



**NORTH FALLS**

*Offshore Wind Farm*

**CONSULTATION  
REPORT  
APPENDIX F.31 TO F.47  
PART 4**

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|                 |             |                                |                   |                |                 |
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## NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

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# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## APPENDIX F

### F.31

*April 2022 draft SoCC*





# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## **STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (draft)**

*To be published in accordance with Section 47 (6) of the Planning Act 2008  
Spring 2022*

*Reference No: 004274925-01*



**NORTH FALLS**

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## REPORT TITLE

*Date: 11 February 2022*

|                               |                                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b>                | North Falls Offshore Wind Farm      |
| <b>Sub-Project or Package</b> | Consents                            |
| <b>Document Title</b>         | Statement of Community Consultation |
| <b>Document Reference</b>     | Ecodoc 004274925-01                 |
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| 01 (Draft A)    | 11/02/2022  | For review by ECC / TDC                                | SV                |                |                 |
| 02 (Draft B)    | 04/04/2022  | For consultation - Section 47 (1) of Planning Act 2008 | SV                |                |                 |
|                 |             |  |                   |                |                 |
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## 1. OFFSHORE WIND IN THE UK

Discussing weather is a recognised UK past time and while wet, grey and changeable skies offer an almost daily topic of conversation, our climate has one key benefit. As the windiest country in Europe, the UK is perfectly placed to generate renewable electricity from wind. It has made us the world leader in offshore wind with more installed capacity than any other country. In the past 10 years, the capacity of the UK's offshore wind farms has increased from only 1 gigawatt (GW) in 2010 to more than 10GW at the start of 2022, and costs per megawatt hour have been driven down by almost two-thirds.

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 export internationally. In 2020, the Government announced the ambition for the UK to install 40GW by 2030. This ambition goes even further than the Sector Deal, agreed in 2019 between the offshore wind sector and the UK Government, aiming 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 crisis. 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 target of 40GW by 2030. 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 and economic prosperity.

## 2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

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

In February 2017 The Crown Estate 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 appointed, and their work included carrying out 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 of the extension projects, 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 the early stages of development with the aim of submitting a development consent order (DCO) application in 2023.

This indicative timeline shows the progress of the project to date and a high-level programme of activity to come.

| <i>Date</i>  | <i>Action</i>   |
|--------------|---|
| Summer 2019  | The Crown Estate concludes its Habitats Regulations Assessment.<br>Seven projects totalling 2.85 GW of new capacity to be awarded agreements for lease.   |
| Autumn 2020  | Greater Gabbard Extension shareholder agreement signed between the two owners, SSE Renewables and RWE.<br>Agreement for Lease signed with The Crown Estate.<br>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.<br>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.<br>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.  |

### 3. DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER APPLICATION

#### 3.1 NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

As a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP), North Falls comes 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 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).

There are six stages to the development consent order process as follow overleaf.



## Application Process The Six Steps



The Pre-application phase, which runs until the project submits its development consent order (DCO) application, is the key period for local communities to input into the shaping of the project proposals. This phase for North Falls will run until mid to late 2023 and will include a total of four phases of consultation which are outlined in this Statement of Community Consultation.

You can read more about the DCO process, including the roles and responsibilities of participants and how to get involved at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>.

### 3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

In accordance with Regulation 12 of the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, the project falls within the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and, as such, we will be undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for North Falls in accordance with Regulation 5 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These documents will be consulted on during the EIA process and as the DCO application is prepared:

**Scoping Report** – This Scoping Report is the first stage of the EIA process. It outlines the receptors that will be considered during the EIA and the proposed data gathering and methodology in order to characterise the existing environment; assess potential impacts; and develop mitigation measures. This document provides high level information which will be expanded during a programme of consultation with technical stakeholders throughout the EIA process. It can be found on the North Falls website.

**Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)** – The document to follow the Scoping Report will be a PEIR, which will provide further detail on the interim findings of the site characterisation and impact assessment. We will seek feedback from local communities and other stakeholders prior to beginning our PEIR as part of our Pre-application Consultation 1 in late 2022.

**Environmental Statement (ES)** – The ES is the final report of the EIA, and it will be an evolution of the PEIR. It will incorporate the responses from our consultation and results of the surveys and research undertaken. The ES will also describe any changes made to the project proposals and mitigation measures to be implemented, and will form part of the submitted DCO application.

Copies of these reports will be made available online and as part of our public consultations.

## 4. WHAT IS A STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION?

This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been prepared in accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 and sets out how North Falls, as a developer, will consult with the local community on the proposed development consent order (DCO) application.

This draft SoCC has been prepared to make local communities aware of how they will be consulted during the development process. Amongst other matters, it provides details on:

- [THE PROPOSED OFFSHORE WIND FARM, WHAT IT WILL COMPRISE BOTH ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE](#)
- [HOW WE WILL CONSULT INCLUDING THE CONSULTATION TIMELINE](#)
- [WHO WE WILL CONSULT](#)
- [WHAT WE WILL CONSULT ON](#)
- [HOW PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON THE PROPOSALS, AND WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH THE FEEDBACK SUBMITTED](#)

We are now seeking a DCO for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, an extension to the existing Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm. With the potential to generate enough green energy to power the equivalent of at least 400,000 average British homes (depending on the final installed capacity), it will play a vital role in the greening of the UK's energy infrastructure and tackling the climate crisis.

However we cannot do this alone, we need input from communities to understand the local environment and ensure our project proposals evolve responsibly and with full engagement from those likely to be affected by the construction and operation of the wind farm. Local knowledge and views are important to us and will play an integral role in helping to shape the final plans. North Falls will welcome feedback and comments to our plans throughout the development process.

### 4.1 CONSULTATION ON THE SOCC

This draft document will be consulted on with local authorities that fall within the original North Falls Scoping Area. Feedback will be considered and incorporated into the final version that is shared with the wider community. The authorities consulted will be:

- [ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL](#)
- [TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL](#)
- [LAWFORD PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [WEELEY PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [LITTLE BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [TENDRING PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [GREAT OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [WIX PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [THORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [FRATING PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [ELMSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [MISTLEY PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [BRADFIELD PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [BEAUMONT PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [THORPE-LE-SOKEN PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [FRINTON AND WALTON PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [RAMSEY AND PARKESTON PARISH COUNCIL](#)
- [ARDLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL](#)

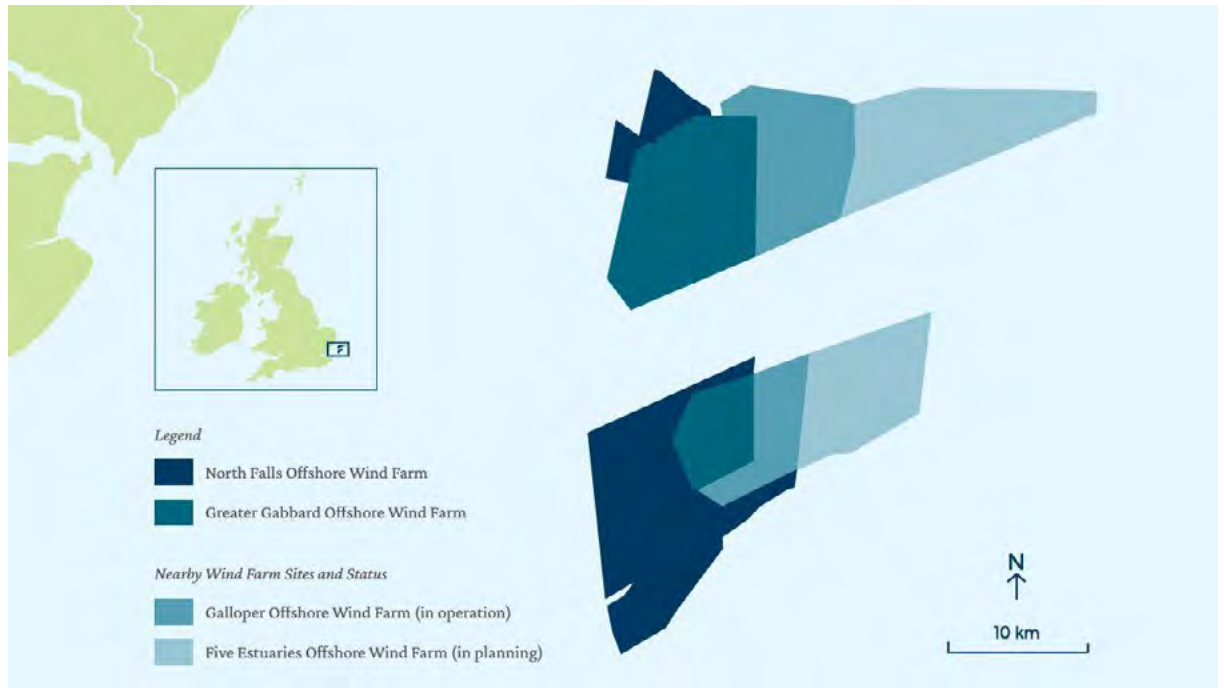
The final version of the document will be available to download from the North Falls website:



## 5. OVERVIEW

North Falls will be located in the southern North Sea, approximately 20 kilometres from shore at its nearest point. It has a total area of 149.96 km<sup>2</sup> (across the two sections) which is roughly the area of Bristol. The project description for North Falls will evolve as work progresses, considering inputs from the scoping opinion, environmental assessments and ongoing engineering and survey work and feedback from our consultations.

MAP 1 – LOCATION OF NORTH FALLS AND ADJOINING OFFSHORE WIND PROJECTS



### 5.1 GREATER GABBARD OFFSHORE WIND FARM

North Falls' sister project, Greater Gabbard is a 504MW wind farm located in the southern North Sea, 20 kilometres from the East Anglia coast. It is owned equally by RWE Renewables and SSE Renewables, and is operated by the latter on behalf of both partners.

Greater Gabbard represented a £1.5 billion investment and created hundreds of jobs during construction as well as 100 long-term new roles at its (then) newly built operations and maintenance base in Lowestoft. It was officially opened in 2013.

When Greater Gabbard was built it was the UK's largest offshore wind farm, in the deepest waters and farthest from shore, so the supply chain was embryonic. It was able to utilise the vast experience of Lowestoft-based oil and gas firms and introduce multiple new suppliers into the offshore wind industry. Local firm Windcat Workboats, provider of crew transfer vessels (CTVs) to transport technicians to and from the site is just one local success story. The industry has matured significantly since that time but continues to welcome new players, particularly from related sectors keen to transition into offshore wind.

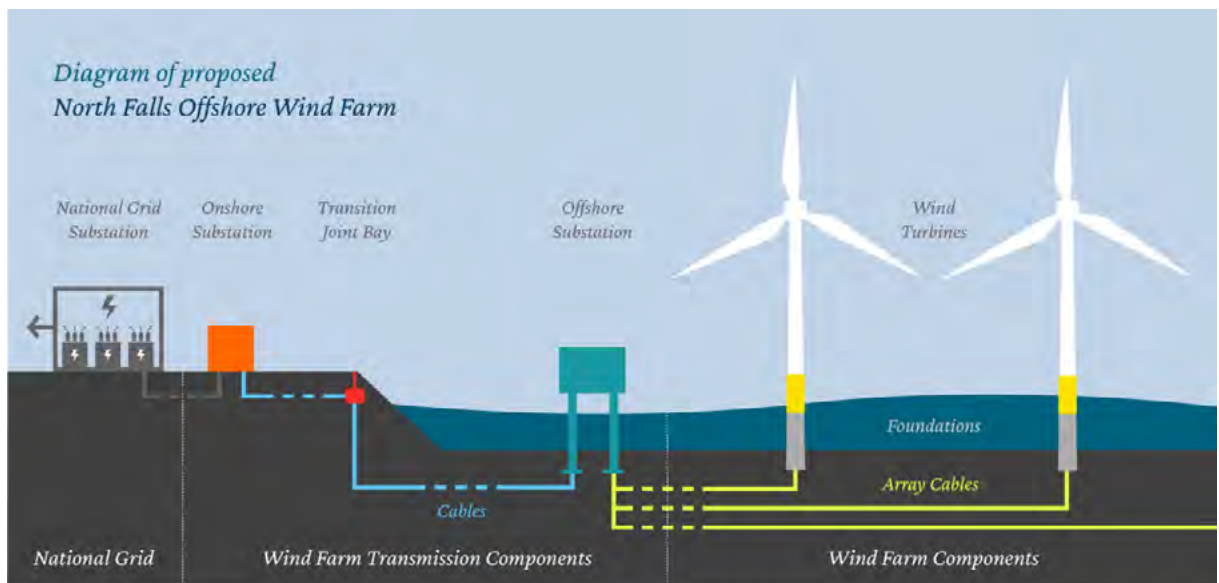
Of the 100 new recruits to the Greater Gabbard operations base, 95% were from the local area and since inception, more than 10 local apprentices have graduated from the wind farm's apprentice training scheme as wind turbine and balance-of-plant technicians. The wind farm has also offered junior engineer roles in disciplines including electrical engineering, SCADA engineering and control & instrumentation. Ex-fishermen have been employed to CTVs as part of the drive to find locally skilled people to fill requirements for roles.

North Falls will similarly provide contracting opportunities for local companies and career opportunities for local people throughout each phase of its lifecycle.

## 6. PROJECT COMPONENTS

At this stage we can give a high-level summary of the project's key components which are: an offshore array area (with two sections), proposed offshore cable route and landfall, and an onshore area of search.

As per other wind farms, North Falls will comprise: wind turbines on foundations, with the number and types to be determined, and array cables connecting the turbines in strings to up to two offshore substations, also on foundations. Subsea export cables will bring the power to shore, where they will connect to onshore buried cables that will carry the power further to a new purpose-built onshore substation. From here the power will be transmitted to a new National Grid substation, from where it will enter the national grid to be distributed to homes, businesses and industry.



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

## 7. THE PROJECT: OFFSHORE

The offshore project area lies within the Outer Thames Estuary, in the southern North Sea. Its closest point to land is 22km from the East Anglia coast.

### 7.1 OFFSHORE SITE

Like our sister project Greater Gabbard, the North Falls array area is split into two separate areas, with boundaries to take the existing shipping route into account. It will be within these two boundaries that turbines, array cables and offshore platform (substation) will be installed. The northern site covers approximately 21 km<sup>2</sup> while the larger southern site covers approximately 130km<sup>2</sup>.

The overall turbine and array layout will be finalised post-consent. Likewise, the location and design of the offshore substations will also be finalised during the design phase of the project.

### 7.2 EXPORT CABLE CORRIDOR

The electricity generated by North Falls will be transmitted to shore by export cables which will be located within an offshore export cable corridor. Our early site selection works have identified a preferred corridor to run from the southern array area to a proposed landfall on the Essex coast, located between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea.

The preferred offshore export cable corridor passes to the north of the environmental designations 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. The project design also includes an interconnector cable between the northern and southern array areas.



**55km**

Provisional offshore cable route length



**Up to 4**

Maximum number of offshore export circuits



**0.5 – 3m**

Target minimum cable burial depth where buried



**2**

Maximum number of offshore substation platforms



**228km**

Estimated length of array cables

## 8. THE PROJECT: ONSHORE

Electricity generated by the wind farm will be transmitted to shore via subsea cables that will reach the North Essex coastline at a location known as 'landfall'.

### 8.1 LANDFALL

The landfall - where the export cable from the wind farm will come to shore – will be sited in a location between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea. The precise landfall location will be selected during 2022 and the team will also incorporate relevant consultation feedback and environmental and engineering survey data. There will be no permanent building at landfall, although there will be temporary disruption during the cable installation and general project construction. At the landfall site it is proposed to use a technique called horizontal directional drilling (HDD), which will take the cable deep under Holland Haven Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and so avoid crossing this designation.

### 8.2 ONSHORE CABLE ROUTE & SUBSTATION

The route North Fall's cables take over land from landfall to the site of the onshore substation, as well as the site of the substation itself, will depend on the location of the grid connection offered by National Grid and the location of their own new substation. This is where the power from the wind farm will enter the national transmission system. The location of the grid connection is expected to be in North Essex, which is why North Falls has focussed our consultation efforts in that area. When National Grid finalise the location for their own substation, North Falls will be able to define a route for the onshore cables and a site for our own individual onshore substation.

The onshore cables will be buried underground to minimise visual and environmental impact, however during construction a temporary working corridor will be needed along with additional areas for temporary construction compounds. Generally, this temporary land will be in parallel with the cable corridor. Whilst North Falls will mitigate its impacts there will be some temporary disruption during



construction. Once the cables have been installed the temporary land will be restored to its former use. Where the cable route crosses features such as roads, watercourses and ecologically sensitive areas, the aim will be to go under them using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) as at the landfall, to avoid impacts on the features.

Details of the onshore substation location, its footprint and how it will look and how it will be screened with vegetation, will be consulted on during the pre-application process. The only long-term visible infrastructure onshore is likely to be the onshore substation.



