



NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

CONSULTATION REPORT

Document Reference: 4.1

Volume: 4

APFP Regulation: 5(2)(q)

Date: July 2024

Revision: 0

NorthFallsOffshore.com





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Project Reference: EN010119

Project	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm
Document Title	Consultation Report
Document Reference	4.1
APFP Regulation	5(2)(q)
Revision	0
Supplier Document ID	CAMCR0724

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

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Table of acronyms

Acronym	Definition
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
APFP	The Infrastructure Planning (Application: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, as amended
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
CFWG	Commercial Fisheries Working Group
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DCO	Development Consent Order
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
EACN	East Anglia Connection Node
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
Five Estuaries	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
Greater Gabbard	Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm
GW	Gigawatt
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
HRA	Habitats Regulation Assessment
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
IFCA	Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority
LIQ	Land Interest Questionnaire
LOQ	Landowner Questionnaire
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MIEU	Major Infrastructure Environment Unit
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MCZA	Marine Conservation Zone Assessment
MIEU	Major Infrastructure Environment Unit

MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MW	Megawatt
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission
NPS	National Policy Statement
NRA	Navigational Risk Assessment
OCP	Offshore Converter Platform
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OCSS	Offshore Coordination Support Scheme
OSEP	Outline Employment, Skills and Education Plan
OSP	Offshore Substation Platform
OTNR	Offshore Transmission Network Review
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PEIR NTS	PEIR Non-Technical Summary
PIL	Person with an Interest in Land
RHDHV	Royal HaskoningDHV
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RWE	RWE Renewables UK Swindon Limited
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SLVIA	Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SoS	Secretary of State
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSER	SSE Renewables Limited
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TCC	Temporary Construction Compound
UK	United Kingdom
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator

Executive summary

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited (the Applicant) has carried out four stages of pre-application consultation alongside an ongoing programme of engagement. Engagement started in early 2018 and the Applicant's stage 1 (introductory) consultation started in October 2021. Additionally, informal consultation was also held with stakeholders to help inform the Applicant's Outline Skills and Employment Plan (OSEP) (document reference 7.18). From the outset, the Applicant has committed to a multi-stage, iterative consultation process underpinned by a constructive, collaborative and solutions-focused ethos.

This Consultation Report summarises the consultation activities conducted during the pre-application phase of North Falls Offshore Wind Farm (the Project). It details all aspects of the consultation process, covering both non-statutory and statutory stages, and how the Applicant undertook consultation with the following consultees:

- Prescribed consultees: all applicable consultees listed in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Application: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, as amended (the APFP Regulations), in accordance with section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008, as amended (the Act);
- The Marine Management Organisation (MMO), in accordance with section 42(1)(aa) of the Act;
- Host and neighbouring local authorities, in accordance with section 42(1)(b) and section 43 of the Act;
- Persons with an interest in land (PILs) that fall within section 44 of the Act, in accordance with section 42(1)(d) of the Act;
- Communities and other organisations in the vicinity of the Project who may be directly or indirectly affected by the Project, in accordance with section 47 of the Act; and
- Wider communities and organisations, in accordance with sections 47 and 48 of the Act.

Consultation and ongoing engagement with the consultees listed above has informed the development of the Project, and fulfilled the requirements of the Act and relevant regulations and guidance. This compliance is set out in Chapter 2 of this report. The four stages of consultation undertaken by the Applicant are summarised in the table below.

Consultation stage	Relevant information
Stage 1 (introductory) consultation was a non-statutory consultation on the Project's early proposals which took place between 25 October and 10 December 2021. It introduced the Project and gathered initial feedback, primarily from communities potentially affected by the Project's onshore elements.	This consultation is covered in Chapter 4 of this report.
Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation was a non-statutory consultation on the Project's progress following its stage 1 (introductory) consultation and	This consultation is covered in Chapter 5 of this report.

<p>took place between 17 October and 9 December 2022.</p> <p>Feedback received during this consultation informed the reduction in the width of the Applicant's offshore and onshore cable route, and the selection of more defined landfall and onshore substation locations. Additionally, feedback received supported the Applicant's decision to increase coordination with Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm (Five Estuaries) and more closely align various aspects of the two projects.</p>	<p>More information about coordination with other projects on consultation and engagement is covered in Section 1.5 of this report.</p>
<p>Stage 3 (statutory) consultation was a statutory consultation focused on the Project's Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which took place between 16 May and 14 July 2023. Feedback received during this consultation informed the following changes to the Applicant's proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of the Project's northern offshore array area and reduction in the size of the remaining southern offshore array area, reducing the overall size of its offshore array area by approximately 55 square kilometres (km²); • Increased distance from shore to the nearest point of the offshore array area by approximately 20km; • Reduction in the number of wind turbine generators (WTGs) by 15; • Reduction of the overall onshore cable route width at various locations from what was presented in the Applicant's PEIR; and • Reduction in the number of onshore export cables from four to two, reducing the amount of land required throughout the onshore cable route. 	<p>This consultation is covered in Chapters 6-10 of this report.</p>
<p>Stage 4 (targeted) consultation focused on proposed localised changes to the Project's onshore PEIR boundary (as presented at the stage 3 (statutory) consultation) which took place between 14 March and 22 April 2024. These proposed localised changes resulted in additional land being included in the Applicant's proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) boundary.</p> <p>Feedback received during this consultation informed ongoing discussions with land interests and will influence the Applicant's detailed design of proposed highways improvements.</p>	<p>This consultation is covered in Chapter 11 of this report.</p>

Feedback received during the four stages of consultation has influenced various aspects of the Project's development, including:

- Routing of the offshore and onshore export cable;
- Offshore array area;
- Landfall location;
- Onshore substation location;
- Highway improvements;
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); and

- How the Applicant has worked with neighbouring projects, Five Estuaries and National Grid Electricity Transmission's (NGET) Norwich to Tilbury project.

The Applicant's consideration of the issues raised at all four stages of consultation, including if and how they altered proposals, is summarised in Chapter 13 and set out in detail in Appendices F.14, F.14.1, G.5, G.5.1.

In addition to the four stages of consultation, the Applicant has undertaken ongoing engagement with stakeholders throughout the pre-application process. This has included:

- Engagement with technical stakeholders through Expert Topic Groups (ETGs);
- Engagement with marine stakeholders, including fishermen and relevant fisheries bodies; and
- Engagement with land interests, and the wider public.

This ongoing engagement is covered in Chapter 3 of this report.

In carrying out a multi-stage, iterative consultation process and having regard to the responses received to that consultation process, the Applicant has complied with the statutory and regulatory requirements for pre-application consultation under the Act.

1. Introduction

1.1 Summary

- 1.1.1 This Consultation Report has been prepared by the Applicant in support of its application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm (the Project) which is an extension to the existing southern array of Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm (Greater Gabbard). The Project, which includes constructing, operating and maintaining an offshore wind farm off the East Anglian coast in the southern North Sea, is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), as defined by section 15(3) of the Planning Act 2008, as amended (the Act).
- 1.1.2 This Consultation Report has been prepared in accordance with pre-application consultation requirements set out in sections 37(3)(c), 37(7), 42, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 49 of the Act and relevant provisions of the Infrastructure Planning (Application: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, as amended (the APFP Regulations) and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations). The Consultation Report demonstrates how the Applicant has complied with its duties under the Act, the APFP Regulations and the EIA Regulations.
- 1.1.3 The Applicant notes that NSIP guidance and some advice notes were updated in April 2024. Stage 4 (targeted) consultation had already commenced and was completed by 22 April 2024.
- 1.1.4 Pre-application consultation was conducted with regard to, and the Consultation Report refers to, previous iterations of relevant guidance and advice notes and the Applicant has predominantly had regard to the guidance and advice notes in place at the commencement of the Project's pre-application period, including Guidance on the pre-application process (Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), March 2015).
- 1.1.5 The Applicant refers to Introduction to the National Infrastructure Guidance within updated NSIP guidance provided by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC): "It is not the intention for revisions to compromise the preparation or progress of applications which are already well underway."
- 1.1.6 The Applicant has noted in 1.1.7 where guidance has been updated and the Applicant has considered and complied with this updated guidance.
- 1.1.7 A summary of the guidance the Applicant has considered and complied with when preparing this Consultation Report:
- Guidance on the pre-application process, DCLG, March 2015 (updated April 2024);
 - Advice Note Three: EIA notification and consultation, Planning Inspectorate, August 2017 (updated May 2024);
 - Advice Note Six: preparation and submission of application documents, Planning Inspectorate, May 2012;

- Advice Note Seven: EIA: process, preliminary environmental information and environmental statements, Planning Inspectorate, June 2020;
- Advice Note Eleven: working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process, Planning Inspectorate, November 2012 (updated April 2024);
- Advice Note Fourteen: compiling the Consultation Report, Planning Inspectorate, October 2014;
- The APFP Regulations; and
- The EIA Regulations.

1.1.8 A summary of what this Consultation Report covers:

- Engagement undertaken with stakeholders outside defined consultation periods, which helped inform the development of the Project;
- Stage 1 (introductory) consultation;
- Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation;
- Stage 3 (statutory) consultation on the Applicant’s proposals and preliminary environmental information;
- Stage 4 (targeted) consultation on proposed localised changes to the Applicant’s onshore PEIR boundary;
- A summary of consultation on other issues as required by various regulations:
 - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping (EIA Regulations);
 - Transboundary effects (EIA Regulations); and
 - Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Habitats Regulations)).

1.1.9 The Applicant has carried out a multi-stage, iterative consultation process with four stages of consultation, as well as informal consultation with stakeholders to inform its Outline Skills and Employment Plan (OSEP).

1.1.10 Feedback received during each stage of consultation has informed the development of the Project and influenced how the Applicant carried out subsequent engagement and consultation.

1.2 Structure of this report

1.2.1 The structure of this Consultation Report is set out in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Structure of this Consultation Report

Chapter	Title	Contents
1	Introduction	Introduction to the Consultation Report, including an explanation of its purpose and structure. Also includes the Project’s formal description, information about the Applicant, and a summary of the Applicant’s coordination with other projects.
2	Legislation and guidance compliance checklist	Checklist of compliance with relevant legislation and guidance.
3	Engagement	Detail of engagement undertaken outside defined consultation periods, including the Applicant’s approach to engagement, and a description of the Applicant’s

		Evidence Plan process, its purpose and what it comprised.
4	Stage 1 (introductory) consultation	Details of the Applicant's stage 1 (introductory), carried out on early proposals.
5	Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation	Details of the Applicant's stage 2 (pre-application) consultation, carried out on more refined proposals.
6	Stage 3 (statutory) consultation: an overview	An overview of the Applicant's stage 3 (statutory) consultation.
7	Stage 3 (statutory) consultation: section 42	Details of stage 3 (statutory) consultation under section 42 of the Act.
8	Stage 3 (statutory) consultation: section 46	Details of stage 3 (statutory) consultation under section 46 of the Act.
9	Stage 3 (statutory) consultation: section 47	Details of stage 3 (statutory) consultation under section 47 of the Act.
10	Stage 3 (statutory) consultation: section 48	Details of stage 3 (statutory) consultation under section 48 of the Act.
11	Stage 4 (targeted) consultation	Details of the Applicant's stage 4 (targeted) consultation on proposed localised changes to the Project's onshore PEIR boundary.
12	Consultation under Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations and Habitats Regulations	Summary of consultation carried out in accordance with EIA regulations and Habitats Regulations, as well as the required Transboundary screening.
13	Conclusion	Summary of the Consultation Report, including how the Applicant has complied with the Act, and how the Applicant's Project has developed as a result of feedback received through consultation.

1.2.2 Annexes are appended to this Consultation Report comprising additional information and evidence demonstrating how consultation and engagement was carried out, as well as the issues raised in feedback and how those issues have been considered by the Applicant.

1.3 The Project

1.3.1 Climate change as a result of greenhouse gas emissions is a global issue associated with impacts on weather, ecosystems, human health and welfare. The United Kingdom (UK) has made commitments internationally to limit global temperature increases and reduce carbon emissions. Production of electricity using clean, renewable sources, such as offshore wind, is a critical component in achieving these commitments.

1.3.2 The need for secure, low carbon and renewable electricity-generating NSIPs, such as this Project, is established by National Policy Statements (NPS). The overarching NPS for energy (EN-1) emphasises the urgency for new electricity NSIPs, stipulating that: "In order to secure energy supplies that enable us to meet our obligations for 2050, there is an urgent need for new (and particularly low carbon) energy NSIPs to be brought forward as soon as possible, and certainly in the next 10 to 15 years, given the crucial role of electricity as the

UK decarbonises its energy sector.” This quote is taken from the 2011 version of NPS EN-1, which was in force when the Project’s first three stages of consultation took place.

- 1.3.3 The UK government expects offshore wind electricity generation to play a key role and has set a target to increase offshore wind electricity generation by up to 50 gigawatts (GW) on installed capacity by 2030. EN-1 was subsequently updated to note that “Government has concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure. Section 4.2 states which energy generating technologies are low carbon and are therefore CNP infrastructure.” This quote is taken from Overarching National Policy Statement for energy (EN-1) 2023. The Applicant has also considered the NPS for renewable energy infrastructure (EN-3) and the NPS for electricity networks infrastructure (EN-5). Revised NPS’ were designated on 17 January 2024.
- 1.3.4 The Applicant is proposing to develop and construct a new offshore wind farm comprising up to 57 offshore wind turbine generators (WTGs), and their associated foundations, located approximately 40 kilometres (km) off the East Anglian coast at its nearest point. The offshore cable route runs from the 95 square kilometres (km²) offshore array area to landfall at Kirby Brook, Essex. Onshore export cables will then transport the electricity approximately 24km to the onshore substation located near Ardleigh within the Tendring district of Essex, before it enters the national electricity network.
- 1.3.5 North Falls is set to support the UK government’s target of 50GW of installed offshore wind capacity by 2030 and make a substantial contribution to the achievement of UK decarbonisation targets and to global commitments to mitigating climate change. By generating low carbon, renewable and low cost electricity in the UK, the Project will also help to reduce the UK’s reliance on imported energy and improve its energy security.
- 1.3.6 The Project will generate enough electricity to power around 400,000 UK homes each year. This will not only provide secure low carbon electricity for decades, but will also create significant long-term employment opportunities and economic benefits for the local community.
- 1.3.7 There remains optionality in relation to the Project’s National Grid connection point. The Project is committed to working with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to explore grid connection options. As such, the Project has cooperated with the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) process. The Project has applied to the Offshore Coordination Support Scheme (OCSS) in consortium with National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) and Five Estuaries for an offshore connection to Sea Link, a marine cable between Suffolk and Kent proposed by NGET as part of their Great Grid Upgrade. Therefore, the option of an onshore connection must be retained in the interim. The following grid connections are therefore included in the Project’s design envelope:
- Option 1: Onshore electrical connection at a National Grid connection point within the Tendring peninsula of Essex, with a Project alone onshore cable route and onshore substation infrastructure;

- Option 2: Onshore electrical connection at a National Grid connection point within the Tendring peninsula of Essex, sharing an onshore cable route and onshore cable duct installation (but with separate onshore export cables) and co-locating separate Project onshore substation infrastructure with Five Estuaries; or
- Option 3: Offshore electrical connection, supplied by a third party.

1.3.8 It should be noted that Options 1 and 2, with a connection point within the Tendring peninsula of Essex, are currently the only grid options provided by National Grid and therefore available to North Falls.

1.3.9 The key offshore components considered in the Applicant's Environmental Statement (ES) comprise:

1.3.10 Under Options 1 and 2:

- Wind turbine generators (WTGs) and their associated foundations;
- Up to two offshore substation platforms (OSP) and their associated foundations to aggregate electricity from the WTGs and facilitate the export of electricity via the Project's offshore export cables;
- Subsea cables:
 - Array cables between the WTGs and between the WTGs and the OSP(s);
 - Platform interconnector cable between the OSPs, if required.
 - Offshore export cables between the OSP(s) and landfall;
- Scour protection around foundations, where required; and
- Surface laid cable protection, where required.

1.3.11 Under Option 3:

- WTGs and their associated foundations;
- Up to one OSP and associated foundation to aggregate electricity from the WTGs;
- One offshore converter platform (OCP) and associated foundation to increase the voltage of electricity for export and convert the High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) power generated by the WTGs into High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) power for export via an HVDC interconnector cable supplied by a third party (which does not form part of this DCO application);
- Array cables between the WTGs and between the WTGs and OSP(s) / OCP;
- Platform interconnector cable between the OSP and OCP;
- Scour protection around foundations, where required; and
- Surface laid cable protection, where required.

1.3.12 Under Options 1 and 2, the key onshore components considered in the Applicant's ES comprise:

- Landfall;
- Onshore export cables housed within cable ducts and associated joint bays and link boxes;
- Onshore substation and ancillary works;

- Connection to the national grid;
- Works to improve Bentley Road and provision of temporary footway / cycleway; and
- Temporary works to facilitate construction (Temporary Construction Compounds (TCCs), temporary means of access).

1.3.13 Under Option 2, this also includes:

- Cable ducts for the installation of Five Estuaries' onshore export cables.

1.3.14 The Act provides the legal framework for consenting NSIPs, such as offshore wind farms. Under the Act, the main planning consent required to build and operate an offshore wind farm is a DCO granted by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. The Project will comprise an offshore generating station exceeding 100 megawatts (MW) and is therefore classified as an NSIP within sections 14(1)(a) and 15(3) of the Act, for which a DCO is required.

1.3.15 It is anticipated the proposed DCO, if granted, will, among other things, authorise:

- The construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of an offshore wind generating station and associated development comprised in the Project;
- The compulsory acquisition of land, and imposition of restrictions, powers to override, suspend or extinguish rights over land and the temporary use of land;
- The application, modification and / or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project, including that relating to the compulsory acquisition of land; and
- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licenses, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and / or convenient.

1.4 The Applicant

1.4.1 North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited is a 50/50 joint venture between SSE Renewables Offshore Windfarm Holdings Limited (SSER) and RWE Renewables UK Swindon Limited (RWE). RWE Renewables UK Swindon Limited is owned by RWE Renewables UK Holdings Limited, whose parent company is RWE AG, hereafter collectively referred to as RWE. SSE Renewables Offshore Windfarm Holdings Limited is fully owned by SSE Renewables Limited. Both organisations, SSER and RWE, are highly experienced developers committed to developing renewable energy in the UK.

1.4.2 SSER is a leading developer, owner and operator of renewable energy across the UK and Ireland, with a portfolio of around 4GW of onshore wind, offshore wind and hydro. Part of SSER's strategy is to drive the transition to a net zero future through the world class development, construction and operation of renewable energy assets.

1.4.3 SSER is a partner in the following existing UK offshore wind farms (operational or under construction):

- Beatrice: Operational in north Scotland (588MW);
- Greater Gabbard: Operational off the coast of Suffolk (504MW);
- Dogger Bank A, B and C: Formerly known as Creyke Beck A and B, and Teesside A): Under construction off the coast of north east England (3,600MW / 3.6GW cumulatively); and
- Seagreen*: Operational off the east of Scotland (1,075MW / 1.075GW)

*Consent for a further 36 turbines has also been granted for Seagreen 1A.

1.4.4 RWE is one of the world's leading renewable energy companies. It has onshore and offshore wind farms, photovoltaic plants and battery storage facilities with a combined pro-rata capacity of approximately 9GW.

1.4.5 RWE is a partner or full owner in the following existing UK offshore wind farms* (operational or under construction):

- Greater Gabbard: As above;
- Galloper: Operational off the coast of Suffolk (353MW);
- Gwynt y Môr: Operational in north Wales (576MW);
- Humber Gateway: Operational off the coast of east Yorkshire (219MW);
- London Array: Operational off the coast of Kent / Essex (630MW);
- Rampion: Operational off the coast of Sussex (400MW);
- Rhyl Flats: Operational in north Wales (90MW);
- Robin Rigg: Operational in the Solway Firth (174MW);
- Scroby Sands: Operational off the coast of Norfolk (60MW);
- Sofia: Under construction off the coast of north east England (1,400MW / 1.4GW); and
- Triton Knoll: Operational off the coast of Lincolnshire (857MW).

*RWE has recently had consent granted for Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm off the coast of north Wales.

1.4.6 In addition to the above portfolios of offshore wind farms in operation or under construction, RWE and SSER are each in the process of consenting a range of other wind farms:

- RWE is leading in the development of Five Estuaries off the coast of Suffolk, Rampion 2 off the south coast of England, and Dogger Bank South off the north east coast of England; and
- SSER is leading the development of Berwick Bank off the east coast of Scotland, and is a partner in Ossian off the east coast of Scotland and Dogger Bank D off the north east coast of England.

1.4.7 SSER and RWE's extensive portfolio provides the Applicant with valuable lessons learned and experiences gained from consenting, constructing and operating offshore wind farms. This experience and expertise has been used to inform the development of this Project, including informing the Project's understanding of its potential impacts through the ability to draw on available monitoring data.

