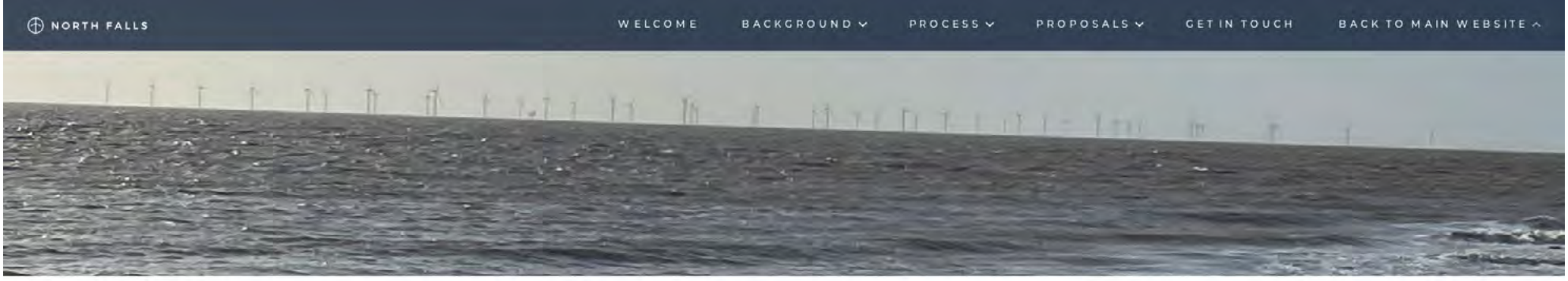
The landfall selection process has continued following the confirmation of the grid connection location and further data collection and consultation. This work has resulted in a landfall compound zone (see map), within which the temporary construction compound would be located. The precise landfall location will be identified, from within this zone, and finalised in advance of the development consent application submission.

DOWNLOAD

Construction works at landfall

Construction works at the point of landfall will comprise the installation of underground cable ducts using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) or another trenchless technique. This will be done from the landward side, with the drill exiting beyond the beach in the sub-tidal zone. This method will bury the cable ducts deep under Holland Haven Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and so avoid crossing the site at the surface. Once the ducts are installed underground, the offshore cables will be pulled through them, before being connected to the onshore cables at transition joint bays which will also be buried once construciton is complete.

Although there would be temporary disruption during the project construction, there will be no permanent above-ground building at landfall. The objective is to keep any disruption to a minimum through considerate construction activities including the use of the HDD installation methodology mentioned above.



North Falls offshore

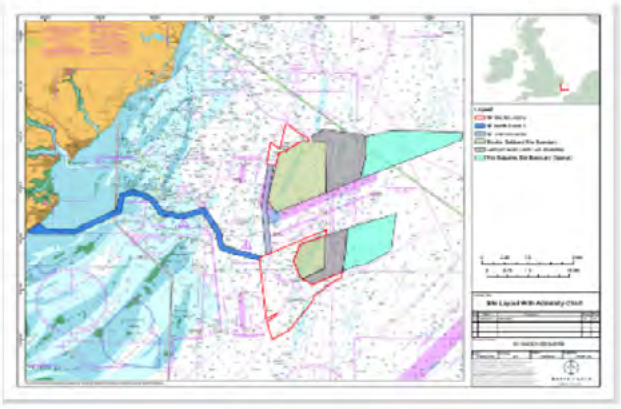
Offshore array

Like our sister project Greater Gabbard, the North Falls offshore array area is split into two separate sections, with boundaries to take the existing shipping route into account. The site boundaries have not changed since our previous consultation.

It will be within the two boundaries that turbines, array cables and offshore substation(s) will be installed. The northern section covers approximately 20km^2 and is 22.5km from shore at its closest point. The larger southern section covers approximately 130km^2 and is 38km from shore at its closest point.

There will also be an interconnector running between the northern and southern sections.

FISHERIES NEWSLETTER



DOWNLOAD

Offshore infrastructure

North Falls will use conventional three bladed, horizontal axis turbines made up of a: rotor, comprised of blades, a hub and a nacelle housing the generator and electronics, and a tubular steel tower. The layout of the wind turbines will be defined post consent and will take into account wind resource, ground conditions and the turbines chosen. However, at this stage we can state that the minimum spacing between turbines would be 820m.

Like the turbines, the number and type of foundations will be finalised post-consent and following detailed design.

North Falls will require up to a maximum of two offshore substations depending on the electrical system voltage and final layout. These comprise a platform topside supported by a foundation.

A total of up to 228km of high voltage alternating current (HVAC) cables will link the turbines to the offshore converter station(s). The project design also includes an interconnector cable between the northern and southern array areas.

up to 72
Number of turbines

820m
Minimum distance between turbines

1 or 2
Number of offshore substations

228km
Total length of array cables

55km
Length of export cables

range from 5m to 59m
Water depths within the array sections

Export cable corridor

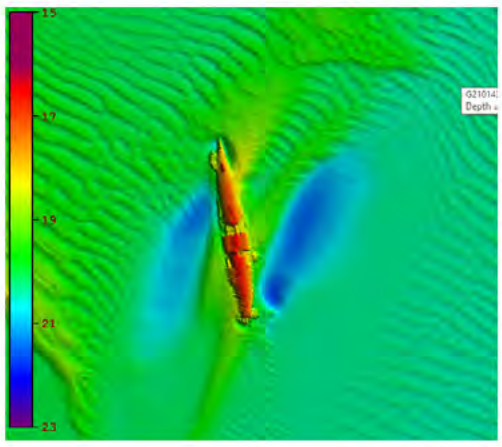
The electricity generated by North Falls will be transmitted to shore by from the offshore substation(s) via export cables which will be located within an offshore export cable corridor. Through our planning work we have identified a proposed corridor to run from the southern array area to a proposed landfall on the Essex coast near Frinton-on-Sea.

The offshore export cable corridor passes to the north, and outside of the Margate and Long Sands Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Kentish Knock East Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), with a small overlap with the Outer Thames Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) as it approaches landfall.

A number of constraints have been considered in the routing of the provisional offshore export cable corridor including: engineering feasibility; nature conservation designations; other offshore wind farms; shipping and navigation; dredging areas; existing infrastructure and wrecks. In additional to general shipping and navigation we have also taken into consideration other specific sea users in particular: fishing activity, aggregate and military use.

Offshore construction

Pre-construction seabed surveys will be undertaken along with work such as boulder removal to prepare the array site and cable route for construction of the wind farm. The construction methodologies used will depend on the final design, seabed condition and type of technology or component selected. These will be decided post-consent, with the full range of options to be included in the development consent order application.



North Falls onshore

Onshore description

Onshore, North Falls will comprise underground cables carrying the power from the landfall to a new onshore substation, which will transform the electricity so it can enter the national grid via another substation to be constructed by National Grid. From here it will be delivered to the end users: homes, businesses and industry.

Video fly-through of the onshore cable route

DOWNLOAD ONSHORE PROJECT AREA

Onshore project area

Since our previous consultation when we did not have a confirmed grid connection location, National Grid has provided North Falls with a location which has enabled us to narrow down our original scoping area to an onshore project area. This area includes the temporary works footprint for the cable landfall, onshore export cables and associated works as well as for the project's onshore substation. The onshore project area lies entirely within Tendring, Essex.

The area was identified through a site selection process which included filtering out broad constraints such as designated habitats and sites of importance for nature conservation, ancient woodlands and historic landscapes while employing design assumptions and undertaking consultation with technical stakeholders.

The subsequent onshore scoping area is approximately 150km² and located within the Tendring District of Essex. It extends from the coast, between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea, approximately 20km inland.

Our ongoing site selection activity will look within this broad onshore scoping area to identify specific locations for each elements of the onshore electrical infrastructure required for North Falls. Future consultations will present the outcome of this work and offer opportunities to input into the proposed locations.

Onshore cable corridor

The onshore cable corridor is where buried export cables would be installed to transmit the electricity generated by the wind farm from landfall to the project's onshore substation. Further buried cables would connect that substation to the National Grid connection point.

The corridor runs approximately 22km inland from Great Holland on a roughly north-west alignment towards Little Bromley via Landermere, Tendring Green and Horsley Cross. The Tendring Brook is crossed to the north-east of Tendring and the Holland Brook to the north-west of Horsley Cross.

24km
Underground cables total length

Around 1.8m
Cables installed below ground level

1
Onshore substation

38 hectares
Area of substation

18m
Maximum height of substation equipment

8
Number of horizontal directional drills

Onshore cable construction

All onshore cables will be buried and once their construction is completed, the land along the route will be returned to landowners to use as they would have previously.

The construction works will comprise duct installation using a combination of 'open cut' trench excavation and trenchless techniques such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD) at crossings such as roads, rivers and designated sites. Once the ducts are installed, the cables would be pulled through them and joined within joint bays located along the onshore cable corridor. To facilitate construction, temporary facilities would be required including construction accesses, up to seven temporary construction compounds and HDD compounds.

The cables would be laid in up to 16 trenches, within a temporary working width of up to 60m wide, or up to 110m where HDD is used. Cables would be installed approximately 1.8m below ground level, and cables would typically be 200mm in diameter.

Before

During

After

Example of cable route construction from a previous project (Triton Knoll)

Onshore substation

North Falls will require an onshore substation for all the electrical equipment required to connect the project to the national grid. This will include electrical transformers, air / gas insulated switchgear, control and storage buildings, and other ancillary equipment. The onshore substation will also include drainage and access infrastructure, and extensive landscaping such as bunds, and woodland and hedgerow planting.

Onshore substation zone

The North Falls onshore substation would be located in an area we have called the 'onshore substation zone', located east of the village of Ardleigh and west of Little Bromley. Land heights in this zone vary from 35m Ordnance Datum (OD) around the onshore substation zone to 5m around the Holland Brook, adjacent to the coast. The footprint of the substation and its construction compounds will be located within this zone.

DOWNLOAD ONSHORE SUBSTATION ZONE

Onshore substation construction

Construction at the substation will start with stripping the topsoil then creating access points, temporary haul roads and the works compound. Earthworks will be required to create a substation platform and there may be piling (if required) before concrete is poured for the substation platform. Once the platform is completed, the electrical equipment will be installed along with drainage infrastructure. Finally, there will be reinstatement and landscaping including screening vegetation.

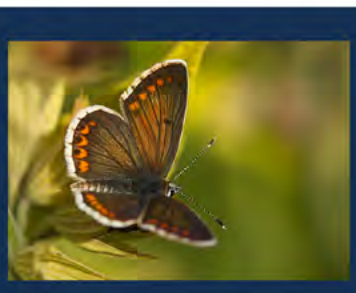
Offshore grid connection

North Falls continues to work towards the fact that the project's grid connection will be the one provided by National Grid in Tendring, Essex, part of the East Anglia GREEN project. However, it should be noted that had an alternative grid connection solution been offered, for example offshore, infrastructure on land would still be required to transmit the electricity produced to the national grid for use by customers.

Biodiversity net gain

The Environment Act 2021 includes a condition mandating a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain for all developments including nationally significant infrastructure projects such as North Falls. Developers will be required to leave the natural environment in a better state than it was before. The biodiversity net gain process includes specific and measurable actions and outcomes to be undertaken throughout the project lifecycle. This ranges from collecting baseline data for assessment through to calculating biodiversity gains and losses from the project's development. The intention is to deliver demonstrable and quantifiable benefits to biodiversity that will apply to all habitats within the onshore project area.

North Falls will work with statutory bodies and other groups to develop biodiversity net gain proposals, with relevant progress to be included in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report which will be subject to consultation next year.