**Horizontal directional drilling**

Proposed landfall installation method



**High voltage alternating current**

Electrical connection type



**18m**

Maximum onshore substation height



**1**

Number of onshore substations



**Up to 70m**

Estimated onshore cable route width



**200m x 250m**

Maximum onshore substation footprint

**8.3 ONSHORE SCOPING AREA**

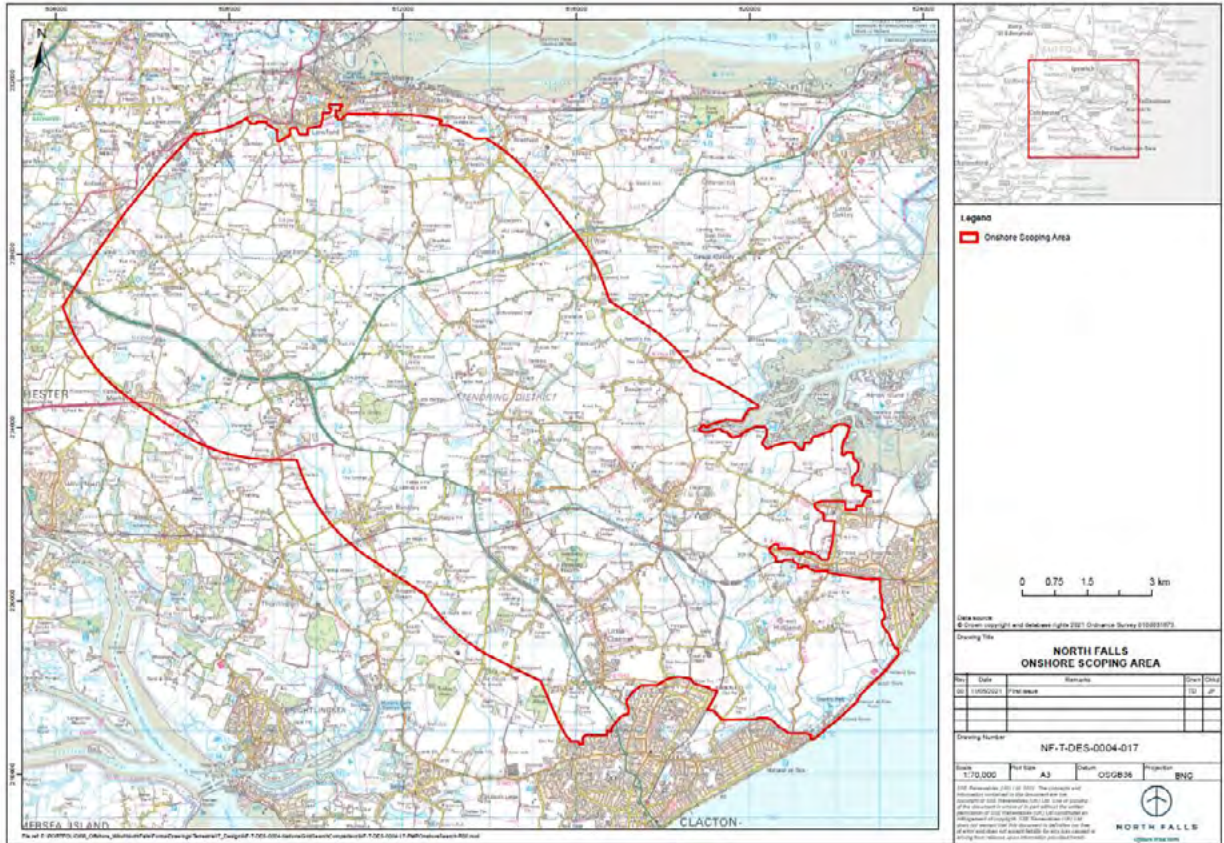
The North Falls team has defined an area in North Essex within which the grid connection point is likely to be located. This is known as the onshore 'scoping area'. This is the first stage in a long process and the actual footprint of any eventual development will be significantly smaller than this initial broad area of search which also defined the area of our introductory consultation held in late 2021.

The area was identified by filtering out broad constraints such as population centres and sites of importance for nature conservation, whilst keeping within a certain distance of existing National Grid infrastructure such as the 132kV line between Lawford and Little Clacton substations.

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

MAP 2 – INITIAL NORTH FALLS SCOPING AREA



## 9. OUR CONSULTATION PROCESS

North Falls will undertake local stakeholder and community consultation throughout the Pre-application phase, and beyond. The team will act in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 duty to consult principle, and will engage with stakeholders, being any person, group or organisation with an interest in the project. North Falls will consult to gather feedback on the preliminary assessments, including methodology, and on the project itself as it begins to take shape.

Pre-application consultation is the main opportunity for stakeholders to review the plans, provide comments, submit feedback and have an influence on elements of the process and the evolution of the development. During this period there will be a multi-stage consultation process with all stakeholders, with each consultation period allowing no less than 28 days for responses.

Our objective is to ensure that stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by the proposals are engaged in the development of the wind farm from the start to finish, and have opportunities to comment on the proposals at key decision-making junctions. We aim to engage with and respond to stakeholders in a flexible and open way ensuring discussions are held and responses received in a timely manner to ensure their consideration the proposals take shape.

### *Introductory consultation*

North Falls undertook an initial introductory consultation to seek feedback on the project plans as they stood in Autumn 2021, including on the overall project, engagement approach, the Scoping Report and proposals so far. The information that was consulted on and the summaries of the responses and feedback received are still available to view on the consultation portal:

[Redacted text]

### *Pre-application Consultation 1*

The next consultation will be our Pre-application Consultation 1, which will align to the start of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). This will present onshore and offshore

proposals, as well as EIA methodology and Statement of Community Consultation (following agreement with local authorities). This will include direct questions for input into specific elements of the plans as well as the opportunity to give wider opinions on the plans. Consultation methods will include: stakeholder meetings, consultation events, publications and an online consultation portal, with promotion via advertising, press stories, leaflet drops and direct emails. Ways to respond will be via the consultation portal, feedback forms (online and printed), attendance at events, project email or website contact form, freephone and freepost. This will be an informal consultation but will be run to the same standards and timeframes as formal consultation.

*Pre-application Consultation 2*

This will be the project’s single statutory consultation and will focus on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The PEIR will incorporate the preliminary results of the EIA as well as feedback from prior consultations. This consultation will identify specific elements for input where it would be useful and feasible to implement. The methodologies will be the same as for the previous consultation, though adjusted if feedback suggested additions or alternatives. In terms of promotion, there will be an additional requirement for national advertising, though ways to respond will remain the same.

*Final Pre-application Consultation*

A fourth and final consultation stage will be shaped as needed, to ensure that consultation is specific to outstanding final inputs prior to the submission of the application. The first three consultation stages will involve all the consultees while the final stage will target specific stakeholders and exact format will be decided based on the outcomes of the previous consultation phases.

Community consultation events will be advertised and promoted widely in advance and wherever possible will be scheduled to avoid clashes with periods when stakeholders may not be able to attend, such as summer holidays. Stakeholders and members of the local community can also register to receive information and updates in between consultation phases.

As well as defined consultation periods, ad hoc and informal consultation will be carried out throughout on issues of specific interest, areas of expertise or related to statutory responsibility. This may include for example: specific consultation with nearby residents regarding the onshore substation site; liaison with fisheries and marine stakeholders on the export cable location or surveys; and targeted consultation with directly affected landowners, lessees, tenants and those with an interest in the land.

| Indicative consultation programme                                |   |
|--|---|
| The current timetable for our consultation phases is as follows: |   |
| Ongoing  | <b>Informal engagement</b><br>Continued engagement including communication of updated project proposals and impacts resulting from the consultations          |
| 25 October to 10 December 2021                                   | <b>Informal introductory Consultation</b><br>Introduction to the project, scoping and early opportunity for feedback. This consultation has now concluded.    |
| Spring 2022  | <b>Statement of Community Consultation</b><br>Consultation with local Councils on this document that will subsequently be published on the website.           |
| Autumn 2022  | <b>Pre-application Consultation 1</b><br>Consultation prior to commencing Preliminary Environmental Information Report  |
| 2023   | <b>Pre-application Consultation 2</b><br>Consultation on Preliminary Environmental Information Report   |
|  | <b>Final Pre-application Consultation</b><br>Final and limited consultation, primarily an engagement opportunity to communicate final Environmental Statement |

## 10. WHO WILL WE CONSULT

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

- THOSE DIRECTLY AFFECTED INCLUDING: 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.
- THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, WHICH IS 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 mentioned above, however this statement of community consultation (SoCC) specifies the details of how we will consult specifically with the local community.

We recognise that those living, working or having a specific link to the location of the proposed infrastructure will have a key interest. For the introductory consultation in late 2021, this included targeting those within the initial broad North Falls Scoping Area (see Map 2) via newspaper advertising (printed and digital), local press, leaflets delivered to 40,000 addresses and direct emails.

The existing North Falls Scoping Area will be modified to align to the project plans and proposals as they become more refined. North Falls will focus its public consultation on the areas extending one kilometre either side of the locations proposed for landfall and for the above and below ground infrastructure. By selecting these focussed consultation areas, we will ensure that all individuals and stakeholders identified within that minimum distance will be consulted. This approach will guide the refinement of consultation area as the project evolves, for example as route options develop and when the preferred sites for project infrastructure, such as the onshore substation, are identified.

Properties within the focussed consultation area will receive direct communications such as leaflets and notifications from us in the post.

North Falls will also communicate with a wider consultation area, as we recognise that there may be interested individuals or groups who are not within the key public consultation focus area. We are committed to ensuring that those with wider interests still have an opportunity to view and provide feedback on our proposals. We will notify communities within the wider consultation area by advertising in local media and using targeted digital campaigns. Project consultation materials will be published online and available to view and download or request via our contact details.

Throughout the development of our proposals, we will continue to work with local planning authorities to identify any relevant community groups, business organisations and others who should be consulted. As well as the community consultation, we have, and will continue to, engage with range of statutory and non-statutory consultees, including:

- OWNERS, TENANTS AND OCCUPIERS OF THE LAND IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE APPLICATION.
- MPs AND LOCAL COUNCILS (COUNTY, DISTRICT AND PARISH).
- STATUTORY STAKEHOLDERS, SUCH AS NATURAL ENGLAND, THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND THE WILDLIFE TRUSTS.
- MARINE GROUPS AND USERS SUCH AS FISHERIES, PORTS AND THE MARITIME AND COASTGUARD AGENCY.
- LOCAL INTEREST AND COMMUNITY GROUPS, BOTH INSHORE AND WITHIN THE COASTAL AREA WITH A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN SEASCAPE VISUAL AMENITY
- HARD TO REACH GROUPS

We plan for our consultation activity to be accessible to all groups in the community and it will include both online and in-person opportunities for involvement. The approach to consultation outlined in this SoCC covers an inclusive range of communications methods to ensure we are able to conduct an open and meaningful consultation across the community. We recognise that some individuals or groups may have trouble taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons and therefore we will develop targeted approaches to engage groups defined as hard to reach or marginalised.



These groups are those which are, for various reasons, not able to access traditional and conventional methods of consultation and are typically under-represented in the planning process, for example:

- ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS AND PEOPLE FOR WHOM ENGLISH IS NOT THEIR FIRST LANGUAGE
- ELDERLY PEOPLE
- YOUNG PEOPLE
- PEOPLE WITH VISUAL, HEARING OR SPEECH IMPAIRMENTS
- DISABLED PEOPLE (PHYSICAL AND LEARNING)
- THOSE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY
- CARERS, SINGLE PARENTS AND FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN
- SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE
- GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED COMMUNITIES OR INDIVIDUALS, SUCH AS THOSE IN RURAL AREAS

Throughout development we will continue to liaise with local authorities to identify and establish a line of communication with such groups, setting up a database of identified contacts. We will use this 'hard to reach groups' database to ensure these groups and organisations are kept up to date with the development of the scheme and have ample opportunities for feedback. Appendix A is currently blank but will be populated with the 'hard to reach' groups once the contact information is gathered.

We will also ask local authorities and organisations who regularly liaise with hard to reach groups about their most effective communications methodologies to add to our intended channels which include: newsletters, telephone, our online consultation portal and face to face meetings. Using these channels, and those recommended by other local stakeholders, we will facilitate two-way communication with these groups and encourage input and feedback. However we will monitor the approaches used and modify them as needed, to ensure we employ the most effective ways to engage with hard to reach groups, whether that be via existing but tailored channels or via different targeted methods.

## 11. WHAT WE WILL CONSULT ON

The paramount aim of the public consultation we will undertake for North Falls is to ensure that local communities, other stakeholders and technical consultees are able to effectively follow the progress of the project, understand the content of the plans and provide input or feedback to help shape the proposals.

We held our introductory consultation that so we could gather initial comments from an early stage of the project's development. Each consultation will build on the previous one to help us develop a deeper understanding of key local issues and community concerns, and to be able to take them into account as the project evolves. This will be part of an ongoing dialogue with communities and stakeholders, during which we will welcome input, particularly from people who live or work in the project area and know it well.

We therefore very much encourage communities to share their local knowledge and input into how North Falls may affect them specifically as well as how it may impact the local area and environment. We will be seeking feedback to help develop our proposals including, but not limited to, the following:

- OUR OFFSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATION AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT INCLUDING CONSULTATION WITH THE MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION (MMO) AND LOCAL COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS.
- OUR LANDFALL LOCATION AND SITING OF THE TEMPORARY LANDFALL CONSTRUCTION COMPOUND
- REFINEMENT OF THE ONSHORE CABLE CORRIDOR, TEMPORARY WORKS COMPOUNDS AND ACCESS
- OUR SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE LOCATION OF THE ONSHORE SUBSTATION AND ACCESS ROUTES
- THE TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION-RELATED IMPACTS AROUND ACTIVITY SUCH AS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT, NOISE MITIGATION AND THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT.
- OPERATIONAL IMPACTS THAT WILL BE MORE PERMANENT, FOR EXAMPLE ON THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL AMENITY.



At each phase of consultation, we will give the community the opportunity to discuss details of aspects of the North Falls proposals with relevant project team members and utilising a wide range of communication methodologies (listed in Section 12).

Some elements of the project will be relatively fixed, for example the grid connection point once it is received and the offshore site, whereas others have more room for flexibility and therefore can be altered or adapted following stakeholder and community input. The application itself will have in-built flexibility around some aspects of the design, such as the layout of the landfall construction compound, as it will not be finalised until post-consent.

## 12. HOW AND WHERE TO HAVE A SAY

We will employ a range of consultation methodologies –both traditional and online - to ensure there are multiple ways to provide feedback to the project team. These methodologies will include consultation events and meetings, an online consultation portal, a dedicated project freephone line and project email. We will regularly send project news to those on the North Falls mailing list so any interested parties can register their interest via the contact form on the project website. Consultation methodologies will include:

- ONLINE CONSULTATION PORTAL
- FEEDBACK FORMS / QUESTIONNAIRES
- COMMUNITY CONSULTATION EVENTS (COVID SITUATION PERMITTING)
- NEWSLETTERS / FACTSHEETS (ELECTRONIC AND PRINTED VERSIONS)
- DIRECT MAIL (LETTERS, INVITATIONS AND INFORMATION MATERIALS) DELIVERED TO THOSE WITHIN THE CONSULTATION AREA
- DIRECT EMAILS TO THOSE ON THE NORTH FALLS MAILING LIST
- PRINT AND DIGITAL ADVERTISING IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS (CLACTON AND FRINTON GAZETTE)
- ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUPS AS APPLICABLE
- MEETINGS WITH LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDING PARISH, DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS
- PROJECT SPECIFIC WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.NORTHFALLSOFFSHORE.COM/](https://www.northfallsoffshore.com/)
- SOCIAL MEDIA INCLUDING INSTAGRAM @NORTHFALLS
- DIRECT 24-HOUR PHONE LINE: 0800 254 5340
- PROJECT-SPECIFIC EMAIL ADDRESS: [CONTACT@NORTHFALLSOFFSHORE.COM](mailto:CONTACT@NORTHFALLSOFFSHORE.COM)

While the Covid-19 pandemic and associated Government rules and health measures prevented public events, including face-to-face consultation activities, it is anticipated that by the time North Falls launches its next consultation phase, we will be able to hold consultation events at venues close to proposed onshore infrastructure sites. The safety of our consultees will be a priority with any face-to-face consultation, and we will follow Government guidelines in place at the time. Given the fact many people are now also used to the flexibility of being able to comment to proposals in their own time, we will maintain our online consultation in parallel to the in-person events. If online consultation replaces what in the past would have been undertaken in the local area, additional measures will be taken to make sure that those in harder to reach groups are not disadvantaged in terms of having their views considered.

## 13. SUBMITTING FEEDBACK AND WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Meaningful two-way consultation on the proposed plans will be integral to our decision-making process in terms of the final proposal development we put forward in our application.

While we will welcome feedback at any time, there will be specific consultation periods where we will be asking for comments related to defined elements of our proposals. Consultation periods will be widely advertised with opening and closing dates for input highlighted.

After the closing date of each consultation phase, we will assess and consider comments carefully and look at how they can help us shape the final proposals. We will summarise the consultation activity and outcomes via our consultation portal and through summary consultation reports, also made available online. Commonly asked questions, and answers, will be posted on the website and expanded with new questions and answers as need arises. We will provide information on how we have considered comments and integrated community and stakeholder feedback to track the influence of the consultation activity on the project proposals.

## 14. HOW TO CONTACT US

There are a number of ways you can find out more about the project, get in touch with the project team or register details to receive updates:



**Email:** [contact@northfalls.com](mailto:contact@northfalls.com)



**24-hour freephone line:** 0800 254 5340



**Freepost address:** FREEPOST North Falls



**Website:** [REDACTED]

**Consultation portal:** [REDACTED]



Landowners can contact the project's land agent Dalcour Maclaren:

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

**Email:** [northfalls@dalcourmaclaren.com](mailto:northfalls@dalcourmaclaren.com)

**Telephone:** 01622 623025



Fishing industry stakeholders can contact our fisheries consultants Brown & May Marine Ltd:

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

**Email:** [freya@brownmay.com](mailto:freya@brownmay.com)

**Telephone:** 01379 772871

## **APPENDIX A. HARD TO REACH GROUPS**

List of hard to reach groups who will be contacted individually

Insert table with feedback from consultation process



**NORTH FALLS**

*Offshore Wind Farm*



**RWE**

## **HARNESSING THE POWER OF NORTH SEA WIND**

*North Falls Offshore Wind Farm is being developed on a site more than 20 kilometres off the UK coast in the southern North Sea and covers a total area of 150 km<sup>2</sup>. It is an extension project to the adjacent 504-megawatt Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm, which became fully operational in 2013.*

*It is being developed by a joint venture company owned equally by SSE Renewables and RWE Renewables.*

*If you would like to contact the project team, please email* [REDACTED]

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# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## APPENDIX F

### F.32

*February 2022 emails encouraging feedback  
on early draft SoCC*

**From:** Harper, Daniel  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022 2:21 PM  
**To:** Mark Woodger - Principal Planner <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Vincent, Sue <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** North Falls Offshore Wind Farm: Draft Statement of Community Consultation - Section 47(2) PA2008

Mark

We are preparing to settle on our community consultation strategy as required by Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. In particular, the obligation to consult with the host (as defined by Section 43) local authority on the content of our Statement of Community Consultation (often referred to as the SoCC). The purpose of this key document is to ensure that local communities are advised on how and when North Falls Offshore Wind Farm will consult with communities. Working with colleagues, we have prepared a *draft* SoCC which I have attached and I am issuing to provide Essex County Council and Tendring District Council the opportunity to review, comment and provide general feedback to help and assist North Falls to successfully engage with local communities within Tendring. Section 4.1 in the attached *draft* SoCC identifies our understanding of those Parish Council's from whom we would invite feedback via Essex County Council and Tendring District Council. Section 9 through to 12, set out how and when we intend to consult on the project, with section 13 establishing how the community can provide consultation feedback, with section 14 providing general contact details for the North Falls consultation team. Whilst we will have dedicated pre-application consultation events (which we hope will be face to face as well as virtual) we are keen that the community can contact North Falls anytime outside of these organised consultation events.