1.5 Coordination with other projects

- 1.5.1 The Applicant's Project is proposed to cover much of the same onshore area as the proposed Five Estuaries project, which is an extension to the existing Galloper Offshore Wind Farm. Additionally, the onshore substations required for both new offshore wind farms to be connected to the national electricity transmission network are proposed to connect to NGET's East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation. The EACN substation is part of NGET's proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (previously known as the East Anglia GREEN project).
- 1.5.2 The Applicant has coordinated with both projects throughout the pre-application process to align engagement and consultation activities as far as practicable. This has primarily been to avoid carrying out consultations at the same time to mitigate consultation fatigue (see 1.6) and potential confusion between the three projects.
- 1.5.3 Coordination with Five Estuaries has increased from stage 3 (statutory) consultation onwards to streamline design and mitigate local impacts. Both projects referred to each other during their statutory consultation periods and in subsequent communications and engagement to help increase understanding of the two projects, including their similarities and differences.
- 1.5.4 Additionally, North Falls and Five Estuaries shared information to ensure both projects were aware of key issues raised during their respective consultations.
- 1.5.5 Some technical stakeholder engagement was carried out jointly by the two projects, although the extent of this is limited somewhat by commercial requirements in the development of individual projects. Both projects worked together in developing their Outline Skills and Employment Plans.
- 1.5.6 The primary goal of close coordination with Five Estuaries has been to reduce any potential impacts of building the projects' onshore connection to the national electricity network.
- 1.5.7 Coordination led to the Project identifying suitable options for its onshore infrastructure that could accommodate either the Project alone, or allow colocation with Five Estuaries.
- 1.5.8 In summary, through coordination the two projects have been, or will be able to:
- Almost fully align their onshore cable route;
 - Identify possible shared works accesses and TCCs;
 - Retain the option for joint build out of cable ducts for both projects as a single activity, minimising construction effects;
 - Exchange data and share surveys, including ornithology and archaeology;
 - Agree on a shared location for each project's onshore substation and identify possible shared access and drainage designs;
 - Increase the coordination of engagement with landowners;
 - Collaborate in the development of the Navigation Installation Plan; and

- Exchange information on project design at an early stage to carry out cumulative seascape, landscape and visual impact assessments.

1.5.9 Although North Falls and Five Estuaries are two separate projects each requiring their own DCO applications and being developed by different applicants, coordination between the two projects increased as designs progressed. In support of this, both parties agreed to liaise more closely with each other in respect of the projects, share information and undertake joint planning. Coverage of this can be found in Appendix C.20.

1.5.10 Subsequently, the projects more closely aligned their onshore cable routes, onshore substation locations, and landfall areas. This led to an overall reduction in the amount of land required to build and operate both projects. It has also created the possibility of reducing potential construction impacts through coordinated works.

1.6 Consultation fatigue

1.6.1 The Planning Inspectorate’s Consultation on operational reforms to the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) consenting process (March 2024) acknowledged consultation fatigue can be a challenge for communities hosting multiple NSIPs.

1.6.2 With three NSIPs (North Falls, Five Estuaries and Norwich to Tilbury) in the pre-application development stage and affecting the same area, the Applicant has been aware of the potential for consultation fatigue amongst its stakeholders. However, given the Act’s requirements for consultation, alongside differing project timelines, it was not always possible to completely avoid this risk. North Falls coordinated with Five Estuaries and Norwich to Tilbury to, as far as practicable, avoid holding consultations at the same time. However, the Project’s stage 3 (statutory) consultation (16 May to 14 July 2023) overlapped with the Norwich to Tilbury non-statutory consultation (27 June to 21 August 2023) by 18 days. Its stage 4 (targeted) consultation (14 March to 22 April 2024) overlapped with the Norwich to Tilbury statutory consultation (10 April to 18 June) by 13 days. The Applicant believed this to be reasonable given its commitment to meet its planned July 2024 DCO application submission and the need to consult on proposed localised changes to its onshore PEIR boundary before doing so.

1.6.3 The Applicant believes its approach to coordinating with Five Estuaries and Norwich to Tilbury to avoid overlapping consultations, as far as practicable, as well as clear communication about how the projects relate to each other, is proportionate mitigation for the risk of consultation fatigue.

Table 1.2 Consultation timeline

Consultation	Dates
North Falls: stage 1 (introductory) consultation	25 October to 10 December 2021
Norwich to Tilbury: non-statutory consultation	21 April to 16 June 2022
Five Estuaries: stage 1 (non-statutory) consultation	30 June to 12 August 2022

North Falls: stage 2 (pre-application) consultation	17 October to 9 December 2022
Five Estuaries: stage 2 (statutory) consultation	14 March to 12 May 2023
North Falls: stage 3 (statutory) consultation	16 May to 14 July 2023
Norwich to Tilbury: non-statutory consultation	27 June to 21 August 2023
Five Estuaries: stage 3 consultation	5 December 2023 to 31 January 2024
North Falls: stage 4 (targeted) consultation	14 March to 22 April 2024
Norwich to Tilbury: statutory consultation	10 April to 18 June 2024

1.6.4 Over 10 separate consultation periods across three projects, spanning almost three years, there was a total overlap of 31 days.

2. Legislation and compliance

2.1.1 This chapter of the Consultation Report describes how the Applicant has complied with the relevant legislation and guidance.

2.1.2 When the Applicant's stage 1, 2 and 3 consultations were carried out, the 2011 NPS' were the relevant policies:

- Overarching NPS for energy (EN-1);
- NPS for renewable energy infrastructure (EN-3); and
- NPS for electricity networks infrastructure (EN-5).

2.1.3 Following the close of the Applicant's stage 1, 2 and 3 consultations, and ahead of stage 4 (targeted) consultation, revised NPS' were designated on 17 January 2024 and are now the relevant policies.

2.2 The Planning Act 2008

2.2.1 The Act is the primary legislation that first established the legal framework for applying for, examining and determining applications for orders granting development consent for NSIPs. Demonstrating compliance with the pre-application consultation requirements of the Act is the primary purpose of this Consultation Report. Throughout this Consultation Report, the use of 'sections 42-50' refers to the relevant sections of the Act relating to the pre-application consultation requirements. Table 2.1 sets out the relevant sections of the Act and where evidence of compliance is captured within this Consultation Report.

Table 2.1 Compliance with the Act

Section of the Act	Applicant's compliance
<p>Section 42: duty to consult</p> <p>(1) The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application—</p> <p>(a) such persons as may be prescribed,</p> <p>(aa) the Marine Management Organisation, in any case where the proposed development would</p>	<p>Consultation under sections 42(1)(a), (aa), (b) and (d) was carried out during stage 3 (statutory) consultation between 16 May and 14 July 2023. A full breakdown of this consultation as it relates to section 42 can be found in Chapter 7.</p> <p>Additional consultation under section 42 was carried out during stage 4 (targeted) consultation between 14 March and 22 April 2024. A full breakdown of this</p>

<p>affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection,</p> <p>(b) each local authority that is within section 43,</p> <p>(c) the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and</p> <p>(d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.</p>	<p>consultation as it relates to section 42 can be found in Chapter 11.</p> <p>Consultation under section 42(1)(c) was not required as the Project does not affect land in Greater London.</p>
<p>Section 43: local authorities for the purposes of section 42(1)(b)</p> <p>(1) A local authority is within this section if the land is in the authority's area.</p> <p>(2) A local authority ("A") is within this section if—</p> <p>(a) the land is in the area of another local authority ("B"),</p> <p>(aa) B is a unitary council or a lower-tier district council, and</p> <p>(b) any part of the boundary of A's area is also a part of the boundary of B's area.</p> <p>(2A) If the land is in the area of an upper-tier county council ("C"), a local authority ("D") is within this section if—</p> <p>(a) D is not a lower-tier district council, and</p> <p>(b) any part of the boundary of D's area is also part of the boundary of C's area</p>	<p>Stage 3 (statutory) consultation under section 42 is detailed in Chapter 7. The local authorities identified and consulted at stage 3 (statutory) consultation were:</p> <p>Section 43(1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tendring District Council (B) • Essex County Council (C) <p>Section 43(2) and (2a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colchester City Council (A) • Babergh District Council (A) • Suffolk County Council (A and D) • Hertfordshire County Council (D) • Cambridgeshire County Council (D) • Southend-on-Sea City Council (D) • Thurrock Council (D) • Medway Council (D) • Havering London Borough Council (D) • Enfield London Borough Council (D) • Waltham Forest London Borough Council (D) • Redbridge London Borough Council (D) <p>Additionally, the following local authorities were consulted as being potentially affected by visual, landscape and seascape impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Suffolk Council • Kent County Council • Maldon District Council • Rochford District Council <p>Stage 4 (targeted) consultation activity under section 42 is detailed in Chapter 11. The local authorities identified and consulted at stage 4 (targeted) consultation were:</p> <p>Section 43(1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tendring District Council (B) • Essex County Council (C) <p>Section 43(2) and (2a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colchester City Council (A) • Babergh District Council (A) • Suffolk County Council (A and D) • Hertfordshire County Council (D) • Cambridgeshire County Council (D) • Southend-on-Sea City Council (D) • Thurrock Council (D) • Medway Council (D) <p>Additionally, the following local authorities were included as potentially affected by visual, landscape and seascape impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Suffolk Council • Kent County Council • Maldon District Council

<p>Section 44: categories for the purposes of section 42(1)(d)</p> <p>(1) A person is within Category 1 if the applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is an owner, lessee, tenant (whatever the tenancy period) or occupier of the land.</p> <p>(2) A person is within Category 2 if the applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person—</p> <p>(a) is interested in the land, or (b) has power—</p> <p>(i) to sell and convey the land, or</p> <p>(ii) to release the land.</p> <p>(3) An expression, other than “the land”, that appears in subsection (2) of this section and also in section 5(1) of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 (c. 56) has in subsection (2) the meaning that it has in section 5(1) of that Act.</p> <p>(4) A person is within Category 3 if the applicant thinks that, if the order sought by the proposed application were to be made and fully implemented, the person would or might be entitled—</p> <p>(a) as a result of the implementing of the order,</p> <p>(b) as a result of the order having been implemented, or</p> <p>(c) as a result of use of the land once the order has been implemented, to make a relevant claim. This is subject to subsection (5).</p> <p>(5) A person is within Category 3 only if the person is known to the applicant after making diligent inquiry.</p> <p>(6) In subsection (4) “relevant claim” means—</p> <p>(a) a claim under section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 (c. 56) (compensation where satisfaction not made for the taking, or injurious affection, of land subject to compulsory purchase);</p> <p>(b) a claim under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 (c. 26) (compensation for depreciation of land value by physical factors caused by use of public works);</p> <p>(c) a claim under section 152(3).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rochford District Council <p>The process adopted to identify all PILs is set out in Chapter 3.</p> <p>Diligent inquiry undertaken included land registry searches and written requests for information. A list of all section 44 consultees at stage 3 (statutory) and stage 4 (targeted) consultations can be found in Appendix C.8. Information regarding the process for engaging with PILs is set out in Chapter 3.</p> <p>The Applicant’s appointed land agents, Dalcour Maclaren, prepared a DCO land reference methodology for undertaking diligent enquiry of PILs. This methodology is included in Appendix B.1. The Applicant can confirm that Dalcour Maclaren applied and followed these methodologies for this Project.</p>
<p>Section 45: timetable for consultation under section 42</p> <p>(1) The applicant must, when consulting a person under section 42, notify the person of the deadline for the receipt by the applicant of the person’s response to the consultation.</p> <p>(2) A deadline notified under subsection (1) must not be earlier than the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents.</p> <p>(3) In subsection (2) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the person by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the person.</p>	<p>The consultation period for stage 3 (statutory) consultation, which included consultation with all groups identified under section 42, ran from 16 May to 14 July 2023, which is 60 days.</p> <p>The consultation period for stage 4 (targeted) consultation, which included consultation with all relevant groups identified under section 42, ran from 14 March to 22 April 2024, which is 40 days.</p> <p>While the consultation period for stage 4 (targeted) consultation was shorter than stage 3 (statutory) consultation, it was deemed proportionate because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most consultees consulted at stage 4 (targeted) consultation had already been consulted at stage 3 (statutory) consultation, and were being consulted again due to

	<p>localised and relatively minor changes in the proposed land use;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stage 4 (targeted) consultation had a smaller scope than the stage 3 (statutory) consultation as it focused on localised and relatively minor changes to the Project's onshore PEIR boundary; and • Additional land interests newly identified and consulted were offered individual briefings to help expedite their understanding of the Project and its potential impacts.
<p>Section 46: duty to notify Secretary of State of proposed application</p> <p>(1) The applicant must supply the Secretary of State with such information in relation to the proposed application as the applicant would supply to the Secretary of State for the purpose of complying with section 42 if the applicant were required by that section to consult the Secretary of State about the proposed application.</p> <p>(2) The applicant must comply with subsection (1) on or before commencing consultation under section 42.</p>	<p>Notification under section 46 was sent as part of the stage 3 (statutory) consultation to the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, by letter and email on 15 May 2023. The section 46 notification letter and email included a copy of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 42 letter to prescribed consultees; • Section 42 letter to land interests; • Section 48 notice; • Onshore and offshore Project boundary maps; • Consultation leaflet, poster, brochure, and feedback form; and • A link to the PEIR, PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS), information to inform a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA), and information to inform a Marine Conservation Zone Assessment (MCZA). <p>The Planning Inspectorate confirmed receipt on 18 May 2023. More information about notification under section 46 can be found in Chapter 8 and a copy of the section 46 notification is included in Appendix F.28.</p>
<p>Section 47: duty to consult local community</p> <p>(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.</p> <p>(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.</p> <p>(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.</p> <p>(4) In subsection (3) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).</p> <p>(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).</p> <p>(6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must—</p> <p>(za) make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land,</p>	<p>For stage 3 (statutory) consultation, a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) was drafted and consulted on with local authorities in line with section 47(2). It was published on 27 March 2023, in line with section 47(1) and (6), and consultation was subsequently delivered in accordance with it.</p> <p>On 15 February 2022, the Applicant sent an early draft SoCC to Essex County Council for informal comments.</p> <p>The Applicant formally consulted on its SoCC between 4 April and 20 May 2022, for 46 days, in line with section 47(3).</p> <p>Details of comments received and the Applicant's regard to these comments in finalising the SoCC can be found in Chapter 9.</p> <p>The SoCC was published online on the Project's website and placed in three locations in the vicinity of the Project. These locations were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clacton Library, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea CO15 1SF; • Frinton Library, 59 Old Road, Frinton-on-Sea CO13 9DA; and • Tendring District Council Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea CO15 1SE. <p>A notice was placed in the Daily Gazette on 29 March 2023, setting out where and when the SoCC could be inspected.</p> <p>More information on the preparation and publication of the SoCC, as well as how stage 3 (statutory)</p>

<p>(a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and</p> <p>(b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.</p> <p>(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.</p>	<p>consultation activity was delivered in line with the commitments set out in the SoCC, can be found in Chapter 9. The draft SoCCs are included in Appendix F.30 and Appendix F.31 and the published SoCC is included in Appendix F.35.</p>
<p>Section 48: duty to publicise</p> <p>(1) The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.</p> <p>(2) Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.</p>	<p>Notices complying with section 48 were published between 15 May and 23 May 2023 in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing News, 15 May 2023; • Lloyd’s List, 16 May 2023; • Daily Gazette, 16 May 2023; • London Gazette, 16 May 2023; • The Guardian, 16 May 2023; and • Daily Gazette, 23 May 2023 <p>The prescribed manner for publication and how the notice was drafted is set out in Chapter 10.</p> <p>The section 48 notice clearly set a deadline of 14 July 2023 for responses to the stage 3 (statutory) consultation.</p> <p>A copy of the notice can be found in Appendix F.48.</p>
<p>Section 49: duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity</p> <p>(1) Subsection (2) applies where the applicant—</p> <p>(a) has complied with sections 42, 47 and 48, and</p> <p>(b) proposes to go ahead with making an application for an order granting development consent (whether or not in the same terms as the proposed application).</p> <p>(2) The applicant must, when deciding whether the application that the applicant is actually to make should be in the same terms as the proposed application, have regard to any relevant responses.</p> <p>(3) In subsection (2) “relevant response” means—</p> <p>(a) a response from a person consulted under section 42 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by section 45 in that person’s case,</p> <p>(b) a response to consultation under section 47(7) that is received by the applicant before any applicable deadline imposed in accordance with the statement prepared under section 47,</p> <p>(c) a response to publicity under section 48 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed in accordance with section 48(2) in relation to that publicity.</p>	<p>The Applicant’s consideration of relevant responses received to consultations under sections 42, 47 and 48 is set out in Appendices F.14 and F.14.1 for stage 3 (statutory) consultation and Appendices G.5 and G.5.1 for stage 4 (targeted) consultation.</p>
<p>Section 50: guidance about pre-application procedure</p> <p>(1) Guidance may be issued about how to comply with the requirements of this Chapter.</p> <p>(2) Guidance under this section may be issued by the Secretary of State.</p>	<p>The Applicant has had regard to the following guidance when compiling this Consultation Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on the pre-application process, DCLG, March 2015 (updated April 2024); • Advice Note Three: EIA notification and consultation, Planning Inspectorate, May 2012 (updated May 2024);

<p>(3) The applicant must have regard to any guidance under this section.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice Note Six: preparation and submission of application documents, Planning Inspectorate, May 2012; • Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: process, preliminary environmental information and environmental statements, Planning Inspectorate, June 2020; • Advice Note Eleven: working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process, Planning Inspectorate, November 2012 (updated May 2024); and • Advice Note Fourteen: compiling the Consultation Report, Planning Inspectorate, October 2014. <p>How the Applicant has implemented DCLG Guidance on the pre-application process is set out in this chapter (Chapter 2).</p>
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2.3 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

2.3.1 The EIA Regulations 2017 provide additional requirements for pre-application consultation for projects that classify as EIA developments.

Table 2.2 Adherence with EIA Regulations

Section of the EIA regulations	Applicant's compliance with them
<p>3. Interpretation “the consultation bodies” means— a body prescribed under s42(1)(a) of the Act (duty to consult) and listed in column 1 of the table set out at Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations where the circumstances set out in column 2 are satisfied in respect of that body;</p> <p>each authority that is within s43 of the Act (local authorities for purposes of s42(1)(b)); and if the land to which the application, or proposed application, relates or any part of that land is in Greater London, the Greater London Authority.</p>	<p>The prescribed bodies under section 42(1)(a) as they relate to the Project are listed in Appendix F.22 for stage 3 (statutory) consultation and Appendix G.7 for stage 4 (targeted) consultation.</p> <p>The local authorities identified under section 43 of the Act are set out in Table 2.1.</p> <p>Consultation under section 42(1)(c) was not required as the Project does not affect land in Greater London.</p>
<p>8. Procedure for establishing whether environmental impact assessment is required</p> <p>(1) A person who proposes to make an application for an order granting development consent must, before carrying out consultation under section 42 M1 (duty to consult) either—</p> <p>(a) ask the Secretary of State to adopt a screening opinion in respect of the development to which the application relates; or</p> <p>(b) notify the Secretary of State in writing that the person proposes to provide an ES in respect of that development.</p>	<p>The Applicant asked the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, to adopt a Scoping Opinion regarding the Project and notified the Secretary of State, also via the Planning Inspectorate, of its intention to provide an ES.</p> <p>Both of these requirements were fulfilled on 16 July 2021 and a copy of the letter sent to the Planning Inspectorate can be found in Appendix H.1.</p> <p>The Scoping Opinion (document reference 7.25) was issued by the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, in August 2021. A covering letter was issued with the Scoping Opinion. This can be found in Appendix H.2.</p>
<p>10. Application for a scoping opinion</p> <p>10. —(1) A person who proposes to make an application for an order granting development consent may ask the Secretary of State to state in writing their opinion as to the scope, and level of detail, of the information to be provided in the ES.</p>	

<p>12. Consultation statement requirements</p> <p>(1) The consultation statement prepared under section 47(1) (duty to consult local community) must set out—</p> <p>(a) whether the development for which the applicant proposes to make an application for an order granting development consent is EIA development; and</p> <p>(b) if that development is EIA development, how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information.</p> <p>(2) In this regulation, “preliminary environmental information” means information referred to in regulation 14(2) which—</p> <p>(a) has been compiled by the applicant; and</p> <p>(b) is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development).</p>	<p>The SoCC set out how stage 3 (statutory) consultation was to be delivered. It also stated that the Project is an EIA development, and that the preliminary environmental information was to be made available and consulted on as part of the consultation.</p> <p>The published SoCC can be found in Appendix F.35, in which reference to preliminary environmental information can be found on page 10, under section 3.2 (environmental information).</p>
<p>13. Pre-application publicity under section 48 (duty to publicise)</p> <p>Where the proposed application for an order granting development consent is an application for EIA development, the applicant must, at the same time as publishing notice of the proposed application under section 48(1), send a copy of that notice to the consultation bodies and to any person notified to the applicant in accordance with regulation 11(1)(c).</p>	<p>The section 48 notice was sent to all consultees under section 42 on 16 May 2023. This included persons notified to the Applicant in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(c). A list of these consultees can be found in Appendix C.5 and a copy of the section 48 notice can be found in Appendix F.48.</p>

2.4 The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

2.4.1 The APFP Regulations 2009 provide details for how parts of pre-application consultation must be carried out.

Table 2.3 Compliance with APFP Regulations 2009

Section of APFP regulations	Applicant's compliance
<p>3. Prescribed consultees</p> <p>The persons prescribed for the purposes of section 42(a) (duty to consult) are those listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 1 to these Regulations, who must be consulted in the circumstances specified in relation to each such person in column 2 of that table.</p>	<p>The prescribed consultees for the purpose of section 42(1)(1) are set out in regulation 3 and schedule 1 of these regulations.</p> <p>The consultees from schedule 1 who were consulted pursuant to section 42(1)(a) for stage 3 (statutory) consultation are set out in Appendix F.22 and Appendix G.7 for stage 4 (targeted) consultation.</p>
<p>4. Publicising a proposed application</p> <p>(Text omitted as this is covered in full in Chapter 10.)</p>	<p>Regulation 4 specifies what must be included in the notice publicising an application under section 48, and where it must be published. The section 48 notice published as part of stage 3 (statutory) consultation contained the required information and was published as prescribed.</p> <p>More information about the section 48 notice, including the full breakdown of requirements and compliance with them, can be found in Chapter 10.</p>

2.5 Advice and guidance

2.5.1 In addition to the requirements detailed in the preceding pages, the following documents were used to inform the Applicant's consultation activities and the drafting of this Consultation Report.

[Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process, Department for Communities and Local Government, March 2015 \(updated April 2024\)](#)

2.5.2 In accordance with section 50 of the Act, this document provides guidance on how to carry out pre-application consultation, including what is an appropriate amount of consultation and how best to respond to issues raised during consultation.

Table 2.4 Adherence with DCLG guidance

Section of DCLG guidance	Applicant's compliance
<p>20. Experience suggests that, to be of most value, consultation should be:</p> <p>based on accurate information that gives consultees a clear view of what is proposed including any options;</p> <p>shared at an early enough stage so that the proposal can still be influenced, while being sufficiently developed to provide some detail on what is being proposed; and</p> <p>engaging and accessible in style, encouraging consultees to react and offer their views.</p>	<p>The Applicant published materials for consultation in a range of formats designed to make the Project's proposals, including its potential benefits and impacts, as well as any options that were being consulted on, as accessible as possible.</p> <p>For stage 3 (statutory) consultation, this included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEIR; • PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS); • Consultation brochure; • Consultation poster; • Consultation leaflet; • Consultation feedback form; • Online consultation portal, including an interactive map; and • Three-dimensional computer-generated visualisation. <p>For stage 4 (targeted) consultation, this included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEIR Addendum (a supplement to the PEIR that focuses specifically on the proposed localised changes presented in this consultation); • Consultation brochure; • Consultation feedback form; • Online consultation portal, including an interactive map; and • Three-dimensional computer-generated visualisation.
<p>21. Where an applicant has not been able to follow this guidance, they should provide comments setting out why this is the case, in the Consultation Report.</p>	<p>The Applicant complied with the DCLG guidance.</p>
<p>27. The Planning Act and Regulations set out the statutory consultees and prescribed people who must be consulted during the pre-application process. In addition, there will be a range of national and other interest groups who could make an important contribution during consultation. Applicants are therefore encouraged to consult widely on project proposals.</p>	<p>In the interest of thoroughness and openness, as well as a willingness to consult as widely as possible, additional potentially interested stakeholders, not identified under section 42 or the list of prescribed bodies under regulation 11(1)(c), were sent the same information as section 42 consultees.</p>

	For stage 3 (statutory) consultation, this list can be found in Appendix F.22. For stage 4 (targeted) consultation, this list can be found in Appendix G.7.
28. The Consultation Report should briefly note any cases where compliance with statutory requirements was impossible and the reasons why.	The Applicant is currently unaware of any instances of non-compliance.
41. Where a local authority raises an issue or concern on the SoCC which the applicant feels unable to address, the applicant is advised to explain in their Consultation Report their course of action to the Secretary of State when they submit their application.	All recommendations received in response to the draft SoCC were incorporated into the published SoCC. More information about feedback from local authorities on the draft SoCC and the Applicant's regard to this feedback is covered in Chapter 9.
52. Applicants should explain in the Consultation Report how they have dealt with any new interests in land emerging after conclusion of their statutory consultation having regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses.	Land interests identified following stage 3 (statutory) consultation were included in the stage 4 (targeted) consultation, which is covered in Chapter 11. Newly identified land interests were contacted by the Applicant to introduce the Project and explain upcoming opportunities to provide feedback. An example letter is included in Appendix 10.1 and example questionnaires are available at Appendix C.9 and Appendix C.10.
68. To realise the benefits of consultation on a project, it must take place at a sufficiently early stage to allow consultees a real opportunity to influence the proposals. At the same time, consultees will need sufficient information on a project to be able to recognise and understand the impacts.	Stage 1 (introductory) consultation was held at an early stage in the Project's development. Feedback received to this consultation led to the refinement of onshore cable route options. Feedback received at stage 2 (pre-application) consultation led to a reduction in the width of the Project's offshore and onshore cable route, and the selection of more defined landfall and onshore substation locations. Additionally, feedback received informed the Applicant's decision to increase the level of coordination with Five Estuaries and more closely align various aspects of the two projects. Feedback received at Stage 3 (statutory) consultation informed the following changes to the Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased distance from shore to the nearest point of the offshore array area by approximately 20km; • Reduction in the number of WTGs by 15; • Reduction of the overall onshore cable route width at various locations from what was presented in the Applicant's PEIR; • Reduction in the number of onshore export cables from four to two, significantly reducing the amount of land used throughout the onshore cable route. Feedback received at stage 4 (targeted) consultation informed ongoing discussions with land interests and will influence the detailed design of proposed highways improvements. Sufficient information was provided at each stage of consultation and enabled consultees to recognise and understand the potential benefits and impacts of the Project. To aid this, information was presented at varying levels of technical complexity. More information about how this was done is included in the first row of this table, which details

	compliance with paragraph 20 of the DCLG guidance on the pre-application process.
<p>69. Applicants will often also require detailed technical advice from consultees, and it is likely that their input will be of the greatest value if they are consulted when project proposals are fluid, followed up by confirmation of the approach as proposals become firmer. In principle, therefore, applicants should undertake initial consultation as soon as there is sufficient detail to allow consultees to understand the nature of the project properly.</p>	<p>As well as the multi-stage, iterative approach to consultation, as set out throughout this Consultation Report, the Applicant formed a series of ETGs, the purpose of which was to engage technical experts throughout the development of the Project.</p> <p>Engagement with ETGs began in 2021. A summary of engagement with ETGs is included in Chapter 3 and formed part of the Evidence Plan process (also covered in Chapter 3).</p>
<p>70. To manage the tension between consulting early, but also having project proposals that are firm enough to enable consultees to comment, applicants are encouraged to consider an iterative, phased consultation consisting of two (or more) stages, especially for large projects with long development periods. For example, applicants might wish to consider undertaking non-statutory early consultation at a stage where options are still being considered. This will be helpful in informing proposals and assisting the applicant in establishing a preferred option on which to undertake statutory consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant's approach to consultation aligned with the suggested iterative approach, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1 (introductory) consultation, which introduced the Project and presented early proposals; • Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation, which provided a Project update and presented more refined proposals; • Stage 3 (statutory) consultation, where key details were more fixed and more detailed information was provided; and • Stage 4 (targeted) consultation on proposed localised changes to the Project's onshore PEIR boundary.
<p>71. Where an iterative consultation is intended, it may be advisable for applicants to carry out the final stage of consultation with persons who have an interest in the land once they have worked up their project proposals in sufficient detail to identify affected land interests.</p>	<p>Consultation was carried out in line with this guidance. The Applicant ensured that all identified PILs had an opportunity to consider the Project's proposals and comment on them at stage 3 (statutory) and / or stage 4 (targeted) consultation.</p> <p>Stage 4 (targeted) consultation was confined to PILs that were newly identified, newly affected or where potential impacts on interests were materially different as a result of the proposed localised changes to the onshore PEIR boundary. It was not considered proportionate to reconsult with those interests for whom the potential impacts of the Project had not materially changed.</p> <p>More information about how land interests were identified for the purposes of stage 4 (targeted) consultation can be found in Chapter 11.</p>
<p>72. The timing and duration of consultation will be likely to vary from project to project, depending on size and complexity, and the range and scale of the impacts. The Planning Act requires a consultation period of a minimum of 28 days from the day after receipt of the consultation documents. It is expected that this may be sufficient for projects which are straightforward and uncontroversial in nature. But many projects, particularly larger or more controversial ones, may require longer consultation periods than this. Applicants should therefore set consultation deadlines that are realistic and proportionate to the proposed project. It is also important that consultees do not withhold information that might affect a project, and that they respond in good time to applicants. Where responses are not received by the deadline, the applicant is not obliged to take those responses into account.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation period for stage 1 (introductory) consultation was between 25 October and 10 December 2021, which is 47 days. • The consultation period for stage 2 (pre-application) consultation was between 17 October and 9 December 2022, which is 54 days. • The consultation period for stage 3 (statutory) consultation was between 16 May and 14 July 2023, which is 60 days. • The consultation period for stage 4 (targeted) consultation was between 14 March and 22 April 2024, which is 40 days. <p>Newly identified land interests for the purposes of stage 4 (targeted) consultation were contacted and offered individual briefings to introduce the Project and help expedite their understanding of its potential benefits and impacts.</p>

	The Applicant considers that the consultation periods were realistic and proportionate to the Project. No consultation responses at any stage of consultation were disregarded for being received after the defined deadline.
73. Applicants are not expected to repeat consultation rounds set out in their SoCC unless the project proposals have changed very substantially. However, where proposals change to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was consulted on, further consultation may well be needed. This may be necessary if, for example, new information arises which renders all previous options unworkable or invalid for some reason. When considering the need for additional consultation, applicants should use the degree of change, the effect on the local community and the level of public interest as guiding factors.	<p>The Project's proposals did not change after stage 3 (statutory) consultation in a very substantial way or in a way that introduced significant new adverse potential impacts.</p> <p>Therefore, a project-wide consultation was not required. Instead, a targeted consultation was undertaken with land interests and residents that were newly identified, newly affected or where potential impacts on interests were materially different as a result of localised changes to the Project's onshore PEIR boundary.</p>
80. The Consultation Report should provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken, which can helpfully include a timeline	This is set out in Chapter 1.
80. The Consultation Report should set out specifically what the applicant has done in compliance with the requirements of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation, this guidance, and any relevant policies, guidance or advice published by Government or the Inspectorate.	This is set out in Chapter 2.
80. The Consultation Report should set out how the applicant has taken account of any response to consultation with local authorities on what should be in the applicant's SoCC.	<p>This is set out in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1 (introductory) consultation responses: Chapter 4 • Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation responses: Chapter 5 • Stage 3 (statutory) consultation responses: Chapters 6-9 • Stage 4 (targeted) consultation responses: Chapter 11
80. The Consultation Report should set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses).	
80. The Consultation Report should provide a description of how the application was informed and influenced by those responses, outlining any changes made as a result and showing how significant relevant responses will be addressed.	
80. The Consultation Report should provide an explanation as to why responses advising on major changes to a project were not followed, including advice from statutory consultees on impacts.	
80. The Consultation Report should, where the applicant has not followed the advice of the local authority or not complied with this guidance or any relevant Advice Note published by the Inspectorate, provide an explanation for the action taken or not taken.	
80. The Consultation Report should be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Secretary of State to understand fully how the consultation process has been undertaken and significant effects addressed. However, it need not include full technical explanations of these matters.	

<p>81. It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results of the consultation exercise; how the information received by applicants has been used to shape and influence the project; and how any outstanding issues will be addressed before an application is submitted to the Inspectorate.</p>	<p>Following the conclusion of stage 1 (introductory), stage 2 (pre-application) and stage 3 (statutory) consultations, a summary of the key themes raised in feedback and the Applicant's regard to those themes was published on the Project's online consultation portal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For stage 1, see Appendix D.15; • For stage 2, see Appendix E.32; • For stage 3, see Appendix F.58.
<p>82. Applicants should consider producing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings and how they have been addressed, together with a link to the full Consultation Report for those interested.</p>	<p>Following acceptance of the Applicant's application, a newsletter will be published and a press release issued providing a Project update including a summary note setting out how the Project has evolved in response to feedback and directing people to this Consultation Report. An email will also be issued to the Project's key stakeholders.</p>

The Gunning Principles

2.5.3 The Gunning Principles were established as part of the 1985 court case (R V London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning). They set out four key principles for lawful consultation.

Table 2.5 Adherence with the Gunning Principles

Principle	Applicant's adherence
<p>Consultation must be carried out when proposals are still at a formative stage</p>	<p>The Applicant adopted an iterative, multi-stage approach to consultation, beginning when the Project's proposals were still in a formative stage. This enabled consultation feedback to meaningfully influence the Project's development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1 (introductory) consultation was a non-statutory consultation on the Project's early proposals, which took place between 25 October and 10 December 2021. It introduced the Project and gathered initial feedback, primarily from communities potentially affected by the Project's onshore elements; • Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation was a non-statutory consultation on the Project's progress following its stage 1 (introductory) consultation; • Stage 3 (statutory) consultation was a statutory consultation focused on the Project's PEIR; and • Stage 4 (targeted) consultation focused on proposed localised changes to the Project's onshore PEIR boundary. <p>Through the use of this iterative, multi-stage consultation process, the Applicant was able to consult on increasingly refined and more detailed proposals, while allowing feedback to continually inform the Project's development.</p> <p>A summary of key changes made to the Project as a result of feedback can be found in Chapter 13.</p>
<p>There is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'</p>	<p>At each stage of consultation a combination of print and online materials and plans, at varying</p>

	<p>levels of technical complexity, were produced to allow consideration of the Project's proposals.</p> <p>For stage 3 (statutory) consultation, this included, amongst other things, detailed preliminary environmental information, PEIR NTS, consultation brochure, and an online consultation portal which hosted an interactive map.</p>
<p>There is adequate time for consideration and response</p>	<p>At each stage of consultation the Applicant provided considerably more time than the statutory minimum requirement of at least 28 days.</p> <p>Additionally, to ensure information could be considered within that time, consultation materials were provided in clear, non-technical language. In-person and online events, as well as information points and Project enquiry lines, were also used to ensure those with questions about the Project's proposals could raise them with the Applicant.</p>
<p>'Conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made</p>	<p>The Applicant has considered the feedback received in considerable detail. This is set out in Appendices F.14, F.14.1, G.5, G.5.1 and summarised in Chapter 13.</p>

3. Ongoing engagement

3.1 Engagement in the context of pre-application consultation

- 3.1.1 In this Consultation Report, the term 'consultation' is used to describe defined periods of time in which the Applicant has sought comment from stakeholders on published materials. Consultation was carried out to fulfil the requirements of, or adhere to guidance relating to, pre-application in the Act.
- 3.1.2 Consultation is one part of engagement. Engagement covers all other activity where the Applicant has engaged with external stakeholders throughout the development of the Project
- 3.1.3 The Evidence Plan process is summarised in Chapter 7, Technical Consultation, of the ES (document reference 3.1.9).
- 3.1.4 Early engagement on the Project started in early 2018, however this was largely with technical stakeholders and local authorities. The Project was launched as North Falls Offshore Wind Farm later in 2020, with the Project's stage 1 (introductory) consultation beginning in October 2021.

3.2 Approach to engagement

- 3.2.1 The Applicant's consultation process was governed by two principles: transparency and accessibility.
- 3.2.2 Given the complexity of the DCO process and, by association, the projects that progress through it, the Applicant was aware of the need for its consultations to be accessible to members of the public and to be transparent in its processes.
- 3.2.3 The Applicant complied with these principles in the following ways:

- Using simple language wherever possible in consultation materials and responses to enquiries. This included simplifying the language of technical documents. For example, the Applicant produced a PEIR NTS¹ and Guide to the PEIR² document to accompany its PEIR;
- Regularly communicating with stakeholders and those who had requested to be kept up to date with the Project, through both direct communications and updates to the Project website;
- Coordinating with other NSIPs in the region, namely Five Estuaries and NGET's Norwich to Tilbury project, to explain their relationship to the Project and mitigate consultation fatigue as far as practicable; and
- Ensuring timely responses to enquiries received into the freephone line, email inbox and freepost address.

3.3 Engagement activity

3.3.1 Outside of defined consultation periods, the Applicant has prioritised the use of regular updates emailed out to an identified stakeholder database, consisting of local authorities, parish councils etc. These updates contained information about the Project's progress, signposting to where further information could be found, and providing information about upcoming activities that may affect people more directly.

3.3.2 Updates set out in Table 3.1 were posted to the Project website (www.northfallsoffshore.com) as announcements and media releases.

3.3.3 As well as being uploaded to the Project website, the three Project update newsletters published in Spring 2022, Spring 2023 and Autumn 2023 (included in Table 3.1) were emailed or posted to regional and local stakeholders and those who had requested to be kept up to date about the Project.

3.3.4 Updates surrounding the launch and close of consultations were also sent by email to regional and local stakeholders and those who had requested to be kept up to date about the Project.

Table 3.1 Timeline of Project updates

Date	Topic	Details
28 September 2020	Project launch	Press release published announcing partnership between RWE and SSE to develop the Project, an extension of Greater Gabbard. See Appendix C.1 for the press release and Appendix C.1.1 for coverage.
28 September 2020	Appointing contractors	Press release published announcing appointment of Barton Willmore (now Stantec) as DCO and planning advisors to the Project. See Appendix C.2 for the press release and Appendix C.2.1 for coverage.
16 November 2020	Appointing contractors	Press release published announcing appointment of Royal HaskoningDHV to complete the Project's EIA and HRA. See Appendix C.3 for the press release and Appendix C.3.1 for coverage.

¹ PEIR NTS: https://www.northfallsoffshore.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/004774679-03_North-Falls-PEIR_Non-technical-Summary.pdf

² Guide to the PEIR: https://www.northfallsoffshore.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/North-Falls_Guide-to-PEIR.pdf

20 May 2021	Offshore surveys	Press release published announcing commencement of the Project's first offshore surveys in partnership with Fugro. See Appendix C.4 for the press release and C.4.1 for coverage.
25 October 2021	Stage 1 (introductory) consultation	Emails distributed announcing launch of stage 1 (introductory) consultation, including methods of engagement, where information could be found, and how people could provide feedback. See Appendix D.2.
25 October 2021	Stage 1 (introductory) consultation	Press release published announcing launch of stage 1 (introductory) consultation, including methods of engagement, where information could be found, and how people could provide feedback. See Appendix D.3 for the press release and D.6 for coverage.
29 November 2021	Stage 1 (introductory) consultation	Reminder press release published stating that there are two weeks left to provide feedback to stage 1 (introductory) consultation. See Appendix D.4 for the press release and D.6.1 for coverage.
28 January 2022	Stage 1 (introductory) consultation	Summary of responses received during stage 1 (introductory) consultation published on the Project website and signposting to responses to frequently asked questions. See Appendix D.15.
23 February 2022	East of England Energy Group (EEEGR) events	Announcement on Project website promoting EEEGR's 'Energising Essex' event. See Appendix C.6.
22 April 2022	Spring 2022, edition one community newsletter	Summary of stage 1 (introductory) consultation activities and feedback received. See Appendix C.11.
7 September 2022	Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm	Announcement on Project website celebrating 10 years since North Falls' sister project, Greater Gabbard, became operational. See Appendix C.19.
11 October 2022	Fisheries newsletter, edition one, Autumn 2022	Introduced the Project to the CFWG. See Appendix E.26.
17 October 2022	Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation	Email distributed announcing the launch of stage 2 (pre-application) consultation, including times and locations of events, where information could be found, and how feedback could be provided. See Appendix E.2.
7 November 2022	North Falls project director	Announcement on Project website about the appointment of the Project's new independent project director. See Appendix C.12.
28 November 2022	Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation	Reminder email that there are 12 days left to comment on stage 2 (pre-application) consultation. See Appendix E.2.1.
9 December 2022	Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation	Email notifying consultees that the stage 2 (pre-application) consultation had closed. See Appendix E.2.2.
1 March 2023	Essex Careers Magazine	The Project was featured in Essex Careers Magazine following a student visit to a stage 2 (pre-application) consultation event. See Appendix C.13.

7 March 2023	Spring 2023, edition two, community newsletter	Provided an update on stage 2 (pre-application) consultation activities and feedback received. See Appendix F.16.
27 March 2023	SoCC	Publishing of the Applicant's SoCC the on Project website ahead of its stage 3 (statutory) consultation. See Appendix F.36.
16 May 2023	Stage 3 (statutory) consultation	Email to launch stage 3 (statutory) consultation, including times and locations of events, where information could be found, and how feedback could be provided. See Appendix F.24.
24 May 2023	Stage 3 (statutory) consultation	Reminder press release that stage 3 (statutory) consultation events are about to begin. See Appendix F.59 for the press release and F.59.1 for coverage.
30 June 2023	Stage 3 (statutory) consultation	Reminder email that there are two weeks left to provide feedback to stage 3 (statutory) consultation. See Appendix F.25.
5 September 2023	Autumn 2023, edition three community newsletter	Provided an update on stage 3 (statutory) consultation activities and feedback received. See Appendix F.17.
6 September 2023	Project changes	Press release published providing an update on changes to the Project following stage 3 (statutory) consultation. See Appendix G.15 for the press release and Appendix G.15.1 for coverage.
5 December 2023	OCSS decision	Press release announcing confirmation of receipt of funding from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, as part of the OCSS, to explore the feasibility of an offshore connection as part of the OTNR Early Opportunities workstream. See Appendix C.7 for the press release and Appendix C.7.1 for coverage.
22 February 2024	Stage 4 (targeted) consultation	Advance notice letter of stage 4 (targeted) consultation beginning on 14 March 2024 sent to local authorities and selected parish councils with the offer of a briefing from the Project team. A copy of the advance notice letter sent to select parish councils can be seen in Appendix G.8.1. A copy of the advance notice email sent to select parish councils can be seen in Appendix G.8.2. A copy of the advance notice letter sent to local authorities can be seen in Appendix G.8. A copy of the advance notice email sent to local authorities can be seen in Appendix G.8.3.
14 March 2024	Stage 4 (targeted) consultation	Launch email for stage 4 (targeted) consultation to section 42 and launch letter to section 47 consultees, including methods of engagement, where information could be found, and how people could provide feedback. See Appendices G.9 and G.9.1.
9 April 2024	Fisheries newsletter	Project update for the CFWG, including information regarding the removal of the Project's northern array and reduction in size of its remaining southern array following stage 3 (statutory) consultation. See Appendix C.15.
15 April 2024	Stage 4 (targeted) consultation	Reminder email that there is one week left provide feedback to stage 4 (targeted) consultation. See Appendix G.10.