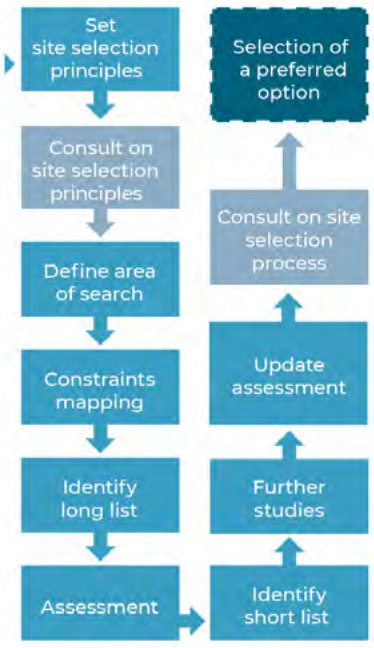


Site selection principles

To give some background into how the project has reached its current phase, this section includes information about our site selection process, in particular the principles we have followed.

North Falls and our consultants have worked to identify suitable locations for the project's infrastructure as part of our ongoing environmental assessment and to support our further design. We have used an iterative process incorporating input from a range of disciplines including environmental, engineering design, technical, planning as well as from stakeholders. Consultation feedback continues to be a critical element of the site selection process and by this we mean stakeholder and public consultation as well as consultation with other projects.

This diagram shows the step-by-step process used in refining the location of the North Falls infrastructure to date



Offshore site selection

The offshore export cable corridor site selection process commenced in 2020, with formal stakeholder consultation the following year. Selection has been based on the following principles:

- Selection of the most direct route from array to preferred landfall search area, in balance with the other key principles
- Avoid, or minimise direct impact to, designated/protected environmental sites where possible
- Minimise impact on other sea users and navigational safety
- Avoid significant sandbank features where possible
- Avoid aggregate dredging areas, anchorages and dumping grounds where possible
- Avoid locations of known archaeological importance where practicable
- Avoid existing operational or planned offshore wind farm sites
- Avoid routing through offshore oil and gas sites
- Minimise the number of subsea cable/pipeline crossings, and
- Explore options to reduce cable footprint with other known developers

Landfall site selection

The landfall site selection began consultation in early 2021 with the overarching principles to:

- Avoid direct significant impacts with European, national and local ecologically designated sites
- Avoid direct significant impacts with landscape and cultural heritage designations
- Avoid areas with substantial infrastructure or urban/recreational land use such as housing or caravan parks
- Maintain a required separation distance from other offshore cables and pipelines
- Ensure the potential horizontal directional drill length is achievable (up to four drills), and
- Consider options that could facilitate co-location of underground cable landfall infrastructure with other known developers who may be connecting to the national grid at a similar location and therefore using a similar landfall

Onshore cable corridor selection

North Falls began its onshore cable route selection process in 2021 adhering to the following principles wherever possible:

- Routing should be kept as straight and as short as practicable - avoiding tight bends
- Avoid residential titles (including whole gardens) where possible
- Avoid direct significant impacts with European, national and local ecologically designated sites
- Avoid direct significant impacts with landscape and cultural heritage designations
- Avoid direct significant impacts to mature woodland, historic woodland and important hedgerows
- Minimise the number of:
  - crossings of assets such as utilities, and of road and rail crossings
  - hedgerow and watercourse crossings, and
- Consider options that could facilitate co-location of cable infrastructure with other known developers who may be connecting to the national grid at a similar location.

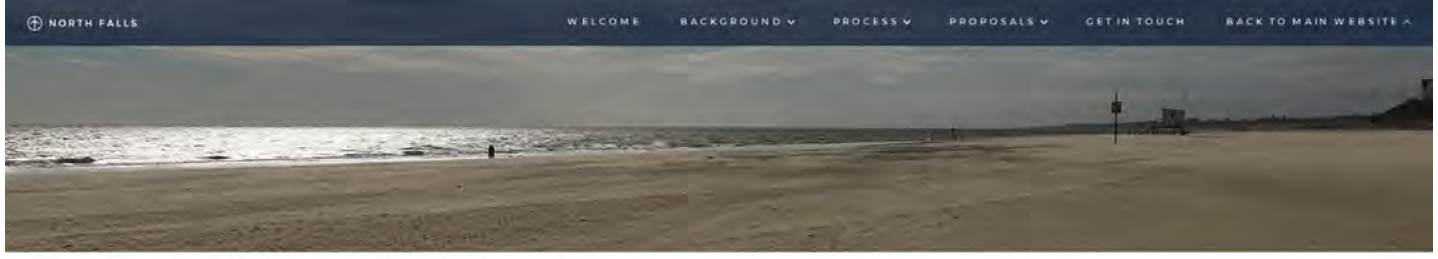
Onshore substation site - selection of options

The key principles underpinning the site selection process for North Falls onshore substation are that options should (all factors being equal):

- Be located as close as possible to the National Grid substation - with a maximum distance of 3km (to reduce electrical losses)
- Include up to 0.2km2 of land for the substation, temporary works/construction compound as well as landscaping, flood defence and drainage and other necessary infrastructure
- Include an allowance for temporary and permanent access to the highway network
- Consider sharing land and minimising spatial extent of effects, subject to the agreement of National Grid
- Facilitate co-location with other known developers who may be connecting to the national grid at a similar location
- Consider options with the least environmental effects when considered with other known developers' proposed substation location(s)
- Be technically feasible and economically viable and be subject to a constructability review
- Comply with requirements of National Policy Statement provisions and other key national and local policy relevant to alternatives and site selection
- Avoid land within residential titles (including whole gardens) where possible
- Avoid direct significant impacts with European, national and local ecologically designated sites
- Avoid direct significant impacts with landscape and cultural heritage designations
- Minimise significant impacts to the special qualities of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Avoid mature woodland and historic woodland
- Avoid areas that fall within Flood Zone 3 and areas of contaminated ground
- Locations should take advantage of the screening provided by land form and existing features and the potential use of site layout and levels to keep intrusion into surrounding areas to a reasonably practicable minimum,* and
- Options should keep the visual, noise and other environmental effects to a reasonably practicable minimum.*

** aligned to the Horlock Rules which apply to the location and design of substations.*

HORLOCK RULES FOR SITING AND DESIGNING SUBSTATIONS



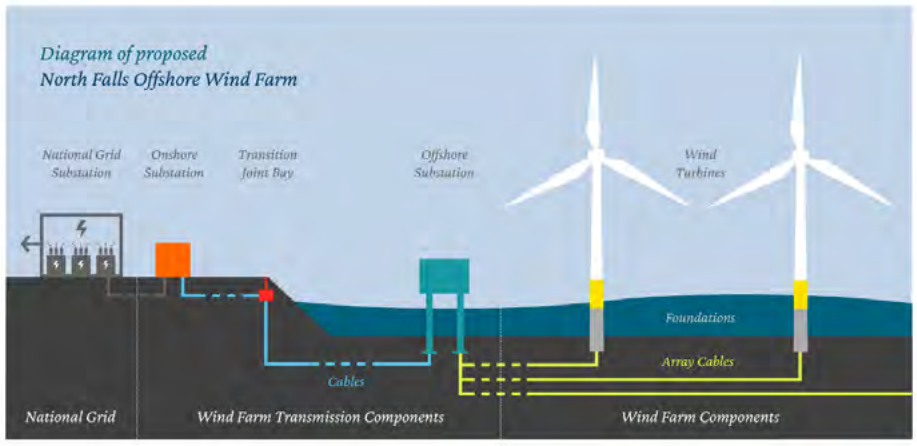
North Falls project description

Design envelope

Due to the complex nature of offshore wind farm development and the fact that the proposals are still evolving, specific details of the project are still under consideration. Some final specifications are not due to be decided until after the submission of our application.

For this reason, we have incorporated a 'range' of parameters, which is known as the design envelope. By applying a design envelope, it means that we are in effect presenting a realistic 'worst case scenario' rather than what we anticipate as the final project design.

This consultation will present the information that is known plus the ranges where specific details are yet to be finalised related to: the offshore array, proposed offshore cable route and landfall, onshore cable corridor and onshore substation search area.

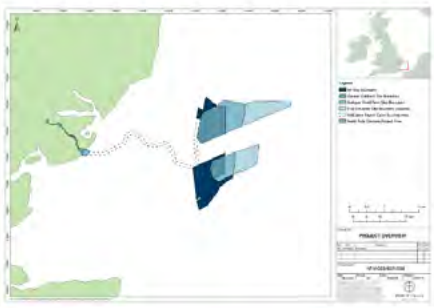


Project description

North Falls has an offshore array area of 150km^2 split into two sections within the Outer Thames Estuary, in the southern North Sea. Its closest point to land is 22.5km from the East Anglia coast near Orford.

The current proposals for North Falls include wind turbines on fixed foundations, the design of which is still to be determined. Array cables will connect the turbines in strings to either one or two offshore substations, also on foundation(s). An interconnector will join the project's northern and southern sections.

At this stage it is planned for subsea export cables to bring the power to shore at a location known as 'landfall', with underground onshore cables carrying the power to a new onshore substation. From here the power will be transmitted to the national grid.



DOWNLOAD PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP

22.5km
Closest distance to shore - 22.5km

150km^2
Site size - 150km^2 across two sections

504MW
Installed capacity - currently up to 504MW

£1.5bn
Potential investment in UK electrical infrastructure - at least £1.5bn

400,000
Number of UK homes to be powered - at least 400,000

Turbines

As turbine technology is likely to evolve between now and the possible start of construction for North Falls, we are looking at a range of machines in terms of size and the final number installed. The project has the potential for up to 72 turbines in total.

Foundations

Each turbine and the offshore substation(s) will sit on top of a foundation. The type and design of foundations will be informed by site investigations and a procurement process, after the project has been consented. They may be: monopiles; jackets on pin piles or on suction caissons, or gravity base structures.

Offshore views

To view what the wind farm could look like offshore we have prepared this 3D interactive model with viewpoints from onshore locations. The model features the potentially smallest and largest turbines in our scoping report, so you can compare the difference in potential visual impact by switching between the screens. Please read the instructions to ensure you get the most out of the model.

MODEL

Offshore electrical infrastructure

This will comprise the array cables between the turbines, the offshore substation(s), an interconnector between the two array sections and export cables bringing the power to shore.

The array cables transmit the power between the turbines and the offshore substation(s). The length of the array cables will depend on the spacing of the turbines and their placement in relation to the offshore substation. The final turbine, interconnector and array layout will be decided post-consent. Likewise the location and design of the offshore substations will also be finalised during the design phase of the project.

Landfall

Landfall is where the offshore export cables which bring power from the wind farm come to shore underground. For North Falls this will be on the coast near Frinton-on-Sea, with the final location still subject to review.

Onshore electrical infrastructure

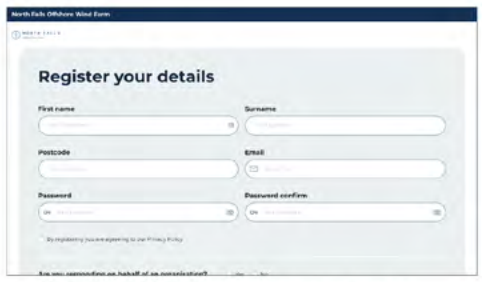
From landfall, power will be transmitted by underground cables to a new onshore substation. From there, it will be further transported to a National Grid substation and then on to the national grid.

A grid connection in Tendring, Essex was offered to the project by the National Grid, so the project has been working to design the best way to bring power into that connection.

Using our Consultation Map

Register

To give us your feedback on the project, you will need to register. Please provide us with your name, email, and postcode and tell us if you are responding on behalf of an organisation or as an individual.