In preparing the attached *draft* SoCC, we have recognised that North Falls is not best placed to identify Hard to Reach groups whom will be located within our Scoping Boundary. Hard to Reach groups will benefit from individual invitations to our pre-application consultation events and on this, we would appreciate Essex County Council and Tendring District Councils help in identifying these groups. We have included an Appendix, which we would be eager to populate with those groups whom we should engage with directly – who will then will receive specific invitations during our public consultation events, to ensure that they are offered dedicated time and will benefit from full and uninterrupted access to our consultation materials and consultation resources.

Once the attached has been shared with Tendring District Council, I would be keen that we would arrange a Teams call between ourselves to discuss the general content of the attached, establish a list of hard to reach groups and then agree a timescale within which North Falls would receive a formal written response to our *draft* SoCC. We would then more formally issue the North Falls Statement of Community Consultation, which would then trigger an obligation on the local authority to comment within a deadline of 28 days (section 47(3)).

Should you wish to discuss the content of this email or the attached in advance of circulating with Tendring District Council and its Parish Council's, please do not hesitate to contact me. Otherwise, I would be keen to set up a call as suggested above.

Finally, I have attached a PINS 2017 FAQ (FAQ 3 & 13) document that may be of assistance in further explaining the principles behind settling on a Statement of Community Consultation.

Kindest Regards

Daniel Harper BSc (Hons) MRICS  
Consents Manager  
North Falls Offshore Wind Farm

M [REDACTED]  
E [REDACTED]  
W [REDACTED]  
IG: [@northfallsoffshore](#)



# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## APPENDIX F

### F.33

*April 2022 emails officially consulting  
on the draft SoCC*

**From:** Harper, Daniel  
**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 4:06 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [northfallsconsents@rwe.com](mailto:northfallsconsents@rwe.com)  
**Subject:** North Falls Offshore Wind draft Statement of Community Consultation – for consultation

Dear Mr James Cartledge MP

Please find attached for consultation, the Draft North Falls Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). In accordance with the requirements of Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 we are formally issuing this document to you in order to obtain your input which will be considered prior to us issuing the final version.

Engagement with stakeholders with a potential interest in North Falls Offshore Wind Farm is a key part of our development process and our SoCC details how this consultation will be carried out.

The SoCC includes full details of the project both onshore and offshore, as well as information about who we will consult, what we will consult on and how we will consult. It provides a timeframe for our consultation process and explains how stakeholders are able to provide their feedback.

The submission of the SoCC follows an informal consultation with local authority officers and discussions around the principles of our consultation approach, as well as reviews of best practice consultation.

While Section 47 (3) of the Planning Act 2008 requires that the deadline for the receipt of your response to this consultation is 28 days from receipt of this letter, we would like to extend that period to give you extra time to respond. The deadline for response will therefore be **Friday 20 May 2022**.

The SoCC does mention our intention to specifically target 'hard to reach' groups and we will be working to identify and liaise with them, however we would appreciate **your input** in helping us to identify all the relevant groups. If you know of any specific groups that should be included on our list or can recommend effective consultation methodologies with these groups, please do send the details through.

Please note, a copy of the attached is being specifically issued to named planning officers at Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council. However, please feel free to contact me with any queries or if you would like to discuss North Falls' approach to consultation in further detail.

Kindest Regards

Daniel Harper BSc (Hons) MRICS  
Consents Manager  
North Falls Offshore Wind Farm

M  
E  
W  
IG: [@northfalls offshore](https://www.instagram.com/northfalls offshore)



# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## APPENDIX F

### F.34

*Draft SoCC feedback and considerations*

Essex County Council  
County Planning  
County Hall  
Chelmsford  
Essex CM1 1QH



Mr Daniel Harper  
North Falls Offshore Wind Farm

By Email Only – [REDACTED]

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022

Dear Daniel,

**Re. Draft North Falls Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). In accordance with the requirements of Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008**

Thank you for early sight of the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm sent to Essex County Council (ECC) by e-mail on the 04<sup>th</sup> April 2022 with the document reference "Ecodoc 004274925-01 (Rev 1)" attached. It is understood that it is your intent to seek comments from ECC on this document prior to publishing a document for formal consultation in due course, you have given us until the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to respond and this letter meets that given date.

The extension of time to get comments to you is noted and appreciated.

Please note that as you know ECC is working at the request of Tendring District Council on this National Significant Infrastructure Proposal (NSIP) hence this letter is sent on behalf of the Joint Council's and copied into the same.

Please note, the issues contained in this letter are made without prejudice to comments the Joint Council's may make at the formal SoCC consultation stage.

Firstly, I think the SoCC could cause some confusion, and I'll explain why. As we know there are two separated proposals coming forward at virtually the same time, both to extend the as called Greater Gabbard Wind Farm, yours, and another. Whilst this is known professionally and has been the subject of discussion this is not known widely outside this I suggest. I think it is important that both schemes mention each other and put them into context. It is inevitable that with two consultations there will be confusion on what is being consulted on and when and by whom. Hence I think that both schemes

should be required to mention each other in context, so the public in particular will have a better understanding, to know that they are distinct from one another.

In addition, and as you know, the combination of impact will be a material consideration when these DCO's are considered, for example traffic movement to your as proposed development will have to be assessed in relation to in combination effects, hence it is considered that when the SoCC when published reference to the same should be made.

I also think that when the consultation lands, separately from one another, one consultation could well be prejudiced by the one which went before it, and the need for two needs to be clearly set out, explained and timetabled if at all possible. For the consultation to work effectively it needs to be explained that this proposal is unique and not simply something which a former proposal has requested comments on. There is a clear issue here and I would not wish for consultation fatigue nor apathy to set in where projects are overlooked erroneously. Consultees should have a clear understanding of what they are commenting upon, when and why.

This is a rather unusual situation, and it isn't for the Council's to point out what the method should be take to ensure clarity, but something I will leave for comment within the formal SoCC. I do see this as mentioned in Chapter 5 but I have to say this is far from clear what the relationship between the two projects is in terms of consultation on the same.

Turning to the draft SoCC I have the following comments on the Chapters as are set out below. However, I would say that the SoCC seems well written and developed for almost its entirety, it reads as a very grounded and accessible document.

In Chapter 1 wouldn't it be correct to state that North Falls contributes to the UK becoming self-sufficient in terms of its energy supply, I think this is necessary given current world events as we seek to reduce our need to rely on imported fuel sources?

In 3 at the Gant chart would it be an idea to add in an annotation to show where the process is with this consultation?

At 4, bullet points one and two, change to read Essex County Council in partnership with Tendring District Council.

At 5, and indeed within the proceeding chapters, an extension to the Greater Gabbard wind farm is explained, but the NF proposal will look materially different, on all be it long views, as the turbines are markedly bigger. What we are told is that the turbines will be 400 metres to tip. If this is not explained in terms of scale impact could be seriously misunderstood, prejudicing detailed comment. Whilst it is an extension to GG



it is however materially different in term so scale and this will affect long views and consequently the impact of the proposal hence it is recommended this is explained.

At 6 the onshore substation is shown as a orange box, should this not be supplemented by an example or artists image of the same? Again this would provide clarity as to the proposals. It is important that the consultation is specific on what it is asking for comments on.

At 8, this frankly needs work. Clearly the cable route will be know prior to formal consultation, without it the consultation has scant value and ECC have made a number of comments on the same. The map at 8 has little value. At consultation consultees will need to know what is proposed, not what may be proposed, to be able to comment on the proposals as they affect them. Not only will this refine the proposal but also the area consulted on. Consultation on a wide area, said to be 150 sq km within the draft SoCC, is unmanageable. The SoCC does talk about the consultation being focused, such a wide area of consultation does not achieve this.

I think it also necessary to explain what will happen once the works are completed, assuming they are consented, for example the underground cable corridor, what will it, or could it be used for? This will give consultees assurances of what to expect post development.

The Consultation materials will need to clearly show which parts of the site will be developed and which parts of the site will not, or used for ancillary works/alternative uses including landscape mitigation, etc. The use of digital material, available on NF's project portal is supported, together with holding public exhibitions. It is correct that other NSIPs are back to using in person invents and this is strongly encouraged to give communities choice and variety. It is also correct that other proposals are using pre-arranged webinars, and I am told these are well attended, perhaps these can be considered and if included added to Part 12 of the SoCC?

The consultation period is not defined but should avoid bank holidays. In this location holiday accommodation is significant, it is reasonable to expect those using this either as staycations or as summer long holiday accommodation should be factored in.

Tourism contributes significantly to the socio-economic profile of Tendring, it's a long established and established tourist destination which affects its demographic significantly, provides significant employment and brings numerous paying visitor into this predominantly rural area. I see no reference in the SoCC as to how that is to be considered and the impacts on the dame assessed.

I note the comments in the Scoping Report as published by PINS on this topic but rather than Scope this topic out my reading of the same is that this is caveated as to potential impact as to whether it has a relevance, hence how is the SoCC respond to this topic as it is missing at this time? I see both the construction phase and the transport impact on the same will have a marked impact on

At 9 the document outlines that there will be a multi-stage consultation process with each consultation allowing no less than 28-days. It does not state what period shall be undertaken. It is suggested the Joint Council's that an eight-week consultation period is conducted and not 28 days which is firstly not consistent with other NSIP proposals which give a minimum of 56 days. I would say that reducing this down to a bare minimum is unacceptable and could be considered to prejudice the views of consultees significantly.

At submission PINS will ask for comment on the Adequacy of Consultation, my opinion is that with a minimum restricted time period, together with a nonspecific targeted consultation, this poses a significant risk at what is a very early start in the consultation process for the AoC to be positively responded to.

At 8.1 I suggest that the landfall point is a key part of the proposal, I would ask that this is shown in a specific position in the consultation to inform feedback on the same for it to have value to consultees.

It is noted that consultation did take place in Q3 2021, for this new consultation to matter it wouldn't be correct to repeat that but to show scheme refinement and to be more specific as to the proposal and locations to show how the project has developed in the interim.

At 10 you say who you will consult, but what geographical distance from the development will you set? Granted my comments above ask for the proposal consulted on to be more specific, but will you consult within a given X to the boundary of the Order limits? Also if you have chosen HGV routes to site, will residents along these routes and within X of the same be consulted?

The Joint Council's would wish to see at least one bespoke presentation to be given to the lead elected members (either jointly or separately with the host authorities) at each stage of the DCO pre-application process, to explain the proposals and the process of engagement and programme/timetable.

It is mentioned in 11 that "Young People" will be consulted. Youth clubs in the affected Essex districts and the YEA (Young Essex Assembly) are also good points of contact to talk about how to involve young people during the statutory consultation phase.

I hope the above is of assistance, however, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries on the above.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**Mark Woodger, Principal Planner  
Principal Planning Officer (National Infrastructure)**

Email: [REDACTED]

Our Ref:  
Date: 19 May 2022  
Enquiries to: Andy Rutter  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

Daniel Harper  
Consents Manager  
North Falls Offshore Wind Farm

By email only: [REDACTED]

Dear Daniel,

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) Section 47 (1)**

**Pre-application consultation of the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).**

Thank you for consulting Suffolk County Council, my comments are as follows.

Although the proposed landfall site is located outside of Suffolk, the turbines are off the Suffolk coast, and it is anticipated that there will be associated construction and operational impacts upon Suffolk.

Paragraph 4.1 should therefore include Suffolk Parishes that have been identified within the zone of theoretical visibility, along with the local authorities.

Section 9 outlines that there will be a multi-stage consultation process with each consultation allowing no less than 28-days. It does not state what period shall be undertaken. It is suggested that an eight-week consultation period is conducted. This will align the project with the consultation period used for the Lawford Substation (part of East Anglia Green) which this project will connect to.

It is expected that the Section 42 consultees, as set out in section 10, will include communities within Suffolk which are included within the zone of theoretical visibility.

Section 10 also refers to organisations with an interest in seascape visual amenity, this should also refer to onshore effects.

We would expect that consultations are to include (but not limited to) the following:

- Destination Organisations
- Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Team.
- Suffolk County Council including Councillors.
- East Suffolk Council including Councillors.

If I can be of any further assistance with the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**Andy Rutter**  
Senior Planning Officer  
Growth, Highways & Infrastructure



# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## APPENDIX F

### F.35

*Final published SoCC for stage 3  
(statutory) consultation*





NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

# STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Published in accordance with Section 47 (6) of the Planning Act 2008

Spring 2023



# STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

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# 1. OFFSHORE WIND IN THE UK

Discussing weather is a recognised UK pastime and while wet, grey and changeable skies offer an almost daily topic of conversation, our climate has one key benefit. As the windiest country in Europe, the UK is perfectly placed to generate renewable electricity from wind.

It has made us the world leader in offshore wind with more installed capacity than any other country. In the past 12 years, the capacity of the UK's offshore wind farms has increased from only one gigawatt (GW) in 2010 to more than 13GW at the start of 2023, and costs per megawatt hour have been driven down by almost two-thirds.

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 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, aiming 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 crisis. The aim is to ensure the nation is best placed to meet its 2050 climate goals including legislated decarbonisation targets.

As well as helping to combat climate change and contributing to the UK's net zero ambitions, North Falls will 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.

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm will bring numerous local benefits through jobs, skills support, use of local suppliers and community involvement. We intend to work closely with all our stakeholders, government, local communities and the supply chain to ensure we make a positive contribution to not only the nation's net zero ambitions and energy security but also towards its economic prosperity.





## 2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm (North Falls) is being developed by North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited (company number 12435947). North Falls is a joint venture between SSE Renewables and RWE.

Together SSE Renewables and RWE have been active in the East Anglia region since the organisations jointly developed the Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm, which is located 25km off the coast of Suffolk and was commissioned in September 2012.

In February 2017, The Crown Estate 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 appointed, and their work included carrying out 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 of the extension projects, 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 Limited and The Crown Estate was signed in Autumn 2020. North Falls has been engaged with the Offshore Transmission Network Review since this time, with a joint announcement made in 2022 confirming the project's commitment to exploring coordinated network designs (see 5.1).

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm project is now in the early stages of development with the aim of submitting a development consent order (DCO) application in 2023.

*The indicative timeline to the right, shows the progress of the project to date and a high-level provisional programme of activity to come.*



### High Level Timeline

| Date         | Action  |
|--------------|---|
| Summer 2019  | The Crown Estate concludes its habitats regulations assessment. Seven projects totalling 2.85GW of new capacity are 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. North Falls, along with four other projects in East Anglia, commits to exploring coordinated network designs |
| 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.  |

## 2.1 GREATER GABBARD OFFSHORE WIND FARM

North Falls' sister project, Greater Gabbard is a 140 turbine, 504MW wind farm located in the southern North Sea, 20 kilometres from the East Anglia coast. Construction work began in 2008 and it was officially opened in 2013. It is owned equally by RWE and SSE Renewables and is operated by the latter on behalf of both partners.

Greater Gabbard represented a total investment of around £1.5 billion and created hundreds of jobs during construction as well as 100 long-term new roles at its (then) newly built operations and maintenance base in Lowestoft.

When Greater Gabbard was built, it was the UK's largest offshore wind farm, in the deepest waters and farthest from shore, so the supply chain was embryonic. It was able to utilise the vast experience of Lowestoft-based oil and gas firms and introduce multiple new suppliers into the offshore wind industry.

Local firm Windcat Workboats, provider of crew transfer vessels (CTVs) to transport technicians to and from the site, is just one local success story. The industry has matured significantly since that time but continues to welcome new players, particularly from related sectors keen to transition into offshore wind.

Of the 100 new recruits to the Greater Gabbard operations base, 95% were from the local area and since inception, more than 10 local apprentices have graduated from the wind farm's apprentice training scheme as wind turbine and balance-of-plant technicians. The wind farm has also offered junior engineer roles in disciplines including electrical engineering, SCADA engineering and control & instrumentation. Ex-fishermen have been employed to work on CTVs as part of the drive to find locally skilled people to fill requirements for roles.

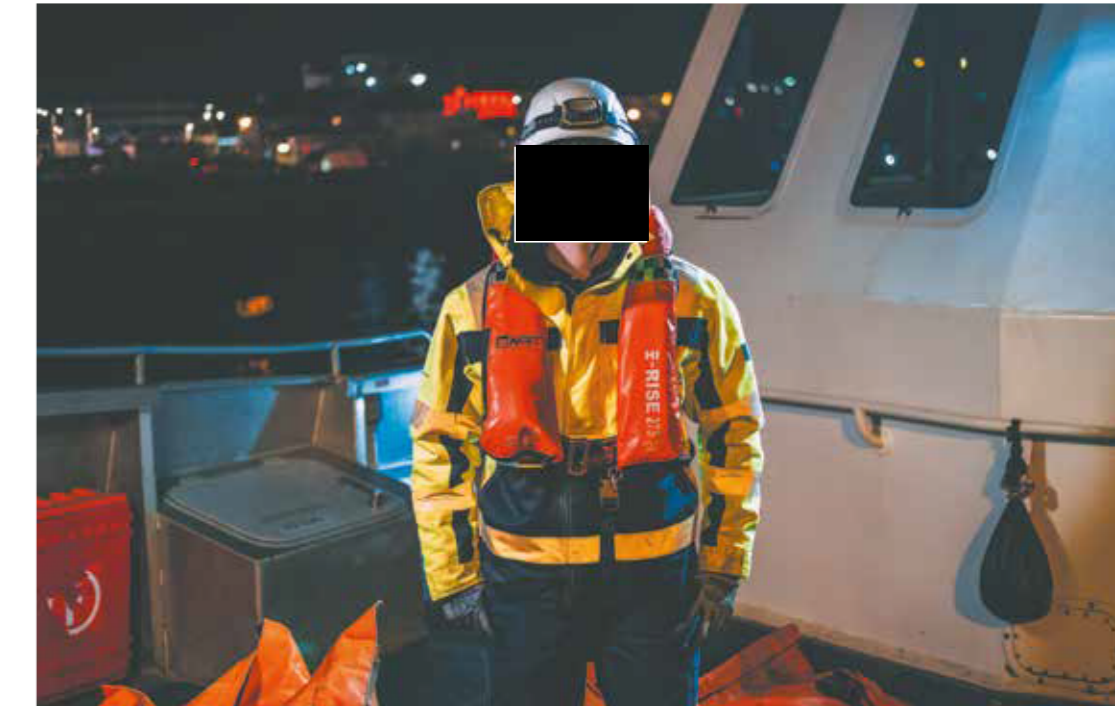
The project owners will look to ensure that North Falls will similarly provide contracting and career opportunities for local companies and people throughout each phase of the project's lifecycle.

