



NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

**CONSULTATION
REPORT
APPENDIX F.14.1
PART 7**

Document Reference: 4.1.3.7

Volume: 4

APFP Regulation: 5(2)(q)

Date: July 2024

Revision: 0

NorthFallsOffshore.com



Project Reference: EN010119



Project	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm
Document Title	Consultation Report Appendix F.14.1 (Part 7)
Document Reference	4.1.3.7
APFP Regulation	5(2)(q)
Supplier	Camargue Group Limited
Supplier Document ID	CAMFPT70724

This document and any information therein are confidential property of North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited and without infringement neither the whole nor any extract may be disclosed, loaned, copied or used for manufacturing, provision of services or other purposes whatsoever without prior written consent of North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited, and no liability is accepted for loss or damage from any cause whatsoever from the use of the document. North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited retains the right to alter the document at any time unless a written statement to the contrary has been appended.

Revision	Date	Status/Reason for Issue	Originator	Checked	Approved
0	July 2024	Submission	Camargue	NFOW	NFOW



NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

F Appendices (continued)

F.14.1 Stage 3 (statutory) consultation feedback and Applicant's regard (section 47)

423



NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

APPENDIX F

F.14.1

*Stage 3 (statutory) consultation feedback and
Applicant's regard (section 47)*

Statutory consultation S47 feedback theme tables

Need for the Project			
Feedback	Times raised in feedback	Applicant's response	Project change following this stage of consultation (Y / N)
<p>General support for the Project.</p> <p>Reference to the importance of needing renewable energy.</p>	437	The Applicant notes this response. Chapter 2 Need for the Project of the Environmental Statement (ES) provides more information (document reference 3.1.4).	N

Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
Feedback	Times raised in feedback	Applicant's response	Project change following this stage of consultation (Y / N)
<p>General concern of 'destruction' and impact to the local environment, historic buildings and protected sites.</p> <p>Reference to Little Bromley farmland and concerns of impacts to Little Bromley Church, specifically.</p> <p>Reference to impacts on Beaumont-Cum-Moze countryside within the onshore cable corridor.</p> <p>Reference to Grade 1 and 2 listed houses and buildings.</p>	138	<p>Each onshore chapter of the ES considers the potential impact of the proposed onshore substation and onshore cable route on the existing environment.</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) strategy for onshore archaeology and cultural heritage has been agreed with the relevant members of the Historic Environment Expert Topic Groups (ETGs). Consultation with the ETG will be ongoing throughout the Development Consent Order (DCO) process to ensure that nationally, regionally or locally important heritage assets will not be significantly adversely impacted.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges the archaeological and historical potential of the area. A full assessment of the impacts to archaeology and cultural</p>	N

		<p>heritage has been carried out in the Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of the ES (document reference 3.1.27) in consultation with Historic England and Essex County Council.</p> <p>A detailed assessment of the predicted effects on the significance of onshore heritage assets resulting from changes in their setting is presented in Appendix 25.3 of the ES (Volume III) (document reference 3.3.50).</p>	
--	--	---	--

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment			
Feedback	Times raised in feedback	Applicant's response	Project change following this stage of consultation (Y / N)
<p>General concerns of 'destruction' of countryside and impact to landscape.</p> <p>Reference to 'scarred view' of the landscape (including mention of AONBs) and wildlife disturbance.</p>	130	<p>Due to the refinement of the onshore scoping area; the further detail developed around the siting of the onshore substation works area; the distance; and limited nature of actual visibility (verified through field work), effects on the Suffolk and Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), as well as the Heritage Coast and Dedham Vale National Landscape are considered unlikely to be significant.</p> <p>The Applicant is seeking to minimise the removal of mature trees / woodland where practicable. There is a commitment to microsite the cable trenches around mature trees, where practicable, to avoid the need for replacement tree planting along the onshore cable route, as detailed in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (OCoCP) (document reference 7.13). Production and compliance with an CoCP, based on the OCoCP, is secured through DCO requirement.</p> <p>The Applicant is also aiming to mitigate disturbance to hedgerows by using gaps in vegetation where possible. Wherever a hedgerow crossing is unavoidable, and a trenchless technique such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) is not possible, and the hedge requires removal, the width of the hedge removed will be limited where practicable. All removed hedges will be replaced with locally appropriate species.</p> <p>Additionally, the Applicant plans to avoid burying cables close to major tree roots in order to maintain cable integrity, as well as seeking to avoid</p>	Y