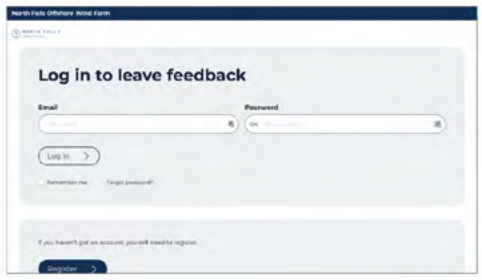


You will be sent an email to confirm your identity. Please click the link in the email to confirm. If you are not automatically logged in please click on login.

Click here to view our GDPR Policy on how we manage data for this project.

Login

Visit Login and enter your email and password.



Add your feedback

You can zoom and move the map around to the location you wish to leave feedback.

Click on the map and a panel will pop out to allow you to leave a comment at that point:

You can select the "theme" that is the closest match to the point that you want to make to us. If your comment doesn't match a theme please select "Doesn't apply to any of these themes".

Type your comment into the text box. If you wish to provide lengthy feedback (greater than 1000 characters), please write your comment in a document i.e. Word and upload it as an attachment at the bottom of the page.

Click on 'Add my comment' to add your feedback to the map. Your pointer will appear on the map. This is important as your comment will not be registered unless you click here to send it to us.

Please note: You are unable to edit a comment once it has been submitted. If you wish to leave additional feedback please add a further comment.

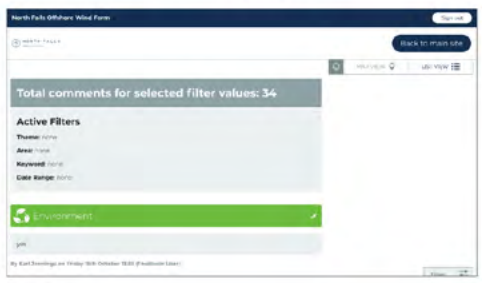
Features

Masterplan Outline and Plot your location

You are able to turn the masterplan graphic on and off by clicking on the layers icon and selecting 'Show masterplan outline'. You can also enter your postcode and plot your home on the map to see how close you are to the area (please note that locations further than 2km from the consultation area are not viewable).

List view

You can view a list of all of your feedback either on the map or using the 'list view':



Filter view

You can filter multiple feedback comments by theme if you assigned any.

Using our Feedback Form

Add Feedback

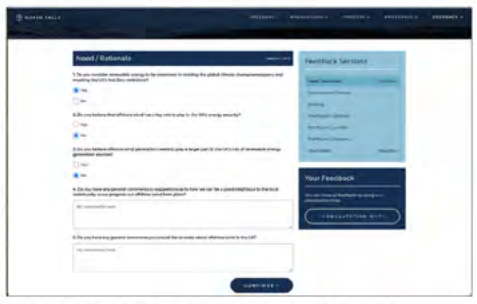
Please navigate around our site and add your feedback using the question boxes that appear on each page. Alternatively, you can view and complete all the questions in one go, by using our feedback form

You can add your feedback on any page and will be notified of your section submission once you click on the **+ add to my feedback** button.

Please note that it won't be submitted until you complete the **Your Details** section and submit your response on the feedback form. This is a little like adding items to your 'shopping basket' before 'checking out' on a retail website.

Editing your feedback

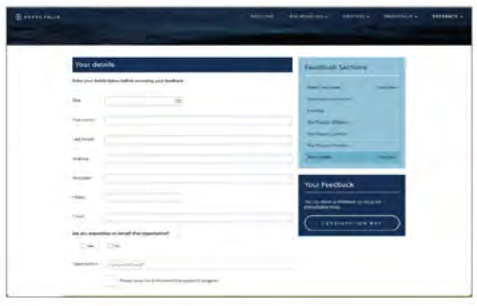
You can edit your feedback at any stage before you submit your final response



Simply navigate to the correct section you wish to edit and amend your choices and comments.

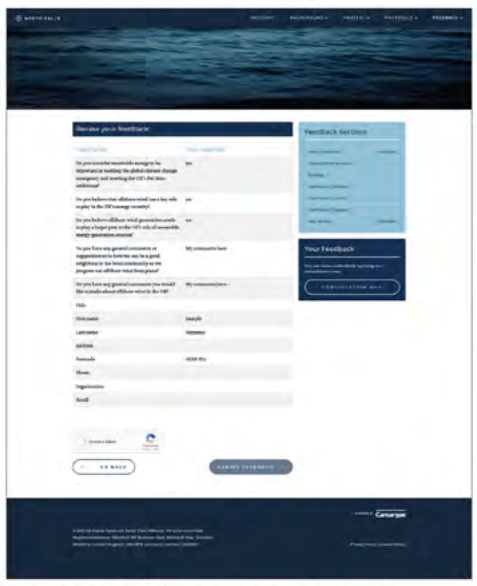
Add your details

Before you submit your response, we will ask you for some additional details to help us register your feedback accurately. Your first and last name and postcode are required fields.

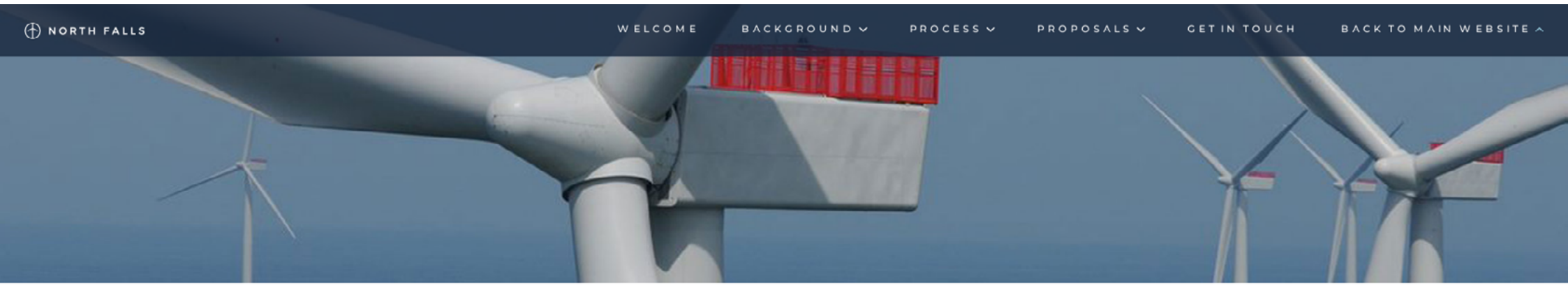


Review and submit

Once your details are entered, you will then be able to review your response



Once you are happy, tick the **ReCaptcha** box and submit your feedback, you will be notified that your submission was successful.



Cookie Policy

Cookie policy for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Consultation

Our website uses cookies to distinguish you from other users of our website, help operate the site and for analytical purposes.

This helps us to provide you with a good experience when you browse our website and also allows us to improve our site.

Cookies are small text files of letters and numbers that we store on your browser or the hard drive of your computer, smartphone, Smart TV or other smart device, if you agree. Cookies contain information that is transferred to your computer's hard drive or browser. Cookies are widely used in order to make websites work, or work more efficiently. Cookies also provide anonymous information to the owners of the site about how people are using their site. Our cookies don't store sensitive or personally identifiable information about you. Nor do they pass personally identifiable data to third parties.

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Consultation uses the following cookies:

- Strictly necessary cookies. These are cookies that are required for the operation of our website. They include, for example, cookies that enable you to log into secure areas of our website.
- Analytical/performance cookies. These cookies allow us to recognise and count the number of visitors and to see how visitors move around our website when they are using it. This helps us to improve the way our website works, for example, by ensuring that users are finding what they are looking for easily.

You can find more information about the individual cookies we use and the purposes for which we use them in the table below:

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Consultation

Cookie	Purpose
_ga	**Google Analytics - used to collect anonymous information about how visitors use our website. We use the information to compile reports and help us improve our website. The information collected is anonymous and includes the number of visitors to the website, what pages they visited and where they have come to the website from.**
_gid	**Google Analytics - used to collect anonymous groupings of user data.**

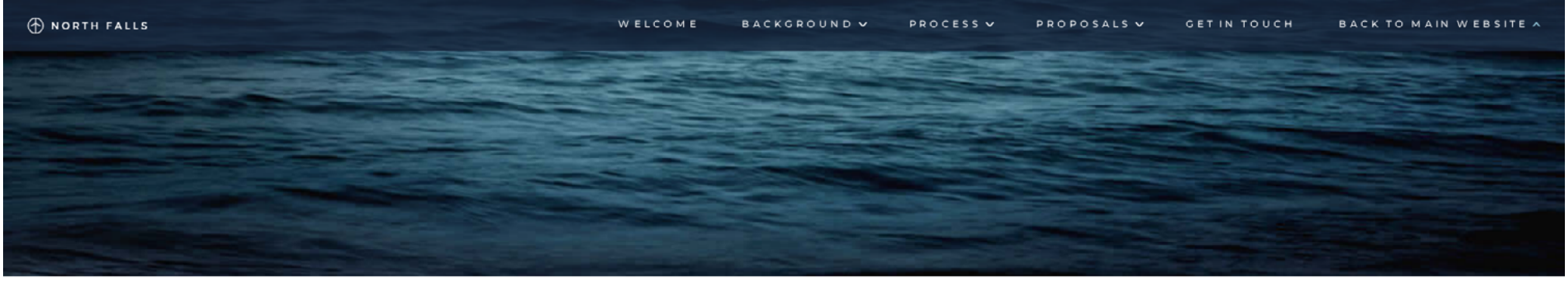
Some features used on this website may involve a cookie being sent to your computer by a third party. For example, if you view or listen to any embedded audio or video content you may be sent cookies from the site where the embedded content is hosted. Likewise, if you share any content on this website through social networks (for example by clicking a Facebook "like" button or a "Tweet" button) you may be sent cookies from these websites.

We do not control the setting of these cookies so please check the websites of these third parties for more information about their cookies and how to manage them.

You can block cookies by activating the setting on your browser that allows you to refuse the setting of all or some cookies. However, if you use your browser settings to block all cookies (including essential cookies) you may not be able to access all or parts of our site. Each browser is different, so check the 'Help' menu of your particular browser (or your mobile phone's handset manual) to learn how to change your cookie preferences.

For more information about cookies, visit: www.allaboutcookies.org.

For further information about cookies and how to disable them please go to the Information Commissioner's webpage on cookies: https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/online/cookies/.



Privacy Policy for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Consultation

Data Privacy Notice

Camargue Group Limited is supporting North Falls Offshore Wind Farm with its consultation process. Camargue Group Limited ("we" or "us") is committed to ensuring the privacy of your personal information. In this notice we explain how we hold, process and retain your personal data.

How we use your personal data

We may process information that you provide to us. This data may include the following:

- Your name;
- Your address;
- Your telephone number;
- Your email address;
- Your employer or any group on whose behalf you are authorised to respond; and
- Your feedback in response to the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm consultation

We will use your personal data for the following purposes:

- To record accurately and analyse any questions you raise during the consultation or feedback you have provided in response to the consultation.
- To report on our consultation, detailing what issues have been raised and how we have responded to that feedback (please note that the information contained in the consultation report will be aggregated and will not identify specific individuals).
- To personalise communications with individuals we are required to contact as part of future consultation or communications.
- The legal basis for processing this data is that it is necessary for our legitimate interest, namely for the purpose of ensuring the consultation process, analysis and reporting are accurate and comprehensive.
- In addition to the specific purposes for which we may process your personal data set out above, we may also process any of your personal data where such processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which we are subject.
- Providing your personal data to others

We may provide your personal data to the following recipients:

- SSE Renewables and RWE on whose behalf we are collecting your feedback in order to analyse and report on the responses received.
- Third party service providers and professional advisors who provide services to the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm project. This includes but is not limited to Barton Willmore.
- Any relevant local planning authority or council.
- Our insurers/ professional advisers. We may disclose your personal data to our insurers and/or professional advisers insofar as reasonably necessary for the purposes of obtaining and maintaining insurance cover, managing risks, obtaining professional advice and managing legal disputes.
- Retaining and deleting personal data
- Personal data that we process for any purpose shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose.