Stakeholder briefings

- 3.3.5 At key stages in the Project’s development, the Applicant held meetings with elected representatives and other key stakeholders in order to brief them on the Project’s progress and discuss key topics of interest.
- 3.3.6 General update meetings with Essex County Council and Tendring District Council happened throughout the pre-application process and during consultation periods, not all of which are included below. Other Project meetings and consultation with technical stakeholders are captured below in relation to the Evidence Plan process and ETGs, land interests and marine stakeholders.
- 3.3.7 Pre-scoping, the Applicant proactively engaged with key stakeholders from an early stage in the Project, in relation to site selection and survey planning. Details of this early engagement is provided in Table 3.2 and further information regarding each meeting is provided in the relevant chapter of the ES.

Table 3.2 Consultation with key stakeholders pre-scoping

Dates	Activity	Detail	Organisation(s) consulted	ES reference
September 2018	External workshop	A consultation event held with marine consultees around the initial array boundary, facilitated by Anatec Ltd	MCA Trinity House	Chapter 15 Shipping and Navigation (document reference 3.1.17)
November 2018	Environmental constraint consultation	A consultation event (led by The Crown Estate) appraising constraints around the area sought for the array areas from the Project	Chamber of Shipping Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Historic England Ministry of Defence (MoD) National Federation of Fishermen’s Organisations Natural England Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Suffolk County Council The Wildlife Trusts Whale and Dolphin Conservation	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (document reference 3.1.6)
September 2020 to February 2021	Presentation	An introductory session to the Project was provided to the county council and district council	Essex County Council Tendring District Council	N/A

September 2020 to February 2021	External workshop	National Grid outlining the technical basis of the East Anglia Connection Node	National Grid	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (document reference 3.1.6)
December 2020	Written consultation	Consultation on onshore overwintering bird survey methodologies	Natural England	Chapter 24 Onshore Ornithology (document reference 3.1.26)
February to March 2021	Written consultation	Consultation on five shortlisted offshore export cable corridor options. Offered opportunity for a collective workshop or individual presentations to selected stakeholders	Harwich Haven Authority Historic England MCA Marine Management Organisation (MMO) MoD (Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)) Natural England Port of Felixstowe Port of London Authority Royal Yachting Association (RYA) RSPB The Wildlife Trusts Trinity House	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (document reference 3.1.6)
February 2021	Presentation	An introductory session to the Project	Historic England	N/A
February 2021	Online meeting	Progress meeting	Natural England	N/A
February 2021	Presentation	A session was held regarding cable landfall options on the Tendring peninsula	Essex County Council	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Volume I) (document reference 3.1.6)
February 2021	Presentation / workshop	Presentation on background to offshore export cable corridor site selection and shortlist options (provided individually)	MCA (17 February 2021) Natural England (25 February 2021) Trinity House (22 February 2021)	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Volume I)

				(document reference 3.1.6)
February 2021	Written consultation	Consultation on Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Methodology	Essex County Council Natural England RSPB Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts	Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (Volume I) (document reference 3.1.25)
March 2021	Consultation update	Updated shipping and navigation consultees on route refinements based on consultation responses received and selection of final corridor for survey	Harwich Haven Authority MCA Port of Felixstowe Port of London Authority Trinity House	Chapter 15 Shipping and Navigation (Volume I) (document reference 3.1.17)
March 2021	Presentation / workshop	Workshop meeting to discuss specific aspects of the preferred offshore export cable corridor	Harwich Haven Authority	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Volume I) (document reference 3.1.6)
March 2021	Written consultation	Consultation on Phase 2 surveys of Holland Haven Marshes SSSI	Essex County Council Natural England RSPB Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts	Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (Volume I) (document reference 3.1.25)
April 2021	Presentation	An update meeting was held to inform the council of Project progress	Essex County Council	N/A
April 2021	Presentation	An introductory session to the Project	Essex Wildlife Trust The Wildlife Trusts	N/A
April 2021	Online meeting	Progress meeting	Natural England	N/A
April to May 2021	Written consultation	Consultation on terms for the North Falls EIA / HRA Evidence Plan process.	Affinity Water Anglian Water East Suffolk Council Environment Agency Essex Coast Organisation Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust Highways England Historic England Kent County Council	N/A

			Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) MMO / Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) Natural England RSPB Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Suffolk County Council Tendring District Council Whale and Dolphin Conservation The Wildlife Trusts	
April to June 2021	Workshop	Meetings to discuss Project proposals for benthic ecology site characterisation and associated survey licensing requirements	The Crown Estate Natural England Marine Management Organisation	Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology (Volume I) (document reference 3.1.12)
June 2021	Online meeting	Progress meeting	Natural England	N/A
June 2021	Presentation	An introductory session to the Project	East Suffolk Council Suffolk County Council	N/A
June to July 2021	Workshops (Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings)	Pre-scoping ETG meetings undertaken in accordance with the Project's Evidence Plan process.	East Suffolk Council Environment Agency Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust Highways England (now National Highways) Historic England Kent & Essex IFCA MMO/Cefas Natural England RSPB Suffolk County Council Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts	Table 7.5, Chapter 7 Technical Consultation (document reference 3.1.9)

3.3.8 Post-scoping, the Applicant continued to engage with key stakeholders following the publication of its Scoping Opinion, in order to review the contents of the Scoping Opinion, agree the approach to PEIR and continue discussion regarding site selection. The feedback received from stakeholders during this process is consolidated in the ES. Details of this engagement are presented in Table 3.3 and further meeting regarding each meeting is provided in the relevant chapter of the ES.

Table 3.3 Consultation with key stakeholders post-scoping

Dates	Activity	Detail	Organisation(s) consulted	ES reference
November 2021 to July 2024	Online meeting	Quarterly progress meetings	Natural England	N/A
December 2021	Workshops (ETG meetings)	Post-scoping ETG meetings undertaken in accordance with the Project's Evidence Plan process	East Suffolk County Council Essex County Council Natural England Suffolk County Council Tendring District Council National Highways	Table 7.5, Chapter 7 Technical Consultation (document reference 3.1.9)
January 2022	Presentation / workshop	Consultation on the 'Golden Rules' for basis of site selection process and the landfall site selection process	Natural England Essex County Council Environment Agency	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (document reference 3.1.6)
January to March 2022	Written consultation	Consultation on the Project's Golden Rules (to those not present at workshop)	Essex Wildlife Trust Historic England Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (document reference 3.1.6)
March 2022	Written consultation	Consultation on Phase 2 Ecology Survey Methodologies	Environment Agency Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust Natural England Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts RSPB	Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (document reference 3.1.25)
April 2022	Presentation / workshop	Consultation on the onshore substation site selection process	Environment Agency Essex County Council Historic England Natural England Tendring District Council	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (document reference 3.1.6)
June 2022	Presentation / workshop	Consultation on the onshore cable corridor site selection process	Environment Agency Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment

			Historic England National Highways Natural England RSPB Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts	of Alternatives (document reference 3.1.6)
July 2022	Site visit	Consultation on settings for assessment of archaeology	Essex County Council Historic England	Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (document reference 3.1.27)
March 2022 to February 2023	Workshops (ETG meetings)	Pre-PEIR ETG meetings undertaken in accordance with the Project's Evidence Plan process	East Suffolk Council Environment Agency Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust Historic England Kent & Essex IFCA MMO/Cefas National Highways Natural England RSPB Suffolk County Council Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts	Chapter 7 Technical Consultation (document reference 3.1.9)
March 2022 to February 2023	Workshops (ETG meetings)	Pre-PEIR ETG meetings undertaken in accordance with the North Falls Evidence Plan process.	East Suffolk Council Environment Agency Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust Historic England Kent & Essex IFCA MMO/Cefas National Highways Natural England RSPB Suffolk County Council Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts	Chapter 7 Technical Consultation (document reference 3.1.9)
September 2023 to May 2024	Workshops (ETG meetings)	Post-PEIR ETG meetings undertaken in accordance with the North Falls Evidence Plan process.	East Suffolk Council Environment Agency Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust Historic England Kent & Essex IFCA MMO/Cefas National Highways Natural England RSPB	Table 7.5, Chapter 7 Technical Consultation (document reference 3.1.9)

			Suffolk County Council Tendring District Council East of England Ambulance Service (EEAST) Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board (SNEE ICB) Essex Chamber of Commerce Department for Work and Pensions STEM Learning UK East of England Energy Group (EEEGR) University of Essex Freeport East	
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3.4 Outline Skills and Employment Plan

- 3.4.1 In order to develop the Applicant’s Outline Skills and Employment Plan (OSEP) (document reference 7.18), including its key principles and approach, the Project actively engaged a number of key stakeholders across the education, training, employment and skills sector within the within the Tendring district and surrounding area.
- 3.4.2 Engagement was undertaken with the stakeholders listed in Table 3.4 to inform the creation of the OSEP. These stakeholders helped to identify what the need is within the region, where the skills gap is, existing or planned initiatives and advise on how the Project can contribute. This includes Essex County Council, who will be required to discharge the requirement for the subsequent final plan, key education providers, other neighboring development projects within the Tendring region, and other key stakeholders across the region.
- 3.4.3 The approach to this engagement is informal and consisted of open dialogue to facilitate discussion and highlight opportunities within the region. This informal engagement was undertaken in coordination with Five Estuaries.

Table 3.4 Stakeholders engaged on the OSEP

Industry sector	Organisation
Host authority	Essex County Council
Local authority	Suffolk County Council
Chamber of Commerce	Essex Chamber of Commerce
UK Government	Department for Work and Pensions
Education and training provider	STEM Learning UK
Education and training provider	EEEGR
Developer	Freeport East

3.5 Contacting the Project

- 3.5.1 A dedicated freephone number for the Project was set up before the launch of stage 1 (introductory) consultation in October 2021. The number was monitored at all times. Enquiry details were logged and passed on to the Applicant who would then return the call. The number is 0800 254 5340.
- 3.5.2 Similarly, dedicated email and freepost addresses for the Project were established in 2021 ahead of the launch of stage 1 (introductory) consultation. The email and freepost addresses have been used consistently since the Project's inception as channels for people to contact the Project team and for the collection of consultation responses. The email address is contact@northfallsoffshore.com. The freepost address is Freepost North Falls.
- 3.5.3 The freephone, freepost and email addresses will remain in use during the consenting period of the Project and likely throughout the construction and operational phases.
- 3.5.4 The Project's website also included details of how people could contact its appointed land agent, Dalcour Maclaren, and fisheries liaison officer, Brown & May.
- 3.5.5 Dalcour Maclaren could be called on 01622 623025, emailed at northfalls@dalcourmaclaren.com, and written to at Unit 1 Staplehurst Farm, Weston-on-the-Green, Bicester, Oxfordshire OX25 3QU.
- 3.5.6 Brown & May could be called on 01379 772871, emailed at northfalls@brownandmay.com, and written to at Progress Way, Mid Suffolk Business Park Eye, Suffolk IP23 7HU.
- 3.5.7 Both the land agent and fisheries liaison officer's details remain on the Project website for interested and relevant organisations to contact.

3.6 Evidence Plan and technical stakeholders

- 3.6.1 The Evidence Plan process was initially developed by the Major Infrastructure Environment Unit (MIEU) of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to provide a formal mechanism for Applicants and statutory bodies to agree what information and evidence should be submitted in support of an NSIP application, with specific focus on HRA matters. However, in practice, the MIEU advises that topics areas that may be covered in an Evidence Plan can be expanded, at the request of the Applicant, to include broader EIA issues as well as HRA issues.
- 3.6.2 The overarching purpose of the Evidence Plan process is to seek agreement on key steps, including the baseline approach, assessment methodology, assessment outcomes, and mitigation. As such, the members need to have a technical and organisational mandate to reach agreement on key assessment steps.

- 3.6.3 The Evidence Plan process consisted of one-to-one meetings, workshops on specific subjects to which several different stakeholders were invited, written correspondence or virtual conversations. Where possible, the Applicant endeavoured to minimise the engagement burden on stakeholders by ensuring that, where appropriate, multiple topics were covered in a session, suitable pre-reading was sent in advance, accurate minutes of meetings were produced and agreed by those attending, and an acceptable amount of time was allowed for post-meeting comments to be submitted.
- 3.6.4 The Evidence Plan comprised a series of ETGs, some of which were broken down into ETG sub-groups where meetings were required on specific technical areas. Some of the later ETGs on onshore topics were carried out jointly with Five Estuaries.
- 3.6.5 An Evidence Plan Terms of Reference was consulted on and summarises the Evidence Plan process, the roles of those involved, the aims and objectives of the Evidence Plan, and summaries of the meetings and consultation undertaken with ETGs. Each technical chapter of the Applicant's ES includes detail of consultation carried out with ETGs as part of the Evidence Plan process.
- 3.6.6 In summary, the Evidence Plan process aims to assist all parties in the process during the evolution of the Project's proposed DCO application by:
- Giving greater certainty to all parties on the amount and range of evidence to be presented within the application;
 - Providing structure and efficiency to discussion and sequential identification of key environmental and consenting issues;
 - Enabling time and resource requirements to be planned and optimised for all parties;
 - Helping address and agree issues earlier in the pre-application stage where possible so that robust, streamlined decisions can be taken and additional data can be collected as required; and
 - Providing a platform to debate advice on one topic between multiple agencies and stakeholders.

Table 3.5 ETG structure for the Project Evidence Plan process

Topic	Invited members
Seabed	Cefas Environment Agency Essex Coast Organisation Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority MMO Natural England Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts
Offshore Ornithology	Natural England RSPB
Marine Mammal Ecology	Natural England MMO The Wildlife Trusts

Onshore Site Selection	Environment Agency Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust Historic England National Highways Natural England RSPB Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts
Onshore Ecology	Environment Agency Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust Natural England Tendring District Council
Seascape, Landscape and Visual impact Assessment (SLVIA) and Land Use, Health, Socio-economics and Tourism	East Suffolk Council Essex County Council Kent County Council Natural England Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Suffolk County Council Tendring District Council EEAST SNEE ICB Essex Chamber of Commerce Department for Work and Pensions STEM Learning UK EEEGR University of Essex Freeport East
Traffic and Transport, Air Quality and Noise and Vibration	Essex County Council National Highways Tendring District Council
Water Resources and Flood Risk, Land Quality and Geology	Affinity Water Anglian Water Environment Agency Essex County Council Tendring District Council
Historic Environment (onshore and offshore)	Essex County Council Historic England Tendring District Council

3.6.7 ETG meetings commenced in June / July 2021 and are being held at relevant milestones for each topic. A number of ETG meetings were delivered in coordination with Five Estuaries.

3.6.8 Where appropriate, consultation is also undertaken with ETGs via written exchange of information, such as review of methodologies for surveys and data analysis.

3.6.9 Please note, summaries of the matters discussed during each meeting are included within the relevant chapters of the Applicant's ES.

Table 3.6 Overview of meetings under the Evidence Plan process

Date	Activity	ES reference
June 2021	Water Resources and Flood Risk, Land Quality and Geology ETG meeting	Chapter 19 Ground Conditions and Contamination (document reference 3.1.21) Chapter 21 Water Resources and Flood Risk (document reference 3.1.23)
July 2021	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage ETG meeting	Chapter 16 Offshore Archaeology and Intertidal Archaeology Cultural Heritage (document reference 3.1.18) Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (document reference 3.1.27)
July 2021	Marine Mammals ETG meeting	Chapter 12 Marine Mammals (document reference 3.1.14)
July 2021	Offshore Ornithology ETG meeting	Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology (document reference 3.1.15)
July 2021	Onshore Ecology and Ornithology ETG meeting	Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (document reference 3.1.25) Chapter 24 Onshore Ornithology (document reference 3.1.26)
July 2021	Seabed Topics ETG meeting	Chapter 8 Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes (document reference 3.1.10) Chapter 9 Marine Water and Sediment Quality (document reference 3.1.11) Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology (document reference 3.1.12) Chapter 11 Fish and Shellfish Ecology (document reference 3.1.13)
July 2021	SLVIA, Land Use, Human Health, Socio-economics, and Tourism and Recreation ETG meeting	Chapter 22 Land Use and Agriculture (document reference 3.1.24) Chapter 29 SLVIA (document reference 3.1.31) Chapter 30 LVIA (document reference 3.1.32) Chapter 31 Socio-economics (document reference 3.1.33) Chapter 32 Tourism and Recreation (document reference 3.1.34)
July 2021	Traffic and Transport, Noise and Vibrations, Air Quality, Climate Change ETG meeting	Chapter 20 Onshore Air Quality (document reference 3.1.22) Chapter 26 Noise and Vibration (document reference 3.1.28) Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport (document reference 3.1.29) Chapter 33 Climate Change (document reference 3.1.35)
December 2021	Traffic and Transport, Noise and Vibrations, Air Quality, Climate Change ETG meeting	Chapter 20 Onshore Air Quality (document reference 3.1.22) Chapter 26 Noise and Vibration (document reference 3.1.28) Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport (document reference 3.1.29)

		Chapter 33 Climate Change (document reference 3.1.35)
December 2021	SLVIA ETG meeting	Chapter 29 SLVIA (document reference 3.1.31) Chapter 30 LVIA (document reference 3.1.32)
March 2022	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage ETG meeting	Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (document reference 3.1.27)
March 2022	Offshore Ornithology ETG meeting	Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology (document reference 3.1.15)
May 2022	LVIA ETG meeting	Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (document reference 3.1.27) Chapter 30 LVIA (document reference 3.1.32)
May 2022	Traffic and Transport and Noise ETG meeting	Chapter 26 Noise and Vibration (document reference 3.1.28) Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport (document reference 3.1.29)
June 2022	Seabed topics ETG meeting (Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit)	Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology (document reference 3.1.12) Additionally, this meeting is discussed in Appendix 3 In Principle Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit Review (Volume III) of the Marine Conservation Zone Assessment
June 2022	Traffic and Transport ETG	Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport (document reference 3.1.29)
August 2022	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage ETG	Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (document reference 3.1.27)
November 2022	Onshore Ecology and Ornithology ETG	Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (document reference 3.1.25) Chapter 24 Onshore Ornithology (document reference 3.1.26)
February 2023	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage ETG	Chapter 16 Offshore Archaeology and Intertidal Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (document reference 3.1.18) Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (document reference 3.1.27)
March 2023	Offshore Ornithology ETG	Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology (document reference 3.1.15)
August 2023	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage ETG	North Falls and Five Estuaries Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (document reference 3.1.27)
August 2023	Traffic and Transport ETG	North Falls and Five Estuaries Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport (document reference 3.1.29)
September 2023	Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk and Geology and Ground Conditions ETG	Chapter 19 Ground Conditions and Contamination (document reference 3.1.21) Chapter 21 Water Resources and Flood Risk (document reference 3.1.23)
September 2023	SLVIA / LVIA and Onshore Archaeology ETG	Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (document reference 3.1.27) Chapter 29 SLVIA (document reference 3.1.31)

		Chapter 30 LVIA (document reference 3.1.32)
September 2023	Traffic and Transport ETG	Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport (document reference 3.1.29)
September 2023	Socio-economics and Tourism Human Health and Major Disasters ETG	Chapter 31 Socio-economics (document reference 3.1.33) Chapter 32 Tourism and Recreation (document reference 3.1.34)
October 2023	Airborne Noise, Air Quality and Climate Change ETG	Chapter 20 Onshore Air Quality (document reference 3.1.22) Chapter 33 Climate Change (document reference 3.1.35)
October 2023	Onshore Ecology and Ornithology ETG	Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (document reference 3.1.25) Chapter 24 Onshore Ornithology (document reference 3.1.26)
October 2023	Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes and Benthic Ecology ETG	Chapter 8 Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Process (document reference 3.1.10) Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology (document reference 3.1.12)
November 2023	Offshore Ornithology ETG	Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology (document reference 3.1.15)
November 2023	Marine Mammals and Fish Ecology ETG	Chapter 12 Marine Mammals (document reference 3.1.14) Chapter 11 Fish and Shellfish Ecology (document reference 3.1.13)
November 2023	Onshore Archaeology ETG	Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (document reference 3.1.27)
November 2023	Onshore Ecology and Ornithology ETG	Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (document reference 3.1.25) Chapter 24 Onshore Ornithology (document reference 3.1.26)
January 2024	Traffic and Transport ETG	Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport (document reference 3.1.29)
February 2024	Onshore Ecology ETG	Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (document reference 3.1.25)
February 2024	Onshore Ecology ETG (Natural England)	Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (document reference 3.1.25)
February 2024	LVIA ETG	Chapter 30 LVIA (document reference 3.1.32)
March 2024	Offshore Archaeology ETG	Chapter 16 Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (document reference 3.1.18)
March 2024	Onshore Ecology ETG (Natural England)	Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (document reference 3.1.25)
May 2024	Human Health ETG (EEAST)	Chapter 28 Human Health (document reference 3.1.30)
April 2024	Offshore Ornithology ETG	Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology (document reference 3.1.15)

May 2024	Human Health ETG (SNEE ICB)	Chapter 28 Human Health (document reference 3.1.30)
June 2024	Traffic and Transport ETG (National Highways)	Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport (document reference 3.1.29)

Memorandum of understanding

3.6.10 The onshore development area falls within the administrative area of Tendring District Council and Essex County Council. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between these two councils to ensure Essex County Council and Tendring District Council's work is collaboratively aligned when dealing with the different stages of the application.