## 2.2 RELATED PROJECTS

North Falls is an extension to the existing Greater Gabbard project, the second extension to Greater Gabbard following neighbouring Galloper, which became operational in 2018. Harwich-based Galloper now has its own extension project in Five Estuaries, meaning there are four offshore wind farms in this related group.

Both North Falls and Five Estuaries are in the pre-application stage of development. While they are separate projects with different shareholders, they have a number of similarities including the fact they have both been provided with grid connections at the East Anglia Green Substation. Due to this, North Falls has been working closely with

Five Estuaries on key project elements such as cable corridor selection (to optimise both onshore routes), onshore substation location, environmental surveys and by sharing consultation feedback. The primary goal of this continued coordination is to reduce potential impacts on stakeholders and local communities.



### 3. DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER APPLICATION

### 3.1 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.

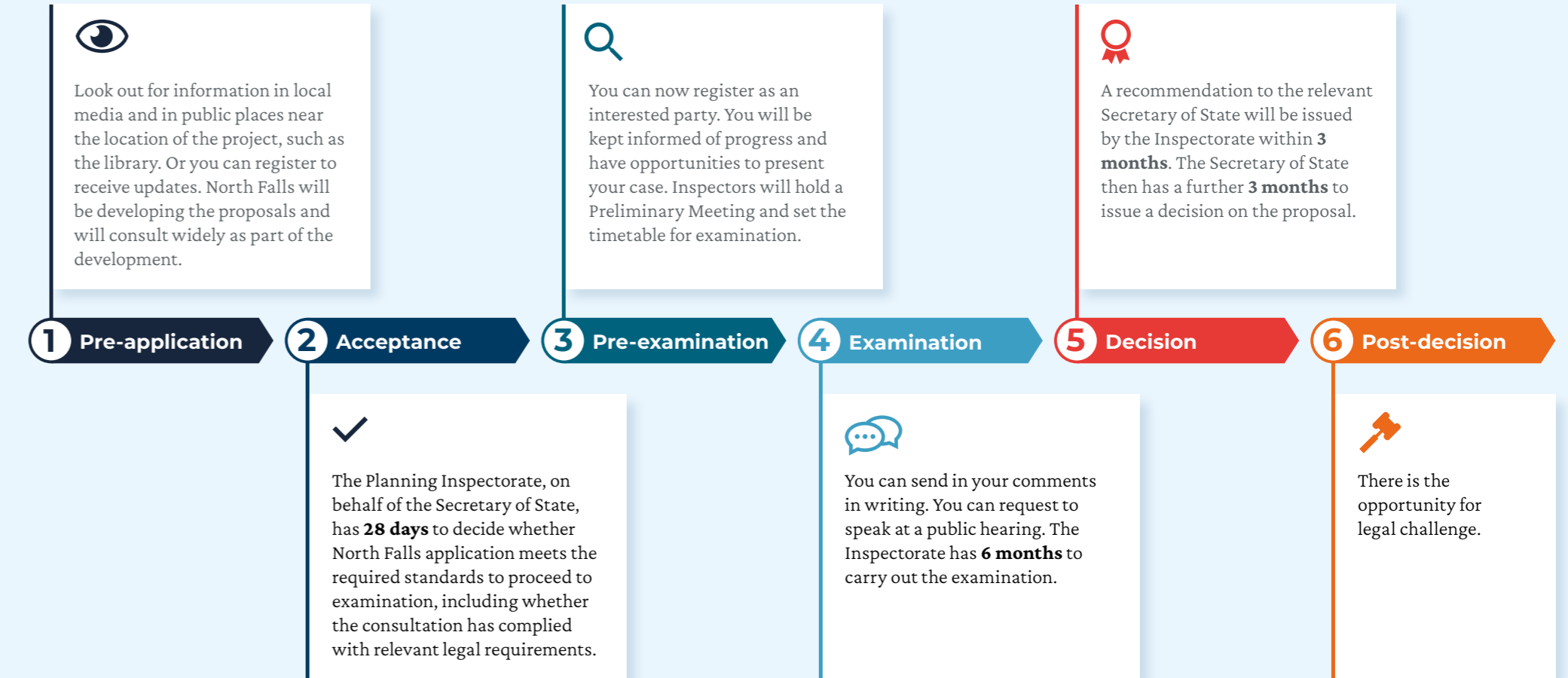
Applicants, such as North Falls, must go through this process to gain permission to build and operate their NSIP. The permission is called a development consent order (DCO). The government agency responsible for examining and making recommendations on applications for NSIPs is the Planning Inspectorate. The final decision on the application will be made by the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

There are six stages to the development consent order process (see diagram, right).

North Falls is now in the pre-application phase, which runs until its DCO application is submitted. This is the key period for local communities to input into the shaping of the proposals for the project. For North Falls this phase will run until late 2023 and includes at least three periods of consultation which are outlined in this Statement of Community Consultation.

You can read more about the DCO process, including the roles and responsibilities of participants and how to get involved, at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

### APPLICATION PROCESS THE SIX STEPS





## 3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

In accordance with Regulation 5 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, North Falls will undertake an environmental impact assessment (EIA). The documents listed here will be consulted on during the EIA process and as the DCO application is prepared:



### 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 outlines 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 published by the Secretary of State in August 2021.

### Preliminary environmental information report (PEIR)

Following on from the project's scoping report will be a preliminary environmental information report (PEIR), which will provide further detail on the interim findings of the site characterisation and impact assessment. We have sought feedback from local communities and relevant stakeholders, including local planning authorities and statutory nature conservation bodies prior to beginning our PEIR as part of our consultation in late 2022. As required to comply with Regulation 12(1)(b) of the EIA regulations we have set out in Section 9 details of how we intend to publicise and consult on the PEIR.

### Environmental statement (ES)

The ES will be the final report of the EIA undertaken by the North Falls project team, and it will be an evolution of the PEIR. It will incorporate the responses from our consultation and results of the surveys and research undertaken. The ES will also describe any changes made to the project proposals and mitigation measures to be implemented and will form part of the submitted DCO application.

Copies of these reports will be made available online and as part of our public consultations.

## 4. WHAT IS A STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION?

This statement of community consultation (SoCC) has been prepared in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 and sets out how the local community will be consulted on the proposed development consent order (DCO) application for North Falls.

We are now seeking a DCO for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, an extension to the existing Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm. With the potential to generate enough green energy to power the equivalent of at least 400,000 average British homes (depending on the final installed capacity), it will play a vital role in decarbonising the UK's energy infrastructure and tackling the climate crisis.

However, we cannot do this alone, we need input from communities to understand the local environment and ensure our project proposals evolve responsibly and with full engagement from those likely to be affected by the construction and operation of the wind farm. Local knowledge and views are important to us and will be carefully considered in the shaping of final plans. Feedback and comments on our plans will be welcomed throughout the development process.

This SoCC has been prepared to make local communities aware of how they will be consulted during the development process. Amongst other matters, it provides details on:



**THE PROPOSED OFFSHORE WIND FARM AND WHAT IT WILL COMPRISE OF BOTH ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE**



**HOW WE WILL CONSULT, INCLUDING THE CONSULTATION TIMELINE**



**WHO WE WILL CONSULT**



**WHAT WE WILL CONSULT ON**



**HOW PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON THE PROPOSALS, AND WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH THE FEEDBACK SUBMITTED**

## 4.1 CONSULTATION ON THE SOCC

The draft SoCC was consulted on with relevant local authorities as well as parish councils, primarily those falling within the original North Falls Scoping Area, including:

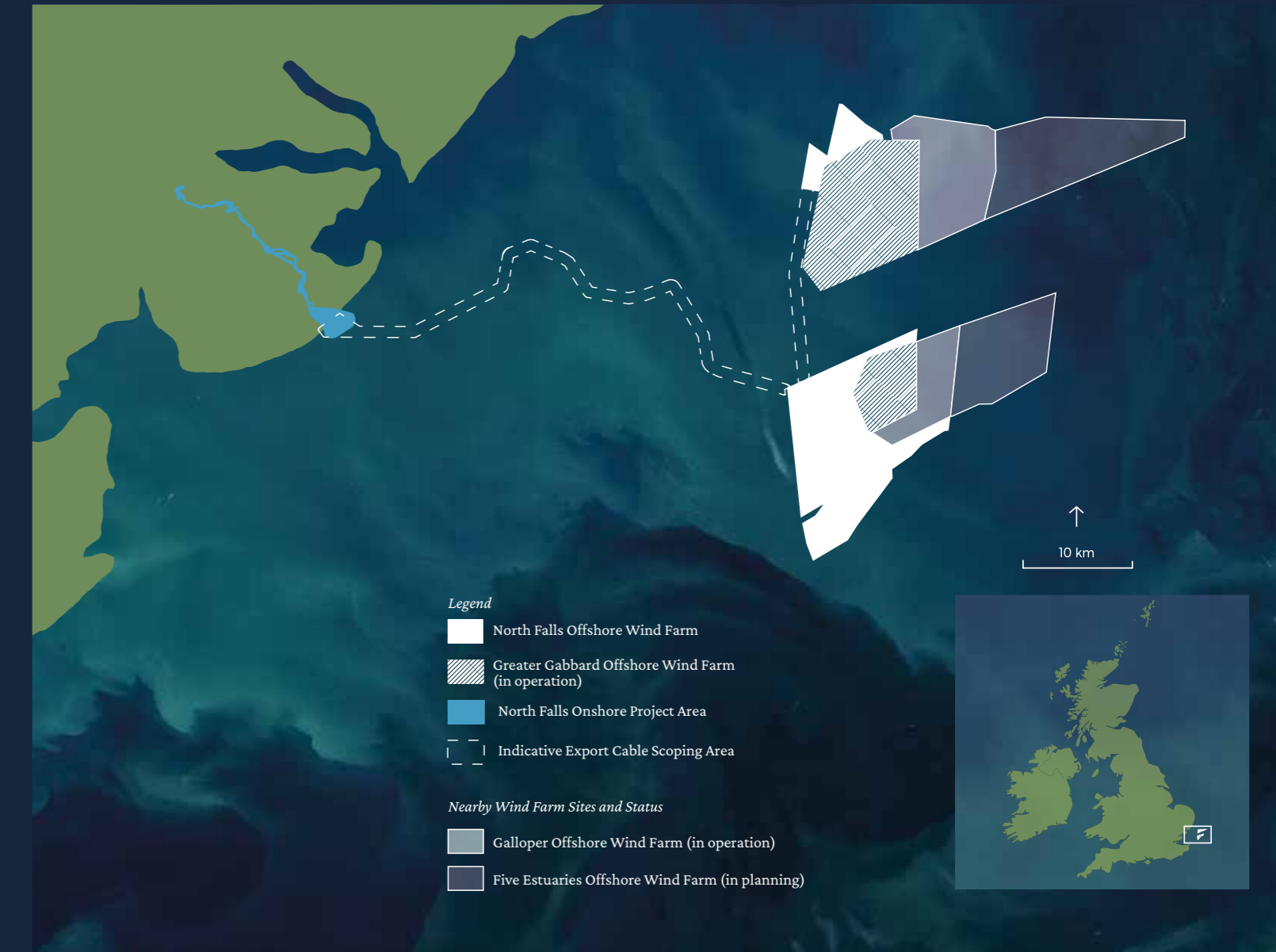
- **ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL**
- **SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**
- **EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**
- **LAWFORD PARISH COUNCIL**
- **ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL**
- **GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL**
- **WEELEY PARISH COUNCIL**
- **LITTLE BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL**
- **TENDRING PARISH COUNCIL**
- **GREAT OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**
- **WIX PARISH COUNCIL**
- **THORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**
- **FRATING PARISH COUNCIL**
- **ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**
- **ELMSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**
- **GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL**
- **LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL**
- **MISTLEY PARISH COUNCIL**
- **BRADFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**
- **BEAUMONT PARISH COUNCIL**
- **THORPE-LE-SOKEN PARISH COUNCIL**
- **FRINTON AND WALTON PARISH COUNCIL**
- **RAMSEY AND PARKESTON PARISH COUNCIL**
- **ARDLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL**

The feedback received has been considered and where appropriate incorporated into this final version that is now shared with the wider community and publicised as required by the Planning Act 2008. The North Falls Statement of Community Consultation can be read on, or downloaded from, the project website, with hard copies available at local community venues or upon request. The local community venues holding copies of the North Falls Statement of Community Consultation will be:

- **CLACTON CENTRAL LIBRARY**
- **FRINTON LIBRARY**
- **TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## 5. OVERVIEW

North Falls will be located in the southern North Sea, approximately 20 kilometres from shore at its nearest point. It currently has a total area of 150km<sup>2</sup> (across the two sections). The project details for North Falls will evolve as work progresses. As well as consideration of the Scoping Opinion, also taken into account will be results of environmental assessments, ongoing engineering and survey work and feedback from our consultations. A key factor in the final project description will be the outcome of the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR).



Map 1 – Location of North Falls and adjoining offshore wind projects



## 5.1 OFFSHORE TRANSMISSION NETWORK REVIEW AND OFFSHORE GRID CONNECTION

North Falls is participating in the ongoing Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) which is addressing offshore transmission-related barriers to new offshore wind projects that are set to play a central role in the UK meeting its commitment to net zero emissions by 2050.

This review has brought together government departments and industrial bodies as well as key stakeholders involved in the delivery of offshore wind, interconnectors and offshore networks. It involves work to identify and bring forward any legislation or regulations needed to enable a more strategic approach and greater coordination around offshore grid connections.

There are currently numerous challenges related to whether North Falls could be offered a feasible and practicable offshore grid connection to replace the onshore grid connection in Tendring, North Essex.

Through the OTNR, North Falls is engaged in technical, regulatory and programme discussions with the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem), the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, third party transmission providers and others, to address these challenges.

However to maintain project momentum and avoid the risk of project delays, our proposals (and this statement of community consultation) will refer to both onshore and offshore grid connection options. By progressing both options, North Falls aims to be in a position to be operational by 2030, and therefore contribute to the UK targets for both offshore wind and net zero.



## 6. PROJECT COMPONENTS

As per other wind farms, North Falls will comprise: wind turbines on foundations, with the number and types to be determined, and array cables connecting the turbines in strings to up to two offshore substations, also on foundations. The remaining components will depend on the final grid connection option (see diagrams below). The project details will be refined through further design, environmental assessment and consultation work prior to the submission of the application.

### Onshore grid connection option

In the event that the project connects onshore, the electricity would be transported from the project's offshore substation(s) via subsea export cables to shore, connecting to onshore buried cables carrying the power further to a new purpose-build onshore substation. The power would then be transmitted to a new National Grid substation, from where it would enter the national grid to be distributed to homes, businesses and industry.

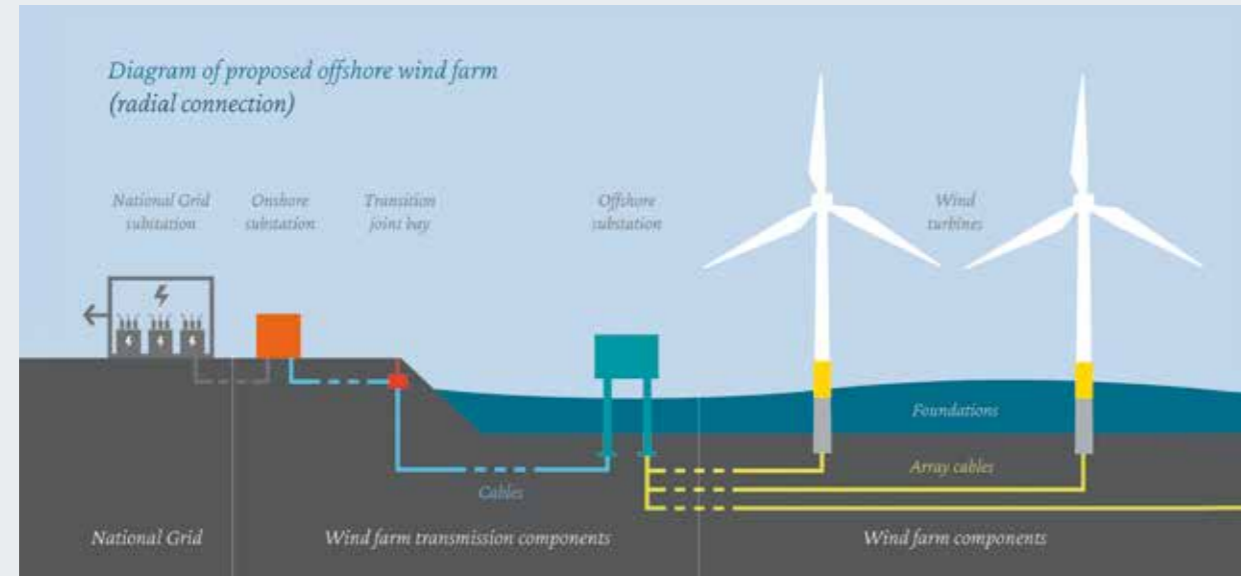


Diagram is a simplified representation only and not to scale.

### Offshore grid connection option

In the event that an offshore grid connection is offered to North Falls (as outlined in Section 5.1) the components described in Sections 7.2 to 8.3 would not form part of the project.

In this case the electricity generated would be transported via subsea cables to an offshore connection owned and operated by a separate party. From there, the electricity would run via subsea cables to a point onshore, and onwards to the national grid.