Unless we contact you and obtain your consent for us to retain your personal data for a longer period, we will delete your personal data as soon as practicable following the outcome of the consultation process.

We may retain your personal data where such retention is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which we are subject.

Your rights

The rights you have in relation to your personal information under data protection law are:

- The right to access;
- The right to rectification;
- The right to erasure;
- The right to restrict processing;
- The right to object to processing;
- The right to data portability; and
- The right to complain to a supervisory authority.

You may exercise any of your rights in relation to your personal data by writing to us using the details below.

Our details

We are registered in England and Wales under registration number 3954008, and our registered office is at Eagle Tower, Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL50 1TA.

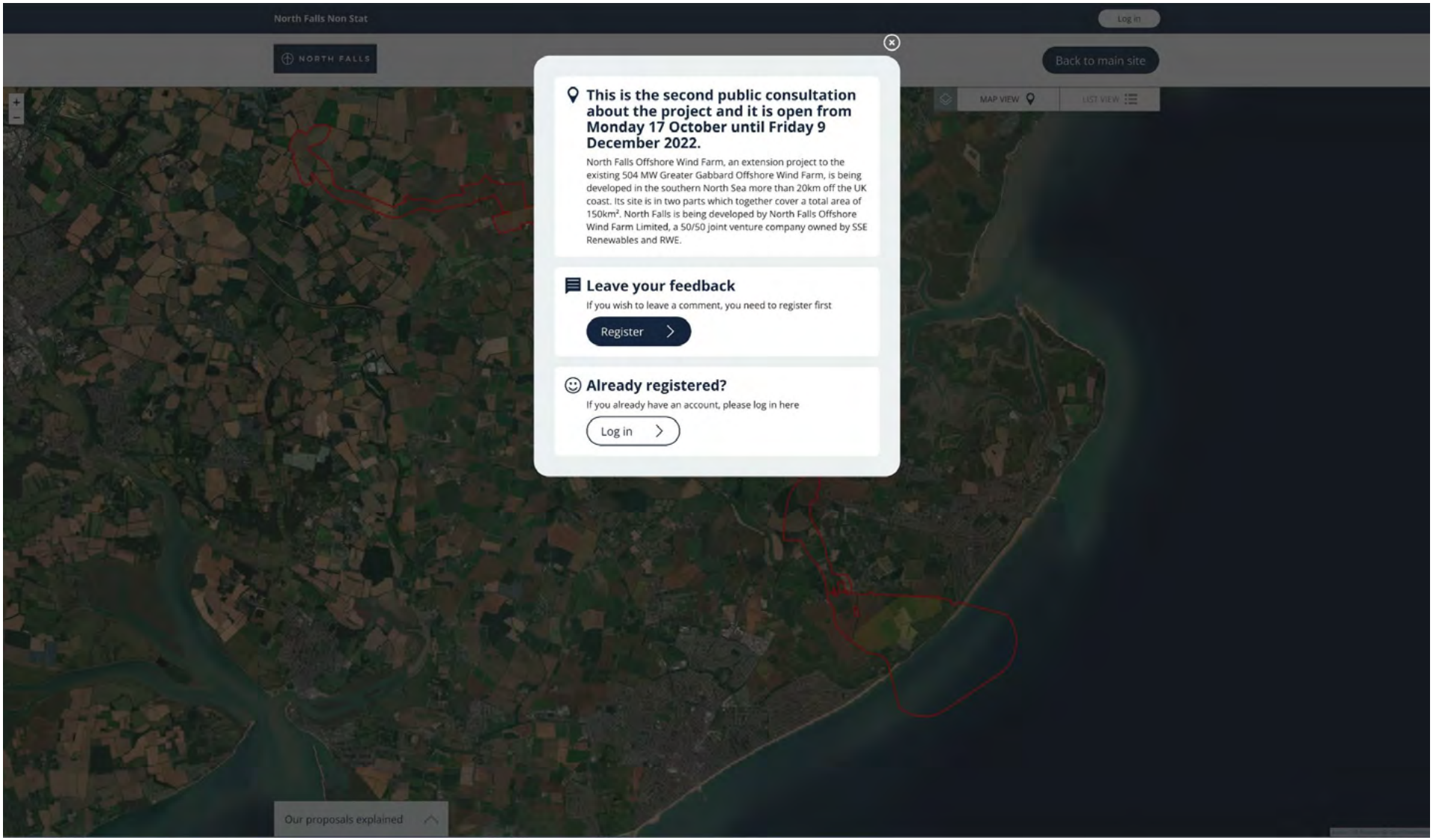
NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

APPENDIX E

E.10.1

Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation interactive map


North Falls Non Stat
Log in
NORTH FALLS
Back to main site
MAP VIEW
LIST VIEW
This is the second public consultation about the project and it is open from Monday 17 October until Friday 9 December 2022.
North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, an extension project to the existing 504 MW Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm, is being developed in the southern North Sea more than 20km off the UK coast. Its site is in two parts which together cover a total area of 150km². North Falls is being developed by North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited, a 50/50 joint venture company owned by SSE Renewables and RWE.
Leave your feedback
If you wish to leave a comment, you need to register first
Register
Already registered?
If you already have an account, please log in here
Log in
Our proposals explained

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

APPENDIX E

E.11

Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation feedback form

DATA PRIVACY NOTICE

Camargue Group Limited is supporting North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited with its consultation process. Camargue Group Limited ("we" or "us") is committed to ensuring the privacy of your personal information. In this notice we explain how we hold, process and retain your personal data.

HOW WE USE YOUR PERSONAL DATA

We may process information that you provide to us. This data may include the following:

- Your name;
- Your address;
- Your telephone number;
- Your email address;
- Your employer or any group on whose behalf you are authorised to respond; and
- Your feedback in response to the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Non-Statutory Consultation.

We will use your personal data for the following purposes:

- To record accurately and analyse any questions you raise during the consultation or feedback you have provided in response to the consultation.
- To report on our consultation, detailing what issues have been raised and how we have responded to that feedback (please note that the information contained in the consultation report will be aggregated and will not identify specific individuals).
- To personalise communications with individuals we are required to contact as part of future consultation or communications.
- The legal basis for processing this data is that it is necessary for our legitimate interest, namely for the purpose of ensuring the consultation process, analysis and reporting are accurate and comprehensive.
- In addition to the specific purposes for which we may process your personal data set out above, we may also process any of your personal data where such processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which we are subject.

PROVIDING YOUR PERSONAL DATA TO OTHERS

We may provide your personal data to the following recipients:

- North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited and SSE Renewables and RWE on whose behalf we are collecting your feedback in order to analyse and report on the responses received.
- Third party service providers and professional advisors who provide services to North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited and SSE Renewables and RWE in connection with the consultation.
- Any relevant local planning authority or council.
- Our insurers/ professional advisers. We may disclose your personal data to our insurers and/or professional advisers insofar as reasonably necessary for the purposes of obtaining and maintaining insurance cover, managing risks, obtaining professional advice and managing legal disputes.

RETAINING AND DELETING PERSONAL DATA

Personal data that we process for any purpose shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose.

Unless we contact you and obtain your consent for us to retain your personal data for a longer period, we will delete your personal data as soon as practicable following the outcome of the consultation process.

We may retain your personal data where such retention is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which we are subject.

YOUR RIGHTS

The rights you have in relation to your personal information under data protection law are:

- The right to access;
- The right to rectification;
- The right to erasure;
- The right to restrict processing;
- The right to object to processing;
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OUR DETAILS

We are registered in England and Wales under registration number 3954008, and our registered office is at Eagle Tower, Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham GL50 1TA.

You can contact us:

- by freephone: 0800 254 5340
- by email: contact@northfallsoffshore.com
- by letter: FREEPOST North Falls

FIND OUT MORE

For more information about the project visit ***www.northfallsoffshore.com***

CONTACT US

Telephone: **0800 254 5340**
Email: **contact@northfallsoffshore.com**
Post: **FREEPOST North Falls**

NORTH FALLS
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FEEDBACK FORM

Comments due by Friday 9th December 2022

CONTACT DETAILS

Name _____

Address _____

_____ **Postcode** _____

Telephone number _____

Email address _____

Do you represent an organisation? If so, which one?

_____

Do you wish to be kept updated on the project via email?

◯ **Yes** ◯ **No**

NEED AND RATIONALE

1. Do you have any general comments you would like to make about the UK's offshore wind energy ambitions?

2. Do you believe that more offshore wind will:

   Reduce energy costs for the UK? ◯ **Yes** ◯ **No**

   Improve the nation's energy security? ◯ **Yes** ◯ **No**

3. Do you believe that offshore wind has a key role to play in the UK's energy future?

   ◯ **Yes** ◯ **No**

   Why/why not?

4. Do you have any preference as to how North Falls could engage with and benefit the local community?

PROCESS

5. Do you have any comments or questions about North Falls' involvement with the Offshore Transmission Network Review?

6. Do you have any comments about the location of the proposed North Falls grid connection?

7. Do you have any questions about the development consent application process?

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

8. Do you have any comments about the purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report?

STAKEHOLDERS

9. Do you have any comments or suggestions about how North Falls is coordinating with other major infrastructure projects in the region?

THE WIND FARM

10. Do you have any comments or questions about the concept of a design envelope?

OFFSHORE

11. Do you have any comments or suggestions in relation to the offshore location or offshore infrastructure of North Falls? This could be comments on fisheries, components, marine ecology, offshore construction or anything else you feel relevant.

LANDFALL

12. Looking at the landfall compound zone, is there anything you feel would be relevant for our project to know about this particular area to help us select our temporary construction compound location?

ONSHORE

13. Do you have any comments or questions about the methodologies proposed to be used to construct the onshore underground cable?

14. Do you have any information about the onshore substation zone that could help in finalising the location for the onshore substation?

15. Do you have any comments or suggestions in relation to the onshore cable route for North Falls? This could be comments on the route, onshore ecology or anything else you feel relevant.

16. Although not feasible under existing regulations, do you have any comments or questions on the concept of an offshore grid connection or its associated onshore infrastructure?

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO NORTH FALLS

At the event: please hand your feedback form to one of the team members or drop in the box provided

Mail it to: FREEPOST North Falls

Scan and email it to: contact@northfallsoffshore.com

THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART IN OUR CONSULTATION

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

APPENDIX E

E.12

Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation exhibition panels

WELCOME TO OUR CONSULTATION

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, an extension project to the existing 504 MW Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm, is being developed in the southern North Sea more than 20km off the UK coast. Its site is in two parts which together cover a total area of 150km².

North Falls is being developed by North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited, a 50/50 joint venture company owned by SSE Renewables and RWE. This is the second public consultation about the project. It is open from **Monday 17 October until Friday 9 December 2022**.

The initial October 2021 consultation to introduce North Falls and invite comments on how we intended to progress the project was online only. However, this is a hybrid consultation featuring both online and face-to-face opportunities to find out how the project proposals have progressed over the past 12 months and provide your feedback.

There will be another consultation and further opportunities to engage with us in 2023 prior to submission of our application. However, through this consultation we hope to give stakeholders the opportunity to provide their opinions and thoughts on the plans as they stand.

Our team is on hand to answer any questions you might have about our proposals and please use the feedback form provided to have your say. You can also contact us directly via the website, freephone, email or post.