3.7 Land interest engagement

3.7.1 As identified under section 42(1)(d), the Applicant must consult with the relevant persons defined under section 44 of the Act. This process involves identifying relevant landowners and land interests.

3.7.2 The Applicant appointed Dalcour Maclaren in November 2020 to carry out the land agency work, including land referencing, managing communications with identified parties and arranging access for surveys as might be required.

3.7.3 Dalcour Maclaren prepared a land referencing methodology for undertaking diligent inquiry of PILs which is included in Appendix B.1. Dalcour Maclaren has confirmed to the Applicant that this methodology has been followed.

3.7.4 Dalcour Maclaren initially assessed landownership within a 5km area before increasing its land referencing to accommodate the scoping area by commissioning searches using His Majesty's Land Registry data.

3.7.5 This process enabled the Applicant to identify registered titles and obtain all official documents. Based on this data, Project introduction letters and Landowner Questionnaires (LOQs) were sent to PILs. Where a PIL was identified as owning or having an interest in more than one registered title, multiple LOQs were issued. The correspondence was issued from the 30 March 2021 to registered freeholders and leaseholders to gather basic information on:

- Details of the ownership and occupation of the land;
- Contact details for landowners(s);
- The nature of the interest in the land; and
- Additional information the Applicant should be aware of.

Table 3.7 Summary of Landowner Questionnaire (LOQ) responses

	Number of correspondence	Number of PILs
LOQs issued	679	478
LOQs returned	292	186

Response rate	43 per cent	39 per cent
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- 3.7.6 Where additional areas were added to the scoping boundary during the pre-application development of the design, the same process was followed to identify new land interests.
- 3.7.7 Following this, Landowner Interest Questionnaires (LIQs) were mailed to all identified PILs on 26 October 2022. These questionnaires are more detailed than LOQs and their purpose is to identify and confirm all land interests that may be affected by the Project.
- 3.7.8 Unregistered land interests were identified where possible by utilising public sources of information, erection of site notices, site visits and discussions with adjoining land interests to ask whether they could offer any information on the ownership of unregistered land parcels.
- 3.7.9 Initial site notices were erected on publicly accessible land as close as practicably possible to any unregistered parcels of land within the scoping boundary and monitored for a period of six weeks from 2 November to 15 December 2022 to ensure they were publicly visible.
- 3.7.10 Where there was no response to LIQs issued, Dalcour Maclaren, on behalf of the Applicant, followed up with LIQ reminder letters. Further to reminder letters being issued, the Applicant undertook diligent inquiry by sending emails, making telephone calls and completing site visits to obtain LIQ responses.

Table 3.8 Summary of Land Interest Questionnaire (LIQ) Responses

	Number of correspondence	Number of land interests
LIQs issued	1,509	535
LIQ reminder letters issued	236	236
Chase 1	236	236
Chase 2	176	176
Chase 3	445	445
LIQs returned	563	303
Response rate	37 per cent	56 per cent

- 3.7.11 Some land interests were added or removed during the referencing process based on the information obtained. Where new land interests were identified through contact referencing, LIQ form completion and / or correspondence with PILs, additional LIQs were issued where appropriate.
- 3.7.12 A list of all PILs consulted with under section 42(1)(d) is included within Appendix C.8. This list has been checked against the Book of Reference (document reference 6.3), which is up to date at the time of submitting the application. It is noted that the list of section 42(1)(d) consultees is subject to

change over time as a consequence of changes in land ownership. PILs identified during or after stage 3 (statutory) and stage 4 (targeted) consultations were written to in the same way as all other PILs and given their own consultation period in which to provide responses. PILs identified and consulted following the close of stage 3 (statutory) and stage 4 (targeted) consultations were consulted for the statutory minimum requirement of at least 28 days.

- 3.7.13 During the LOQ and LIQ process of identifying PILs, Dalcour Maclaren were instructed to negotiate non-intrusive access licenses. These were first issued jointly in the names of Five Estuaries and North Falls. A total of 122 non-intrusive license agreements were entered into, representing 87 per cent of those issued. This allowed the appointed ecologists to access the land and carry out surveys to inform into PEIR documentation. Once ownership and occupation was established, Dalcour Maclaren wrote to 84 landowners in May 2022 to offer an introductory meeting to be held jointly with representatives of Five Estuaries. Of those written to, 66 accepted a face-to-face introductory meeting, representing an uptake rate of 78 per cent. These introductory meetings were undertaken in the spring and summer of 2022 prior to the stage 2 (pre-application) consultation and gave land interests an opportunity to provide initial feedback and confirm data such as land ownership and land use, with records being kept through meeting minutes.
- 3.7.14 After the landowner consultation meetings were held, the Applicant and Five Estuaries project teams held a workshop facilitated by Dalcour Maclaren on 30 June 2022 to discuss the feedback gathered from the landowner meetings. This feedback subsequently helped inform and refine the Applicant's PEIR boundary.
- 3.7.15 On 20 December 2022, Dalcour Maclaren wrote to all affected landowners to invite them to a further meeting held jointly with representatives of Five Estuaries. These meetings took place prior to and during Five Estuaries' statutory consultation and provided landowners with the opportunity to review Five Estuaries' PEIR boundary. There were 46 meetings held jointly with representatives of Five Estuaries between February and March 2023, representing an uptake rate of 74 per cent. The meetings gave landowners an opportunity to provide further feedback on both projects and respond to any queries that may have arisen following the conclusion of the stage 2 (pre-application) consultation, with records being kept through meeting minutes.
- 3.7.16 In April 2023, Dalcour Maclaren wrote to landowners to invite them to a meeting to review the Project's PEIR boundary and provide feedback and comment prior to and during stage 3 (statutory) consultation. There were 13 meetings held jointly with representatives of Five Estuaries in April and May 2023, representing an uptake rate of 25 per cent. The primary reason given by landowners for declining a meeting was attributed to the brief interval since the previous meetings held jointly with Five Estuaries in February and March 2023.
- 3.7.17 Following the close of stage 3 (statutory) consultation, the Applicant and Five Estuaries held a further workshop facilitated by Dalcour Maclaren on 15 August 2023 to discuss feedback received from landowners.

- 3.7.18 In August 2023, the Applicant wrote to PILs to advise of a number of changes, including the refinement of the preferred cable route around Thorpe-le-Soken and a reduction from four proposed cable circuits to two cable circuits. This decision meant that the joint onshore cable construction width for North Falls and Five Estuaries would now predominantly be 90 metres (m) wide rather than up to 250m. This change resulted in an overall reduction in the Project's footprint and reduced the number of landowners affected by the Project.
- 3.7.19 In October 2023, Dalcour Maclaren wrote to 50 landowners to invite them to a meeting to provide an update on Project progress and to the Applicant's stage 4 (targeted) consultation. There were 46 meetings held jointly with representatives of Five Estuaries between November and December 2023, representing an uptake rate of 92 per cent.
- 3.7.20 In 2023, Dalcour Maclaren were instructed to agree licenses voluntarily with landowners to undertake intrusive surveys to cover ground investigation works and archaeological trenching. A total of seven intrusive license agreements were entered into, representing 100 per cent of the licenses issued.
- 3.7.21 Landowner knowledge and feedback was critical in influencing the Project's onshore design. This was demonstrated by a number of route iterations, with feedback being sought directly from landowners on proposals as the preferred route and design emerged.
- 3.7.22 Alongside landowner meetings, discussions on the Heads of Terms for an option agreement for a deed of easement have been ongoing with the majority of the instructed land agents representing landowners since 19 April 2023. More detail on negotiations of the Heads of Terms can be found within the Statement of Reasons (document reference 6.5).

3.8 Marine stakeholder engagement

- 3.8.1 Marine stakeholders have been party to the engagement set out in sections 3.3 and 3.6 of this report. 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.
- 3.8.2 The offshore ES chapters detail engagement that has taken place with specific stakeholders in relation to assessing environmental impacts. Engagement commenced prior to EIA scoping to discuss landfall and offshore export cable route selection and survey methods. Table 3.9 is non-exhaustive but sets out key meetings and engagement, beyond the Evidence Plan process and consultation periods, that has informed the Project's development. See Chapter 15 Shipping and Navigation of the ES for more information (document reference 3.1.17).

Table 3.9 Key meetings with marine stakeholders

Date	Organisation(s)	Description of engagement
9 March 2021	Orford and District Fishermen's Association Harwich Fishermen's Association Felixstowe ferry Fisherman's Association Thanet Fishermen's Association West Mersea Fishermen's Association	Common Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) meeting to introduce the Project to local fisheries stakeholders.
20 April 2021	Orford and District Fishermen's Association Harwich Fishermen's Association Felixstowe ferry Fisherman's Association Thanet Fishermen's Association West Mersea & Wivenhoe Fishermen's Association Kent and Essex IFCA Southwold Fishermen's Association	CFWG meeting to further introduce the Project to local fisheries stakeholders.
28 September 2022	Thanet Fishermen's Association	Meeting undertaken to gather data from local fishers in order to inform the commercial fisheries baseline.
29 September 2022	Southwold Fishermen's Association	Meeting undertaken to gather data from local fishers in order to inform the commercial fisheries baseline.
19 October 2022	Orford & District Fishermen's Association Harwich Haven Fishermen's Association Felixstowe Ferry Fisherman's Association West Mersea Fishermen's Association Southwold Fishermen's Representative Thanet Fishermen's Association	CFWG to provide an overview of the Project and discuss the EIA process with local fisheries stakeholders.
31 October 2022	Harwich Haven Fishing Association	Meeting undertaken to gather data from local fishers in order to inform the commercial fisheries baseline.
9 November 2022	Southwold Fishermen's Association	Meeting undertaken to gather data from local fishers in order to inform the commercial fisheries baseline.
15 November 2022	Felixstowe Ferry Fishermen's Association	Meeting undertaken to gather data from local fishers in order to inform the commercial fisheries baseline.
16 November 2022	Southwold Fishermen's Association	Meeting undertaken to gather data from local fishers in order to inform the commercial fisheries baseline.
22 November 2022	Felixstowe Ferry Fishermen's Association	Meeting undertaken to gather data from local fishers in order to inform the commercial fisheries baseline.

23 November 2022	Orford & District Fishermen's Association	Meeting undertaken to gather data from local fishers in order to inform the commercial fisheries baseline.
8 December 2022	Rederscentrale (Belgium)	Meeting undertaken to gather data in order to inform the commercial fisheries baseline.
9 December 2022	CRPMEM - Hauts De France	Meeting undertaken to gather data in order to inform the commercial fisheries baseline.
11 August 2023	CLdN	CLdN in agreement with 0.8 nautical mile (nm) setback of array area. No concerns over usage of the Galloper Recommended Ferry Route. Slight re-routeing would be required by CLdN vessels through the Sunk TSS due to the presence of the Project but is not of concern.
23 August 2023	Chamber of Shipping	Stakeholders suggested the inclusion of a more detail vessel draught analysis in final NRA. Noted emergency anchoring is becoming challenging due to the number of cables, potentially leading to further drifting and suggested an increase to 30% for future case scenario.
24 August 2023	Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	The MCA raised concern over proximity to the Sunk TSS lanes and Outer Precautionary Area.
26 August 2023	Trinity House	Trinity House content with revised site boundary, and no issue raised with proximity to the Sunk Outer Precautionary Area, only concerns would be if an isolated / protruding structure was present.
29 August 2023	Harwich Haven Authority (HHA)	Discussions held around cable installation.
27 September 2023	Port of London Authority (PLA)	PLA stated preference for the spatial area where the cable will cross the DW routes to be minimised, for example by considering angle of crossing. Noted that berths at London Gateway may double, as may future traffic.
30 September 2023	Belgium National Authority for Maritime Safety	Belgian National Authority for Maritime Safety agreed with site refinements to protect the Sunk routeing measures. Agreed the Galloper Recommended Ferry Route is no longer used for its original intended purpose, but it was established historically by the IMO and is protected under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). It would have to go before the IMO to be removed. Requested deviations through the Sunk TSS for the ferry route be explored and the potential for additional traffic encounter situations.
4 October 2023	London Gateway	Key concern is pilot boarding and Sunk Trinity pilot as sunk pilotage used more frequently than others. London Gateway specifically interested in depth of cable burial. Noted that vessel movements are expected to at least double by the operational stage of the Project.

		<p>Noted that evidence of anchor strikes in an emergency situation have been considered in the NRA would be ideal. In London Gateway's view, burial depth needs to be deep enough to protect business for 50 years.</p> <p>10 per cent underneath clearance of water depth is required, and the cable needs to then sit below that.</p> <p>Input from London Gateway is vessel draughts are likely to increase in the future.</p>
27 October 2023	Royal Yachting Association (RYA)	<p>No concerns over 0.8nm set back of site noting most recreational vessel transit the TSS at 90 degrees and the Project is far enough offshore that mariners should be aware of hazards.</p> <p>Most important aspect for recreational vessels is to maintain the ability to transit within wind farm and a channel through array area would likely be most effective given it would provide confidence for mariners if choosing to transit through.</p> <p>Preference for two lines of orientation and consideration of the existing Greater Gabbard and Galloper turbines would be important. Noted Cruising Association may have further insight given location of project further offshore.</p> <p>Promulgation of information would be the key mitigation in terms of recreational vessels.</p> <p>Offshore concern for recreational vessels is during installation and maintenance activities. If large vessel / pilot operation are in area then recreational vessels will tend to avoid.</p> <p>Typical recreational draughts don't exceed 4m, any reductions in water depths of less than 4m may be of concern.</p>
27 October 2023	Cruising Association	<p>Content with the site reductions noting recreational users will avoid having to cross a TSS, and if they do need to would seek to cross at right angles as per International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 (COLREGS).</p> <p>A designated channel through the array would be an option for recreational vessels transiting within array.</p>
5 March 2024	MCA	<p>Discussions held around distances from structures within the array area and the local routing measures. MCA position for North Falls is that a minimum distance of 1nm is required from all surface piercing infrastructure to the routing measures.</p>
5 March 2024	Dredging, Environmental and Marine Engineering NV (DEME)	<p>DEME confirmed limited concerns with normal dredging operations given they do not dredge right up to the boundary of Area 524. Periodic surveys around total extent of Area 524 occur every five years. Agreed that collaboration and</p>

		liaison procedures should be put in place between DEME and North Falls.
23 April 2024	MMO and Kent & Essex IFCA	CFWG meeting to provide an overview of the Project and outline any updates.

4. Stage 1 (introductory) consultation

4.1 Purpose and scope of the consultation

4.1.1 Between 25 October and 10 December 2021, the Applicant consulted on early proposals for the Project. This consultation was not carried out to fulfil the requirements of the Act but to introduce the Project to local communities and stakeholders to inform its subsequent development. See Appendix D.1 for a list of stakeholders contacted.

4.1.2 Stage 1 (introductory) consultation presented the following information:

- Project rationale: the role of renewable energy in tackling climate change;
- The development process: how NSIPs are consented;
- Scoping: noting that the Applicant's Scoping Report² had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2021;
- Consultation with stakeholders: describing who will be consulted;
- The wind farm: the key components of the Project
- Offshore: the offshore array area and offshore cable route;
- Landfall: the landfall search area, covering an area between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea; and
- Onshore: the onshore scoping area being considered for the proposed onshore cable route.

4.1.3 At this stage of the Project's development, detailed environmental information was still being developed and not yet available to share. The Applicant did however share outline information regarding the Project rationale and initial works being undertaken, noting that future consultations would provide more detailed environmental information.

4.2 Publicity

4.2.1 The methods used to publicise this consultation are outlined in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Stage 1 (introduction) consultation publicity

Publication	Date of publication	Details
Consultation postcard	25 October 2021	A postcard (see Appendix D.11) was delivered to approximately 46,000 addresses over a two-week period starting on 25 October 2021. These postcodes were chosen as they offered comprehensive coverage of addresses along the coastal area being assessed for landfall and across the scoping area being assessed for related onshore infrastructure. These postcodes included CO13 9, CO15 2, CO15 3, CO15 4, CO15 5, CO15 6, CO16 7, CO16 8, CO15 1, CO7 7, CO16 0 and CO16 9.

		This postcard publicised the consultation launch and provided background information on the Project.
Launch press release	25 October 2021	<p>The Applicant uploaded a press release (see Appendix D.3) to its Project website (www.northfallsoffshore.com), announcing the launch of the stage 1 (introductory) consultation, explaining how people could access more information and provide feedback.</p> <p>This press release was distributed to regional and trade media outlets (see Appendix D.5) on 25 October 2021. The coverage resulting from this press release can be found in Appendix D.6.</p>
Reminder press release	29 November 2021	<p>A second media release (see Appendix D.4) was distributed on 29 November 2021, by way of reminder that the consultation would be running for a further two weeks and for people to provide feedback by the deadline should they wish to do so.</p> <p>Coverage of this press release can be found in Appendix D.6.1.</p>
Updates to consultation website	25 October 2021	The Applicant updated the Project's website (see Appendix D.9) to reflect the launch of the consultation and provide information. The website included a map of the offshore Project area alongside operational wind farms, Greater Gabbard and Galloper, and Five Estuaries, which is in development (see Appendix D.13).
Launch email to stakeholders	25 October 2021	An email (see Appendix D.2) was distributed to stakeholders (see Appendix D.1) on 25 October 2021, announcing the launch of the consultation and encouraging people to provide feedback.
Letter to landowners	25 October 2021	A letter (see Appendix D.16) was sent to 113 relevant landowners with land interests within the onshore search area on 25 October 2021. The letter announced the launch of the consultation, encouraged landowners to take part in the consultation and signposted to the Project website for more information.
Printed newspaper adverts	28 October, 4 November and 11 November 2021	The Applicant placed three print advertisements in The Clacton and Frinton Gazette (see Appendix D.7) across three consecutive weeks.
Digital newspaper adverts	25 October to 10 December 2021	Versions of the advertisement also appeared as targeted online advertisements on the Clacton and Frinton Gazette's Facebook page (see Appendix D.7.1). This advertisement linked to the Project website for more information.
Instagram	25 October, 16 November, 29 November and 22 December 2021	<p>The Applicant publicised the consultation via the Project's Instagram account (@northfallsoffshore) (see Appendix D.8):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post on 25 October 2021 announced the launch of the consultation; • Post on 16 November 2021 stated that the consultation was nearing its halfway point; • Post on 29 November 2021 stated that the consultation was entering its last two weeks; and • Post on 22 December 2021 stated that the consultation had closed.

4.3 Consultation materials and activity

4.3.1 At the start of the consultation period, information was made available online on the Project's website, which had been live since March 2020. This website provided background to the Project, details of the Project already known and

an explanation of how the Project would likely develop. From the start of the consultation (25 October 2021), it included information specific to the consultation and the means for people to provide feedback. It also hosted an interactive consultation map which showed the Project's onshore scoping area and allowed people to provide feedback.

4.3.2 No in-person or online events were held as part of this consultation. People were able to provide feedback via the Project email address and in writing to the freepost address. These contact details were clearly displayed across the materials used to publicise and explain the consultation.

4.3.3 A downloadable fact sheet was made available on the Project website, which provided a standalone summary of the Project (see Appendix D.10).

4.3.4 The Applicant encouraged feedback on the following questions at this consultation:

- Do you consider renewable energy to be important in tackling the global climate change emergency and meeting the UK's Net Zero ambitions?
- Do you believe that offshore wind has a key role to play in the UK's energy security?
- Do you believe offshore wind generation needs to play a larger part in the UK's mix of renewable energy generation sources?
- Do you have any general comments or suggestions as to how we can be a good neighbour to the local community as we progress our offshore wind farm plans?
- Do you have any general comments you would like to make about offshore wind in the UK?
- Do you have any questions about the North Falls development consent application process?
- Do you have any comments on North Falls; Scoping Report or the Planning Inspectorate's Scoping Opinion?
- Do you have any questions or comments in relation to our proposed array (wind farm / turbine) areas?
- Do you have any questions or comments in relation to our proposed offshore cable route (this could be comments on marine ecology, shipping or anything else you feel relevant)?
- Do you make use of the coastal area between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea?
- If yes, what type of activity / activities do you do there?
- Do you have any comments about the proposal for our cable to make landfall between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea?
- Do you have any questions or comments about the proposal to use horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to avoid sensitive areas?
- Please order the issues that you consider to be the most important in relation to the onshore impacts of the wind farm. Please number each one 1-10, (1 being the most important to you, and 10 being the least important):
 - Onshore ecology (habitats, flora and fauna);
 - Archaeology and cultural heritage;
 - Land use and contamination;

- Water quality and flood risk;
- Ground conditions (geology, hydrology and soil);
- Air quality and noise;
- Socioeconomic (local economy and society);
- Landscape and visual;
- Traffic and transport; and
- Tourism and recreation.