		<p>potential impacts on trees. This is detailed in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (OLEMS) (document reference 7.14). Production and compliance with an Ecological Management Plan (EMP), based on the OLEMS, is secured through DCO requirement.</p> <p>Detailed hedgerow survey has been undertaken, with further detail in the Applicant's Tree Preservation Order and Hedgerow Plan (document reference 5.12) and Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (Volume 1) (document reference 3.1.25) of the ES.</p> <p>The principles guiding landscape mitigation are developed in the Design Vision (document reference 2.3) and included in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (OLEMS) (document reference 7.14). Figure 30.1.6 (Volume II) illustrates the landscape mitigation plan for the onshore substation works area, including screen planting.</p> <p>Further details of these assessments are provided in Chapter 30 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the ES (document reference 3.1.32).</p>	
<p>General concerns of 'creeping industrialisation' due to onshore infrastructure.</p> <p>References to impact on tranquility of countryside.</p>	<p>135</p>	<p>The onshore Project area and onshore substation works area have been defined following an extensive site selection process, which has sought to take account of landscape and visual, other environmental, engineering, planning and land requirements to seek to identify the Project location. The site selection process is described in detail in Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Volume I) of the ES (document reference 3.1.06).</p> <p>The site selection process has included consideration of the following landscape and visual criteria as part of the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline landscape character and landscape susceptibility to change; • Landscape designations; • Principal visual receptors; and • Physical suitability of the site and potential for mitigation. <p>Cumulative landscape and visual impacts have been considered in Section 30.8 of Chapter 30 Landscape and Visual Assessment of the ES (document reference 3.1.32).</p> <p>More information regarding noise impacts can be found in Chapter 26 Noise and Vibration of the ES (document reference 3.1.28) and the Outline Code of Construction Practice (document reference 7.13) sets out the approach that will be taken by the Project to mitigate construction disturbance, including noise.</p>	<p>N</p>

<p>General concerns over potential for what is seen as significant onshore infrastructure.</p> <p>Reference to construction impacts, noise pollution, light pollution, visual impact cumulative impacts.</p>	21	<p>The cumulative assessment within Section 30.8 of Chapter 30 Landscape and Visual Assessment of the ES (document reference 3.1.32) considers the above ground (operational stage) features including the proposed Five Estuaries and National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) (Norwich to Tilbury Project) substations, and the potential cumulative impacts from the construction phase of these projects, plus other relevant features in the Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) study area. A detailed cumulative assessment is presented in Section 30.8 of Chapter 30 Landscape and Visual Assessment of the ES (document reference 3.1.32).</p>	N
--	----	---	---

Technical Consultation			
Feedback	Times raised in feedback	Applicant's response	Project change following this stage of consultation (Y / N)
<p>Adequacy of consultation.</p> <p>Reference to perceived lack of accurate onshore infrastructure visualisations.</p>	7	<p>The Applicant notes this response but believes the consultation it conducted was thorough and comprehensive. The Applicant has complied with the relevant legislation and guidance and went well beyond these benchmarks in many instance.</p> <p>To facilitate people's understanding of the Project's offshore and onshore elements, the Applicant released a three-dimensional computer-generated video of onshore and offshore landscape views, as well as animated flythroughs, to support its stage 3 (statutory) consultation. This video and the flythroughs were prepared on the basis of the most up-to-date information available to the Applicant at that time.</p> <p>The Applicant's approach to consultation, including how it has complied with relevant legislation and guidance, is covered in its Consultation Report (document reference 4.1). Technical consultation specifically is covered in Chapter 3 of the Consultation Report.</p>	N

Onshore Ecology			
Feedback	Times raised in feedback	Applicant's response	Project change following this stage of consultation (Y / N)
<p>General concern of 'destruction' and impacts on ecology and wildlife.</p> <p>Reference to impacts on the migratory bird route (East Atlantic Flyway).</p> <p>Reference to noise and light disturbance to wildlife and protected species – particularly bees, deer, grass snakes and pheasant.</p>	21	<p>Ecological impact is assessed and reported on throughout the ES.</p> <p>Section 23.6.1 of Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology of the ES (document reference 3.1.25) assesses the impacts of habitat fragmentation on local ecological receptors (and where required additional mitigation needs) including on designated sites, protected and notable species, and habitats. Table 23.5 sets out embedded mitigation in the Project design. No significant adverse effects are predicted to occur on EPS (European Protected Species).</p> <p>Impacts on named species, mitigation, and how losses are being minimised and avoided are addressed in Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology of the ES (document reference 3.1.25), namely in Section 23.6.</p> <p>Main migratory locations are designated sites and are fully assessed in the HRA (Habitats Regulation Assessment) and in Chapter 24 Onshore Ornithology (Volume I) (document reference 3.1.26).</p> <p>Mitigation measures are also addressed in the OLEMS (document reference 7.14) and Schedule of Mitigation (document reference 2.6).</p>	N

Land Use and Agriculture			
Feedback	Times raised in feedback	Applicant's response	Project change following this stage of consultation (Y / N)
<p>General concerns of disruption and impacts to farmland.</p> <p>Reference to permanent impacts to farmland (including Grade 1 farmland), especially in Little Bromley, interference with use of land and agriculture, access to farmland and safety issues for farmers due to cable route.</p>	26	<p>Details of the potential effects of the Project on farmland have been considered in detail throughout Chapter 22 Land Use and Agriculture of the ES (document reference 3.1.24) in particular, effects from loss of agricultural land are considered within Section 22.6 of this chapter.</p> <p>The localised loss of arable farmland and temporary disturbance to farmland / hedgerows and field boundaries associated with the onshore works, will not extend beyond the red line boundary to the wider extents of the LCA (Landscape Character Areas). As far as practicable, areas of woodland will be avoided. Further detail on vegetation removal is provided in Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology of the ES (document reference 3.1.25).</p> <p>The Outline Code of Construction Practice (document reference 7.13) sets out the Applicant's approach to health and safety and how access will be managed during construction of the Project. This includes the production of a Health and Safety Plan.</p> <p>The Outline Code of Construction Practice also states that a designated Local Community Liaison Officer will respond to any public concerns, queries or complaints in a professional and diligent manner as set out by a Project community and public relations procedure which will be submitted for comment to the relevant local authority.</p>	N