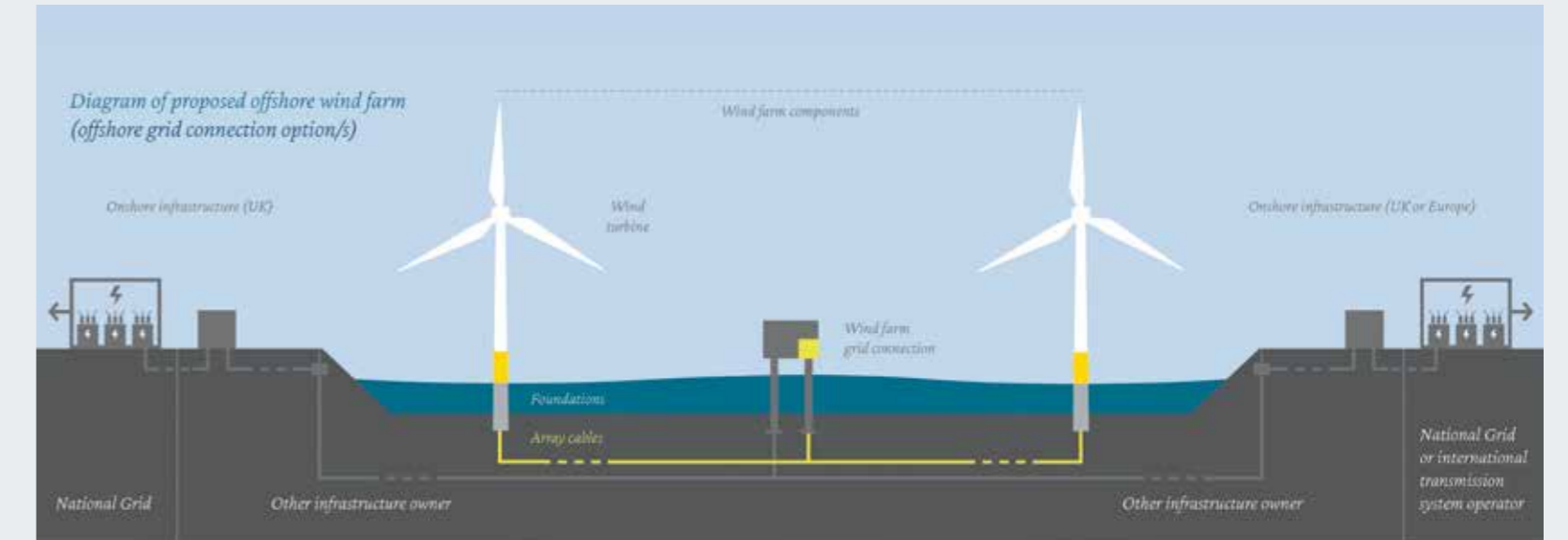


Diagram is a simplified representation only and not to scale.



## 7. THE PROJECT: OFFSHORE

The offshore project area lies within the Outer Thames Estuary, in the southern North Sea. Its closest point to land is 22km from the Suffolk coast near Orford.

### 7.1 OFFSHORE SITE

Like our sister project Greater Gabbard, the North Falls site is split into two separate areas, with boundaries which account for the existing shipping route. It will be within these two boundaries that the turbines, array cables, and up to two offshore platform/substation(s) will be installed depending on the grid connection location. The northern area covers approximately 21km<sup>2</sup> while the larger southern area covers approximately 130km<sup>2</sup>.

The layout of the turbines and arrays will be finalised post-consent. Likewise, the location and design of the offshore platform/substation(s) will also be finalised during that phase of the project. The details in Sections 7.2 to 8.3 are relevant for the onshore grid connection option only.

### 7.2 EXPORT CABLE CORRIDOR

The electricity generated by North Falls will be transmitted to shore by export cables which will be located within an offshore export cable corridor. Our early site selection work has identified a preferred corridor to run from the southern array area to a proposed landfall on the Essex coast, located between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea.

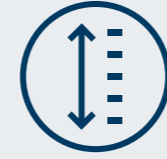
The preferred offshore export cable corridor passes to the north of the environmental designations Margate and Long Sands Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Kentish Knock East Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), with a small overlap with the Outer Thames Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) as it approaches landfall. The project design also includes an interconnector cable between the northern and southern array areas.



**55km**  
PROVISIONAL OFFSHORE  
CABLE ROUTE LENGTH



**Up to 72**  
NUMBER OF TURBINES



**0.5-3m**  
TARGET MINIMUM CABLE  
BURIAL DEPTH WHERE BURIED



**2**  
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OFFSHORE  
SUBSTATION PLATFORMS



**228km**  
ESTIMATED LENGTH  
OF ARRAY CABLES



## 8. THE PROJECT: ONSHORE

Electricity generated by the wind farm will be transmitted to shore via subsea cables that arrive at the North Essex coastline at a location known as ‘landfall’. From here it will be transmitted by underground cables to a new onshore substation, from where it will be further transported to a National Grid substation and then into the national electricity transmission system – the national grid.

### 8.1 LANDFALL

The landfall – where the export cable from the wind farm will come to shore – will be sited in a location just to the south of Frinton-on-Sea. The export cables will connect with the onshore cables in underground transition joint bays at landfall. The precise location of the proposed landfall location will be narrowed down during 2023, based on environmental and engineering survey data and having considered feedback from our consultation in late 2022. There will be no permanent above ground building at landfall, although there will be temporary disruption during construction. At the landfall site it is proposed to use an installation technique called horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to take the cable deep under Holland Haven Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and so avoid a surface crossing of this designation.



## 8.2 ONSHORE CABLE ROUTE AND SUBSTATION

The route the onshore cables will take from landfall at the coast to the project substation will be approximately 24 kilometres. The cables will be buried to minimise visual and environmental impact. During construction a temporary working corridor will be needed along with additional areas for temporary construction compounds and site accesses. Generally, these temporary areas will be in parallel with the cable corridor. North Falls will mitigate its impacts as far as practicable, however there will be some temporary disruption during construction.

Once the cables have been installed, the land used during construction will be restored to its former agricultural or other use. Where the cable route crosses features such as roads, watercourses and ecologically sensitive areas, the aim will be to cross them using HDD as described at the landfall, to avoid impacts on these features.

North Falls has accepted the offer from National Grid for a grid connection within Tendring in North Essex. This is where the power from the wind farm will enter the national electrical transmission system. The siting of the North Falls onshore substation will depend both on the specific location of the grid connection and the positioning of National Grid’s own new substation.

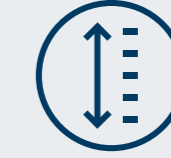
Details of the onshore substation location for the project, its footprint, how it will look and how it will be screened with vegetation, is being consulted on throughout the pre-application process. The only long-term visible infrastructure onshore is likely to be the onshore substation. Landscaping around the substation and other environmental mitigation or enhancement measures will also be present and managed for the lifetime of the project.



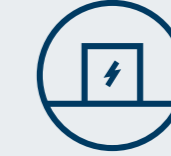
**HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING**  
PROPOSED LANDFALL INSTALLATION METHOD



**HIGH VOLTAGE ALTERNATING CURRENT**  
ELECTRICAL CONNECTION TYPE



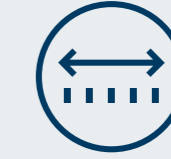
**18m**  
MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF PROJECT'S ONSHORE SUBSTATION



**1**  
NUMBER OF PROJECT ONSHORE SUBSTATIONS



**Up to 70m**  
ESTIMATED ONSHORE CABLE ROUTE WORKING WIDTH



**200m x 250m**  
PROJECT'S MAXIMUM ONSHORE SUBSTATION FOOTPRINT



## 8.3 ONSHORE SCOPING AREA AND REFINEMENTS

Throughout 2020 and early 2021, the North Falls team carried out a site selection process to define an area in North Essex within which the grid connection and onshore electrical infrastructure were expected to be located. This is known as the onshore ‘scoping area’ (see Map 2).

The scoping area was identified by filtering out broad constraints such as population centres and sites of importance for nature conservation, whilst keeping within a certain distance from existing National Grid infrastructure such as the 132kV line between Lawford and Little Clacton substations.

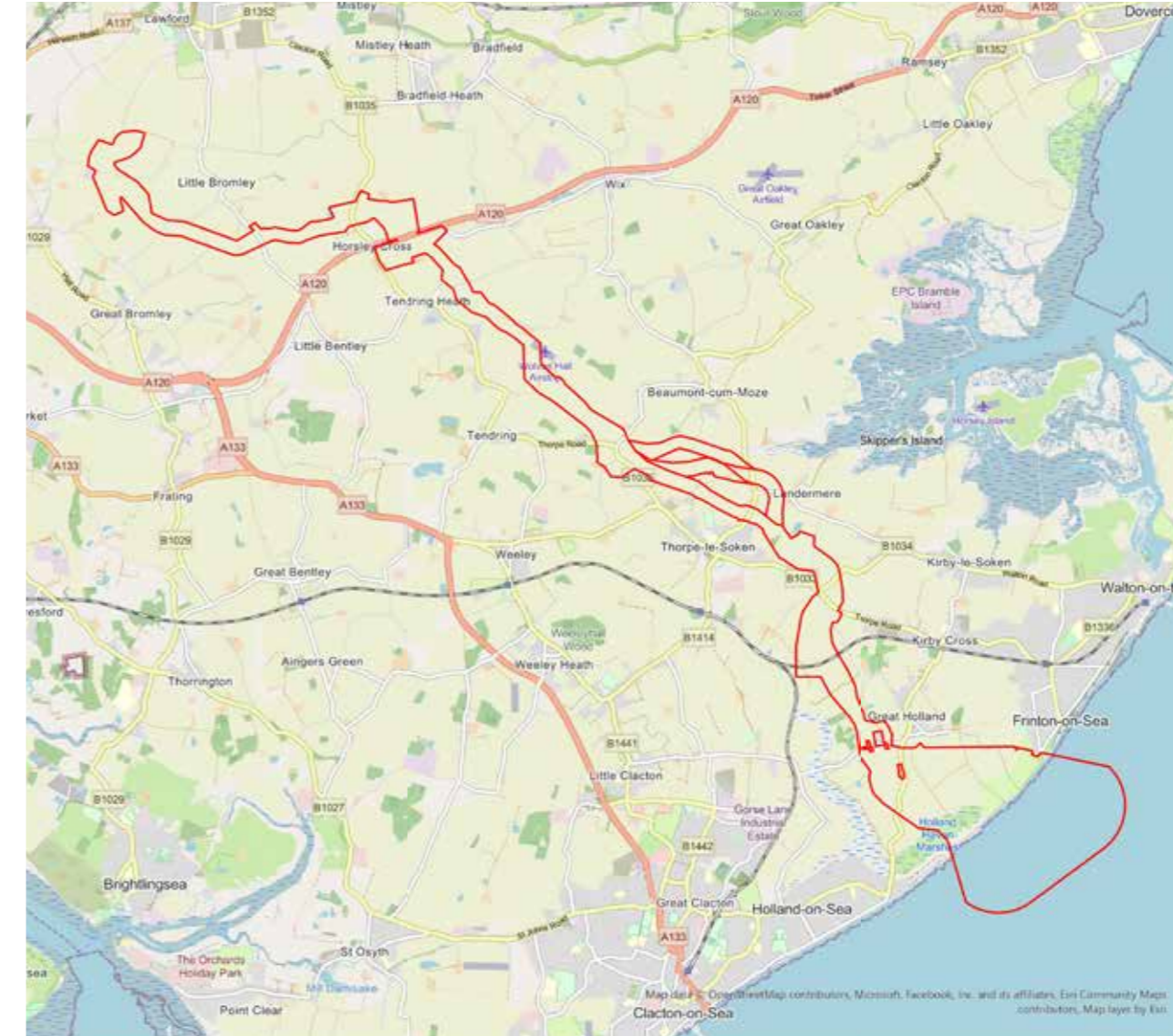
The subsequent onshore scoping area was approximately 150km<sup>2</sup> and located within the Tendring District of Essex. It extended from the coast, between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea, approximately 20 kilometres inland. This was the first stage in the site selection process, consultation and ongoing project refinement, to identify preferred locations for each element of the onshore electrical infrastructure.

Our introductory consultation held in late 2021 was based on the full onshore scoping area.

Our second consultation held in late 2022 was based on a refinement of that wider onshore scoping area which was the result of our continued site selection work. This included a wide landfall construction compound zone, including a cable corridor approximately 200 metres in width, optional routes near Thorpe-le-Soken, and an onshore substation zone. The second consultation offered the opportunity to comment on the proposed locations of the project infrastructure as well as construction methodologies and wider project issues such as grid and biodiversity net gain.



Map 2 – Initial North Falls scoping area



Map 3 – The onshore project area for North Falls as shown at the consultation held in late 2022



# 9. OUR CONSULTATION PROCESS

Local stakeholder and community consultation will be undertaken throughout the pre-application phase, and beyond. The team will act in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 duty to consult, and will seek to engage with stakeholders, defined as any people, groups, organisations or local communities specified by the consultation requirements of the 2008 Act, as well as anyone who responds to the publicity required under the Act. The consultations will gather feedback on the preliminary assessments, including methodology, and on the project itself as it begins to take shape.

Pre-application consultation is the main opportunity for stakeholders to review the plans, provide comments, submit feedback and have an influence on elements of the process and the evolution of the development. North Falls' pre-application phase comprises a multi-stage consultation process with all stakeholders, with the response period provided at each stage to exceed the statutory minimum of 28 days.

Our objective is to ensure that stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by the proposals are engaged in the development of the wind farm from the start to finish, and have opportunities to comment on the proposals at key decision-making junctures. We aim to engage with and respond to stakeholders in a flexible and open way, ensuring discussions are held and responses received in a timely manner so they can be given due consideration as the proposals take shape.

## Introductory consultation (2021)

North Falls undertook an initial introductory consultation to seek feedback on the project plans as they stood in Autumn 2021, including on the overall project, engagement approach, the Scoping Report and proposals so far. The information that was consulted on and the summaries of the responses and feedback received are available to view on the consultation portal accessed via the website – [www.NorthFallsoffshore.com](http://www.NorthFallsoffshore.com)

## Pre-application consultation (2022)

Held in late 2022, our non-statutory pre-application consultation presented onshore and offshore proposals, as well as EIA methodology. This included direct questions for input into specific elements of the proposals, including options for cable corridor routes, as well as the opportunity to give wider opinions on the plans. Consultation methods included: stakeholder meetings, five face-to-face consultation events, two webinars, publications and an online consultation portal, promotion via advertising, media stories, leaflet drops and direct emails. Ways to respond included via the consultation portal, feedback forms (online and printed), attendance at events, project email or website contact form, freephone and freepost. The portal remains online.

## Pre-application consultation (2023)

This will be the main statutory pre-application consultation on the full proposed application for North Falls and will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008. This will include consultation on the preliminary environmental information report (PEIR). The PEIR will incorporate the preliminary results of the EIA as well as feedback from prior consultations. This consultation will identify specific elements on which input is requested.

Similar to the pre-application consultation held in 2022, the consultation methods will include: specific stakeholder meetings, a series of up to five local face-to-face consultation events, two webinars, publications and an online consultation portal with feedback map. Details of the consultation including event dates, times and locations, will be published both in the local and national press, emailed to statutory and registered stakeholders and via direct mail posted to addresses within the consultation area. Ways to respond will be through the consultation portal including the feedback map (accessible online), via completing feedback forms (online and printed), attendance at events, specific project email or website contact form, freephone and freepost cards.

## Final pre-application consultation

An optional fourth and final consultation stage will be shaped as needed, to ensure that consultation is specific to outstanding final inputs prior to the submission of the application. The first consultation stages involved all consultees while the final stage would target specific stakeholders directly dependent on the topics of consultation. The exact format of the consultation activity would be decided based on the outcomes of the previous consultation phases and ongoing project refinements. Those specific stakeholders will be contacted directly either via email, post or through the organisation of meetings.



Our community consultations will be advertised and promoted widely in advance. Wherever practicable they will be scheduled to avoid periods when stakeholders may not be able to attend, such as summer holidays, and to coordinate with other nationally significant infrastructure projects. Having to respond to multiple projects with similar geographical locations and issues may place significant demands on consultees and therefore North Falls will aim to align with other developers to schedule formal consultation in a way that will minimise stakeholder fatigue.

However, stakeholders and prospective consultees should be aware that as a standalone project submitting its own development consent order application, North Falls must carry out its own statutory consultation to ensure it fulfils the legal requirements of the application process. Those consultees wishing to comment on the North Falls proposals will therefore need to ensure they respond directly to the North Falls consultation, regardless of whether their comments are similar to those fed into consultations for other nationally significant infrastructure projects.

As well as defined consultation periods, ad hoc and informal engagement will be carried out throughout the pre-application period on issues of specific interest, areas of expertise or related to statutory responsibility. This may include: meetings with nearby residents regarding the onshore substation site; liaison with fisheries and marine stakeholders on the export cable location or surveys; and targeted communications with directly affected landowners, lessees, tenants and those with an interest in the land. Some of these activities may be in conjunction with other developers; for example, combined activity to date has included presentations to local councils, supply chain events and combined landowner engagement.

There may also be targeted consultations, in respect of localised project elements or issues, or design developments related to potential offshore transmission connections, which arise during pre-application consultation.

## Indicative consultation programme

The current timetable for our consultation phases is as follows:

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Ongoing                        | <b>Informal engagement</b><br>Continued engagement including communication of updated project proposals and impacts resulting from the consultations.  |
| 25 October to 10 December 2021 | <b>Informal introductory consultation</b><br>Introduction to the project, scoping and early opportunity for feedback. This consultation has now concluded.   |
| Spring 2022                    | <b>Statement of Community Consultation</b><br>Initial consultation with local councils on this document that will be published in 2023. This consultation has now concluded.   |
| 17 October to 9 December 2022  | <b>Pre-application consultation (non statutory)</b><br>Consultation prior to commencing preliminary environmental information report. This consultation has now concluded.   |
| 2023                           | <b>Pre-application consultation (statutory)</b><br>Consultation on preliminary environmental information report.<br><br><b>Final pre-application consultation (optional as needed)</b><br>Final and limited consultation on specific project element(s) if needed. |

# 10. WHO WILL WE CONSULT?

Throughout development, North Falls will consult with the stakeholders noted to gather feedback on the way the project is being assessed and on the project itself as it begins to take 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 within the vicinity of the onshore infrastructure and certain consultees with an interest in the area, for example, local archaeology groups, 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 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 mentioned, however this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) focuses on how we will consult specifically with the local community likely to be affected by the onshore grid connection option.

We recognise that those living, working or having a specific link to the location of the proposed infrastructure will have a key interest. For the introductory consultation in late 2021, this included targeting those within the initial broad North Falls Scoping Area (see Map 2) via newspaper advertising (printed and digital), local press, leaflets delivered to 40,000 addresses and direct emails. For the second consultation in late 2022, this was more focused on the refined onshore areas (see Map 3) but still included newspaper advertising (printed and digital), local press, leaflets delivered to 12,000 addresses and direct emails.