Telephone: 0800 254 5340
Email: contact@northfallsoffshore.com
Post: FREEPOST North Falls

Dates and times of consultation events:

Date	*Time*	*Venue*
Thursday 3 November 2022	4pm to 8pm	McGrigor Hall, 85 Fourth Ave, Frinton-on-Sea, CO13 9EB
Friday 4 November 2022	4pm to 8pm	Great Bromley Village Hall, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley, Colchester, CO7 7JA
Saturday 5 November 2022	11am to 3pm	Tendring Village Hall , Tendring, Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 0BG
Friday 11 November 2022	4pm to 8pm	Thorpe Le Soken Women's Institute Hall, High Street, Thorpe Le Soken, CO16 0EF
Saturday 12 November 2022	11am to 3pm	Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, Essex, CO7 7RS
Tuesday 15 November 2022	6pm to 7pm	Zoom*
Wednesday 23 November 2022	6pm to 7pm	Zoom*

*To register to attend an online webinar, please visit our website.

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THE STORY SO FAR

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

BACKGROUND

Together SSE Renewables and RWE have been active in the East Anglia region since the organisations developed the Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm, located 25km off the coast of Suffolk in the North Sea.

The 504 megawatt (MW) project started construction in 2008 and at the time was the world's largest offshore wind farm.

It has 140 wind turbines and was commissioned in September 2012. North Falls is an extension project to Greater Gabbard.

EXTENSIONS TIMELINE

In February 2017, The Crown Estate, manager of the seabed, launched a process for wind farm operators to apply for extensions to their existing projects. This opportunity closed in May 2018, with eight project applications received.

A plan-level habitats regulations assessment (HRA), was undertaken to assess the possible impact of the proposed wind farm extensions on relevant nature conservation sites of European importance.

Expert independent advisors were utilised and there were consultations with the statutory marine planning authorities, the statutory nature conservation bodies and a number of non-governmental stakeholders.

In August 2019, The Crown Estate announced the conclusion of the HRA, confirming that seven out of eight of the extension application projects put forward in 2017, representing a total generating capacity of 2.85GW, would progress to the award of development rights, including what is now called North Falls Offshore Wind Farm.

The Agreement for Lease between North Falls Offshore Wind Farm and The Crown Estate was signed in Autumn 2020 and the project is now in development with the aim of submitting its application in 2023 and achieving a development consent order (DCO) in 2025.

Construction would then take place in the latter part of the decade with a view to the project being operational by 2030, aligned to the UK Government's net zero targets.

Date	*Action*
Summer 2019	The Crown Estate concludes its Habitats Regulations Assessment. Seven projects totalling 2.85GW of new capacity to be awarded agreements for lease.
Autumn 2020	Shareholder agreement signed between the two owners, SSE Renewables and RWE. Agreement for Lease signed with The Crown Estate. Early contracts awarded and start of detailed surveys to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment.
2020 to 2023	Onshore and offshore surveys and studies, project planning and design, stakeholder consultation and community engagement undertaken, along with an Environmental Assessment and Project Level Habitats Regulations Assessment.
Spring 2023	Environmental Impact Assessment completed. Project Level Habitats Regulations Assessment completed.
2023	Development Consent Order and supporting Environmental Information submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.
2024/25	Planning Inspectorate makes recommendation to the Secretary of State. Secretary of State announces decision.
2025	Project design finalised, major component and construction contracts awarded and wind farm constructed.
2030	Wind farm expected to be operational by the end of the decade.

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RATIONALE FOR THE PROJECT

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

OFFSHORE WIND IN THE UK

In the past 10 years the capacity of the UK's offshore wind farms has increased from only one gigawatt (GW) in 2010 to almost 10.5GW in early-2022. The costs per megawatt hour of offshore wind have been driven down by almost two-thirds, the sector directly employs more than 26,000 people, and it supplies on average around 15% of the nation's electricity. In short, the offshore wind sector has become one of Britain's most laudable industrial success stories.

However, it is still a sector in its relative youth, with plenty of potential for further growth in the UK and for export internationally. In its Energy Security Strategy, the Government announced its ambition for the UK to install 50GW by 2030. This ambition goes even further than the Sector Deal, agreed in 2019 between the offshore wind sector and the UK Government, which aimed for 30GW of installed capacity by 2030.

The UK Government's new vision is for offshore wind to power every home in the UK by 2030. The plan has emerged as a central plank of Britain's green recovery after the coronavirus pandemic and given the current energy crisis and situation in Ukraine. The aim is to ensure the nation "builds back better" as it works towards its 2050 climate goals including legislated decarbonisation targets.

While the green agenda needs to clear multiple hurdles to deliver on the promise of billions of pounds in investment and much-needed green jobs, projects like North Falls will play an essential role in reaching the targets. We intend to work closely with all our stakeholders, Government, local communities and the supply chain to ensure we make a positive contribution to the nation's net zero ambitions, energy security and economic prosperity.

OFFSHORE TRANSMISSION NETWORK REVIEW

A grid connection is a key requirement for each offshore wind farm, as it needs to be able to deliver the power it generates to the national transmission network.

In 2020, the Committee on Climate Change asked the government to: develop a strategy to coordinate interconnectors and offshore networks for wind farms, their connections to the onshore network and bring forward any legislation necessary to enable coordination.

The review, called the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR), aims to bring together the key stakeholders involved in the timing, siting, design and delivery of offshore wind to consider the existing regime and how this influences the design and delivery of transmission infrastructure.

Its overall aim is to ensure that the transmission connections for offshore wind generation are delivered in the most appropriate way, considering the increased ambition for offshore wind to contribute to achieving net zero. This will be done with a view to finding the appropriate balance between environmental, social and economic costs.

Project coordination

An early to short-term part of the OTNR has been the encouragement of well-advanced projects to opt-in to become what is called Pathfinders. The Pathfinder concept was created for these advanced projects to provide important learnings for future projects, inform the design of the new regulatory framework and maximise benefits for consumers, local communities, and the environment.

These projects will progress under the existing regime but with greater collaboration, and while addressing the existing policy and regulatory barriers to increased network coordination.

While not nominated as Pathfinders at this stage, North Falls along with four other projects in East Anglia: Five Estuaries, National Grid Electricity Transmission's Sea Link, National Grid Ventures' EuroLink and Nautilus have committed to exploring coordinated network designs with a view to identifying a Pathfinder project. In the meantime, North Falls is continuing to progress the development of its offshore wind farm and grid connection aligned to the current regulatory regime. This approach aims to ensure that North Falls will be operational by 2030, contributing to the 50GW government target.

HOW SITES ARE SELECTED

Site selection principles

Together with our consultants we have worked to identify suitable locations for the project's infrastructure as part of our ongoing environmental assessment and to support our further design. We have used an iterative process incorporating input from a range of disciplines including environmental, engineering design, technical and planning as well as from stakeholders.

Consultation feedback continues to be a critical element of the site selection process and by this we mean stakeholder and public consultation as well as consultation with other projects.

We have also followed a set of site selection principles for each element which you can read more about in the brochure accompanying this exhibition, or on our consultation portal.

Further information on these can be found in the consultation handout.

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DEVELOPING NORTH FALLS

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

As a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP), North Falls must be consented under the Planning Act 2008 development consent process, which was introduced to streamline the decision-making for such projects.

Applicants, such as North Falls, must go through this process to gain permission to build and operate their NSIP. The permission is called a development consent order (DCO). The government agency responsible for examining and making recommendations on applications for NSIPs is the Planning Inspectorate.

The final decision on the application will be made by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

The National Infrastructure Planning process

The Planning Act 2008 process was introduced to streamline the decision-making for major infrastructure projects like North Falls, to make it fairer and faster for communities and applicants alike. See diagram on the next panel which outlines the six stages of the process. You can also visit the PINS website which provides more information on the planning process.

PRE-APPLICATION PHASE

North Falls is now in the pre-application phase, which runs until its development consent order (DCO) application is finalised and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. This is the key period for local communities to input into the shaping of the project proposals. For North Falls this phase will run until application submission in 2023.

Environmental impact assessment (EIA)

The core of our current work during this pre-application phase is carrying out an environmental impact assessment (EIA).

The EIA is a systematic and iterative approach to assessing the environmental, social and economic effects arising from our proposals. It will set out mitigation measures to reduce adverse impacts plus the results of further assessments with these mitigation measures applied.

The EIA provides a consistent approach to both the onshore and offshore development proposals.

Throughout this phase there is also ongoing technical design and engineering work to ensure that the project is deliverable.

North Falls Scoping Report

North Falls prepared a scoping report and requested a scoping opinion from the Secretary of State during 2021, as the first stage of the EIA process. The North Falls Scoping Report outlined the receptors that will be considered during the EIA and the proposed data gathering and methodology employed to characterise the existing environment; assess potential impacts; and develop mitigation measures. This document provides high level information which will be expanded on during consultation with technical stakeholders throughout the EIA process.

A scoping opinion was adopted by the Secretary of State in August 2021 and can be found on the North Falls website as well as on the project page of the Planning Inspectorate's website, along with other documentation related to the project. The feedback received on this report from the relevant local planning authorities and statutory consultees resulted in a scoping opinion which is available to read on the North Falls website.

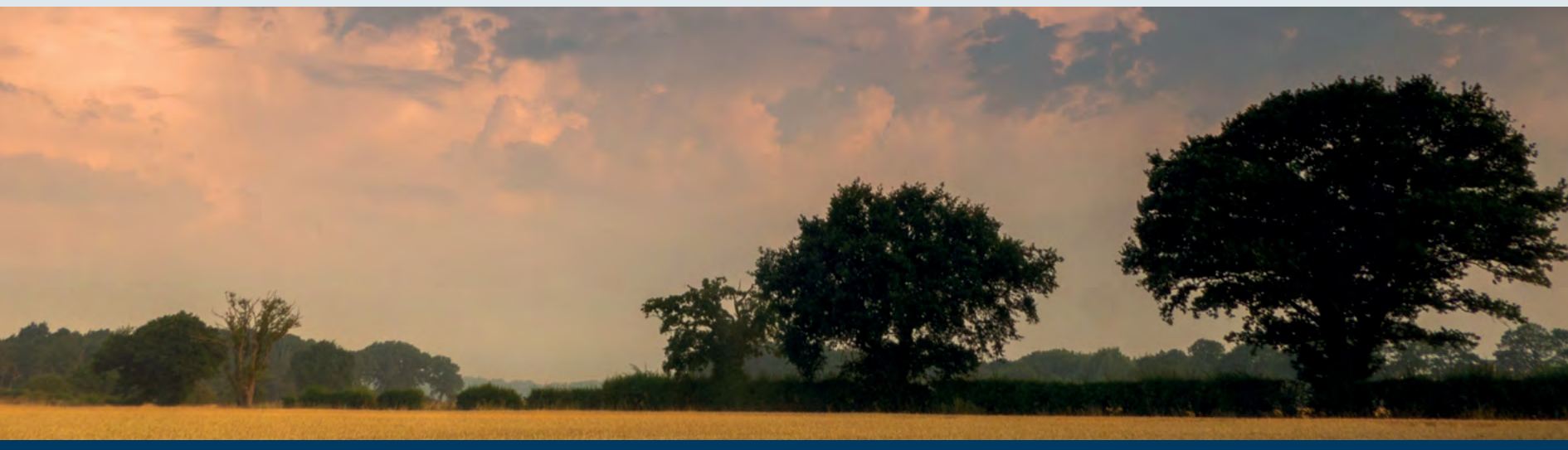
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

The Scoping Report is now being followed by a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which is a technical document covering the full range of every element that has been considered to date, its potential impacts and proposed mitigations.

Since our previous consultation we have focused on the content of this report and we are now seeking feedback on this work from local communities and relevant stakeholders, including local planning authorities and statutory nature conservation bodies, prior to completing the first draft of this report.

The PEIR will form the basis of next year's statutory consultation on our proposals and will provide a status of the project's EIA process and on the progress of the preparation of the development consent application.

Feedback given on the PEIR will be used to produce the final document required for the application, the Environmental Statement.