Tourism and Recreation			
Feedback	Times raised in feedback	Applicant's response	Project change following this stage of consultation (Y / N)
<p>General concerns of impacts to tourism and recreation.</p> <p>References to footpath diversion, need for public byways and bridle paths in rural communities, construction impacts on roads/country lanes and potential disturbance to annual events.</p>	8	<p>Impacts associated with the diversion and temporary / permanent closure of PRow (Public Rights of Way) are considered in Section 32.6 of Chapter 32 Tourism and Recreation of the ES (document reference 3.1.34).</p> <p>All diverted footpaths will be kept open with diversions. Further details of how footpaths will be managed are set out in the Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (OPRowMP) (document reference 7.17).</p> <p>The OPRoWMP and the Crossing Schedule (document reference 3.3.2) provide further details on crossings, diversions and temporary / permanent closures as well as onshore construction techniques.</p> <p>The existing environment, as described in Section 32.5 of Chapter 32 Tourism and Recreation of the ES, notes the volume and value of the tourism economy. Section 32.5 also considers the specific characteristics of the local areas most affected by construction works and the embedded mitigation measures proposed within other inter-related topic chapters which may reduce impacts on visitors (noise, traffic and transport etc.).</p> <p>Knock on effects on tourism which occur because of effects on transport infrastructure are considered within Section 32.6 of Chapter 32 Tourism and Recreation of the ES.</p> <p>The worst-case approach, outlined in Section 32.3.2 of Chapter 32 Tourism and Recreation of the ES, considers how the timing of construction activity will relate to the peak tourist season traffic levels and key routes to visitor assets.</p> <p>Potential monitoring requirements are set out in Section 32.7 of Chapter 32 Tourism and Recreation of the ES (document reference 3.1.34).</p> <p>Wider economic effects on tourism volume and value are assessed within Section 32.6 of Chapter 32 Tourism and Recreation of the ES (document reference 3.1.34). This also considers the potential for long term effects associated with changes to people's perceptions of the area as a tourist destination.</p>	N

Socio-Economics			
Feedback	Times raised in feedback	Applicant's response	Project change following this stage of consultation (Y / N)
<p>General impact of Project on finances of local residents.</p> <p>Reasons given as impact to property prices, loss of land and business impact due to proposals impacting routes of travel.</p>	22	<p>Section 33.5.3 of Chapter 31 Socio-economics of the ES (document reference) 3.1.33 considers housing.</p> <p>The assessors and authors of Chapter 31 Socio-economics of the ES (Hatch) are not aware of evidence that offshore wind farms lead to the loss of local businesses. If this did occur, it is likely to be a negligible effect for the study area as a whole and would likely be outweighed by the positive effects on the wider economy (for example employment in the construction and operational stages).</p> <p>The assessment of employment impacts within Section 31.6 of Chapter 31 Socio-economics of the ES (document reference 3.1.33) therefore does not consider the scale of job losses associated with the development of Project. The assessment does quantify job creation, including direct and indirect effects.</p>	N

Noise and Vibration			
Feedback	Times raised in feedback	Applicant's response	Project change following this stage of consultation (Y / N)
<p>General concerns over what are considered to be long-lasting and ongoing impacts.</p>	15	<p>The Outline Code of Construction Practice (document reference 7.13) sets out the approach that will be taken by the Project to mitigate construction disturbance.</p>	N

<p>References to visual impact of substation, as well as noise, light and dust, once operational.</p>		<p>Construction and operational noise impacts have been assessed in accordance with best practice and mitigation measures identified, as required, such that significant adverse effects are not anticipated at human receptors.</p> <p>Operational noise impacts from the proposed onshore substation have been assessed, as reported within Section 26.6.2 of Chapter 26 Noise and Vibration of the ES (document reference 3.1.28). The assessment of cumulative effects of operational noise from all three substations is reported in Section 26.8.3.1.3 and residual effects are not significant.</p> <p>Details and assessment of operational phase road traffic movements are provided in Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport (Volume I) of the ES (document reference 3.1.29).</p> <p>Visual impact is discussed in Chapter 30 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the ES (document reference 3.1.32).</p>	
<p>General concerns over construction noise, light and dust pollution.</p> <p>Reference to increased traffic for what is perceived to be a significant length of time and HGV movements impacting local roads.</p> <p>Reference to 'carcinogenic' dust and 'harmful chemicals' and 'contaminants' in the agricultural soil being released to air.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>The Outline Code of Construction Practice (document reference 7.13) sets out the approach that will be taken by the Project to mitigate construction disturbance.</p> <p>Construction noise and traffic noise impacts have been assessed, as reported within Section 26.6.1 of Chapter 26 Noise and Vibration of the ES (document reference 3.1.28).</p> <p>Embedded mitigation measures to reduce construction noise impacts are discussed in within Section 26.3.3 of Chapter 26 Noise and Vibration of the ES (document reference 3.1.28), with additional mitigation measures discussed as required, relevant to each construction phase impact assessed in Section 26.6.1. Note also that activities taking place between 13.00-19.00 on Saturdays will be restricted, as described in Table 26.2.</p> <p>Construction dust and particulate matter impacts have been assessed within Section 20.6.1.1 of Chapter 20 Onshore Air Quality of the ES (document reference 3.1.22), with site specific mitigation included in Section 20.6.1.1.5.</p> <p>Since stage 3 (statutory) consultation, the use of a haul road along the onshore cable corridor was also developed in response to concerns regarding construction traffic and impacts to the local road network. As set out in the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (document reference 7.16), this will enable construction traffic to reach the onshore cable route without having to use smaller / lesser main roads.</p>	<p>Y</p>