In 2023 North Falls will focus its public consultation on the areas three kilometres either side of the proposed landfall and the above and below ground infrastructure, and one kilometre from other areas identified as being directly affected by construction activities, such as HGV routes. This focus was decided following feedback from our consultation in late 2022, and will ensure the information best reaches those potentially impacted by the construction works and permanent onshore infrastructure.

Properties within the three-and-one-kilometre consultation areas will receive direct communications such as leaflets from us in the post or via email.



Targeted lists will be developed to direct correspondence to relevant bodies, councils and anyone who has registered an interest in the project.

We will also consult with those communities that will potentially be able to see the completed offshore wind farm.

By selecting the locations outlined we will ensure that all individuals and stakeholders who may be affected by the project will have the chance to respond to the consultation.

We recognise that there may be interested individuals or groups who are not living or working within the public consultation areas. We are committed to ensuring that those people still have an opportunity to view and provide feedback on our proposals. For these people we will advertise in local and national media and will use targeted digital campaigns. Our consultation materials will be published online and available to view and download, or on request using our project contact details.

Throughout the development of our proposals, we will continue to work with local planning authorities to identify any relevant community groups, business organisations and others who should be consulted. As well as the community consultation, we have, and will continue to, engage with a range of statutory and non-statutory consultees, including relevant:

- Owners, tenants and occupiers of the land identified within the application or who may be entitled to make a relevant claim.
- MPs and local councils (county, district and parish).
- Statutory stakeholders, such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Wildlife Trusts.
- Marine groups and users such as fisheries, ports and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.
- Local interest and community groups, inshore and those along the coast with a particular interest in seascape visual amenity.
- Hard to reach groups.

We plan for our consultation activity to be accessible to a wide range of groups in the community and it will include both online and in-person opportunities for involvement. We will seek venues for public events that are accessible by a range of transport modes and compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act.

The approach to consultation outlined in this SoCC covers an inclusive range of communications methods to ensure we are able to conduct an open and meaningful consultation across the community.

We recognise that some individuals or groups may have trouble taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons and therefore we will develop targeted approaches to engage groups defined as hard-to-reach or marginalised.

These groups are those which are, for various reasons, not able to access traditional and conventional methods of consultation and are typically under-represented in the planning process, for example:

- Ethnic minority groups and people for whom English is not their first language
- Elderly people
- Young people
- People with visual, hearing or speech impairments
- People with a disability (physical and learning)
- Those with limited mobility
- Carers, single parents and families with young children
- Socio-economically disadvantaged people
- Geographically isolated communities or individuals, such as those in rural areas
- Service working professionals (such as nurses or teachers)
- Those experiencing homelessness

Throughout development we will continue to liaise with local authorities to identify and establish a line of communication with such groups, setting up a database of identified contacts. We will use this 'hard to reach groups' database to ensure these groups and organisations are kept up to date with the development of the scheme and have ample opportunity to provide feedback.

We will also ask local authorities and organisations who regularly liaise with hard-to-reach groups about their most effective communications methodologies to add to our intended channels which include newsletters, telephone, our online consultation portal and face-to-face meetings. Using these channels, and those recommended by other local stakeholders, we will facilitate two-way communication with these groups and encourage input and feedback. However, we will monitor the approaches used and modify them as needed to ensure we employ the most effective ways to engage with hard-to-reach groups, whether that be via existing but tailored channels or via different targeted methods.



## 11. WHAT WE WILL CONSULT ON

The aim of the public consultations we are undertaking for North Falls is to ensure that local communities, other stakeholders and technical consultees are able to effectively follow the progress of the project, understand the content of the plans and provide input or feedback to help shape the proposals.

We held our introductory consultation (2021) and first pre-application consultation (2022) so that we could gather initial comments from an early stage of the project's development. Each consultation builds on the previous one to help us develop a deeper understanding of key local issues and community concerns, and to be able to take them into account as the project evolves. This will be part of an ongoing dialogue with communities and stakeholders, during which we welcome input, particularly from people who live or work in the project area and know it well.

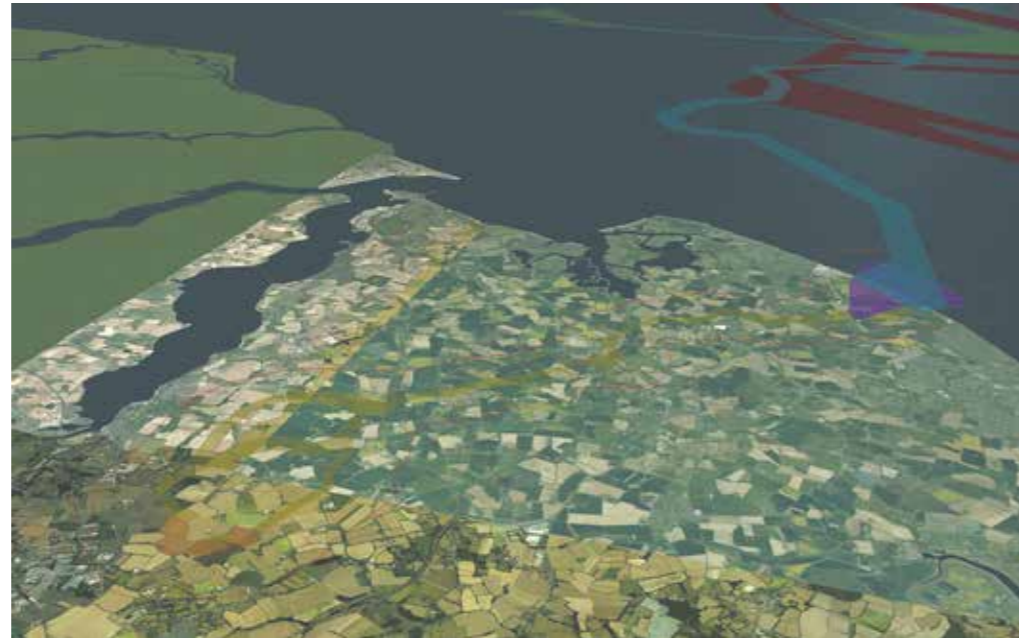
We therefore very much encourage communities to share their local knowledge and input into how North Falls may affect them specifically as well as how it may impact the local area and environment.

We will be seeking feedback to help develop our proposals including, but not limited to, the following:

- Our offshore infrastructure location and the marine environment including consultation with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and local commercial fisheries organisations.
- Our landfall location and siting of the temporary landfall construction compound.
- Refinement of the onshore cable corridor, temporary works compounds and access.
- The temporary construction-related impacts around activity such as traffic management, noise mitigation and the local environment.
- Relationship to other projects including cumulative and in-combination effects.
- Operational impacts that will be more permanent, for example on the local environment.
- Landscape and visual amenity.

At each phase of consultation, we will give the community the opportunity to discuss details of aspects of the North Falls proposals with relevant project team members and utilising a wide range of communication methodologies (listed in Section 12).

Some elements of the project will be relatively fixed, for example the offshore site, whereas others have more room for flexibility and therefore can be altered or adapted



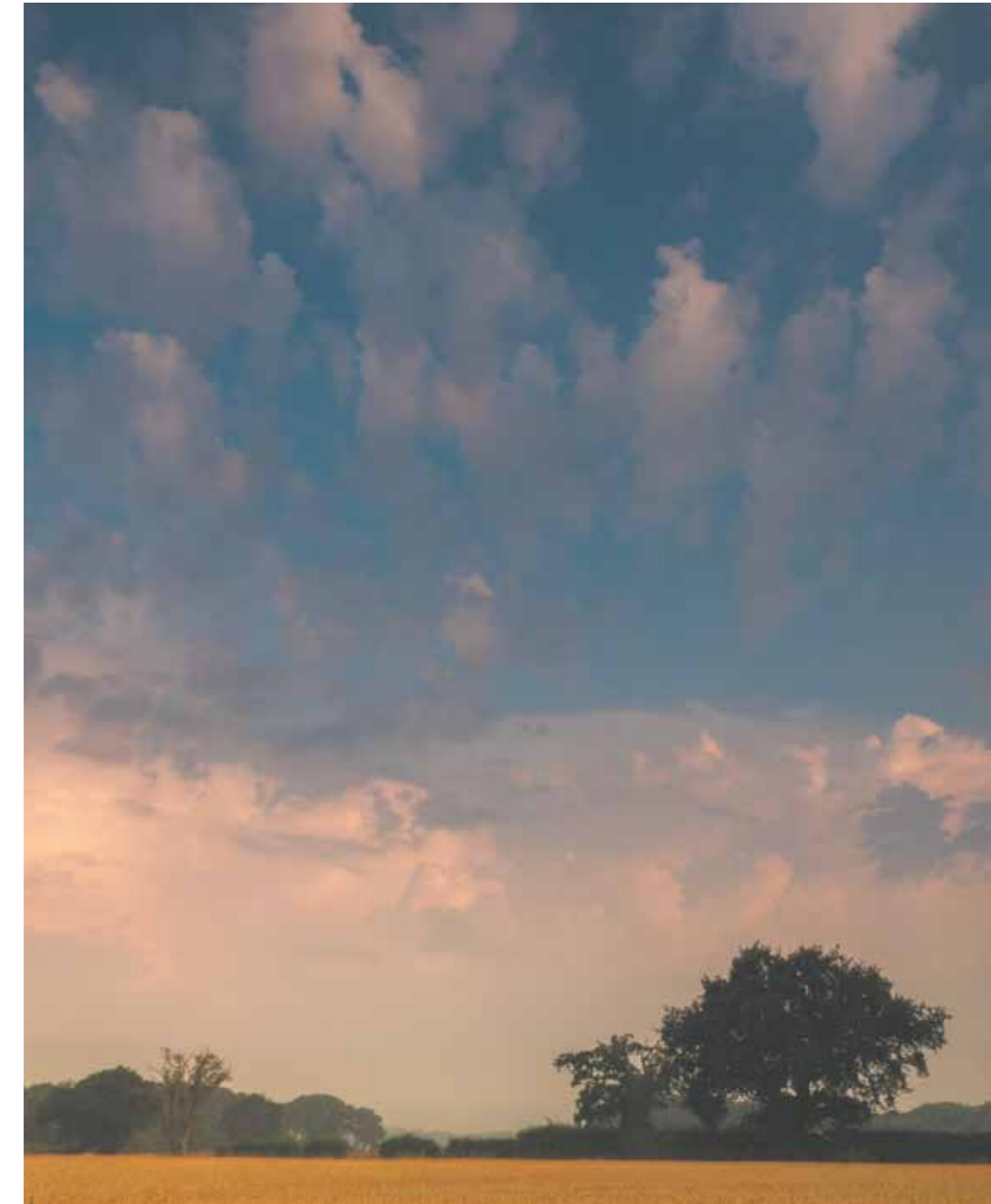
following stakeholder and community input. The application itself will have in-built flexibility around some aspects of the design, such as the layout of the landfall construction compound (in the case of an onshore grid connection) as it will not be finalised until post-consent.

## 12. HOW AND WHERE TO HAVE A SAY

We will employ a range of consultation methodologies – both traditional and online – to ensure there are multiple ways to provide feedback to the project team. These methodologies will include consultation events and meetings, an online consultation portal, a dedicated project freephone line and project email. We will regularly send project news to those on the North Falls mailing list so any interested parties can register their interest via the contact form on the project website. Consultation methodologies will include:

- Online consultation portal accessed via the project website
- Feedback forms / questionnaires
- Community consultation events (in-person and online)
- Newsletters / factsheets (electronic and printed versions)
- Direct mail (letters, invitations and information materials) delivered to those within the focussed consultation area(s)
- Direct emails to those on the North Falls mailing list
- Print and digital advertising in local newspapers (Clacton and Frinton Gazette)
- Establishment of community liaison groups as applicable
- Meetings with local representatives including parish, district and county councillors
- Project specific website: [www.Northfallsoffshore.com](http://www.Northfallsoffshore.com)
- Social media including Instagram: @northfallsoffshore
- Direct 24-hour phone line: 0800 254 5340
- Project-specific email address: [contact@northfallsoffshore.com](mailto:contact@northfallsoffshore.com)

Please note that the safety of our consultees will be a priority with any face-to-face consultation, and we will follow any relevant government guidelines in place at the time. Given the fact many people are now also used to the flexibility of being able to comment on proposals in their own time, we will maintain our online consultation in parallel to in-person events.





## 13. SUBMITTING FEEDBACK AND WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Meaningful two-way consultation on the proposed plans will be integral to our decision-making process in terms of the final proposal development we put forward in our application.

While we will welcome feedback at any time, there will be specific consultation periods where we will be asking for comments related to defined elements of our proposals. Consultation periods will be widely advertised with opening and closing dates for input highlighted.

After the closing date of each consultation phase, we will assess and consider comments carefully and look at how they can help us shape the final proposals. We will summarise the consultation activity and outcomes via our consultation portal and through summary consultation reports, also available online. Commonly asked questions, and answers, will be posted on the website and expanded with new questions and answers as need arises.

We will provide information on how we have considered comments and integrated community and stakeholder feedback to track the influence of the consultation activity on the project proposals.

Any personal data received as part of the consultation or as part of the consultation process will be stored and protected as per relevant data protection requirements as set out in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Please refer to the North Falls Data Privacy Notice on the project website (<https://consultation.northfallsoffshore.com/privacy/>)

## 14. HOW TO CONTACT US

There are a number of ways you can find out more about the project, get in touch with the project team or register details to receive updates:



**Email:**  
[contact@northfallsoffshore.com](mailto:contact@northfallsoffshore.com)



**24-hour freephone line:**  
**0800 254 5340**



**Freepost address:**  
**FREEPOST North Falls**



**Website:**  
[www.northfallsoffshore.com](http://www.northfallsoffshore.com)  
**Consultation portal:**  
<https://consultation.northfallsoffshore.com/>



Persons with an interest in land can contact the project's land agent Dalcour Maclaren:  
**Address: 20 Hollingworth Court, Turkey Mill, Ashford Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5PP**  
**Email: [northfalls@dalcourmaclaren.com](mailto:northfalls@dalcourmaclaren.com)**  
**Telephone: 01622 623025**



Fishing industry stakeholders can contact our fisheries consultants Brown & May Marine Ltd:  
**Address: Progress Way, Mid Suffolk Business Park, Eye, Suffolk IP23 7HU**  
**Email: [northfalls@brownmay.com](mailto:northfalls@brownmay.com)**  
**Telephone: 01379 772871**





# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*



## **HARNESSING THE POWER OF NORTH SEA WIND**

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm is being developed on a site more than 20 kilometres off the UK coast in the southern North Sea and covers a total area of 150 km<sup>2</sup>. It is an extension project to the adjacent 504-megawatt Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm, which became fully operational in 2013.

It is being developed by a joint venture company owned equally by SSE Renewables and RWE.

If you would like to contact the project team, please email [contact@northfallsoffshore.com](mailto:contact@northfallsoffshore.com)



# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## APPENDIX F

### F.36

*SoCC published on the Project website*

LATEST DOCUMENTS

5th September 2023  
 North Falls Community News – Edition 3, Autumn 2023

23rd May 2023  
 North Falls consultation panels (May 2023)

23rd May 2023  
 North Falls Statutory Consultation Booklet

26th March 2023  
 North Falls Statement of Community Consultation

7th March 2023  
 North Falls Community News – Edition 2, Spring 2023

7th March 2023  
 Consultation Report – Non-statutory Consultation 2022

11th November 2022  
 Community consultation brochure – October 2022

11th October 2022  
 North Falls Fisheries News – Autumn 2022

22nd April 2022  
 North Falls Community News- Edition 1, Spring 2022

23rd February 2022  
 Consultation Report – Introductory Consultation 2021

25th October 2021  
 Fact Sheet – October 2021

14th September 2021  
 Regulation 11 list from PINS – August 2021

1 2 Next »




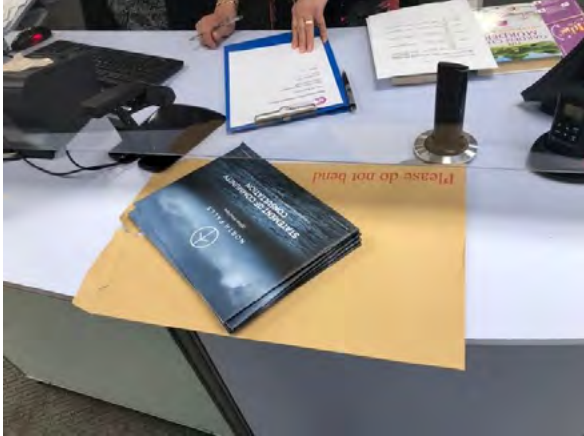
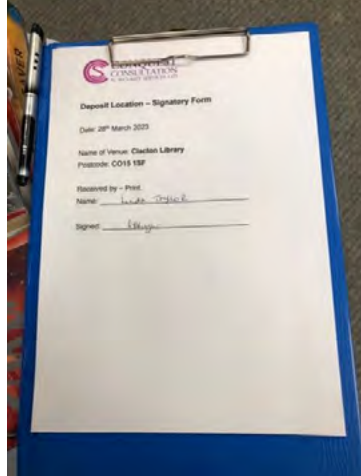



# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## APPENDIX F

### F.37

*Evidence of SoCC at display locations*

| Location                                   | Entrance   | Materials inside the building   | Signatory form   |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Clacton Library</b><br/>CO15 1SF</p> |   |   |   |
| <p><b>Frinton Library</b><br/>CO13 9DA</p> |  |  |  |

Tendring  
District  
Council  
Town Hall

CO15 1SE





# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## APPENDIX F

### F.38

*Section 47 notice in Clacton and Frinton Gazette*



# LOCALLISTINGS

The ultimate business directory

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e: [localsales@zoominleaflets.co.uk](mailto:localsales@zoominleaflets.co.uk)

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Guaranteed To Turn Up on Time & No Mess

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Equity release may involve a lifetime mortgage which is a loan secured against your home, or a home reversion plan. It reduces the value of your estate and requires paying off any existing mortgage. The money released, plus accrued interest, is repaid upon death or entering long-term care. Equity Release may require set up fees.

Request your no-obligation personalised illustration which will explain features and risks. Find out how much tax-free cash you could release today.