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NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

Environmental Statement (ES)

The Environmental Statement (ES) will be the final output of the EIA undertaken by the North Falls project team, and it will be an evolution of the PEIR.

It will incorporate the results of the surveys and assessments, technical details and also the outcome of responses from our consultations.

The ES will also describe any changes made to the project proposals since PEIR and the mitigation measures that will be implemented and will form a key part of the submitted DCO application. This document will accompany the final application when it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Consultation

Consultation is a key element of the pre-application development process and is crucial to the progress of the EIA. The project team will ensure that stakeholders are engaged in the development and have the opportunity to comment on the proposals at key decision-making points.

The preparation and refinement of the North Falls proposals continues to be an iterative process. Feedback is received, considered and relevant changes made in a step-by-step approach. Anyone with comments or suggestions about the project can provide input throughout the development phase.

However, pre-application consultation periods, such as this current consultation, will provide the best opportunity for stakeholders to review the plans, provide comments, submit feedback and, importantly, have an influence on parts of the process or shape of the project.

At these defined consultation periods, North Falls will ask for input related to specific elements of its proposals where stakeholders - particularly those with key local knowledge - will be able to offer valuable insights. These insights will be carefully considered by the project team and incorporated as feasible.

APPLICATION PROCESS – THE SIX STEPS

1 Pre-application

Look out for information in the local media and in public places near the location of the project, such as the library. Or you can register to receive updates. North Falls will be developing the project proposals and will consult widely as part of that development.

2 Acceptance

The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, has **28 days** to decide whether the North Falls application meets the required standards to proceed to examination, including whether the consultation has complied with relevant legal requirements.

3 Pre-examination

You can now register as an interested party; you will be kept informed of progress and opportunities to put your case. Inspectors will hold a Preliminary Meeting and set the timetable for examination.

4 Examination

You can send in your comments in writing. You can request to speak at a public hearing. The Inspectorate has **6 months** to carry out the examination.

5 Decision

A recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State will be issued by the Inspectorate within **3 months**. The Secretary of State then has a further **3 months** to issue a decision on the proposal.

6 Post-decision

There is the opportunity for legal challenge.

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WHO WILL WE CONSULT?

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

Throughout development, North Falls continues to consult with stakeholders to gather feedback on the way the project is being assessed and on the project itself as it takes shape. The groups of stakeholders, or consultees, are defined as follows:

1

Those directly affected.
This includes statutory bodies, the relevant local authorities, landowners and others with an interest in the land or who may be affected by the construction and operation of a consented scheme. These groups are sometimes referred to as Section 42 consultees.

2

The local community.
Defined as those people living or working within a specified distance of the onshore infrastructure or those who may have an interest in the area, for example, local archaeology groups and mariners and the fishing community or other non-statutory groups. These are sometimes referred to as Section 47 consultees.

3

The general public.
These are people beyond the local community who will primarily be reached through national newspaper advertisements and on the project website. These are sometimes referred to as Section 48 consultees.

We will carry out targeted activities for each group of consultees and a statement of community consultation (SoCC) will be published in 2023, which will detail our consultation approach with the local community.

OTHER NEARBY INFRASTRUCTURE

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm is a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) and as such, is required to consider its cumulative impact and in-combination effects in relation to other relevant infrastructure projects that are planned in the same geographic region, including the proposed neighbouring Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm.

There are a number of other NSIP and infrastructure developments proposed locally and the North Falls project team is already engaging and coordinating with project promoters. This engagement will continue as North Falls progresses. Part of this engagement will include monitoring and exploring opportunities for cooperation with the developers of the projects as far as is practicable, as part of the development process.

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NORTH FALLS: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

DESIGN ENVELOPE

1

Due to the complex nature of offshore wind farm development and the fact that the proposals are still evolving, specific details of the project are still under consideration. Some final specifications are not due to be decided until after the submission of our application.

2

For this reason, we have incorporated a 'range' of parameters, which is known as the design envelope. By applying a design envelope, it means that we are in effect presenting a realistic 'worst case scenario' rather than what we anticipate as the final project design.

3

This consultation will present the information that is known plus the ranges where specific details are yet to be finalised related to: the offshore array, proposed offshore cable route and landfall, onshore cable corridor and onshore substation search area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

North Falls has an offshore array area of 150km^2 split into two sections within the Outer Thames Estuary, in the southern North Sea. Its closest point to land is 22.5km from the East Anglia coast near Orford.

The current proposals for North Falls include wind turbines on fixed foundations, the design of which is still to be determined. Array cables will connect the turbines in strings to either one or two offshore substations, also on foundations. An interconnector will join the project's northern and southern sections.

At this stage it is planned for subsea export cables to bring the power to shore at a location known as 'landfall', with underground onshore cables carrying the power to a new onshore substation. From here the power will be transmitted to the national grid.

Turbines

As turbine technology is likely to evolve between now and the possible start of construction for North Falls, we are looking at a range of machines in terms of size and the final number installed. The project has the potential for up to 72 turbines in total.

Foundations

Each turbine and the offshore substation will sit on top of a foundation. The type and design of foundations will be informed by site investigations and a procurement process, after the project has been consented. They may be: monopiles, jackets on pin piles or on suction caissons, or gravity base structures.

Offshore electrical infrastructure

This will comprise the array cables between the turbines, the offshore substation, an interconnector between the two array sections and export cables bringing the power to shore.

The array cables transmit the power between the turbines and the offshore substation. The length of the array cables will depend on the spacing of the turbines and their placement in relation to the offshore substation. The final turbine, interconnector and array layout will be decided post-consent. Likewise, the location and design of the offshore substations will also be finalised during the design phase of the project.

Landfall

Landfall is where the offshore export cables which bring power from the wind farm come to shore underground. For North Falls this will be on the coast near Frinton-on-Sea, with the final location still subject to review.

Onshore electrical infrastructure

From landfall, power will be transmitted by underground cables to a new onshore substation. From there, it will be further transported to a National Grid substation and then on to the national grid.

A grid connection in Tendring, Essex was offered to the project by National Grid, so the project has been working to design the best way to bring power into that connection.

22.5km
Closest distance to shore

150km²
Site size – across two sections

Currently up to
504MW
Installed capacity

At least 1.5bn
Potential investment in UK electrical infrastructure

At least 400,000
Number of UK homes to be powered

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THE PROJECT: OFFSHORE

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

Offshore array

Like our sister project Greater Gabbard, the North Falls offshore array area is split into two separate sections, with boundaries to take the existing shipping route into account. The site boundaries have not changed since our previous consultation.

It will be within the two boundaries that turbines, array cables and offshore substation will be installed. The northern section covers approximately 20km^2 and is 22.5km from shore at its closest point. The larger southern section covers approximately 130km^2 and is 38km from shore at its closest point.

Offshore infrastructure

North Falls will use conventional three bladed, horizontal axis turbines made up of a: rotor, comprised of blades, a hub and a nacelle housing the generator and electronics, and a tubular steel tower. The layout of the wind turbines will be defined post consent and will take into account wind resource, ground conditions and the turbines chosen. However, at this stage we can state that the minimum spacing between turbines would be 820m.

Like the turbines, the number and type of foundations will be finalised post-consent and following detailed design.

North Falls will require up to a maximum of two offshore substations depending on the electrical system voltage and final layout. These comprise a platform topside supported by a foundation.

A total of up to 228km of voltage alternating current (HVAC) cables will link the turbines to the offshore converter station. The project design also includes an interconnector cable between the northern and southern array areas.

Export cable corridor

The electricity generated by North Falls will be transmitted to shore from the offshore substation via export cables which will be located within an offshore export cable corridor. Through our planning work we have identified a proposed corridor to run from the southern array area to a proposed landfall on the Essex coast near Frinton-on-Sea.

The offshore export cable corridor passes to the north, and outside of the Margate and Long Sands Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Kentish Knock East Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), with a small overlap with the Outer Thames Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) as it approaches landfall.

A number of constraints have been considered in the routing of the provisional offshore export cable corridor including: engineering feasibility; nature conservation designations; other offshore wind farms; shipping and navigation; dredging areas; existing infrastructure and wrecks. In addition to general shipping and navigation, we have also taken into consideration other specific sea users in particular: fishing activity, aggregate and military use.

Offshore construction

Pre-construction seabed surveys will be undertaken along with work, such as boulder removal to prepare the array site and cable route for construction of the wind farm. The construction methodologies used will depend on the final design, seabed condition and type of technology or component selected. These will be decided post-consent, with the full range of options to be included in the development consent order application.