Human Health			
Feedback	Times raised in feedback	Applicant's response	Project change following this stage of consultation (Y / N)
<p>Impact on human health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Reference to onshore infrastructure, construction disturbance, including fumes and dust, loss of land and/or visual 'scarring' of land, 'stress' and 'suffering' due to perceived financial loss.</p>	13	<p>The Applicant understands the Project's potential impacts and that the length of the development process can create uncertainty and stress. The Applicant takes its role as a responsible developer seriously, and concerns and feedback will be considered throughout the Project's continued development. The Applicant is also always happy to answer enquiries from stakeholders and members of the public.</p> <p>More detail regarding the Applicant's approach to local community liaison during construction is included in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (document reference 7.13). This includes a designated Local Community Liaison Officer who will respond to any public concerns, queries or complaints in a professional and diligent manner, as set out in a Project community and public relations procedure which will be submitted for comment to the relevant local authority.</p> <p>More detail regarding the Applicant's consideration of landscape and visual impacts is also covered in Chapter 30 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the ES (document reference 3.1.32).</p> <p>The Outline Code of Construction Practice (document reference 7.13) sets out the approach that will be taken by the Project to mitigate construction disturbance.</p> <p>The air quality assessment for the Project is presented in Chapter 20 Onshore Air Quality (Volume I) of the ES (document reference 3.1.22). Also refer to Chapter 33 Climate Change (document reference 3.1.35) for more information.</p> <p>Land contamination issues are considered in Chapter 19 Ground Conditions and Contamination (Volume I) of the ES (document reference 3.1.21) and cross referenced and summarised within Section 28.6.1.3 of Chapter 28 Human Health of the ES (document reference 3.1.30).</p> <p>The vulnerable groups considered in this health assessment are detailed within Section 28.3.2.1.2 of Chapter 28 Human Health of the ES (document</p>	N

		reference 3.1.21) and the assessment for air quality and human health is within Section 28.6.1.2. Land interests will be entitled to claim proven losses under the Compensation Code, whether or not access has been taken under either voluntary agreements or compulsory acquisition for the Project's construction.	
--	--	---	--

Water Resources and Flood Risk			
Feedback	Times raised in feedback	Applicant's response	Project change following this stage of consultation (Y / N)
<p>General concern regarding strain on water resources and drainage.</p> <p>Reference to the area being one of the 'driest' in the country and therefore reliant on well water. Concern over water contamination.</p> <p>Reference to high water table and effective drainage being reliant on soil structure, which could be impacted by cable installation.</p>	17	<p>The onshore cable route has been developed to avoid interaction with Groundwater Source Protection Zone 1, and therefore minimise the potential for impact on abstractions for public water supply.</p> <p>Drainage strategies and flood risk are addressed in Appendix 21.3 Flood Risk Assessment (Volume III) of the ES (document reference 3.3.29). An Outline Operational Drainage Strategy (document reference 7.19) has been developed in accordance with Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) principles. This will be submitted as part of the DCO application.</p> <p>A written scheme dealing with contamination of any land and groundwater will be submitted and must be approved by the relevant planning authority before construction activities commence.</p> <p>The Applicant is liaising directly with utility providers to ensure asset protection. For other water supplies, these are assessed within Chapter 21 Water Resources and Flood Risk (document reference 3.1.23) and Chapter 19 Ground Conditions and Contamination (document reference 3.1.21) of the ES.</p> <p>The Outline Code of Construction Practice (document reference 7.13) sets out the approach that will be taken by the Applicant in respect of private water supplies, including a hydrogeological risk assessment with respect to any supplies potentially affected during the Project's construction works.</p>	N

		The Applicant has already engaged with landowners to undertake surveys to determine the existing quality of private water supplies.	
--	--	---	--