Stakeholder briefings

4.3.5 The following online briefing sessions took place.

4.3.6 A briefing with Ardleigh Parish Council took place on 29 November 2021 and was attended by five councillors. At this meeting, the Applicant delivered a presentation introducing the Project and the consultation. Time at the end of the presentation was allotted to questions and the areas of discussion included:

- The potential size and location of the substation;
- The use of land and the assessments that would be undertaken before proposals were progressed; and
- The potential for sharing transmission infrastructure with other offshore wind projects.

4.3.7 A briefing with Tendring District Council took place on 6 December 2021 and was attended by eight councillors and the council's director of planning. Areas of discussion included:

- Community benefit funding;
- The deadline by, and channels through which, members should respond to the current consultation;
- The size, type and location of onshore infrastructure; and
- Suggestions that the Port of Harwich should be utilised as a manufacturing and / or maintenance site.

4.4 Response to consultation

4.4.1 There were multiple ways in which consultees could supply feedback to the Applicant's introductory consultation. These feedback methods are listed in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 Feedback methods for stage 1 (introductory) consultation

Method	Detail
Online feedback form	The feedback form was integrated into the Project website for those who preferred to submit feedback digitally. See Appendix D.9.
Online interactive feedback map	The Applicant created an online interactive feedback map on the Project website. This meant that consultees could drop pins onto a map and leave feedback relating to a specific geographic location. See Appendix D.9.1.
Project email address	The Applicant accepted feedback via its Project email address: contact@northfallsoffshore.com .

Project freepost address	Feedback forms, feedback postcards and letters could be sent to the Applicant's freepost address (Freepost North Falls) free of charge.
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4.4.2 A total of 65 pieces of feedback were received. 48 of these were received via the Project website and a further 17 via the project email address.

4.4.3 Table 4.3 provides a summary of the key issues and concerns raised and the Applicant's response to them.

Table 4.3 Stage 1 (introductory) consultation feedback summary

Question	Summary / Applicant's response
Do you consider renewable energy to be important in tackling the global climate change emergency and meeting the UK's Net Zero ambitions?	97 per cent of respondents agreed that renewable energy is important to tackling climate change.
Do you believe that offshore wind has a key role to play in the UK's energy security?	87 per cent of respondents believed offshore wind does have a key role to play in the UK's energy security.
Do you believe offshore wind generation needs to play a larger part in the UK's mix of renewable energy generation sources?	85 per cent of respondents said that offshore wind generation needs to play a larger part in the UK's mix of renewable energy generation sources.
Do you have any general comments or suggestions as to how we can be a good neighbour to the local community as we progress our offshore wind farm plans?	<p>Keeping the local community informed of the Project's progress and engaging them on its proposals were two key requests made in responses to this question.</p> <p>There were also comments around the need to work with local businesses and community groups, use local suppliers and facilities, create local education programmes and enable jobs for local people.</p> <p>Minimising disruption during construction, in respect of local people, wildlife and ecology, was also a repeated point raised in feedback.</p> <p>In response to this feedback, the Applicant updated the Project website confirming that these issues would be taken into account during the next phase of the Project. Subsequently, information and assessments on the beneficial economic impacts of the Project, as well as calculations relating to expected levels of job creation, were included within the PEIR (Chapter 33, Socio-economics) and consulted on during stage 3 (statutory) consultation.</p> <p>Similarly, stage 3 (statutory) consultation highlighted a number of key project actions and decisions which had been informed by feedback received during previous consultations. For example, commitments were made to drill beneath Holland Haven Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), including Holland Haven Local Nature Reserve and Frinton Golf Club. See Schedule 1 of the draft DCO (document reference 6.1) and Works Plans.</p> <p>Commitments were also made that construction traffic will be routed and timed to avoid school drop off and pick up, and minimised impacts on local community events. It was also explained that a temporary haul road within the construction corridor would minimise the amount of traffic on the local road network. See Schedule 1 of the draft DCO (document reference 6.1) and Works Plans.</p>

<p>Do you have any general comments you would like to make about offshore wind in the UK?</p>	<p>The question elicited a number of positive comments around offshore wind in the UK. Feedback suggested this positive response was due to the fact it increases the amount of power coming from renewable sources and decreases the nation's dependence on imported energy.</p> <p>There were also mentions of using more UK manufacturers and reducing the impact of the Project's onshore infrastructure.</p>
<p>Do you have any questions about the North Falls development consent application process?</p>	<p>A key theme raised in responses to this question was the timeframe and stages of the planning process.</p> <p>In response to this feedback, the Applicant updated its website to note that the Project had completed its stage 1 (introductory) consultation and that another consultation would take place in 2022, followed by a statutory consultation in 2023.</p> <p>The website noted that future consultations would be promoted in similar ways to this consultation, although interested parties were encouraged to register their details for regular Project updates.</p>
<p>Do you have any comments on North Falls' Scoping Report or the Planning Inspectorate's Scoping Opinion?</p>	<p>At this stage the Applicant had not been able to share detail regarding the Project's onshore elements due to a grid connection point not yet being available. Respondents said they were keen to receive further details once this information became available.</p> <p>Other issues raised included the importance of avoiding impacts to ancient woodlands and veteran trees, employment opportunities for local people and potential impacts on migrating birds.</p>
<p>Do you have any questions or comments in relation to our proposed array (wind farm / turbine) areas?</p>	<p>There were limited comments in this section although a number of people expressed that they liked the way turbines look.</p> <p>Others asked about impacts to migratory birds, marine ecology and shipping lanes.</p> <p>Feedback also asked how long it would take a wind farm to 'pay back' the carbon dioxide (CO₂) and energy embedded within its construction over the course of its operational lifetime.</p> <p>As with other responses, the Applicant updated the Project website with information addressing this point, insofar as it was available at this early stage.</p>
<p>Do you have any questions or comments in relation to our proposed offshore cable route (this could be comments on marine ecology, shipping or anything else you feel relevant)?</p>	<p>Few comments were submitted about the offshore cable route itself, however respondents were keen to understand more about where the cable would make landfall and how it might affect the local area.</p> <p>The Applicant noted that a more refined location for landfall would be available in 2022 and would be shared as part of future consultations.</p> <p>The Applicant also observes that this early consultation triggered some helpful discussions with the local sailing, boating and golf clubs.</p>
<p>Do you make use of the coastal area between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea?</p>	<p>95 per cent of respondents said they do make use of the coastal area between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea.</p>
<p>If yes, what type of activity / activities do you do there?</p>	<p>Feedback suggested that the area between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea is most popularly used for general recreation, hiking and rambling, exercising, bird watching and dog walking. Marine recreation, golf and fishing were also noted.</p>

<p>Do you have any comments about the proposal for our cable to make landfall between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea?</p>	<p>There was a wide range of responses, noting the wildlife reserve on the coast and the potential impacts of temporary construction works on local wildlife and ecology.</p> <p>Other issues raised included the potential for impacts to sea defences, the area's susceptibility to erosion and flooding, and its military history.</p>
<p>Do you have any questions or comments about the proposal to use horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to avoid sensitive areas?</p>	<p>Most respondents agreed HDD seemed to be the best approach for cable installation, to preserve and protect the landfall area. Some feedback queried the potential for HDD to impact local birds, particularly ground nesting species, as well as other local wildlife.</p>
<p>Please order the issues that you consider to be the most important in relation to the onshore impacts of the wind farm. Please number each one 1-10 (1 being the most important to you, and 10 being the least important)</p>	<p>Onshore ecology was found to be of the most concern, followed by land use and contamination, and water quality and flood risk.</p>
<p>Please include details on why you have chosen these issues</p>	<p>Impacts to birds and wildlife was highlighted as a key concern, with expectations that the Project would identify and mitigate any impacts.</p> <p>Land use: This was second in the ranking with varied reasoning including how the substation will look, being sensitive to the surrounding locale, maintaining woodland and ensuring no contamination. A number of respondents suggested that the local area suffered from erosion and flood risk. Water quality was also raised, in terms of local people being able to continue enjoying swimming in the sea.</p>

4.4.4 A full breakdown of the responses received to this stage of consultation was set out in a Stage 1 Consultation Report, which was published on the Project website following the close of consultation and can be found in Appendix D.14.

5. Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation

5.1 Purpose and scope of the consultation

5.1.1 Between 17 October and 9 December 2022, the Applicant conducted a further non-statutory consultation for the Project. This consultation was designed to give stakeholders and local people the opportunity to provide feedback on how the Project's proposals had progressed since the conclusion of stage 1 (introductory) consultation.

5.1.2 This consultation presented the following information:

- Project need and rationale: the role of offshore wind in tackling climate change;
- North Falls' involvement in the OTNR;
- The development process: how NSIPs are consented and the purpose of the PEIR;
- Consultation with stakeholders: who will be consulted and how will North Falls coordinate with other infrastructure projects in the region?;
- The wind farm: the key components of the Project and the concept of a design envelope;

- Offshore: the offshore array area and offshore cable route;
- Landfall: the landfall search area between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea; and
- Onshore: the onshore scoping area being considered for the onshore cable route and onshore substation location.

5.1.3 At this stage of Project's development, detailed environmental information was still being understood and refined. The Applicant did share outline information regarding the Project rationale and initial works being undertaken, as well as initial information on landfall, cable route and onshore infrastructure, noting that future consultation would provide more detail.

5.2 Publicity

5.2.1 The methods used to publicise this consultation are outlined in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation publicity

Publication	Date of publication	Details
Consultation postcard	17 October 2022	<p>An invitation postcard (see Appendix E.15) publicised the launch of consultation and providing background information on the Project was distributed to all residential and business addresses within the following postcodes: CO7 7, CO7 8, CO11 1, CO11 2, CO12 5, CO13 0, CO13 3, CO13 9, CO15 3, CO15 4, CO15 5, CO15 6, CO16 0, CO16 6, CO16 8 and CO16 9 (see Appendix E.4).</p> <p>These postcodes were chosen as they offered comprehensive coverage of addresses along the coastal area being assessed for landfall, across the cable route being assessed for related onshore infrastructure and main construction traffic routes. This meant approximately 12,000 addresses received direct postal notification of the consultation launch.</p>
Launch press release	17 October 2022	<p>The Applicant uploaded a press release (see Appendix E.5) to the Project website (www.northfallsoffshore.com): RWE / SSE launches consultation on proposals for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm.</p> <p>This press release was distributed to regional and trade media outlets (see Appendix E.6) on 17 October 2022, announcing the launch of the non-statutory consultation and explaining how people could access more information and provide feedback.</p> <p>The coverage resulting from this press release can be found in Appendix E.7.</p>
Reminder press release	28 November 2022	<p>A second media release (see Appendix E.5.1) was distributed to the same media outlets listed in Appendix E.6 on 28 November 2022: 12 days to respond to North Falls current consultation.</p> <p>It provided a reminder that the consultation would be running for a further two weeks and encouraged people to submit their feedback before the deadline should they wish to do so.</p> <p>The coverage resulting from this press release can be found in Appendix E.7.1.</p>
Updates to consultation website	17 October 2022	<p>The Applicant updated the Project's website (https://non-stat.northfallsoffshore.com/) (see Appendix E.10) to reflect the launch of the consultation and provide new and updated information.</p>

Launch email to stakeholders	17 October 2022	An email (see Appendix E.2) was distributed to stakeholders (see Appendix E.1) on 17 October 2022, announcing the launch of the consultation and encouraging them to take part. A further email was sent at the end of the consultation to thank all who responded for their participation (see Appendix E.31).
Letter to landowners	17 October 2022	A letter (see Appendix E.27) was sent to 61 landowners, land agents and tenants (with land interests within the onshore search area) at the start of the consultation. The letter highlighted the launch of the consultation, invited landowners to take part in the consultation and signposted to the Project website for more information.
Printed newspaper adverts	20 October 3 November 17 November 2022	The Applicant placed three print advertisements in The Clacton and Frinton Gazette (see Appendix E.8) on 20 October, 3 November and 17 November 2022.
Digital newspaper adverts	20 October 2022 to 16 November 2022	Digital advertising was placed through the Clacton and Frinton Gazette.(see Appendix E.8) and linked through to the Project website for more information. The online advertising campaign ran from 20 October 2022 to 16 November 2022 recording 107,255 total impressions and generating 385 clicks through to the Project website.
Instagram	17 October 3 November 12 November 17 November 25 November 12 December 2022	The Applicant publicised the consultation using posts on the Applicant's Instagram account (see Appendix E.24): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post on 17 October 2022 announced the launch of the consultation; • Post on 03 November 2022 publicised day one of the in-person consultation events; • Post on 12 November 2022 publicised day four of the in-person consultation events; • Post on 17 November 2022 announced that the recording of the online consultation event was available to view on the Project website; • Post on 25 November 2022 stated that the consultation was entering its last two weeks; • Post on 12 December 2022 stated that the consultation had closed.
Posters	From 17 October 2022	Posters publicised the consultation (see Appendix E.14) were also shared with venues hosting events and displayed on noticeboards at local venues (see Appendix E.14.1).

5.3 Consultation materials and activity

Consultation events

- 5.3.1 To maximise opportunities for people to take part, five in-person and two online events were held. Recordings of online consultation events were made available on the Project website following the events. This allowed those who were unable, or did not want, to attend in-person events to find out more and take part in the consultation.

5.3.2 Events were held on different days and at different times in attempt to allow those with commitments during normal work hours or on week days to take part.

5.3.3 A total of 227 attendees attended the in-person and online consultation events. Details of each event are set out in Table 5.2 below. Pictures from in-person events are available in Appendix E.21. The presentation delivered at the online consultation events is available in Appendix E.22.

Table 5.2 Schedule of stage 2 (pre-application) consultation events

Date	Time	Location	Attendees
Thursday 3 November 2022	4-8pm	McGrigor Hall, 85 Fourth Ave, Frinton-on-Sea CO13 9EB	63
Friday 4 November 2022	4-8pm	Great Bromley Village Hall, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley, Colchester CO7 7JA	44
Saturday 5 November 2022	11am-3pm	Tendring Village Hall, Tendring, Clacton-on-Sea CO16 0BG	39
Friday 11 November 2022	4-8pm	Thorpe Le Soken Women's Institute Hall, High Street, Thorpe Le Soken CO16 0EF	42
Saturday 12 November 2022	11am-3pm	Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, Essex CO7 7RS	22
Tuesday 15 November 2022	6-7pm	Online, via Zoom.	9
Wednesday 23 November 2022	6-7pm	Online, via Zoom.	8

Consultation materials

5.3.4 Table 5.3 provides a summary of the materials available during this stage of consultation.

Table 5.3 Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation materials

Consultation material	Detail
Exhibition panels	Displayed at the in-person events, containing key information from the consultation booklet about the Project. See Appendix E.12.
Consultation brochure	A 28-page consultation booklet containing information about the Project and consultation. Made available to download from the Project website, to be taken away in print form from the in-person events, or posted on request. See Appendix E.9.
Feedback form	A 16-question feedback form covering topics such as OTNR, community benefit, coordination with other NSIPs and the Project's onshore and offshore infrastructure. See Appendix E.11.
Feedback postcard	An A5 freepost postcard asking 'Do you have comments or questions about the proposals for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm?'. This was to be completed and returned to the Project by post. See Appendix E.15.1.

Fact sheet	A fact sheet with information about the Project, its benefits, key statistics and figures and contact information. Made available to download from the Project website, to be taken away in print form from the in-person events, or posted on request. See Appendix E.16.
Virtual reality headset	A headset provided at the in-person events to give people the chance to experience what an offshore wind farm looks like. See Appendix E.21.1.
Computer-generated visualisation	A digital, interactive visualisation shown on screen at the events, providing onshore and offshore landscape views, as well as animated flythroughs. See Appendix E.20.
A2 copies of Project maps	Presenting the landfall, cable route and onshore infrastructure options.
Colouring sheet of a wind turbine	Set up at in-person events for children to colour while attending with caregivers. See Appendix E.17.
Keep in touch cards	Cards produced showing contact details for the Project. These were handed out at in-person events. See Appendix E.18.
North Falls branded recyclable pens and notepads	Handed out at in-person events so attendees could make notes while at in-person events. See Appendix E.19.
External signage	Signage placed outside of each in-person consultation event venue to direct members of the public into the event. See Appendix E.13.

5.3.5 At the start of stage 2 (pre-application) consultation (17 October 2022) new information was made available online by way of updates to the Project website (<https://non-stat.northfallsoffshore.com>). The information was replicated in the materials provided at the in-person events. Example screenshots of the website have been can be seen in Appendix E.10.

Stakeholder briefings

5.3.6 On Saturday 5 November 2022, ahead of the in-person consultation event at Tendring Village Hall, the Applicant hosted an in-person briefing with local councillors. An email invitation (see Appendix E.3) to this briefing was issued on Tuesday 18 October 2022 to 43 councillors. Four councillors attended.

5.3.7 Feedback from the briefing with councillors covered a range of topics, including:

- The potential for battery storage to be included within the Project;
- The possibility of a future expansion to the Project;
- Use of land for farming and agriculture;
- The potential impact of the proposed onshore cable route; and
- Requests that the Applicant included detailed guidance in its next consultation in relation to electromagnetic fields.

5.4 Response to the consultation

5.4.1 There were multiple ways in which consultees could respond to the Applicant's non-statutory consultation. These feedback methods are outlined below.

Table 5.4 Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation feedback methods

Method	Detail
Feedback form	<p>The Applicant produced an eight-page feedback form which was available at in-person consultation events.</p> <p>Attendees could choose to either fill out the form at a dedicated feedback station at events or take it away to complete and return using the Applicant's freepost address.</p> <p>This feedback form mirrored the structure of the consultation brochure to make it easy for respondents to access relevant information when answering. It also provided additional space for any further comments not covered by topics within the consultation brochure.</p> <p>See Appendix E.11.</p>
Hard copy feedback postcard	<p>The Applicant produced a feedback postcard that asked 'do you have any comments or questions about the proposals for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm?'</p> <p>This provided a quicker, easier alternative to completing a more detailed feedback form and was designed to encourage feedback from people who wanted to submit one brief or relatively straightforward piece of feedback.</p> <p>This postcard could also be completed at a dedicated feedback station at events or taken away to complete and return using the Applicant's freepost address.</p> <p>See Appendix E.15.1.</p>
Online feedback form	<p>The feedback form was integrated into the Project website for those who preferred to submit feedback digitally. See Appendix E.10.</p>
Online interactive feedback map	<p>The Applicant created an online interactive feedback map on the Project website. This meant that consultees could drop pins onto a map and leave feedback relating to a specific geographic location. See Appendix E.10.1.</p>
Project email address	<p>The Applicant accepted feedback via its Project email address: contact@northfallsoffshore.com.</p> <p>This was the same address that was used at the previous stage of consultation to ensure consistency.</p>
Project freepost address	<p>Feedback forms, feedback postcards and letters could be sent to the Applicant's freepost address (Freepost North Falls) free of charge.</p>

5.4.2 A total of 71 pieces of feedback were received, comprising 18 emails, 20 submissions via the Project website, 17 hard copy feedback forms and 16 hard copy feedback postcards.

5.4.3 Table 5.5 provides a summary of the key issues and concerns raised and the Applicant's response to them.

Table 5.5 Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation feedback summary

Issues raised		Response given
Construction traffic	Respondents raised concerns around construction traffic, recognising the local area has many narrow roads that they considered unsuitable for an increase in traffic. There were particular concerns over increased numbers of HGVs in areas such as the village of Thorpe-le-Soken.	The Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) as part of the DCO Application (document reference 7.16) with details of how HGV and other vehicle movements would be controlled, monitored and enforced during construction. Among other details it will include how accesses and offsite highway works will be designed and how a temporary haul road within the construction corridor will minimise the amount of traffic on the local road network.
Flooding	Points were raised during the consultation around flooding, both the possibility of it having an impact on construction, and conversely the impact construction could have on the future risk of flooding.	The Applicant carried out assessments on geology, ground conditions, hydrology and flood risk for each of the Project's construction, operation and decommissioning phases. This information will inform a Flood Risk Assessment, which will establish whether the onshore infrastructure may be affected by current or future flooding, whether it will increase the flood risk elsewhere and what mitigation can be implemented to reduce it.
Access to footpaths, bridleways and the coastal promenade during construction	Comments were received on what impact construction might have on recreational routes, such as the promenade between Frinton-on-Sea and Holland-on-Sea, bridleways and footpaths along the cable route.	The Applicant has identified each recreational route in the area of our proposed construction works and will incorporate plans to mitigate disruption as far as practicable, either through use of specific construction techniques, alternative routes or by careful timing of activities.
Water main north of Thorpe Road	A specific point was raised relating to a cast iron water main north of Thorpe Road	As the water main north of Thorpe Lane is owned by the local water company, it would not be within the Project's remit to remove or replace it. However, the Applicant will liaise with the water company so it is aware of the plans and the feedback received during consultation.
Land drainage	Comments were received relating to water drainage in the area, with specific mention of a drainage ditch at Damants Farm Lane.	A land drainage consultant will be appointed to develop pre and post-construction drainage plans in consultation with local landowners for all affected areas of the cable route. Additionally, land drainage systems will be maintained during construction and land drainage would be reinstated as part of the Project's reinstatement phase.