**Age Partnership**  
The UK's No.1 Equity Release Advisor

To request your FREE guide, call Freephone: **0808 500 1532**  
or visit: [equity.agepartnership.co.uk/plans](http://equity.agepartnership.co.uk/plans)

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1st April 10am - 4pm

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To advertise telephone: **01206 508353**  
or email: [essex.public.notices@newsquest.co.uk](mailto:essex.public.notices@newsquest.co.uk)

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**PLANNING**

**Notice publicising a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in accordance with Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008**

North Falls is hereby given that North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited (company number 12435947) with registered office at Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 6PB ("the Applicant") has produced a Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC") in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. The SoCC has been prepared in respect of a proposed application to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for development consent (the "Application") to develop the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm ("North Falls" or "the Project").

**The Project**

North Falls is a nationally significant infrastructure project being developed in an equal joint venture partnership by SSE Renewables and RWE, via the Applicant company. North Falls is a proposed offshore wind farm located in the southern North Sea, approximately 20 kilometres from the East Anglia coast at its nearest point. An offer has been accepted from National Grid for an onshore grid connection in Tendring, North Essex, approximately 20 kilometres from its likely landfall location near Frinton-on-Sea. North Falls is set to support the UK's target of 50GW of installed offshore wind capacity by 2030.

Necessary rights and powers will be sought in the Application to ensure delivery of the Project, including any necessary powers of compulsory acquisition of land or an interest in or right over land and temporary use powers and if required, powers to apply and/or disapply legislation relevant to the Project.

**Statement of Community Consultation**

Before making the Application, the Applicant has a duty under section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 to produce a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The SoCC sets out how the local community will be consulted by the Applicant on the proposed application and ways to take part in that consultation.

This Notice provides formal notification of the publication of the SoCC, including where and when it can be inspected, in accordance with Section 47(6) of the Planning Act.

The SoCC can be viewed on the Project website [www.northfallsoffshore.com](http://www.northfallsoffshore.com). To request an electronic or hard copy of the SoCC please call **0800 254 5340** or email [contact@northfallsoffshore.com](mailto:contact@northfallsoffshore.com). Requests can also be made in writing to **FREEPOST NORTH FALLS**.

Hard copies of the SoCC can also be inspected free of charge at the community access points listed here:

| Reference location  | Opening times*   |
|---|--|
| Clacton Library, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1SF                     | Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am-5:30pm<br>Wednesday 9am-7pm<br>Saturday 9am-5pm<br>Sunday Closed |
| Frinton Library, 59 Old Road, Frinton-on-Sea, CO13 9DA                      | Monday, Wednesday, Sunday Closed<br>Tuesday, Friday 9am-5:30pm<br>Thursday 9am-7pm<br>Saturday 9am-5pm |
| Tendring District Council Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1SE | Monday-Friday from 9am-3pm   |

\*Opening times were taken from online sources. Please confirm opening times directly with the venue if planning a visit.

In spring 2023, North Falls intends to launch a statutory consultation on the proposed application, inviting comments on the preliminary environmental information report. Details of the proposed methods of consultation for communities can be found in the published SoCC. More information about the statutory consultation, including dates of public events, will be communicated in accordance with the SoCC in due course.

**Is your boiler on the blink?**

Visit our local website and click on 'Local Listings'.

**LOCALIQ**



**NORTH FALLS**

*Offshore Wind Farm*

**APPENDIX F**

**F.39**

*Stage 3 (statutory) consultation postcard*



## NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

# INVITATION TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON NORTH FALLS OFFSHORE WIND FARM

**We're asking for your views on our updated 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. As well as generating green energy, contributing to the UK's net zero ambitions and providing energy security, North Falls will bring numerous local socio-economic benefits by way of direct and indirect jobs, and opportunities for the local supply chain.

Following an introductory consultation in October 2021 and a non-statutory consultation in November 2022, we now invite

feedback on our updated proposals, and specifically on our Preliminary Environmental Impact Report, which details the environmental impact assessment work we have carried out over the past three years.

This statutory consultation will run from **Tuesday 16 May** until **Friday 14 July** and will include online and face-to-face opportunities to find out more and provide your comments.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE CONSULTATION:

### Consultation portal

Go online to find out more about our proposals, submit questions and provide us with your thoughts at our consultation portal: [stat.northfallsoffshore.com](https://stat.northfallsoffshore.com) which can also be accessed via our website: [www.northfallsoffshore.com](https://www.northfallsoffshore.com)

### In-person events

| <i>Date</i>              | <i>Time</i>         | <i>Venue</i>  |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Friday 2<br>June 2023    | 3:30pm to<br>7:30pm | Great Bromley Village Hall, Parsons Hill,<br>Great Bromley, Colchester, CO7 7JA   |
| Saturday 3<br>June 2023  | 9am to 1pm          | Tendring Village Hall , Tendring,<br>Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 0BG                     |
| Thursday 8<br>June 2023  | 3:30pm to<br>7:30pm | McGrigor Hall, 85 Fourth Ave,<br>Frinton-on-Sea, CO13 9EB                         |
| Friday 9<br>June 2023    | 3:30pm to<br>7:30pm | Thorpe-le-Soken Women's Institute Hall,<br>High Street, Thorpe-le-Soken, CO16 0EF |
| Saturday 10<br>June 2023 | 9am to 1pm          | Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road,<br>Ardleigh, Essex, CO7 7RS                  |

### Online events

We will be hosting two webinars starting at 6pm on **Tuesday 13 June** and **Wednesday 21 June**. To register to attend, please visit our consultation portal.

## CONTACT US

Telephone: **0800 254 5340**

Email: [contact@northfallsoffshore.com](mailto:contact@northfallsoffshore.com)

Website: [\[REDACTED\]](#)

Post: **FREEPOST North Falls**



**NORTH FALLS**

*Offshore Wind Farm*



**THIS CONSULTATION CLOSSES ON FRIDAY 14 JULY 2023**





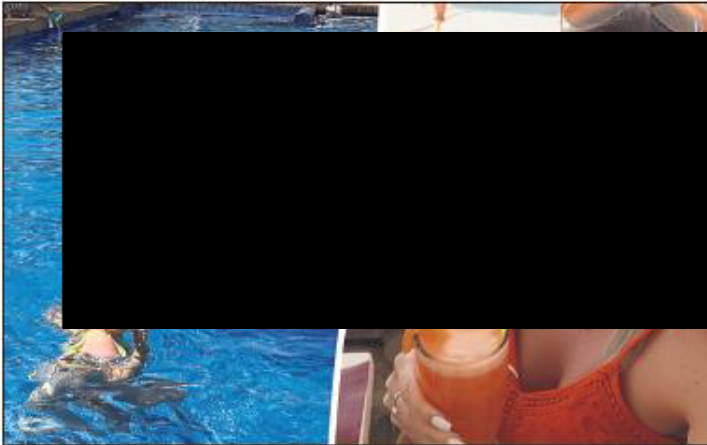
**NORTH FALLS**

*Offshore Wind Farm*

# **APPENDIX F**

## **F.41**

*Stage 3 (statutory) consultation print advertising*



THRIFTY MUM: Rachel Smith has saved by booking holidays during term time. Image: SWNS

# Mum saves £10k on holiday costs

## She defied taking children out of school

By Elliot Deady  
elliot.deady@newsquest.co.uk

A MUM has defended her decision to take her children out of school saying she's saved thousands of pounds by taking them on holiday during term time.

Rachel Smith, who lives in Clacton with her two children, enjoys an annual foreign holiday during the school year.

Despite receiving regular fines, the single mum stands by her decision saying "it's nothing compared to the cost of going away in the school holidays".

"The young family has enjoyed four term time holidays and has got their passports at the ready to head off to Mallorca this week to mark the end of 11-year-old Brayden's SATs.

Rachel, Brayden, and his nine-year-old sister Elianna have previously travelled to Ibiza, Malaga and Can Picafort.

The 33-year-old, who has saved almost £10,000 by breaking the rules, shared her experience of

her last holiday on TikTok and said most people agreed with her despite receiving backlash from some viewers.

The mum-of-two said: "I don't think them missing school to go on holiday once a year has been detrimental to their education at all.

"I always check the calendar carefully to make sure it doesn't impact their learning too much. I'm not recklessly booking holidays around things like exams or school trips."

Despite missing lessons, she said both children are doing extremely well at school, with Brayden achieving full marks on his latest SATs maths mock test.

Reflecting on the hours of school missed during lockdown, Rachel continued: "I taught the kids a lot myself during the Covid pandemic using textbooks as we didn't find video lessons very easy at all.

"They learn a lot from going on holiday too. They've been able to experience other cul-

tures, they have a massive social awareness and they're learning another language."

The proud mum thinks an "annual leave" style system could be the answer, where parents are allocated a number of days to take children out of school for holidays, with "red zones" where holidays in the run-up to key dates are forbidden.

She concluded: "I stand by taking my children out of school for holidays.

"I never had that growing up, so if I can give my kids that then I'm going to."

An Essex County Council spokesperson said: "Parents have a legal duty to ensure their children attend school regularly in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school.

"Every lesson really does count, and it is important parents send their child to school so they can access and enjoy all the educational opportunities and experiences and ensure they get the best start to academic life."

# Parents back mum over holidays

FOR many families a well-earned summer holiday is the highlight of the year.

We asked our readers if they agreed with taking children out of school for holidays during term time and a staggering 71 per cent of respondents said they did.

One reader admitted: "I am taking mine out the week before half term.

"They have brilliant attendance and are doing well and as it's £1,000 cheaper.

"Their teachers have said not

to worry at all and to enjoy ourselves. They sent me the letter saying I would be fined the day before the last couple of strike days.

"The timing made me furious because I am taking them out for five days and they have missed five days due to strikes.

"I support the strikes though and I knew I wasn't meant to so have got over my sulk and am now just looking forward to our holiday."

Another said: "Loads of people

take their children out of term time, and why shouldn't they. I say good for her."

One parent suggested the fines represented double standards.

She said: "So teachers can strike and children lose education but we do it we get fined... good on her I say."

Another reader said: "Term time is education time, and she is ruining her own kids' education for a slightly selfish act.

"But if the kids are having fun, then more for them, I guess."

## INVITATION TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON NORTH FALLS OFFSHORE WIND FARM

We're asking for your views on our updated proposals for North Falls - an offshore wind farm being developed more than 20km off the East Anglia coast.

Our consultation will run from Tuesday 16 May until Friday 14 July 2023 and will include online and face-to-face opportunities to have your say.

Please visit our consultation portal: [www.stat.northfallsoffshore.com](http://www.stat.northfallsoffshore.com) to find out more about our updated proposals and provide us with your comments, or attend one of our in-person events or online webinars.

### In-person events

| Date                  | Time             | Venue  |
|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| Friday 2 June 2023    | 3:30pm to 7:30pm | Great Bromley Village Hall, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley, Colchester, CO7 7JA   |
| Saturday 3 June 2023  | 9am to 1pm       | Tending Village Hall, Tending, Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 0HG                        |
| Thursday 8 June 2023  | 3:30pm to 7:30pm | McGrigor Hall, 85 Fourth Ave, Frinton-on-Sea, CO13 9EB                         |
| Friday 9 June 2023    | 3:30pm to 7:30pm | Thorpe-Je-Soken Women's Institute Hall, High Street, Thorpe-Je-Soken, CO16 0EP |
| Saturday 10 June 2023 | 9am to 1pm       | Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, Essex, CO7 7RS                  |

### Online events

We will be hosting two webinars starting at 6pm on Tuesday 13 June and Wednesday 21 June. To register to attend, please use the link on our portal.

### OTHER WAYS TO GET IN TOUCH:

Telephone: 0800 254 5340  
Email: [contact@northfallsoffshore.com](mailto:contact@northfallsoffshore.com)  
Website: [www.northfallsoffshore.com](http://www.northfallsoffshore.com)  
Post: FREEPOST North Falls



THIS CONSULTATION CLOSES ON FRIDAY 14 JULY 2023



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## MAN ARRESTED AFTER POLICE RAID PROPERTY

A MAN has been arrested after police officers smashed their way through a door as they carried out a drugs raid in Colchester.

Essex Police's Colchester Community Policing Team carried out a drugs search at a property in Stanway.

As a result of the warrant, one man was arrested and he was yesterday in custody while he was interviewed by officers.

Essex Police has not yet confirmed if any drugs were found at the address.

Nor have police clarified on the suspicion of what offences the arrest happened.



■ Raid - police broke down a door to a Stanway property

## Ex-officer's gross misconduct

A former Essex Police officer who has been found to have committed gross misconduct "would have been dismissed if he didn't quit".

Former PC Liam Anderson, who had been training to be an officer at the time, was accused of making a series of inappropriate and derogatory comments to his colleagues.

An accelerated misconduct hearing, chaired by Chief Constable Ben-Julian Harrington, took place at Essex Police Headquarters on Friday.

If former PC Anderson had not already resigned, the panel stated he would have been dismissed without notice.

He will also be included on the College of Policing Barred List, which prevents him from working in policing in the future.

Mr Harrington said: "Our communities and I rightly expect the very highest standards from our officers.

"PC Anderson's actions were completely unacceptable in any professional or social setting, let alone in policing.

"But while I'm appalled with the evidence shown in this case, I'm also incredibly proud of the officers and staff around him who stepped up to call out his behaviour.

"They recognised that PC Anderson's views have no place in Essex Police and are a shining example of the vast majority who have chosen to dedicate their time to protect and serve."

# Foster care abuse victim's settlement

by PIERS MEYLER  
Local Democracy Reporter

A MAN whose carer forced him to take scalding hot showers and drink juice mixed with bleach has been handed a three-figure settlement by Essex County Council.

Foster carer Sandra Clayton, of Brightlingsea, was jailed aged 70 after being convicted in 2017 for subjecting her foster children to extreme child abuse from the 1970s to early 90s.

The claimant, whose anonymity is protected, was one of several children who suffered abuse by Clayton during this time.

During her trial, the court heard how she forced soiled underwear into two of her foster children's mouths as a punishment.

She would make her foster children go out into the cold, subject them to beatings, make them sleep on the floor, and would slash their

set with a knife if they tried to get away from her.

She would also play a sadistic game where she would grab the children by their limbs and spin them around and then let go, causing injuries as they collided with furniture and walls.

At times Clayton would make the children fight each other for food.

When the children's injuries were too big to conceal, Clayton would force them to lie to authorities so that she would not be implicated.

The claimant reported being regularly pushed down the stairs, bitten on the face, forced to stand naked while items were thrown at him, coerced to harm himself, kept in a coal bunker for extended periods of time, chased around the house naked by a dog trained to bite his ankles, and force-fed food until he would vomit and was then made to eat the vomit.

The full extent of the abuse was detailed at Ipswich Crown Court where Clayton pleaded guilty to three charges of cruelty to a person under age 16 and was sentenced to four years in prison.

The claimant launched his claim against Essex County Council for the abuse he was subjected to while in foster care.

Leigh Day abuse team solicitor Andrew Lord, who represented the claimant, said: "I am pleased we were able to reach a significant settlement for my client, who has been through the most horrific abuse at a young age at the hands of someone who was supposed to be caring for him."

A spokesperson for the county council said: "The person in this case has a right to privacy which will be respected.

"In any case Essex County Council will always work to achieve an amicable resolution."

## INVITATION TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON NORTH FALLS OFFSHORE WIND FARM

We're asking for your views on our updated proposals for North Falls - an offshore wind farm being developed more than 20km off the East Anglia coast.

Our consultation will run from Tuesday 16 May until Friday 14 July 2023 and will include online and face-to-face opportunities to have your say.

Please visit our consultation portal: [www.essex.northfallsoffshore.com](http://www.essex.northfallsoffshore.com) to find out more about our updated proposals and provide us with your comments, or attend one of our in-person events or online webinars.

### In-person events

| Date                  | Time             | Venue  |
|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| Friday 2 June 2023    | 3:30pm to 7:30pm | Great Bromley Village Hall, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley, Colchester, CO7 7JA   |
| Saturday 3 June 2023  | 9am to 1pm       | Tendring Village Hall, Tendring, Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 0BG                      |
| Thursday 8 June 2023  | 3:30pm to 7:30pm | McGrigor Hall, 85 Fourth Ave, Pritton-on-Sea, CO13 9EB                         |
| Friday 9 June 2023    | 3:30pm to 7:30pm | Thorpe-le-Soken Women's Institute Hall, High Street, Thorpe-le-Soken, CO16 0EF |
| Saturday 10 June 2023 | 9am to 1pm       | Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, Essex, CO7 7BS                  |

### Online events

We will be hosting two webinars starting at 6pm on Tuesday 13 June and Wednesday 21 June. To register to attend, please use the link on our portal.

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Email: [contact@northfallsoffshore.com](mailto:contact@northfallsoffshore.com)  
Website: [www.northfallsoffshore.com](http://www.northfallsoffshore.com)  
Post: FREEPOST North Falls



THIS CONSULTATION CLOSURES ON FRIDAY 14 JULY 2023



# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## APPENDIX F

### F.42

*Stage 3 (statutory) consultation  
digital advertising*



### INVITATION TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON NORTH FALLS OFFSHORE WIND FARM

**Online events**  
We will be hosting two webinars starting at 6pm on **Tuesday 13 June and Wednesday 21 June.** To register to attend, please use the link on our portal.

**THIS CONSULTATION CLOSSES ON FRIDAY 14 JULY 2023**



**FIND OUT MORE**

## NEWS



### Dartford Crossing will close at these times THIS week - the full details

2 hrs ago



**These 5 animals from RSPCA Essex are looking for their forever homes**

9 hrs ago  
30 1



**Harwich Port owner aiming for net-zero carbon emissions by 2035**

25 mins ago



# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## APPENDIX F

### F.43

*Stage 3 (statutory) consultation poster*



# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR NORTH FALLS OFFSHORE WIND FARM TUESDAY 16 MAY TO FRIDAY 14 JULY

Following our consultation held in late 2022, the North Falls team will hold a series of community events to present its updated proposals for the offshore wind farm as part of its statutory consultation under the Planning Act 2008.