Traffic and Transport			
Feedback	Times raised in feedback	Applicant's response	Project change following this stage of consultation (Y / N)
<p>General concerns of impacts to local roads.</p> <p>Reference to countryside roads not being designed for heavy traffic. Concerns around abnormal loads and large HGVs on rural roads. Specific reference to the fact that the Traffic Management Plan is perceived to be unclear.</p> <p>Specific mention of Bentley Road, Paynes Lane, Spratts Lane, Barlon Road, Ardleigh Road and Grange Road.</p>	25	<p>The Outline Code of Construction Practice (document reference 7.13) sets out the approach that will be taken by the Project to mitigate construction disturbance. The Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan will include outline travel plan measures, which would be developed further in consultation with Essex County Council and National Highways prior to the commencement of the Project (document reference 7.16).</p> <p>Section 27.4.3.1 of Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport (Volume I) of the ES (document reference 3.1.29) contains details of the approach to the assessment of abnormal loads.</p> <p>Since stage 3 (statutory) consultation, the use of a haul road along the onshore cable corridor was also developed in response to concerns regarding construction traffic and impacts to the local road network. As set out in the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (document reference 7.16), this will enable construction traffic to reach the onshore cable route without having to use smaller / lesser main roads.</p>	Y
<p>General concerns around safety of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders due to increased traffic levels and the presence of large vehicles.</p> <p>Increased traffic and abnormal loads on rural roads where there are no pavements or streetlights.</p>	12	<p>Section 27.6.1 of Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport (Volume I) of the ES (document reference 3.1.29) includes an assessment of the effects of the Project's construction traffic upon severance, amenity and highway safety of all road users (including those of PRoW, as identified in Table 27-13).</p> <p>Appendix 27.1 (Volume III) Transport Assessment of the ES (document reference 3.3.64) is provided in support of Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport (Volume I) of the ES (document reference 3.1.29). The Transport Assessment includes details of the proposed access strategy and approach to the design of new accesses and crossings.</p>	Y

Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives			
Feedback	Times raised in feedback	Applicant's response	Project change following this stage of consultation (Y / N)
Objection to onshore connection.	456	<p>An onshore substation location is proposed approximately 2km to the east of the village of Ardleigh and has been designed to allow for the construction of either the Project alone or co-located onshore substations with Five Estuaries at this location. A wider onshore substation works area, where access, drainage, landscaping, environmental mitigation and ancillary works will be located has also been defined.</p> <p>The impacts associated with the onshore substation have been assessed in detail within the technical chapters of the ES (including Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (document reference 3.1.25), Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (document reference 3.1.27) and Chapter 22 Land Use and Agriculture (document reference 3.1.24). Where significant effects have been predicted, mitigation has been proposed to reduce these effects as far as practicable.</p> <p>The Applicant has cooperated with the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero to explore grid connection options, as part of the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR). Additionally, the Applicant has applied to the Offshore Coordination Support Scheme (OCSS) in consortium with NGET and Five Estuaries for an offshore connection to Sea Link, a marine cable between Suffolk and Kent proposed by NGET as part of its Great Grid Upgrade. The Applicant continues to engage with government, Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) and other developers to explore the potential options. More information can be found in Chapter 5 Project Description of the ES (document reference 3.1.7).</p> <p>The scheme is expected to run until March 2025, at which point a decision will then be made on the viability of the alternative connection option proposed. Therefore, radial transmission to an onshore connection location must be included in the Applicant's DCO application.</p>	N
Suggestion of offshore connection as an alternative.	467	As discussed within Section 4.1.4 of Chapter 4 Site Selections and Assessment of Alternatives of the ES (document reference 3.1.6), National	N

<p>Reference to reduced cost and impact to countryside.</p>		<p>Grid has provided the Applicant with a grid connection location for the Project in the vicinity of Ardleigh, Essex.</p> <p>However, the Applicant has cooperated with the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero to explore grid connection options, as part of the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR). Additionally, the Applicant has applied to the Offshore Coordination Support Scheme (OCSS) in consortium with NGET and Five Estuaries for an offshore connection to Sea Link, a marine cable between Suffolk and Kent proposed by NGET as part of its Great Grid Upgrade. The Applicant continues to engage with government, Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) and other developers to explore the potential options. More information can be found in Chapter 5 Project Description of the ES (document reference 3.1.7).</p> <p>The scheme is expected to run until March 2025, at which point a decision will then be made on the viability of the alternative connection option proposed. Therefore, radial transmission to an onshore connection location must be included in the Applicant's DCO application.</p>	
<p>General concerns over National Grid ESO plans and East Anglia Pylons.</p> <p>Suggestion that Five Estuaries and North Falls offshore wind farm projects should co-ordinate their proposals in terms of site selection.</p>	<p>435</p>	<p>The Applicant has cooperated with the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero to explore grid connection options, as part of the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR). Additionally, the Applicant has applied to the Offshore Coordination Support Scheme (OCSS) in consortium with NGET and Five Estuaries for an offshore connection to Sea Link, a marine cable between Suffolk and Kent proposed by NGET as part of its Great Grid Upgrade. The Applicant continues to engage with government, Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) and other developers to explore the potential options. More information can be found in Chapter 5 Project Description of the ES (document reference 3.1.7).</p> <p>The Project and Five Estuaries have both been allocated the same onshore grid connection point by NGET (East Anglia Connection Node), and have coordinated extensively on their development proposals to include: an aligned landfall location for the offshore export cables to come ashore, a shared onshore cable corridor, and an overlapping onshore substation works area for the co-location of the prospective substations.</p> <p>Sections 4.8, 4.9 of Chapter 4 Site Selections and Assessment of Alternatives of the ES (document reference 3.1.6) and Appendix 4.1 (Volume III) (document reference 3.3.1.1) provide more detail.</p>	<p>N</p>

Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment			
Feedback	Times raised in feedback	Applicant's response	Project change following this stage of consultation (Y / N)
General concerns over impacts to seascape, landscape and cultural heritage in a protected setting.	126	<p>Potential impacts and mitigations are assessed in detail in Chapter 30 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the ES (document reference 3.1.32) and Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of the ES (document reference 3.1.27).</p> <p>Impacts of offshore infrastructure during operation have been considered for non-coastal landscape, where significant effects on landscape character are considered likely. Please refer to Section 29.5.2 and Section 29.6.3 of Chapter 29 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the ES (document reference 3.1.31) for more detail.</p> <p>Following the Applicant's stage 3 (statutory) consultation, the decision was made to remove the whole of the Project's northern offshore array area. This decision followed consideration of feedback received relating to mitigating the effects of the offshore PEIR boundary in several key areas, including: landscape and visual impact, seascape, shipping and navigation, offshore ornithology and benthic ecology. Removal of the northern offshore array area has significantly reduced a number of potential effects in relation to each of these areas.</p>	Y

Feedback forms			
Question	Number of responses	Applicant's response	Project change following this stage of consultation (Y / N)
General concerns over impacts to seascape, landscape and cultural heritage in a protected setting.	126	<p>Potential impacts and mitigations are assessed in detail in Chapter 30 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the ES (document reference 3.1.32) and Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of the ES (document reference 3.1.27).</p> <p>Impacts of offshore infrastructure during operation have been considered for non-coastal landscape, where significant effects on landscape character are considered likely. Please refer to Section 29.5.2 and Section 29.6.3 of Chapter 29 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the ES (document reference 3.1.31) for more detail.</p> <p>Following the Applicant's stage 3 (statutory) consultation, the decision was made to remove the whole of the Project's northern offshore array area. This decision followed consideration of feedback received relating to mitigating the effects of the offshore PEIR boundary in several key areas, including: landscape and visual impact, seascape, shipping and navigation, offshore ornithology and benthic ecology. Removal of the northern offshore array area has significantly reduced a number of potential effects in relation to each of these areas.</p>	Y

Question	Number of responses	Response summary	Applicant's response	Project change following this stage of consultation (Y / N)
1. Do you have any suggestions as to how North Falls could work with Essex-	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference expressed for use of local businesses where possible. • Suggestion for use of supplier engagement conferences and portals. 	The assessors of the Applicant's Socio-economics ES chapter (Hatch) are not aware of evidence that offshore wind farms like North Falls lead to the loss of local onshore businesses.	N

<p>based businesses to help them take advantage of potential contracting opportunities with the project?</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of onshore businesses raised as a reason for an offshore grid. 	<p>If this did occur, it is likely to be a negligible effect for the study area as a whole and would likely be considerably outweighed by the positive effects on the wider economy (for example employment in the construction and operational stages).</p> <p>The supply chain of Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm (Greater Gabbard) included local firm, Windcat Workboats, as the provider of crew transfer vessels to transport technicians to and from the site. The Applicant hopes to similarly engage with local businesses in the construction and operation of the Project.</p> <p>Section 33.6 of Chapter 31 Socio-economics (document reference 3.1.33) states that the worst-case scenario in terms of economic benefits would be the offshore grid connection option because there would be limited onshore infrastructure and fewer opportunities for local businesses and residents during construction.</p>	
<p>2. What outcome would you like from the Offshore Transmission Network Review?</p>	<p>28</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preference expressed for an offshore grid connection. Criticism of site selection for onshore grid connection. Concerns raised about destruction of onshore environment. Suggestion that power generated should be used locally in Tendring. Demand for the proposals to be accelerated. 	<p>NFOW co-operated with the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to explore grid connection options, as part of the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR).</p> <p>In addition, the Applicant has applied to the OCSS in consortium with National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) and Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm for an offshore connection to Sea Link, a marine cable between Suffolk and Kent proposed by NGET as part of their Great Grid Upgrade.</p> <p>The Applicant continues to engage with Government, Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) and other developers to explore the potential options.</p>	<p>N</p>