OFFSHORE PROJECT FACTS

Up to 72
Number of turbines

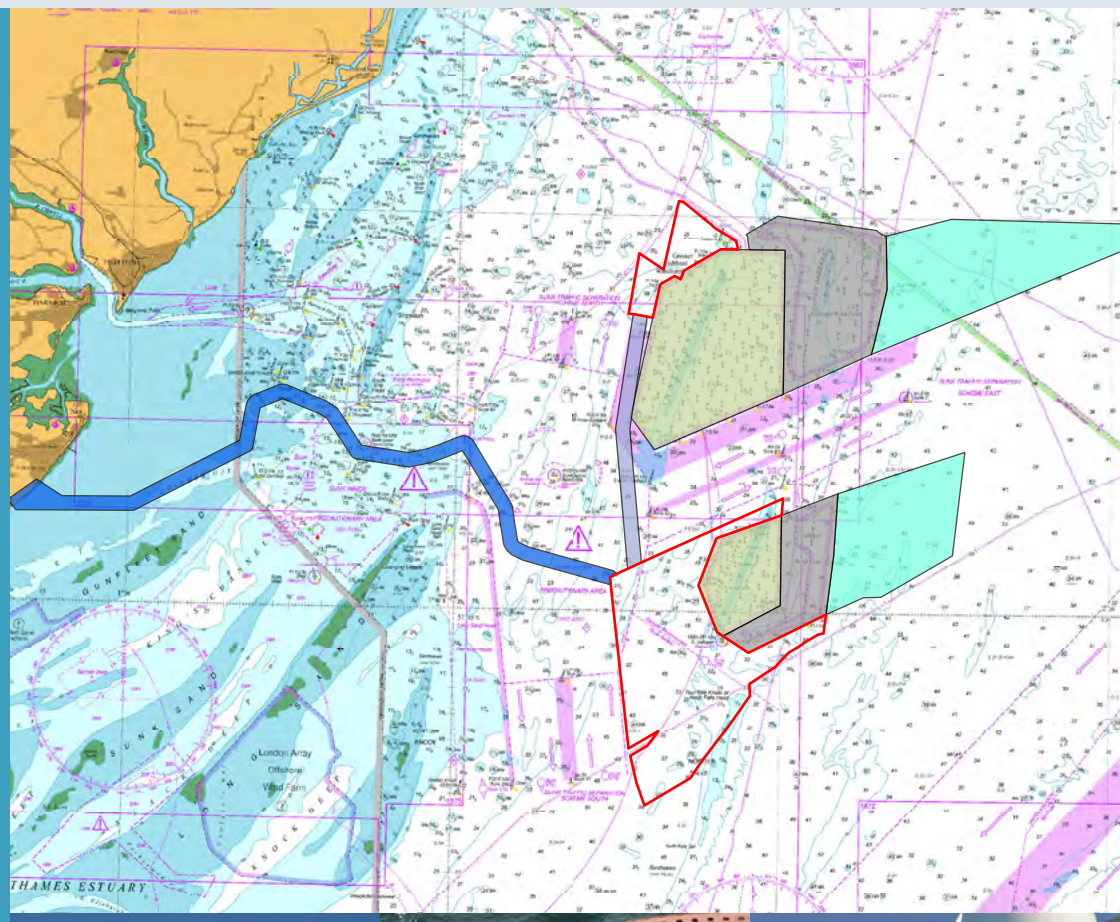
820m
Minimum distance between turbines

1 or 2
Number of offshore substations

228km
Total length of array cables

55km
Length of export cables

from 5m to 59m
Water depths within the array sections



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THE PROJECT: LANDFALL

NORTH FALLS

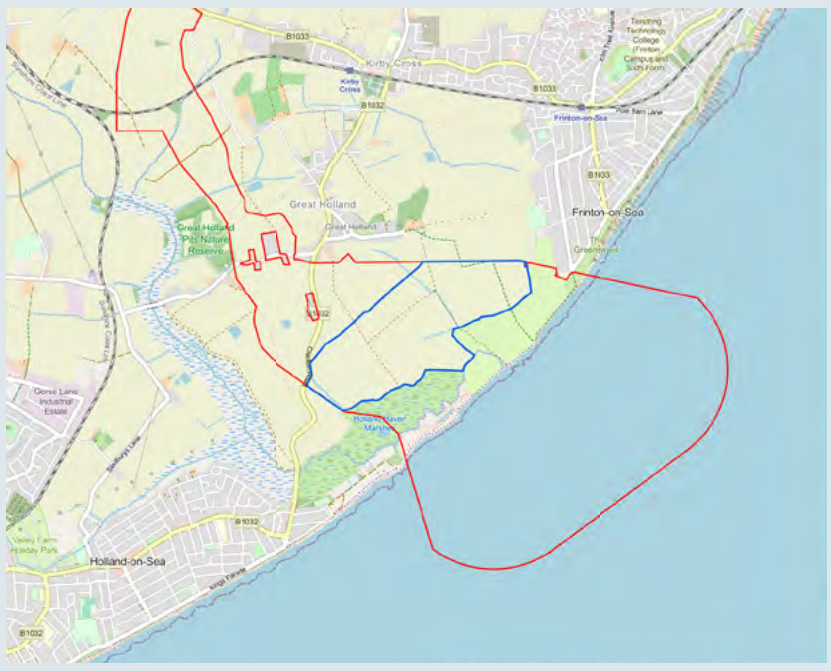
Offshore Wind Farm

PROGRESS ON THE LANDFALL SEARCH AREA

The offshore export cables are brought to shore at a location known as 'landfall'.

The previous consultation highlighted a landfall search area, the section of coastline between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea, which was defined through a process of engineering and environmental review and assessment. The process took into account a range of constraints including designated sites, nature reserves, land use, historic features and technical feasibility.

The landfall selection process has continued following the confirmation of the grid connection location, and further data collection and consultation. This work has resulted in a landfall compound zone (see map), within which the temporary construction compound would be located. The precise landfall location will be identified, from within this zone, and finalised in advance of the development consent application submission.



Landfall compound zone (in blue)

CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT LANDFALL

Construction works at the point of landfall will comprise the installation of underground cable ducts using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) or another trenchless technique.

This will be done from the landward side, with the drill exiting beyond the beach in the sub-tidal zone. This method will bury the cable ducts deep under Holland Haven Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and so avoid crossing the site at the surface. Once the ducts are installed underground, the offshore cables will be pulled through them, before being connected to the onshore cables at transition joint bays, which will also be buried once construction is complete.

Although there would be temporary disruption during the project construction, there will be no permanent above-ground building at landfall. The objective is to keep any disruption to a minimum through considerate construction activities including the use of the HDD installation methodology.

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THE PROJECT: ONSHORE

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

ONSHORE DESCRIPTION

Onshore, North Falls will comprise underground cables carrying the power from the landfall to a new onshore substation, which will transform the electricity so it can enter the national grid via another substation to be constructed by National Grid. From here it will be delivered to the end users: homes, businesses and industry.

Onshore project area

Since our previous consultation when we did not have a confirmed grid connection location, National Grid has provided North Falls with a location which has enabled us to narrow down our original scoping area to an onshore project area. This area includes the temporary works footprint for the cable landfall, onshore export cables and associated works as well as for the project's onshore substation. The onshore project area lies entirely within Tendring, Essex.

The area was identified through a site selection process which included filtering out broad constraints, such as designated habitats and sites of importance for nature conservation, ancient woodlands and historic landscapes, while employing design assumptions and undertaking consultation with technical stakeholders.

The subsequent onshore scoping area is approximately 150km^2 and located within the Tendring District of Essex. It extends from the coast, between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea, approximately 20km inland.

Our ongoing site selection activity will look within this broad onshore scoping area to identify specific locations for each element of the onshore electrical infrastructure required for North Falls. Future consultations will present the outcome of this work and offer opportunities to input into the proposed locations.

Onshore cable corridor

The onshore cable corridor is where buried export cables would be installed to transmit the electricity generated by the wind farm from landfall to the project's onshore substation. Further buried cables would connect that substation to the National Grid connection point.

The corridor runs approximately 22km inland from Great Holland on a roughly north-west alignment towards Little Bromley via Landermere, Tendring Green and Horsley Cross.
The Tendring Brook is crossed to the north-east of Tendring and the Holland Brook to the north-west of Horsley Cross.

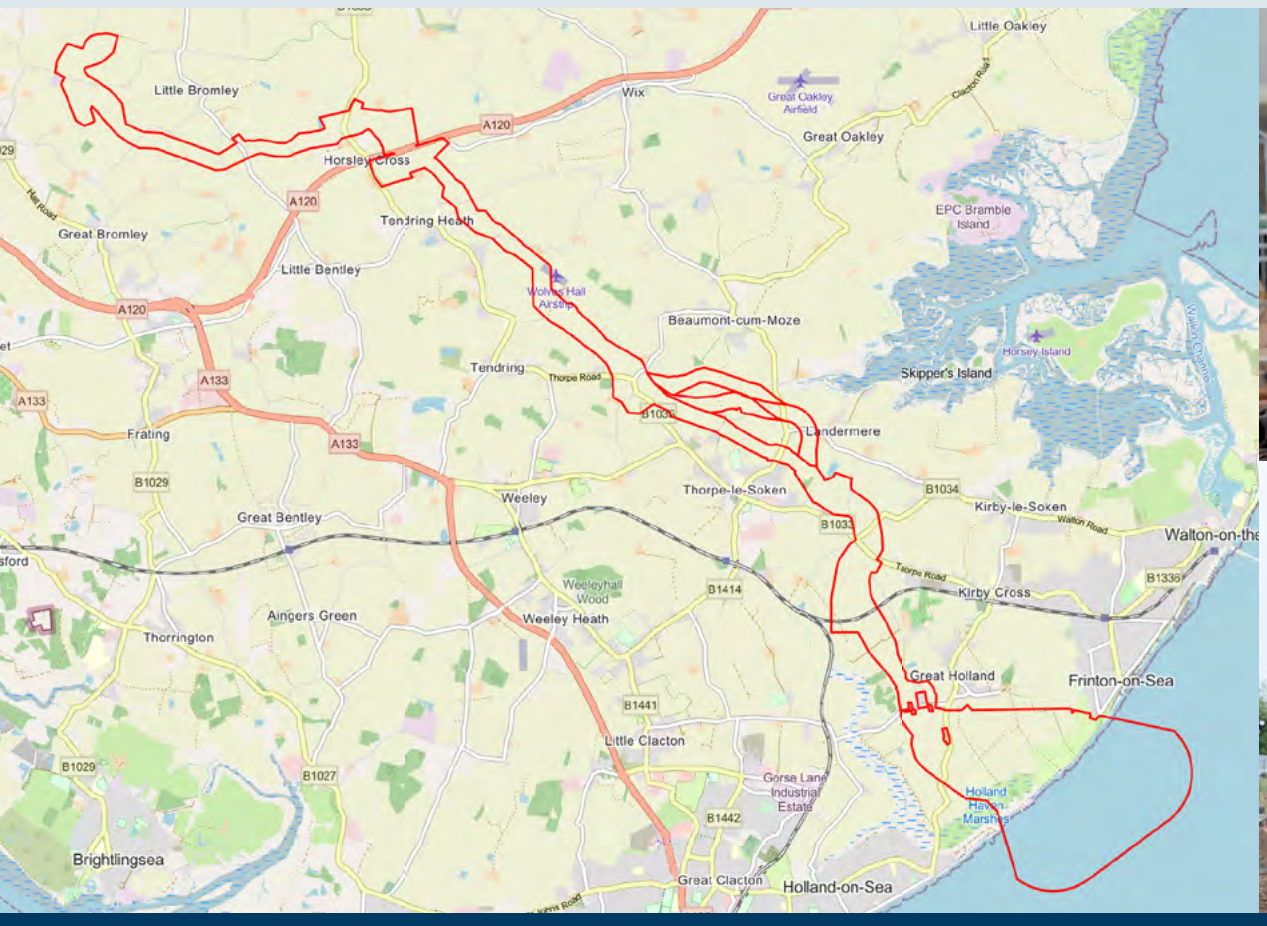
Onshore cable construction

All onshore cables will be buried and once their construction is completed, the land along the route will be returned to landowners to use as they would have previously.

The construction works will comprise duct installation using a combination of 'open cut' trench excavation and trenchless techniques, such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD) at crossings such as roads, rivers and designated sites. Once the ducts are installed, the cables would be pulled through them and joined within joint bays located along the onshore cable corridor.

To facilitate construction, temporary facilities will be required including construction accesses, up to seven temporary construction compounds and HDD compounds.

The cables would be laid in up to 16 trenches, within a temporary working width of up to 60m wide, or up to 122m where HDD is used. Cables would be installed approximately 1.8m below ground level, and cables would typically be 200mm in diameter.



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THE PROJECT: ONSHORE

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

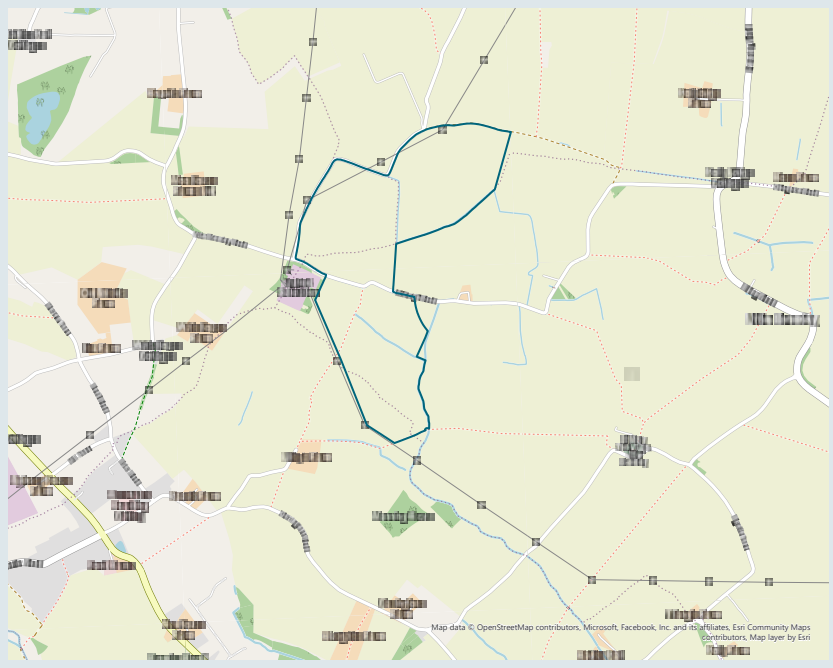
Onshore substation

North Falls will require an onshore substation for all the electrical equipment required to connect the project to the national grid. This will include electrical transformers, air / gas insulated switchgear, control and storage buildings, and other ancillary equipment. The onshore substation will also include drainage and access infrastructure, and extensive landscaping such as bunds, and woodland and hedgerow planting.