### In person events

| Date             | Time             | Venue  |
|------------------|------------------|--|
| Friday 2 June    | 3.30pm to 7.30pm | Great Bromley Village Hall, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley, Colchester, CO7 7JA   |
| Saturday 3 June  | 9am to 1pm       | Tendring Village Hall, Tendring, Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 0BG                      |
| Thursday 8 June  | 3.30pm to 7.30pm | McGrigor Hall, 85 Fourth Ave, Frinton-on-Sea, CO13 9EB                         |
| Friday 9 June    | 3.30pm to 7.30pm | Thorpe-le-Soken Women's Institute Hall, High Street, Thorpe-le-Soken, CO16 0EF |
| Saturday 10 June | 9am to 1pm       | Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, Essex, CO7 7RS                  |

### Online events

If you would prefer to attend an online event, there will be two webinars, each held from 6pm to 7.30pm on Tuesday 13 June and Wednesday 21 June. Registration is via the North Falls consultation portal: [s\[REDACTED\]](#) which will be live from Tuesday 16 May. Once live, the portal can also be accessed via the website: [\[REDACTED\]](#)

### How to get involved

- Come along to our events listed above or join a webinar
- Visit the consultation portal via [stat.northfallsoffshore.com](http://stat.northfallsoffshore.com) and submit your thoughts using the feedback form or interactive map
- Email: [contact@northfallsoffshore.com](mailto:contact@northfallsoffshore.com)
- Writing: **FREEPOST NORTH FALLS**
- Freephone number: **0800 254 5340**

### CONTACT US

Telephone: **0800 254 5340**  
Email: [contact@northfallsoffshore.com](mailto:contact@northfallsoffshore.com)  
Website: [\[REDACTED\]](#)  
Post: **FREEPOST North Falls**



**NORTH FALLS**  
*Offshore Wind Farm*



**THIS CONSULTATION CLOSSES ON FRIDAY 14 JULY 2023**



# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## APPENDIX F

### F.44

*Stage 3 (statutory) consultation poster  
distribution locations*



Holland Library  
Clacton Library  
Frinton Library  
Frinton Golf Club  
Frinton & Walton Town Council  
Tendring District Council  
St Edmund King and Martyr Church  
Weeley Village Hall  
Great Bromley Village Hall  
Great Bromley Community Library  
Beaumont-Cum-Moze Village Hall  
Holland on Sea Public Hall  
Great Bentley Parish Council  
Weeley Parish Council  
Ardleigh Parish Council  
Ardleigh Convenience Store  
St Mary's Church Ardleigh  
Beaumont Parish Council



# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## APPENDIX F

### F.45

*Press release publicising launch of stage 3  
(statutory) consultation*

## MEDIA RELEASES

16th May 2023

## North Falls statutory consultation phase launched today

- Consultation launched for communities to provide feedback on the wind farm proposals
- Third phase of consultation for project sited 20 kilometres off the East Anglia coast in the southern North Sea
- Online and in-person events included in consultation that runs to Friday 14 July, 2023

**Southern North Sea offshore wind farm, North Falls, has launched the statutory consultation on its proposals today (Tuesday 16 May, 2023).**

North Falls is a proposed extension to the existing 504-megawatt Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm, and comprises an offshore array area totaling 150km<sup>2</sup> sited around 20 kilometres off the East Anglia coast and an onshore grid connection location in Tendring, Essex. Underground cables would carry power from landfall near Frinton-on-Sea around 24 kilometres to a new onshore substation.

In this third round of consultation, the project team seeks comments from communities and the wider public on its project proposals, and specifically on its preliminary environmental information report (PEIR).

This report sets out the initial findings from the thorough environmental impact assessment carried out by the project over the past three years. This work included onshore and offshore surveys, desk-based research and stakeholder consultation to identify potential environmental and community impacts from the project, and how those impacts could be dealt with.

**North Falls Project Director, Andy Paine** said that the consultation is a key chance for those with an interest in the project to review the current proposals and provide comments, particularly on any elements where their local knowledge may provide invaluable.

“The proposals presented are not the final application, but rather this is an opportunity for the local community and others to influence the details of the application before it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.”

Following its previous two consultation in October 2021 and October 2022, this current consultation presents updated project proposals, particularly around its three options for transmission infrastructure, and offers a number of ways for people to feed in their views. There will be an online [consultation portal](#) and two webinars plus the chance to meet the team at five Essex events in early June being held in Great Bromley, Tendring, Frinton-on-Sea, Thorpe-le-Soken and Ardleigh.

For those in coastal regions potentially impacted by views of the wind farm, North Falls has also created a **3D interactive computer model** with views from 17 different coastal locations for people to be able to see how it could look.

The consultation will run **until Friday 14 July 2023**. All the reports, maps and details related to the consultation, including the dates and venues of the in-person events, are now available on the project's **consultation portal**, which can also be accessed via the website: [www.northfallsoffshore.com](http://www.northfallsoffshore.com).

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm is being developed by a 50/50 joint venture company owned equally by SSE Renewables and RWE.



*Previous consultation event held in late 2022*





# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## APPENDIX F

### F.46

*Media list for stage 3 (statutory) consultation  
press release distribution*

| Outlet                                 |
|--|
| 4C Offshore                            |
| A Word About Wind                      |
| Acuris (Sparkspread)                   |
| AltEnergyMag.com                       |
| Argus Media                            |
| Better Society Network                 |
| Bloomberg                              |
| Bloomberg NEF                          |
| BusinessGreen                          |
| Carbon Brief                           |
| Centaur Media                          |
| Clean Energy Pipeline                  |
| Clean Technology Business Review       |
| Cleantech Magazine                     |
| Climate Home News                      |
| edie.net                               |
| Energy Acuity                          |
| Energy Central                         |
| Energy Live News                       |
| Future Net Zero                        |
| Energy Live News                       |
| Energy Rev                             |
| Energy Voice                           |
| Energy Wire                            |
| Energy World                           |
| Environment and Energy Management News |
| Environmental Finance                  |
| FORESIGHT Climate & Energy             |
| Freelance                              |
| Funds Europe                           |
| Greenbiz.com                           |
| Greenwire                              |
| Green Tech Media                       |
| ICIS                                   |
| ICIS Energy                            |
| IJGlobal                               |
| Industry Projects & Technology         |
| Infra News and Inframation Group       |
| Infrastructure Investor                |
| inspiratia                             |
| Institutional Asset manager            |
| Institutional Investor                 |
| Investment Week                        |
| IPE                                    |
| Low Carbon Energy Investor             |

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| Merger Market                   |
| New Scientist                   |
| North American WindPower        |
| Offshore Energy Today           |
| Offshore Engineer               |
| Offshore Wind Biz               |
| Offshore Wind Engineering       |
| Offshore Wind Journal           |
| OGV Energy                      |
| Private Equity International    |
| Private Equity Wire             |
| Project Finance International   |
| Reuters                         |
| Recharge                        |
| Renewable Energy                |
| Renewable Energy Focus          |
| Renewable Energy Technology     |
| Renewable Energy World Magazine |
| Renewable UK                    |
| Renewables Investor             |
| ReNews                          |
| Scottish Energy News            |
| Sparksread                      |
| SteelGuru                       |
| Sun & Wind Energy               |
| Utility Week                    |
| Wind Energy Network             |
| Wind Energy Update              |
| Wind Tech International         |
| Windpower Monthly               |



# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## APPENDIX F

### F.47

*Media coverage from stage 3 (statutory)  
consultation launch press release*



# North Falls Development Consultation Launched



**SSE Renewables has announced the launch of a statutory consultation on its proposed Southern North Sea offshore wind farm project, North Falls – a 50/50 joint venture with co-developers RWE Renewables.**

North Falls is a proposed extension to the existing 504MW Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm, and comprises an offshore array area totaling 150km<sup>2</sup> sited around 20 kilometres off the East Anglia coast and an onshore grid connection location in Tendring, Essex. Underground cables would carry power from landfall near Frinton-on-Sea around 24 kilometres to a new onshore substation.

In this third round of consultation, the project team is seeking comments from communities and the wider public on its project proposals, and specifically on its preliminary environmental information report (PEIR).

This report sets out the initial findings from the thorough environmental impact assessment carried out by the project over the past three years. This work included onshore and offshore surveys, desk-based research, and stakeholder consultation to identify potential environmental and community impacts from the project, and how those impacts could be dealt with.

Andy Paine, North Falls Project Director, said: "The consultation is a key chance for those with an interest in the project to review the current proposals and provide comments, particularly on any elements where their local knowledge may provide invaluable.

"The proposals presented are not the final application, but rather this is an opportunity for the local community and others to influence the details of the application before it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate."

Following its previous two consultations in October 2021 and October 2022, this current consultation presents updated project proposals, particularly around its three options for transmission infrastructure, and offers a number of ways for people to feed in their views. There will be an online consultation portal and two webinars plus the chance to meet the team at five Essex events in early June being held in Great Bromley, Tendring, Frinton-on-Sea, Thorpe-le-Soken and Ardleigh.

For those in coastal regions potentially impacted by views of the wind farm, North Falls has also created a 3D interactive computer model with views from 17 different coastal locations for people to be able to see how it could look.

The consultation will run until Friday 14 July 2023. All the reports, maps and details related to the consultation, including the dates and venues of the in-person events, are now available on the project's consultation portal: [stat.northfallsoffshore.com/](https://stat.northfallsoffshore.com/) which can also be accessed via the website: [www.northfallsoffshore.com](https://www.northfallsoffshore.com).

## SSE consults on plans for 500MW North Falls offshore wind farm



17/05/2023, 7:47 am

By **Andrew Dykes**



Greater Gabbard offshore wind farm.

A public consultation has been launched to evaluate proposals for the North Falls offshore wind farm, a 500MW site off the coast of East Anglia.

Developed as a 50/50 joint venture between SSE Renewables and RWE Renewables, the project is a **proposed extension** to the existing 504MW Greater Gabbard scheme.

Proposals would see that capacity matched with up to 72 wind turbines installed across an area totalling around 150 square km and around 12 miles off the East Anglia coast.

SSE says output from the site would be enough to supply around 400,000 homes.

It would make landfall near Frinton-on-Sea with underground cables then carrying power to a grid connection in Tendring, Essex.

The developers are now seeking comments from communities and the wider public on the proposals, and specifically its preliminary environmental information report (PEIR), which can be viewed on the project website.

In particular the backers said they are seeking in put around the three proposed options for transmission infrastructure.

The consultation will run until Friday 14 July 2023.

“The consultation is a key chance for those with an interest in the project to review the current proposals and provide comments, particularly on any elements where their local knowledge may provide invaluable,” added project director Andy Paine.

“The proposals presented are not the final application, but rather this is an opportunity for the local community and others to influence the details of the application before it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.”

Opened in 2013, the £1.3billion Greater Gabbard scheme consists of 140 turbines, and was at its opening the second largest offshore wind farm in the world.



## RWE, SSE Renewables JV Kick Off Consultation for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm

WIND FARM UPDATE

May 16, 2023, by Adnan Memija

**RWE and SSE Renewables have commenced the statutory consultation on their proposals for the North Falls offshore wind farm, an extension to the existing Greater Gabbard offshore wind farm that is being developed in the southern North Sea.**



*North Falls*

In this third round of consultation, the project team seeks comments from communities and the wider public on its project proposals, specifically on its preliminary environmental information report (PEIR).

This report sets out the initial findings from the environmental impact assessment (EIA) carried out by the project over the past three years.

This work included onshore and [offshore surveys](#), desk-based research, and stakeholder consultation to identify potential environmental and community impacts from the project, and how those impacts could be dealt with.

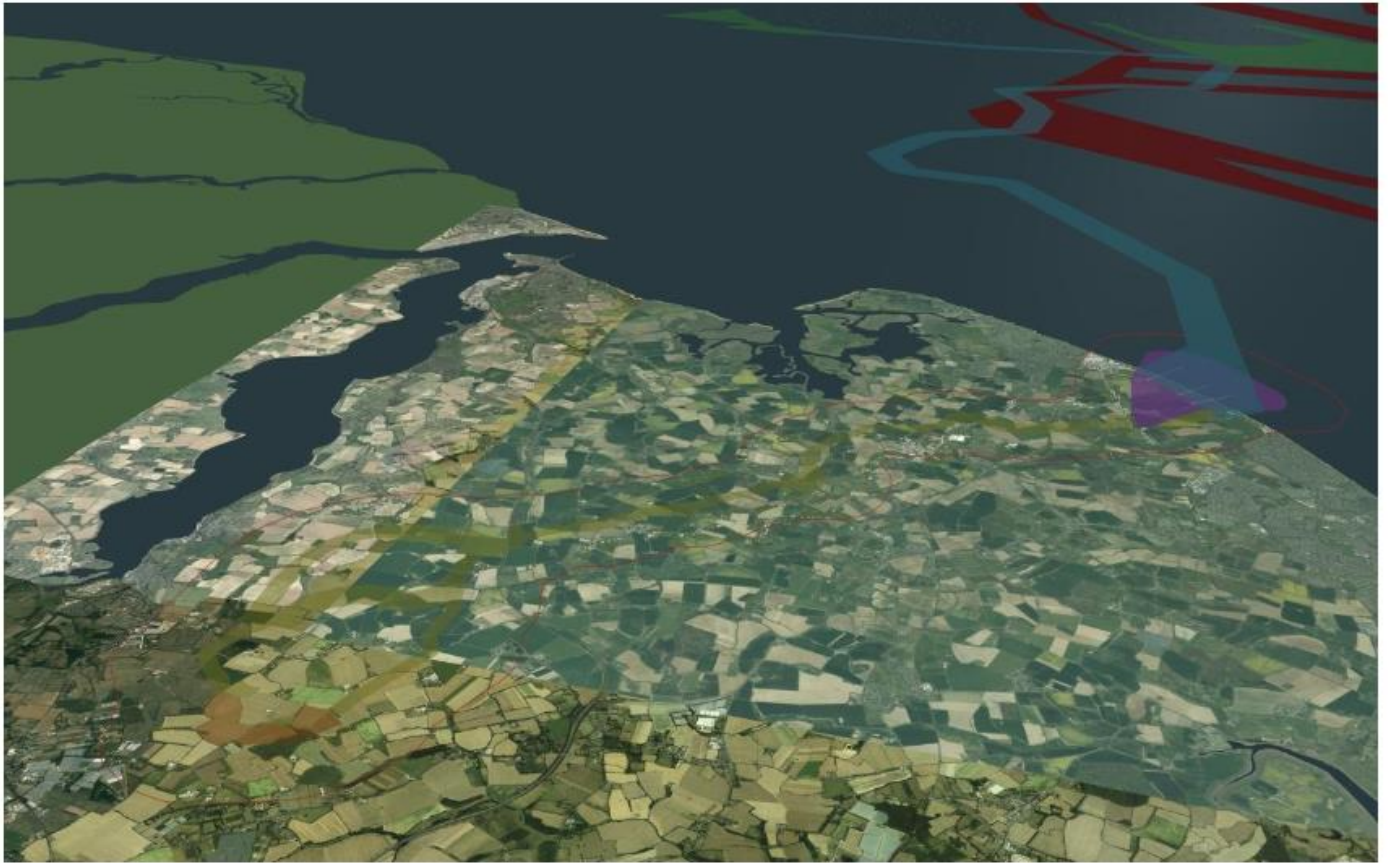
Following its previous two consultations in [October 2021](#) and October 2022, this current consultation presents updated project proposals, particularly around its three options for transmission infrastructure.

*“The proposals presented are not the final application, but rather this is an opportunity for the local community and others to influence the details of the application before it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate”,* said **Andy Paine**, North Falls Project Director.

The consultation will run until **Friday 14 July** 2023.

North Falls is a proposed extension to the existing 504 MW Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm and comprises an offshore array area totalling 150 square kilometres located about 20 kilometres off the East Anglia coast and an onshore grid connection location in Tendring, Essex.

Underground cables would carry power from landfall near Frinton-on-Sea around 24 kilometres to a new onshore substation.



## Consultation starts on latest proposals for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm

North Essex communities are being asked for their feedback on the proposed southern North Sea offshore wind farm, North Falls, which launched its second consultation phase today (17 October 2022).

North Falls is a proposed extension to the existing 504-megawatt Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm, comprising an offshore array area of 150km<sup>2</sup> off the East Anglia coast and an onshore grid connection in Tendring, Essex.

Following an initial introductory consultation held in October 2021, this current consultation will present updated proposals on the project, particularly around its onshore infrastructure, and will give local people a number of opportunities to feed in their views. There will be an online consultation portal and two webinars plus the chance to meet the team at five local events in early November being held in Frinton-on-Sea, Tendring, Great Bromley, Thorpe Le Soken and Ardleigh.

North Falls senior consents manager, Daniel Harper said that the consultation will give communities the opportunity to share their opinions and local knowledge, which will inform the next phase of development, which is the preparation of the key application document, North Falls Preliminary Environmental Impact Report,

“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 such as jobs and supply chain opportunities to boost the economy,” he said.

“However, it is key we have input on our plans to ensure the application we submit has taken into account a wide range of views.”

The consultation will run until Friday 9 December. All the details of the consultation including the location and times of the face-to-face events are now available on the project's consultation portal: <https://non-stat.northfallsoffshore.com/>.

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm is being developed by a 50/50 joint venture company owned equally by SSE Renewables and RWE.





An RWE and SSE Renewables joint venture has launched the statutory consultation on its proposals for the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm.

North Falls is a proposed extension to the existing 504MW Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm, and comprises an offshore array area totalling 150 km sq some 20 km off the East Anglia coast.

The onshore grid connection would be located in Tendring, Essex.

Underground cables would carry power from landfall near Frinton-on-Sea around 24 kilometres to a new onshore substation.

In this third round of consultation, the project team seeks comments from communities and the wider public on its project proposals, and specifically on its preliminary environmental information report (PEIR).

This report sets out the initial findings from the thorough environmental impact assessment carried out by the project over the past three years.

This work included onshore and offshore surveys, desk-based research and stakeholder consultation to identify potential environmental and community impacts from the project, and how those impacts could be dealt with.

North Falls Project Director Andy Paine said: "The proposals presented are not the final application, but rather this is an opportunity for the local community and others to influence the details of the application before it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate."

Following its previous two consultations in October 2021 and October 2022, this current consultation presents updated project proposals, particularly around its three options for transmission infrastructure.

There will be an online consultation portal and two webinars plus the chance to meet the team at five Essex events in early June being held in Great Bromley, Tendring, Frinton-on-Sea, Thorpe-le-Soken and Ardleigh.

For those in coastal regions potentially impacted by views of the wind farm, North Falls has also created a 3D interactive computer model with views from 17 different coastal locations for people to be able to see how it could look.

The consultation will run until Friday 14 July 2023.