<p>3. Do you have any comments about the landfall compound zone that could help us identify the best location for the temporary construction compound?</p>	<p>30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestions included: Golden Lane / Colchester Road; between Walton-on-Sea and Clacton; between Holland Haven Outfall and Frinton Golf Club's western boundary; avoidance of the golf course; Bradwell. 	<p>Since the confirmation of a grid connection location by NGET and publication of the PEIR, a further exercise has been undertaken to identify potential landfall compound locations (and associated HDD profiles) within the landfall search area, and compare the constraints and opportunities associated with each.</p> <p>Three options – Chevaux de Frise, Kirby Brook and Holland Brook – were identified as locations where landfall works would be viable along the coastline between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea (see Figure 4.5, Volume II of the ES (document reference 3.2.2)). A further desk-based engineering and environmental review of these three options was undertaken to identify key technical feasibility and environmental constraints associated with each.</p> <p>Of the options under consideration, Kirby Brook was the most suitable option due to the greater availability of space for incoming offshore cable routes for two projects (and four circuits) to make landfall at this location, and this option has been taken forward within the DCO application (see Figure 4.6, Volume II of the ES (document reference 3.2.2)).</p>	<p>N</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about impact of noise and dust for residents close to compound zones. Concerns about increases in traffic around the site. 	<p>The Applicant will continue to work to mitigate the Project's impacts in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads and traffic (for more information see Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport of the ES (document reference 3.1.29)). Noise, dust and light pollution (for more information see Chapter 20 Onshore Air Quality (document reference 3.1.22), Chapter 26 Noise and Vibration (document reference 3.1.28) and Chapter 30 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (document reference 3.1.32) of the ES). 	<p>N</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criticism of impact on onshore environment and demand for an offshore grid / use of the Nautilus Interconnector. 	<p>The Applicant has cooperated with the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero to explore grid connection options, as part of the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR). Additionally, the Applicant has applied to the Offshore Coordination Support Scheme (OCSS) in consortium with National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) and Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm for an offshore connection to Sea Link, a marine cable between Suffolk and Kent proposed by NGET as part of its Great Grid Upgrade. The Applicant continues to engage with government, Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) and other developers to explore the potential options. More information can be found in the Project Description chapter of the Environmental Statement (document reference 3.1.7) in addition to the Co-ordination Report (2.5).</p> <p>Further information on how the Applicant plans to mitigate its impact on the onshore environment can be found in Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology of the ES (document reference 3.1.26).</p>	N
4. Are there any areas of the onshore cable corridor you have specific information or comments about?	29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression of preferences for route selection around Thorpe-le-Soken. • Support for planned route. 	<p>The site selection exercise described in Section 4.9 of Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives of the ES identified a number of alternative onshore cable corridor(s) options for connecting the landfall search area to the onshore substation.</p> <p>This produced a single 72-130m wide onshore cable route, suitable for installing onshore export cables for North Falls and Five Estuaries.</p> <p>Refer to Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessments of Alternatives of the ES (document reference 3.1.6) for more detail.</p>	N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of underground cabling on listed buildings. • Concerns of proximity of cable corridor for local residents regarding, noise, dust and light pollution. 	<p>The Applicant will continue to work to mitigate the Project's impacts in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore environment (for more information see Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology of the ES (document reference 3.1.25)). 	N

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of cable corridor on already-planned developments in the area. Concerns around impact on onshore ecology / environment. Concerns about possible increases in traffic along the cable corridor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads and traffic (for more information see Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport of the ES (document reference 3.1.29)) Noise, dust and light pollution (for more information see chapters 20, 26 and 30 of the ES (document reference 3.1.22, 3.1.28, 3.1.32)). Heritage assets and listed buildings (for more information see chapters 16, 20 and 26 of the ES (document reference 3.1.8, 3.1.22, 3.1.28)). 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preference for an offshore grid over an onshore cable corridor. 	Please refer to the Applicant's response provided in the final row of question 3.	N
5. Looking at the proposed onshore substation zone, is there anything North Falls should know that could help with the final siting of the electrical infrastructure?	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumulative impact of other projects being built alongside North Falls and demand for offshore grid connection. 	<p>The Applicant has worked with Five Estuaries throughout the pre-application stage to develop co-ordinated proposals as discussed in Section 5.3.1 and Section 5.7 of Chapter 5 Project Description of the ES and reduce the projects' cumulative impact.</p> <p>Please refer to the Applicant's response provided in the final row of question 3.</p>	Y
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on agricultural land / ecology. 	<p>Following construction, the affected agricultural land will be reinstated to pre-construction condition and where this is not possible the Project will have a statutory obligation to pay compensation to landowners under the Compensation Code.</p> <p>For more information on how the Applicant will work to mitigate its impact on agricultural land, see Chapter 22 Land Use and Agriculture of the ES (document reference 3.1.24).</p>	N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of benefit to the local area. 	<p>The Applicant has on previous schemes supported the communities in which it operates and has committed to work with communities to develop its approach to supporting the local area. At this stage, the details of any community benefit package associated with the Project have not been finalised. The Applicant will engage with local people and groups prior to construction commencing to help shape how the Project can best support the community.</p>	