Onshore substation zone

The North Falls onshore substation would be located in an area we have called the 'onshore substation zone', located east of the village of Ardleigh and west of Little Bromley. Land heights in this zone vary from 35m Ordnance Datum (OD) around the onshore substation zone to 5m around the Holland Brook, adjacent to the coast. The footprint of the substation and its construction compounds will be located within this zone.

Onshore substation zone



ONSHORE PROJECT FACTS

24km
Underground cables total length

Around 1.8m
Cables installed below ground level

1
Onshore substation

3-8 hectares
Area of substation

18m
Maximum height of substation equipment

8
Number of horizontal directional drills

Onshore substation construction

Construction at the substation will start with stripping the topsoil then creating access points, temporary haul roads and the works compound. Earthworks will be required to create a substation platform and there may be piling (if required) before concrete is poured for the substation platform. Once the platform is completed, the electrical equipment will be installed along with drainage infrastructure. Finally, there will be reinstatement and landscaping including screening vegetation.

Offshore grid connection

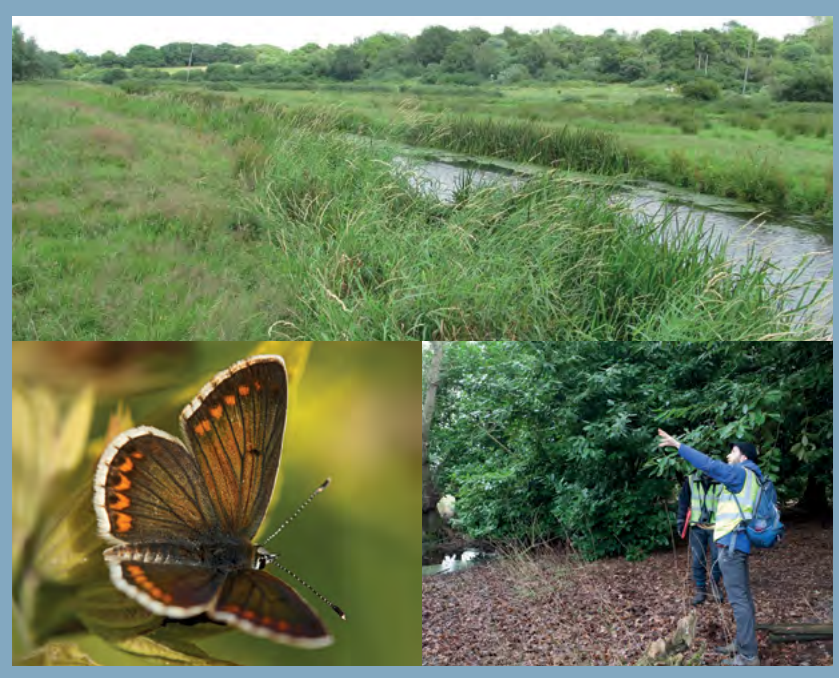
North Falls continues to work towards the fact that the project's grid connection will be the one provided by National Grid in Tendring, Essex, part of the East Anglia GREEN project. However, it should be noted that had an alternative grid connection solution been offered, for example offshore, infrastructure on land would still be required to transmit the electricity produced to the national grid for use by customers.

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

The Environment Act 2021 includes a condition mandating a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain for all developments, including nationally significant infrastructure projects such as North Falls. Developers will be required to leave the natural environment in a better condition than it was before.

The biodiversity net gain process includes specific and measurable actions and outcomes to be undertaken throughout the project lifecycle. This ranges from collecting baseline data for assessment through to calculating biodiversity gains and losses from the project's development. The intention is to deliver demonstrable and quantifiable benefits to biodiversity that will apply to all habitats within the onshore project area.

North Falls will work with statutory bodies and other groups to develop biodiversity net gain proposals, with relevant progress to be included in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report which will be subject to consultation next year.



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HOW TO RESPOND

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

We welcome your feedback and have provided a number of ways for you to respond to this consultation.

FACE-TO-FACE EVENTS

There will be a total of five face-to-face events at locations near the project search area with feedback forms to fill in and return to the team onsite.

WEBINARS

We will be hosting two webinars at **6pm on Tuesday 15 November and 6pm on Wednesday 23 November**. To register to attend an online webinar, please visit our website.

ONLINE CONSULTATION

You can also respond to the online consultation by visiting **www.non-stat.northfallsoffshore.com.**

Feedback form
We have asked some direct questions about specific elements of the proposals throughout the online materials. As you go through the information, you can respond to the relevant questions in each section.

Freepost
You can also download the feedback questionnaire and return it to: Freepost address: **FREEPOST North Falls**. This address can be used for all postal responses.

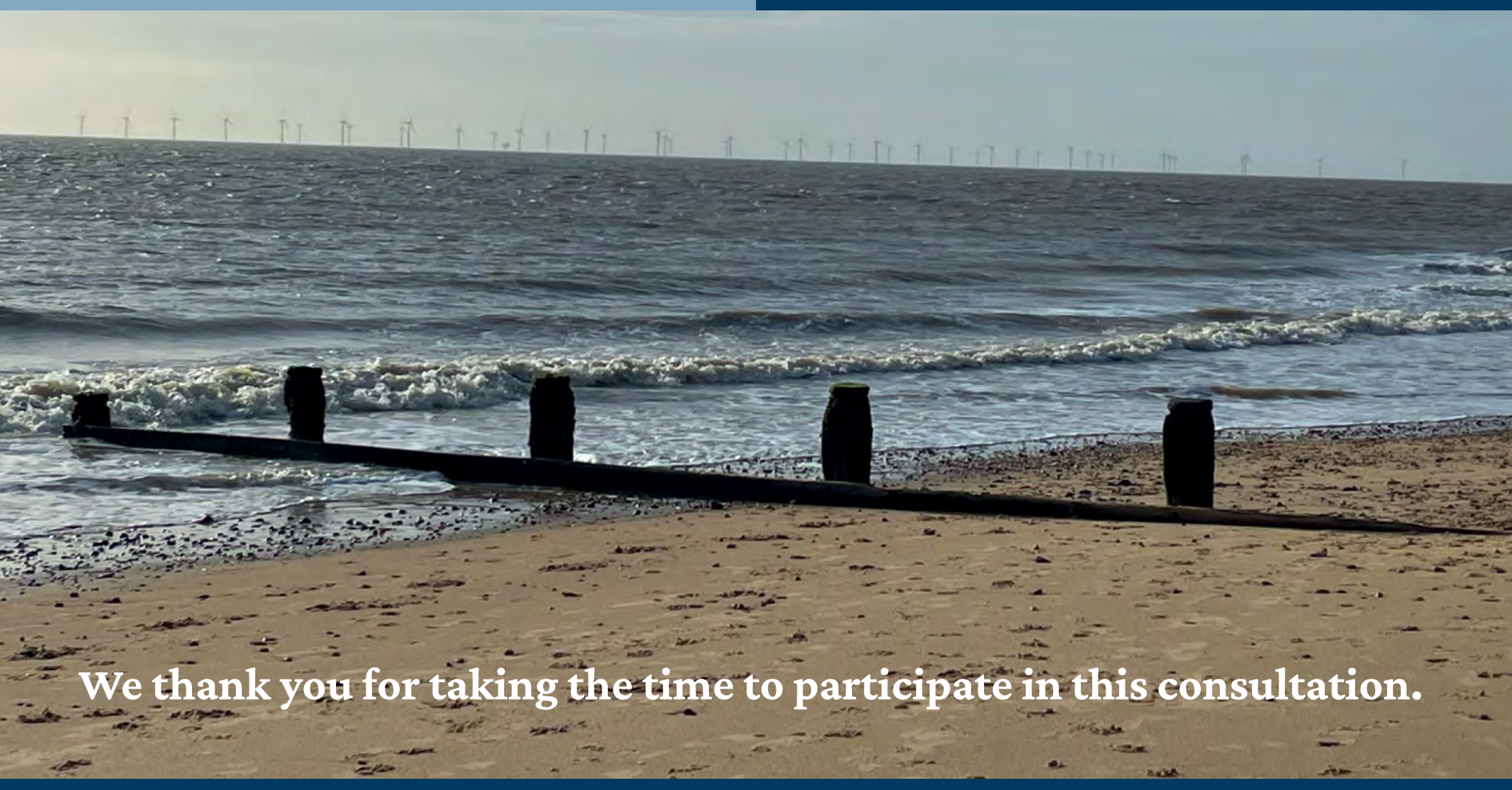
Consultation map
There is also a consultation map if you would like to focus on a specific location, you can pinpoint it on the map and leave your comment there.

WEBSITE

Or feel free to send your comments or feedback to us via the online contact form on our website: **www.northfallsoffshore.com**.

EMAIL AND TELEPHONE

We also welcome emails to: **contact@northfallsoffshore.com**, or you can ring us on **0800 254 5340**.



We thank you for taking the time to participate in this consultation.

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NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

APPENDIX E

E.13

Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation external signage


ASHLEIGH VILLAGE HALL
NORTH FALLS
Offshore Wind Farm
CONSULTATION EVENT HERE TODAY
www.northfallsoffshore.com

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

APPENDIX E

E.14

Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation poster

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

INVITATION TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR PROPOSALS FOR NORTH FALLS OFFSHORE WIND FARM

We'd like to invite you to give your views on our proposals for North Falls - an offshore wind farm being developed more than 20km off the East Anglia coast.

North Falls is a proposed extension to the existing Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm. It has an offshore array area of 150km^2 in the southern North Sea. Onshore, a grid connection in Tendring, Essex has been offered to the project by National Grid.

As well as generating green energy, contributing to the UK's net zero ambitions and providing energy security, North Falls will bring numerous local benefits by way of jobs, boosting the local economy and providing community support.

To follow on from an initial consultation held in October 2021, we would like to present our updated proposals for feedback before we continue to the next phase of development, the preparation of our Preliminary Environmental Impact Report, a key part of our development application.

Our latest consultation will run from **Monday 17 October until Friday 9 December** and will include online and face-to-face opportunities to find out more and share your comments. As well as a consultation portal there will be five consultation events and two online webinars.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE NORTH FALLS CONSULTATION:

Consultation portal

Go online to find out more about our proposals, submit questions and provide us with your thoughts: **www.northfallsoffshore.com**

In person events

Date	*Time*	*Venue*
Thursday 3 November 2022	4pm to 8pm	McGrigor Hall, 85 Fourth Ave, Frinton-on-Sea, CO13 9EB
Friday 4 November 2022	4pm to 8pm	Great Bromley Village Hall, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley, Colchester, CO7 7JA
Saturday 5 November 2022	11am to 3pm	Tendring Village Hall , Tendring, Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 0BG
Friday 11 November 2022	4pm to 8pm	Thorpe Le Soken Women's Institute Hall, High Street, Thorpe Le Soken, CO16 0EF
Saturday 12 November 2022	11am to 3pm	Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, Essex, CO7 7RS

Webinars

We will also be hosting two webinars starting at 6pm on **Tuesday 15 November** and **Wednesday 23 November**. To register to attend, please visit our website.

CONTACT US

Telephone: **0800 254 5340**
Email: **contact@northfallsoffshore.com**
Post: **FREEPOST North Falls**

THE DEADLINE FOR COMMENT IS FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2022

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

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NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

APPENDIX E

E.14.1

Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation poster distribution locations

Clacton Library

Frinton Library

Frinton Golf Club

St Edmund King and Martyr Church

Tendring Technical College Frinton Campus

Ardleigh Village Hall

Frinton Co-Op

Great Bromley Village Hall

Great Bromley Community Library

Beaumont-Cum-Moze Village Hall

Tendring Village Hall

Frinton Community Association

Weeley Parish Council

Ardleigh Convenience Store

St Mary’s Church Ardleigh

NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

APPENDIX E

E.15

Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation postcard mailer

NORTH FALLS

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NORTH FALLS
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