<p>Landscaping around substation</p>	<p>Respondents asked how the substation would be landscaped with concerns raised concerns around visual impact. There were also requests for more visualisations.</p>	<p>The Applicant is following National Infrastructure Commission guidance (published February 2020), which sets out design principles for NSIPs such as North Falls. These mean the Applicant will consider the cumulative impacts of other proposed substations and factors including substation orientation, fencing and associated landscaping and vegetation such as native woodland planting and hedgerows. The Applicant's site selection principles are also aligned to the Horlock Rules guidance on siting and design of substations.</p> <p>The Applicant has noted requests to better understand how the substation could look and will include more photographs with examples of similar substations and visual representations in future consultation(s).</p>
<p>Local ecology, birds and wildlife</p>	<p>Concerns were expressed about the impacts of construction on the local area's ecology, wildlife and birds, with a particular focus on any endangered species.</p>	<p>Comprehensive ecological surveys have been undertaken across the whole proposed onshore Project area recording the presence of any habitat, bird species or wildlife, including insects, that are either protected in law or notable due to their rare, scarce or vulnerable status.</p> <p>This information is being used to inform the baseline for planning and full details of how it has been considered will be included in the PEIR and ES.</p>
<p>Use of HDD during construction</p>	<p>While most feedback indicated people were comfortable with the use of horizontal directional drilling (HDD) during construction, there were some questions around the process and potential for noise or pollution.</p>	<p>More details around the specifics of the HDD process were included in the PEIR but the concerns have been noted and will be addressed.</p> <p>For example, the use of an inert clay as drilling fluid and pre-work noise assessments to ascertain the need for temporary noise mitigation, could both be measures put in place for the duration of construction activity.</p>
<p>Communication during construction</p>	<p>There were requests for clear communications during the construction period.</p>	<p>The Applicant recognised that it was a priority to ensure the local community is aware of what is happening and when.</p> <p>Communications methodologies will include direct letters, newsletters and emails, a phone line and local briefings.</p>
<p>Grid connection location</p>	<p>Numerous respondents, particularly those potentially impacted, expressed opposition to the location of the grid connection near Arleigh. The concerns were around its size, cumulative impacts, and distance from electricity users.</p> <p>While not part of the Project, there were also concerns around the infrastructure related to the East Anglia GREEN project (now known as the Norwich to Tilbury project).</p>	<p>The Applicant notes all the views raised in relation to the existing location and has shared feedback with National Grid.</p>
<p>Horsley Cross car boot sale</p>	<p>The Horsley Cross car boot sale was raised as an event that could</p>	<p>The fact this event happens each Friday during summer has been noted.</p>

	be impacted by the proposed cable route.	The Applicant would work with organisers to minimise any potential disruption.
Residential gardens	Feedback was raised on the potential for the cable route to run through residential gardens.	The Applicant reviewed the initial route, and acknowledges it did include corners of some residential gardens, however it has now been narrowed down and amended in a way that it completely avoids residential gardens.
Offshore grid connection	Feedback asked why a fully offshore grid connection solution could not be pursued.	There are numerous complex changes needed to regulations and legislation in order for offshore wind farms to be able to connect their projects offshore. The Applicant continues to play a role in the OTNR. As such, the Applicant has committed to exploring coordinated network designs with four other projects in East Anglia: Five Estuaries, NGET's Sea Link, and National Grid Ventures' EuroLink and Nautilus.
Cooperation with Five Estuaries	There were a number of requests from those responding to the consultation for cooperation with Five Estuaries.	Due to the location of the two projects, North Falls will continue to work closely with Five Estuaries on key elements such as cable route selection (to optimise both onshore routes), onshore substation location, environmental surveys and by sharing consultation feedback.
Community support	The consultation invited ideas as to how it could support the local community in future.	Suggestions included sponsorships and local involvement and these will be explored further as the Project progresses.

5.4.4 A full breakdown of the responses received to this stage of consultation was set out in a Stage 2 Consultation Report, which was published on the Project website following stage 2 (pre-application) consultation and can be found in Appendix E.29.

6. Stage 3 (statutory) consultation overview

6.1 Purpose and scope of the consultation

6.1.1 This stage of consultation was the main statutory stage of consultation undertaken on the Project. In addition to consultation on more detailed proposals than were made available in stage 1 and stage 2 consultations, preliminary environmental information was published and set out in detail the potential benefits and impacts of the Project.

6.1.2 This statutory consultation took place between 16 May and 14 July for a period of 59 days, exceeding the statutory minimum requirement of at least 28 days.

6.2 Publicity

6.2.1 The Applicant publicised the proposed application in accordance with section 48 of the Act and regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations (see Chapter 10).

6.2.2 Table 6.1 describes the range of publicity and activity undertaken to raise awareness of stage 3 (statutory) consultation.

Table 6.1 Stage 3 (statutory) consultation publicity

Publicity	Detail
Launch email and letter to stakeholders	The Applicant issued an email and letter announcing the launch of statutory consultation to stakeholders on 16 May 2023. See Appendix F.24 for the email and F.24.1 for the letter.
Postcard	The Applicant distributed a postcard announcing the launch of statutory consultation and providing details of in-person and online events. It was sent to 45,595 addresses within 3km of the proposed onshore infrastructure and within 1km of proposed temporary construction activities. See Appendix F.39.
Print adverts	The Applicant placed a quarter page print advertisement in the Daily Gazette and Clacton and Frinton Gazette on 16 May and 18 May 2023. These newspapers were chosen because they provided comprehensive coverage of the Applicant's consultation zone. See Appendix F.41.
Digital adverts	The Applicant ran a digital advertising campaign on the Daily Gazette website. Online advertisements linked through to the Applicant's Project website. See Appendix F.42. The online advertising campaign ran for the duration of the consultation period, recording 147,946 total impressions and generating 579 clicks through to the Project website.
Poster	The Applicant produced a poster publicising the launch of statutory consultation and providing details of the in-person and online events. This poster was sent to 16 community locations and councils across the consultation zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holland Library; • Clacton Library; • Frinton Library; • Frinton Golf Club; • 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 Public Hall; • Great Bentley Parish Council; • Weeley Parish Council; • Ardleigh Parish Council; • St Mary's Church Ardleigh; and • Beaumont Parish Council. <p>These locations provided comprehensive coverage of communities in vicinity of the Project's proposed landfall point, onshore cable route and onshore substation. All of these locations were contacted in advance to confirm they could display a poster on the Applicant's behalf. See Appendix F.44 for the list of locations and F.43 for the poster.</p>
Press releases	The Applicant published a press release (Appendix F.45) announcing the launch of stage 3 (statutory) consultation. This release was sent to the media outlets listed in Appendix F.46 and coverage can be found in Appendix F.47. The Applicant also published a reminder press release (Appendix F.60) encouraging feedback before the close of consultation. Coverage can be found in Appendix F.60.1.
Formal Notices	In line with the requirements set out in section 47 of the Act, the Applicant placed a notice in a local paper covering the consultation zone to publicise the publishing of its SoCC. This appeared in the Daily Gazette on 29 March 2023 (see Appendix F.38). See Chapter 9 for more information regarding consultation under section 47 of the Act.

	<p>In line with the requirements set out in section 48 of the Act, the Applicant placed a notice in local and national newspapers announce its statutory consultation (see Appendices 48 to 54):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Daily Gazette, 16 May 2023 and 23 May 2023; • The Guardian, 16 May 2023; • London Gazette, 16 May 2023; • Fishing News, 15 May 2023; and • Lloyd's List, 16 May 2023. <p>See Chapter 10 for more information regarding consultation under section 48 of the Act.</p>
Social media	<p>The Applicant posted six updates to the Project's Instagram page highlighting the publication of its SoCC and promoting its statutory consultation. See Appendix F.55.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post on 16 May 2023 announced the launch of the consultation; • Post on 24 May 2023 promoted the upcoming five in-person consultation events scheduled in Essex; • Post on 5 June 2023 publicised two in-person events being completed and the three further in-person events scheduled to take place; • Post on 15 June 2023 publicised the conclusion of the five in-person consultation events, as well as the first online consultation event, and the final online consultation event scheduled for 21 June 2023; • Post on 26 June 2023 stated that the consultation was entering its last two weeks and noted the conclusion of all consultation events; • Post on 18 July 2023 stated that the consultation had closed.
Letter to landowners	<p>A series of letters were sent to all relevant landowners, land agents and tenants (with land interests within the onshore search area), the first of which was sent to advise landowners of the SoCC and the dates of the consultation.</p> <p>A letter was then sent to inform landowners about the launch of consultation (see Appendix F.15).</p> <p>A letter was sent to remind landowners of the consultation and ways in which they could submit a response. The letter also included a factsheet specific to landowners (see Appendix F.18).</p>

6.3 Consultation events and materials

6.3.1 The Applicant held seven consultation events, including five in-person events at locations across the consultation zone. These events were attended by a total of 218 people.

Table 6.2 Stage 3 (statutory) consultation events

Date	Time	Location	Attendees
2 June 2023	3:30-7:30pm	Great Bromley Village Hall, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley, Colchester CO7 7JA	34
3 June 2023	9am-1pm	Tendring Village Hall, Tendring, Clacton-on-Sea CO16 0BG	33
8 June 2023	3:30-7:30pm	McGrigor Hall, 85 Fourth Avenue, Frinton-on-Sea CO13 9EB	73
9 June 2023	3:30-7:30pm	Thorpe-le-Soken Women's Institute Hall, High Street, Thorpe-le-Soken CO16 0EF	34
10 June 2023	9am-1pm	Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, Essex CO7 7RS	32

13 June 2023	6-7pm	Online, via Zoom	Six attended. Recording viewed 42 times on the Project website.
21 June 2023	6-7pm	Online, via Zoom	Six attended. Recording viewed 26 times on the Project website.

6.3.2 The Applicant hosted a councillor briefing event preceding its in-person consultation event at Great Bromley Village Hall on Friday 2 June 2023. This briefing was open from 2-3pm and was attended by 13 councillors.

6.3.3 Online events presented those who either couldn't attend, or didn't want to attend, in-person events the opportunity to access the consultation and ask questions. The online consultation events were recorded and uploaded to the Project website (Appendices F.12, F.12.1 and F.12.2) so they could be viewed at any time by visitors to the website. This Project website also allowed those living outside of the main consultation zone, but with an interest in the Project, to find out about the Applicant's proposals or register for Project updates.

6.3.4 Table 6.4 describes the materials that were available at the in-person consultation events to help those attending to understand the Applicant's proposals. A number of these materials were also made available to view and download on the Project website and available to be posted to people on request.

Table 6.4 Stage 3 (statutory) consultation materials

Material	Detail
Brochure	<p>The Applicant produced a 32-page consultation brochure which provided information on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The statutory consultation; • PEIR NTS; • Project facts and figures; • Offshore Project area map; • Onshore Project area map; • Story so far; • The application process; • Public consultation; • The need for North Falls; • Site selection; • The Project; • Project description; • Assessments and impacts; • Ways to have your say; and • Contact information <p>Throughout the brochure readers were signposted to which PEIR chapter related to each topic being discussed and where further information could be found. The relevant feedback form questions were also included next to each topic, to make it easier for consultees to provide their feedback on the specific areas of the Project that were of most interest to them.</p>
Panels	The Applicant produced 14 exhibition panels which were displayed at the five in-person consultation events.

	<p>These replicated the information available in the consultation brochure but allowed those attending the consultation events to see this information at a larger scale, making it even more accessible.</p> <p>See Appendix F.4.</p>
Keep in touch (KiT) card	<p>The Applicant produced a KiT card which was distributed at its consultation events, to ensure that attendees knew how to easily contact the Project with question or comments.</p> <p>See Appendix F.7.</p>
Factsheet	<p>The Applicant produced an A4 factsheet which communicated key facts about the Project in an accessible manner and in a format that could be easily downloaded from its website.</p> <p>See Appendix F.6.</p>
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	<p>As the Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, the Applicant produced a PEIR which was available online via the Project website and in print form at its five in-person consultation events.</p> <p>See northfallsoffshore.com/peir.</p>
PEIR NTS	<p>The Applicant produced a plain English PEIR NTS to make the contents of the PEIR more accessible to non-technical stakeholders and / or members of the public.</p> <p>See Appendix F.19.</p>
Guide to the PEIR	<p>To further aid its accessibility, the Applicant also produced a simple guide setting out how the PEIR should be read.</p> <p>See Appendix F.20.</p>
Virtual reality headsets	<p>The Applicant had two virtual reality headsets at each in-person event. These allowed attendees to experience an immersive film of the boat journey out to an offshore wind turbine and the climb to the top. This was a popular feature of the events, especially among younger attendees, and helped bring to life the proposals being consulted on.</p> <p>See Appendix F.11.1.</p>
Computer-generated visualisations	<p>The Applicant produced a digital, interactive visualisation of the views of the Project both onshore and offshore. This allowed attendees to see, on a large screen, the potential visual impact, or lack of visual impact, of the Project, when viewed from their property, or any other points of interest.</p> <p>This was accompanied by an animated flythrough of the Project, showing the plans from the proposed landfall point, the viewer being taken along an animation of the cable route and to the proposed substation location.</p> <p>See Appendix F.10.</p>
Project maps	<p>To complement the maps available on the exhibition panels and in the brochure, the Applicant supplied A2 maps of the local area, overlaid with the Project's red line boundary. This allowed attendees to pinpoint their properties, or points of interest, on a map to understand the geographical context of the proposals. These maps were also available on the Project website.</p> <p>See Appendix F.21.</p>
Children's colouring sheet	<p>Set up at in-person events for children to colour while attending with caregivers.</p> <p>See Appendix F.9.</p>
North Falls branded recyclable pens and notepads	<p>Handed out at in-person events so attendees could make notes while at in-person events.</p> <p>See Appendix F.8.</p>
External signage	<p>Signage placed outside of each in-person consultation event venue to direct members of the public into the event.</p>

	See Appendix F.5.
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6.3.5 The Applicant was also aware of the potential visual impact its proposals could have beyond its main consultation zone. The Applicant therefore placed pop-up panels (Appendix F.4.1) at the following libraries in coastal locations across Kent and Suffolk for the duration of the statutory consultation: Aldeburgh Library (Suffolk), Felixstowe Library (Suffolk), Southwold Library (Suffolk) and Whitstable Library (Kent).

6.3.6 To encourage feedback and make the consultation as accessible as possible, the Applicant offered a range of feedback methods.

Table 6.5 Stage 3 (statutory) consultation feedback methods

Method	Detail
Feedback form	<p>The Applicant produced an eight-page feedback form which was available at in-person consultation events.</p> <p>Attendees could choose to either fill out the form at a dedicated feedback station at events or take it away to complete and return using the Applicant's freepost address.</p> <p>This feedback form mirrored the structure of the consultation brochure to make it easy for respondents to access relevant information when answering. It covered the following topics, as well providing space for any further comments not covered by these topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact details; • Need and policy; • Site selection; • Project description; • Offshore; • Onshore; and • Project wide <p>See Appendix F.2.</p>
Hard copy feedback postcard	<p>The Applicant produced a feedback postcard that asked 'do you have any comments or questions about the proposals for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm?'</p> <p>This provided a quicker, easier alternative to completing a more detailed feedback form and was designed to encourage feedback from people who wanted to submit one brief or relatively straightforward piece of feedback.</p> <p>This postcard could also be completed at a dedicated feedback station at events or taken away to complete and return using the Applicant's freepost address. See Appendix E.15.1.</p>
Online feedback form	<p>The feedback form was replicated on the Project website for those who preferred to submit feedback digitally. See Appendix F.3.</p>
Online interactive feedback map	<p>The Applicant created an online interactive feedback map on the Project website. This meant that consultees could drop pins onto a map and leave feedback relating to a specific geographic location. See Appendix F.3.1.</p>
Project email address	<p>The Applicant accepted feedback via its Project email address: contact@northfallsoffshore.com.</p> <p>This was the same address that was used at the previous two stages of consultation to ensure consistency.</p>
Project freepost address	<p>Feedback forms, feedback postcards and letters could be sent to the Applicant's freepost address (Freepost North Falls) free of charge.</p>

6.3.7 If members of the public had any questions about the Project, they could also get in touch using a dedicated freephone number (0800 254 5340).

6.4 Response to the consultation

6.4.1 A total of 641 pieces of feedback were received to the Applicant's stage 3 (statutory) consultation. Table 6.6 provides a breakdown of feedback received.

Table 6.6 Stage 3 (statutory) consultation response summary

Format	Number of responses received
Email	568
Website contact forms	5
Hard copy feedback forms	11
Online feedback forms	35
Online interactive feedback map	7
Hard copy feedback postcards	15

6.4.2 Table 6.7 provides a summary of feedback received via feedback forms, as published on the Project website following the close of consultation.

Table 6.7 Stage 3 (statutory) consultation feedback form summary

Question	Response
Do you have any suggestions as to how North Falls could work with Essex-based businesses to help them take advantage of potential contracting opportunities with the Project?	<p>There were a number of suggestions as to how the Project could work with local firms including regional supply chain engagement, registration portals and ensuring local knowledge is utilised for issues such as drainage and soil.</p> <p>Also working with local companies who have had previous offshore wind experience via the likes of the Thanet and London Array projects.</p> <p>Finally ensuring local land and property owners are in a position to benefit from potential work scopes, such as storage, contractor accommodation and complementary opportunities.</p>
What outcome would you like from the Offshore Transmission Network Review?	<p>The majority of those who answered this question hoped to see an integrated offshore transmission network (a preference for North Falls' grid connection option 3), primarily to negate the need for substation(s) in Tendring, but also to potentially remove the need for the pylons related to the National Grid Norwich to Tilbury project.</p> <p>A number of responses referred to that project's pylons as a motivator for an offshore connection. There were also comments around the use of brownfield sites and the need to accelerate the programme so that the Project could be completed more quickly.</p>
Do you have any comments about the landfall compound zone that could help us identify the best location for the TCC?	<p>A number of responses to this question reiterated the message that an offshore connection would be preferred, negating the need for onshore infrastructure in the local area.</p>

	<p>However, there were a handful of specific comments and queries related to the existing proposed location that the Project will assess, for example around flooding, horse livery and local traffic.</p> <p>There was a suggestion the Project should avoid using the golf course as a site for the TCC (the cable will go underneath the golf course and it will not be used as a location for a TCC) and also to work with local cycling groups.</p>
Are there any areas of the onshore cable route you have specific information or comments about?	<p>Comments supplied to this question offered some useful insights, particularly related to the section around Thorpe-le-Soken, where there are varying constraints related to each option proposed currently.</p> <p>Responses will be reviewed collectively to determine the most feasible way forward. Construction traffic volumes around Thorpe-le-Soken and Kirby Cross have been brought up as a concern.</p> <p>Some comments included specific mention of Holland Mill Wood, part of the Essex Wildlife Trust Great Holland Pits Nature Reserve, and a common theme was land drainage.</p>
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?	<p>Other than further statements declaring a preference for an offshore grid connection, responses to this question ranged from requests to totally screen the substation from view by use of tall trees and vegetation, to ensuring all infrastructure (for example the National Grid and Five Estuaries substations) be located closely together.</p> <p>There were also suggestions to move the Project's onshore substation further inland in an effort to 'straighten' the Norwich to Tilbury project's pylon route, instead of tracking east-ward), or further to the east.</p>
Do you have any comments about any of the offshore-related assessments or on the mitigation measures proposed?	<p>There were limited direct responses to this question however there were views that there should be more offshore sites developed and that offshore wind farms should 'go elsewhere'.</p> <p>There was general agreement that the offshore environmental and maritime mitigation proposed appeared thorough, however questions were posed around the work done to date in relation to establishing an offshore grid connection option.</p>
Do you have any comments about any of the onshore-related assessments or the mitigation measures proposed?	<p>Responses to this question primarily focused on people's concern related to potential additional traffic during construction.</p> <p>However, there were also other specific issues brought up, for example around: a cast iron-water main and request to have it replaced; levels of compensation to be paid; access to existing recreational areas; and impacts on tourism.</p> <p>In terms of construction work on agricultural land, attention was drawn to the need for effective methodologies for storing and replacing soil, avoidance of weeds and invasive plants, and drainage schemes.</p>
Are you supportive of the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm project?	<p>Of those who answered this question the vast majority (more than 80 per cent) responded 'yes'. A typical 'yes' response was: 'I'm very supportive of all</p>

	<p>projects which help to utilise more green sources of power and help the UK become more self-sufficient’.</p> <p>Around half of those who stated yes said their response was conditional on changes, with those changes primarily being that an offshore grid connection should be used, or if the onshore infrastructure was located elsewhere.</p> <p>Around 10 per cent were not supportive and a similar number did not know if they were supportive or not, due to the fact they felt they needed more details.</p>
Do you have any further comments to add?	<p>This question gave respondents the opportunity to add or reiterate points and so included a wide range of inputs.</p> <p>There were those wishing the Project luck and urging the team to ‘get on with it’ and others taking the chance to object and further state their preference for an offshore grid connection.</p> <p>There was reference to the need for North Falls to continue to work closely with Five Estuaries; and to potential community benefits, as well as specific questions on smaller scale wind turbine options, consultation with the elderly and landowner issues.</p>

7. Stage 3 (statutory) consultation: section 42

7.1 Introduction and overview of activity

7.1.1 This section provides an overview of consultation undertaken in accordance with section 42 of the Act. More information on the Act and the Applicant’s compliance with it can be found in Chapter 2, namely Table 2.1.