			The Outline Employment and Skills Plan (document reference 7.18) sets out how the Applicant intends to maximise the benefits of the Project in relation to key skills and employment.	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for screening of substations. 	<p>The Applicant will work to screen any onshore infrastructure as far as is practicable.</p> <p>For more information on how the Applicant will work to mitigate its onshore visual impact, see Chapter 30 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the ES (document reference 3.1.32).</p>	N
6. Do you have any comments about any of the offshore-related assessments or on the mitigation measures proposed?	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on the marine environment and fisheries. Concern over overpopulation of windfarms in the area. 	<p>The offshore ES chapters detail specific engagement that has taken place with specific stakeholders in relation to assessing environmental impacts. See chapters 10 (Benthic and Intertidal Ecology), 11 (Fish and Shellfish Ecology), 12 (Marine Mammals), 13 (Offshore Ornithology) and 14 (Commercial Fisheries) for more information.</p> <p>In addition to this, and the detail in the Evidence Plan, the Applicant has also engaged with the CFWG, Five Estuaries, Defra, The Crown Estate, shipping and navigation stakeholders, cable owners and aggregates extraction companies and aviation stakeholders. Project updates and technical meetings have also taken place with Natural England and the MMO in addition to their involvement in the Evidence Plan process.</p> <p>The Applicant has assessed the impact for existing and proposed wind farms. Chapter 6 EIA Methodology provides more information regarding the Applicant's approach to cumulative assessment (document reference 3.1.8).</p>	N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand for an offshore grid connection. 	Please refer to the Applicant's response provided in the final row of question 3.	N

7. Do you have any comments about any of the onshore-related assessments or the mitigation measures proposed?	29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that substations are sited away from residential and business premises. 	Residential properties were one of the constraints when identifying the location of the proposed onshore substation, including a 250m disturbance buffer around each property.	N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on agricultural land and need for adequate compensation to be offered to affected landowners. 	<p>Following construction, the affected agricultural land will be reinstated to pre-construction condition and where this is not possible the Project will have a statutory obligation to pay compensation to landowners under the Compensation Code.</p> <p>For more information on how the Applicant will work to mitigate its impact on agricultural land, see Chapter 22 Land Use and Agriculture (document reference 3.1.24).</p>	N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of community benefit. 	<p>The Applicant has on previous schemes supported the communities in which it operates and has committed to work with communities to develop its approach to supporting the local area. At this stage, the details of any community benefit package associated with the Project have not been finalised. The Applicant will engage with local people and groups prior to construction commencing to help shape how the Project can best support the community.</p> <p>The Outline Employment and Skills Plan (document reference 7.18) sets out how the Applicant intends to maximise the benefits of the Project in relation to key skills and employment.</p>	N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand for an offshore grid connection. 	Please refer to the Applicant's response provided in the final row of question 3.	N

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on onshore environment and its use for leisure activities. • Impact of onshore infrastructure on roads and traffic. • Impact on tourism. 	<p>The Applicant will continue to work to mitigate the Project's impacts in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore environment (for more information see Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology of the ES (document reference 3.1.25)). • Roads and traffic (for more information see Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport of the ES (document reference 3.1.29)). • Tourism and recreation (for more information see Chapter 32 Tourism and Recreation of the ES (document reference 3.1.34)). 	N
8. Are you supportive of the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm project?	42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 per cent of respondents were fully supportive of the Project. • 38 per cent were supportive conditional on changes (with a majority of these relating to the demand for an offshore grid connection). • Seven per cent were unsure. • 19 per cent opposed. 	<p>The Applicant welcomes support for the Project and its contribution to the government's net zero objectives.</p>	N
9. Do you have any further comments to add?	28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on human health. 	<p>The Applicant has taken account of the potential effects of the Project and of other developments on human health. Care has been taken to reduce adverse impacts on the environment as well as on people who live and work close to the activities of the Project. Cumulative effects with other projects are presented in Section 28.8.3 of the ES. Potential effects on mental health have been considered throughout this chapter and attention is paid to potential effects on vulnerable populations. Vulnerable populations considered in the assessment are detailed in Section 28.3.2.1.2 in Chapter 28 Human Health of the ES.</p>	N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility of consultation. 	<p>The Applicant conducted four stages of consultation that could be accessed both online and at in-person consultation events with both printed and digital materials. Each stage of consultation was widely publicised across the Project area and beyond. Details of how the Applicant has conducted multi-stage consultation</p>	N

			can be found in the Consultation Report (document reference 4.1).	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General support for the Project. 	The Applicant welcomes support for the Project and its contribution to the government's net zero objectives.	N
Postcard: Do you have comments or questions about the proposals for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm?	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for coordination with other projects in the area. 	The Applicant has worked with Five Estuaries throughout the pre-application stage to develop co-ordinated proposals as discussed in Section 5.3.1 and Section 5.7 in Chapter 5 Project Description of the ES.	N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General support for the Project. 	The Applicant welcomes support for the Project and its contribution to the government's net zero objectives.	N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for an offshore grid. 	Please refer to the Applicant's response provided in the final row of question 3.	N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of cable route on onshore environment. Impact of turbines on offshore ornithology. Impact on roads and footpaths. 	<p>The Applicant will continue to work to mitigate the Project's impacts in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore environment (for more information see Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology of the ES (document reference 3.1.25)). Offshore ornithology (for more information see Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology of the ES (document reference 3.1.15)). Roads (for more information see Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport of the ES (document reference 3.1.29)). Footpaths (for more information see Chapter 32 Tourism and Recreation of the ES (document reference 3.1.34)). 	N