Section 42(1)(a) and (aa)

7.1.2 In line with section 42(1)(a) of the Act, the Applicant compiled a list of prescribed bodies based on column 1 of schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations 2009. A precautionary approach was taken, whereby a consultee was not discounted unless there was a clear reason for doing so.

7.1.3 The Applicant also consulted those organisations and bodies who were notified of the proposed application by the Planning Inspectorate under regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations (the Regulation 11 list) which was provided by the Planning Inspectorate alongside its Scoping Opinion in August 2021.

7.1.4 A full list of prescribed bodies that were contacted during the statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F.22.

7.1.5 In line with section 42(1)(aa) of the Act, the Applicant also consulted the MMO.

7.1.6 The Greater London Authority was not consulted under section 42(1)(c) of the Act because the land required for the Project is not within Greater London.

Section 42(1)(b)

- 7.1.7 In line with section 42(1)(b), the Applicant consulted the relevant local authorities identified under section 43 of the Act.
- 7.1.8 Table 7.1 outlines the relevant host and neighbouring authorities consulted by the Project in line with section 42(1)(b) of the Act.

Table 7.1 Local authorities consulted under section 42(1)(b)

Local authority	Category under S42(1)(b)
Essex County Council	C
Tendring District Council	B
Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council	A
Colchester Borough Council	A
Suffolk County Council	A and D
Hertfordshire County Council	D
Cambridgeshire County Council	D
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	D
Thurrock Council	D
Medway Council	D
London Borough of Enfield	D
London Borough of Waltham Forest	D
London Borough of Redbridge	D
London Borough of Havering	D

- 7.1.9 The Applicant also consulted Rochford District Council, East Suffolk Council, Kent County Council and Maldon District Council as locales potentially affected by visual, landscape and seascape impacts in line with item C7 of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Advice Note Three: EIA notification and consultation. While not included in the official section 42(1)(b) list, these councils were provided with the same consultation information as other section 42 consultees.

Section 42(1)(d) and section 44

- 7.1.10 Sections 42(1)(d) and 44 of the Act require the Applicant to consult any PILs identified by the Applicant (following diligent inquiry), including landowners, lessees, tenants and occupiers of the land, a person interested in the land or a person who has the power to sell, convey or release the land and any person entitled to make a relevant claim.

- 7.1.11 The Applicant's appointed land agent, Dalcour Maclaren, undertook a detailed land referencing process to identify section 42(1)(d) consultees under section 44 of the Act.
- 7.1.12 The Applicant identified individuals in one or more of the categories set out in section 44 and section 57 of the Act for the purposes of consultation and notification under sections 42 and section 56 of the Act. This includes undertaking "diligent inquiry" to identify parties with an interest in land within Categories 1, 2 and 3:
- Category 1 includes owners, lessees, tenants (whatever the tenancy period) or occupiers of the land within Order limits;
 - Category 2 includes parties that have an interest in the land or who have the power to sell, convey or release the land within order limits;
 - Category 3 includes parties that the Applicant thinks that, if the order sought by the application were made and fully implemented, the person would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim for compensation under section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 and / or Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 and / or section 152(3) of the Act.
- 7.1.13 296 PILs were identified and consulted as Category 1 interests, 74 as Category 2 interests and 75 as Category 3 interests.
- 7.1.14 A full list of interests identified and consulted under Sections 42(1)(d) and 44 of the Act can be found in Appendix C.8. This list has been checked against the Applicant's Book of Reference (document reference 6.3), which is current up to the date of the preparation of this Consultation Report. The Book of Reference may be subject to change over time as a result of changes in land ownership.
- 7.1.15 This land referencing process has continued throughout the pre-application period to reflect changes in land ownership or new interests that have been identified as the Project design has progressed. Ongoing refinement of the Project's onshore cable route resulted in localised changes which incorporated additional PILs outside of the Project's onshore PEIR boundary. PILs identified for inclusion in stage 4 (targeted) consultation are discussed in Chapter 11.
- 7.1.16 The Applicant conducted site visits to investigate land that was either unregistered, or where PILS were unknown, with site notices (see Appendix F.27) placed in the vicinity detailing the consultation. 69 site notices were erected on 16 May 2023 and monitored on a weekly basis with photographs taken by Dalcour Maclaren for nine weeks throughout the stage 3 (statutory) consultation period. Where notices needed repairing or replacing due to damage, this was undertaken as necessary. A total of 175 notices were repaired or replaced during the 9 week period.
- 7.1.17 Where notices relating to private land could not be erected on site due to access restrictions, notices were erected at the nearest point on a public highway or right of way.

7.2 Consultation activity

- 7.2.1 On 16 May 2023, the Applicant sent all bodies, organisations and persons consulted under section 42 (see Appendix F.22) of the Act a copy of the section 48 notice (see Appendix F.48) and a letter notifying them about the Project, the statutory consultation process, where they could access the consultation materials and how to provide feedback. This was sent both by email and tracked postal delivery.
- 7.2.2 In addition, section 42(1)(d) consultees also received a copy of the consultation brochure (see Appendix F.1).

7.3 Section 42(1)(a), (aa), (b) and (d) responses to the consultation

- 7.3.1 Responses were received from 26 PILs under section 42(1)(d) and 32 section 42 consultees under sections 42(1)(a), (aa) and (b). The Applicant's consideration of these responses can be found in Appendix F.14 and Appendix F.14.1.

8. Stage 3 (statutory) consultation: section 46

8.1 Section 46 notification and confirmation of receipt

- 8.1.1 Under section 46 of the Act, the Applicant is required to notify the relevant Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, of the proposed application on or before the start of the statutory consultation.
- 8.1.2 In accordance with section 46(1), the Applicant sent a notification to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero on 15 May 2023, ahead of statutory consultation launching on 16 May 2023. This notification was sent by both email and post (see Appendix F.28). The postal notification included the following documents:
- Hard copy section 46 cover letter;
 - Hard copy of the Project's section 48 notice;
 - A USB containing the same information as was provided to section 42 consultees:
 - Example covering letter to statutory and / or non-statutory consultees under section 42 of the Act and / or regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations;
 - Example covering letter to land interests consulted under section 42 of the Act;
 - Notice publicising the proposed DCO application under section 48 of the Act;
 - Feedback form;
 - PEIR;
 - PEIR NTS;
 - Guide to the PEIR;
 - Plans showing the onshore and offshore locations of the Project;
 - Draft information for the HRA; and
 - Draft information for the Marine Conservation Zone Assessment.

- 8.1.3 The same documents were also provided in the email notification to the Secretary of State, either as attachments or links to the Project website.
- 8.1.4 The Planning Inspectorate acknowledged receipt of the section 46 notification on 18 May 2023 (see Appendix F.29).

9. Stage 3 (statutory) consultation: section 47

9.1 Introduction and overview of activity

9.1.1 Section 47 of the Act concerns the Applicant's duty to consult the local community about the proposed application and requires the Applicant to do the following (see Table 2.1 for further information):

- Section 47(1): The Applicant must prepare a SoCC setting out how it proposes to consult people living in the vicinity of the land required for the Project about the proposed application;
- Section 47(2). The Applicant must consult all local authorities set out within section 43(1) of the Act about what is to be in the SoCC. A local authority is within section 43(1) if the land for the development is in the authority's area;
- Section 47(3). The deadline for receipt of a local authority's response to SoCC consultation is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents;
- Section 47(5). The Applicant must have regard to any response that it receives from local authorities before the deadline;
- Section 47(6)(za): Once the SoCC is finalised, the Applicant must make it available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for those living in the vicinity of the proposed application;
- Section 47(6)(a): The Applicant must publish a notice in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the proposed application, stating that the SoCC has been published and where and when it can be viewed; and
- Section 47(6)(b): Publish the SoCC in such manner as may be prescribed.

9.1.2 Additionally, regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations requires the SoCC to declare whether the Project is an EIA development and, if so, how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on its preliminary environmental information.

9.1.3 The Applicant's compliance with these commitments is set out below.

9.2 Preparation of the SoCC

9.2.1 In accordance with section 47 of the Act, the Applicant prepared a SoCC outlining how they planned to engage the local community, including residents, businesses, community groups and political representatives.

9.2.2 The Applicant's SoCC was informed by feedback received during the stage 2 (pre-application) consultation that was held between Monday 17 October and Friday 9 December 2022.

9.3 SoCC consultation with local authorities

9.3.1 In line with section 47(2) and 47(3) of the Act, the Applicant consulted local authorities on a draft version of the SoCC. On 15 February 2022, Essex County Council and Tendring District Council were informally consulted on an early draft of the SoCC.

9.3.2 The Applicant formally sought feedback on its SoCC between 4 April and 20 May 2022 with host and neighbouring authorities (Table 9.1), as well as regional MPs and parish councils (Table 9.2).

Table 9.1 Host and neighbouring authorities consulted on the SoCC

Category	Stakeholder
Host authorities	Tendring District Council
	Essex County Council (planning officers)
	Essex County Council (members)
Neighbouring authorities (potentially with a view)	East Suffolk Council (planning officers)
	East Suffolk Council (members)
	Suffolk County Council (planning officers)
	Suffolk County Council (members)

Table 9.2 Additional stakeholders consulted on the SoCC

Category	Stakeholder
MPs	Sir Bernard Jenkin MP
	James Cartlidge MP
	Thérèse Coffey MP
	Giles Watling MP
Parish councils	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

9.3.3 Due to the Project joining the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) and the relocation of NGET’s East Anglia Connection Node, the consultation period initially planned for the SoCC was delayed and a second non-statutory consultation was instead conducted (see Chapter 5) between 17 October and 9 December 2022. This delayed the publication of the final SoCC.

9.3.4 The SoCC was subsequently revised to include a reference to the OTNR scheme and increased coordination with Five Estuaries but the decision was made not to reconsult on the SoCC, given that these were non-material changes and did not impact how the Project intended to deliver its stage 3 (statutory) consultation. The SoCC that was considered by local authorities can be found in Appendix F.30 and the final SoCC in Appendix F.35.

9.4 Response to the consultation on the SoCC

9.4.1 The Applicant received feedback from three local authorities during the SoCC consultation: Essex County Council, in partnership with Tendring District Council, East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council.

9.4.2 The table below shows how the Applicant had regard to this feedback, in line with section 47(5) of the Act.

Table 9.3 SoCC feedback and Applicant’s regard

Local planning authority	Feedback	Applicant’s regard
Essex County Council / Tendring District Council	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	Reference to Five Estuaries was made in the Applicant’s SoCC and a commitment was made to work collaboratively with Five Estuaries. The cumulative impact of North Falls and Five Estuaries was acknowledged in the SoCC and a commitment was made to

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>consult on this throughout the consultation.</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant's SoCC states that it aims to align with other developers to schedule formal consultation in a way that will minimise stakeholder fatigue – also reducing the scope for conflict and / or confusion (See Section 1.6).</p>
	<p>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?</p>	<p>The Applicant's SoCC was amended to state that 'North Falls will play a role in helping to stabilise the nation's energy prices and improve its energy security.'</p>
	<p>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?</p>	<p>The Applicant's SoCC specifies that 'North Falls is now in the pre-application phase, which runs until its DCO application is submitted.'</p>
	<p>At 4, bullet points one and two, change to read Essex County Council in partnership with Tendring District Council.</p>	<p>The Applicant's SoCC was amended to reflect this text change.</p>
	<p>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</p>	<p>The Applicant's SoCC was amended to remove the explanation of Greater Gabbard and instead include the total offshore area of the proposed wind farm.</p> <p>Further details of the proposed Project can be found in the PEIR and NTS.</p>

	<p>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.</p>	
	<p>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.</p>	<p>At this stage of the consultation process, the Applicant was unable to confidently say which type of onshore substation would be used and what it would therefore look like. No changes were made to the SoCC as a result of this feedback. Further details of the proposed onshore substation could be found in the PEIR on the Project website.</p>
	<p>At 8, this frankly needs work. Clearly the cable route will be known 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.</p>	<p>The Applicant's final SoCC included the most up to date information on the cable route, substation and landfall point that was available at the point of publishing. This included information on how the original onshore scoping area was refined into an onshore cable route.</p>
	<p>I think it also necessary to explain what will happen once the works are completed, assuming they are consented, for example the underground cable route, what will it, or could it be used for? This will give consultees assurances of what to expect post development.</p>	<p>The Applicant's final SoCC stated that 'once the cables have been installed, the land used during construction will be restored to its former agricultural or other use.'</p>
	<p>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 events 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?</p>	<p>The Applicant's consultation materials, including brochure and Project website, included the most up to date information on the areas that would be used for construction as was available at the time (see Appendix F.1 for a copy of the consultation brochure and F.3 for the consultation website).</p> <p>The Applicant's final SoCC committed to using a 'range of consultation methodologies' including in-person and online consultation events. During the Applicant's statutory consultation, five in-person and two online events were held (see Section 6.3).</p>
	<p>The consultation period is not defined but should avoid bank holidays. In this</p>	<p>The Applicant's final SoCC committed to each stage of consultation exceeding the</p>

	<p>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.</p>	<p>statutory minimum requirement of at least 28 days.</p> <p>The Applicant took care to avoid public holidays during its consultation period. The Applicant's stage 3 (statutory) consultation lasted for 59 days, therefore exceeding the statutory minimum of 28 days.</p>
	<p>Tourism contributes significantly to the socioeconomic 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 same assessed.</p>	<p>While the Applicant felt that a reference to tourism was not needed in the SoCC, the Applicant's consultation materials included references to tourism (see Appendix F.1 for a copy of the consultation brochure and F.3 for the consultation website). Tourism was also discussed in detail in Chapter 32 of the Applicant's PEIR.</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant's final SoCC includes reference to the 'temporary disruption during construction' as well as 'TCCs' and 'a temporary working corridor.'</p> <p>While the Applicant felt that a reference to transport was not needed in the SoCC, the Applicant's consultation materials included extensive references to this topic (see Appendix F.1 for a copy of the consultation brochure and F.3 for the consultation website).</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>Section 47(3) of the Act sets the minimum period for an Applicant's statutory consultation at 28 days. The Applicant's final SoCC commits to holding a consultation in excess of this 28 day minimum. The Applicant's statutory consultation lasted for 59 days, from 16 May 2023 to 14 July 2023.</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>Section 47(3) of the Act sets the minimum period for an Applicant's statutory consultation at 28 days. The Applicant's final SoCC commits to holding a consultation in excess of this 28 day minimum. The Applicant's statutory consultation lasted for 59 days, from 16 May 2023 to 14 July 2023.</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant's final SoCC included a section dedicated to the landfall point, using the most up to date information available at the point of publishing.</p>

	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant's final SoCC included the most up to date information on the cable route, substation and landfall point that was available at the point of publishing.</p> <p>Each stage of consultation presented further refinements to the Project by providing the most up to date information on the Project that was available at the time.</p>
	<p>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?</p>	<p>The Applicant's final SoCC states that '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.'</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant offered briefings to local authorities at regular intervals throughout the pre-application phase. This included a councillor breakfast on Saturday 5 November 2022 and a briefing with Essex County Council and Tendring District Council on 6 March 2024.</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant took this feedback into account when creating its 'hard to reach' list for statutory consultation (see Appendix F.23).</p>
<p>Suffolk County Council</p>	<p>Although the proposed landfall site is located outside of Suffolk, the turbines are off the East Anglian coast, and it is anticipated that there will be associated construction and operational impacts upon Suffolk.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.1 should therefore include Suffolk Parishes that have been identified within the zone of theoretical visibility, along with the local authorities.</p>	<p>The Applicant's final SoCC included references to local authorities with a view, who were also consulted both on the SoCC and during the Applicant's stage 3 (statutory) consultation.</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>Section 47(3) of the Act sets the minimum period for an Applicant's statutory consultation at 28 days.</p> <p>The Applicant's final SoCC commits to holding a consultation in excess of this 28 day minimum. The Applicant's consultation lasted for 59 days (more than eight weeks), from 16 May 2023 to 14 July 2023.</p>

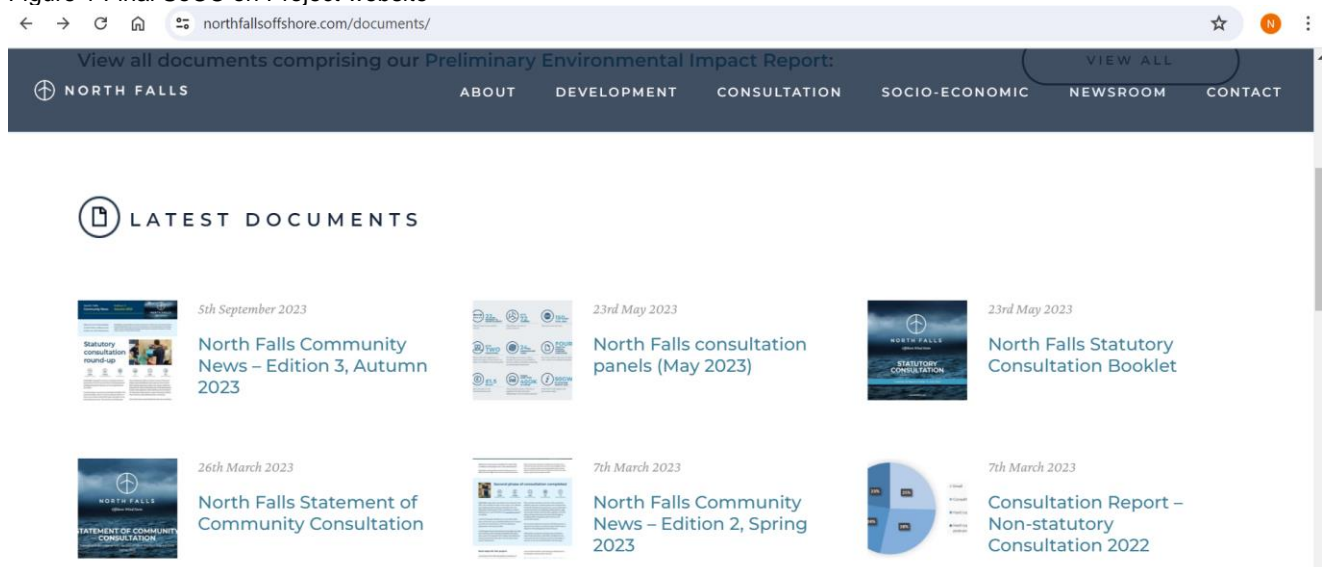
	<p>It is expected that the section 42 consultees, as set out in section 10, will include communities within Suffolk which are included within the zone of theoretical visibility.</p>	<p>The Applicant consulted all organisations under section 42 of the Act (see Appendix F.22).</p>
	<p>Section 10 also refers to organisations with an interest in seascape visual amenity, this should also refer to onshore effects.</p>	<p>The Applicant's final SoCC states that 'we will consult specifically with the local community likely to be affected by the onshore grid connection option.'</p>
	<p>We would expect that consultations are to include (but not limited to) the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destination Organisations • Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Team • Suffolk County Council including Councillors • East Suffolk Council including Councillors 	<p>The Applicant's consultation included engagement with a range of organisations including those requested by Suffolk County Council.</p>
East Suffolk Council	<p>Suggestion to change text in Section 1 to 'target of 50GW by 2030'</p>	<p>The Applicant's final SoCC included this text change.</p>
	<p>Suggestion to change Section 4.1 to 'include East Suffolk Council and potentially affected coastal town and parish councils within the district which have been identified within the North Falls SLVIA Zone of Theoretical Visibility' as 'consultation should not be limited to the scoping area within Essex/Tendring, East Suffolk Council and our coastal communities should be included due to the potential for seascape and landscape visual impacts resulting from the project. The indirect impacts associated with the offshore infrastructure should be given sufficient weight in the SOCC.'</p>	<p>The Applicant's final SoCC included East Suffolk Council and areas where there was a possible visual impact were consulted.</p>
	<p>Suggestion to change text in Section 9 to 'During this period there will be a multi-stage consultation process with all stakeholders, with each consultation period allowing 8 weeks for responses to be received' as 'whilst the Act requires no less than 28 days for consultation, this is the minimum requirement which can be challenging to meet. A commitment to a longer consultation period should therefore be made (i.e. 8 weeks) instead of using the minimum requirement.'</p>	<p>Section 47(3) of the Act sets the minimum period for an Applicant's statutory consultation at 28 days. The Applicant's final SoCC commits to holding a consultation in excess of this 28 day minimum. The Applicant's statutory consultation lasted for 59 days (more than eight weeks), from 16 May 2023 to 14 July 2023.</p>
	<p>Suggestion to change text in Section 10 to make it more clear who is being consulted as 'it is unclear who will be consulted, East Suffolk coastal communities need to be included in the consultation. The indirect impacts associated with the offshore infrastructure should be given sufficient weight in the SOCC. A consultation</p>	<p>The Applicant's final SoCC includes the most up to date map of the consultation zone that was available at the time.</p> <p>The Applicant's final SoCC included East Suffolk Council and areas where there was a possible visual impact were consulted during the Applicant's statutory consultation.</p>

	area map should be included illustrating the local communities being consulted and highlighting Local Planning Authorities, Town and Parish councils together with a list of all statutory organisations to be consulted. The consultation area map would be helpful, and it should cover the onshore scoping area and also areas within East Suffolk which may be affected within the North Falls SLVIA Zone of Theoretical Visibility.'	
	Suggestion to change text in Section 11 to include reference to seascape as 'The proposal has the potential to introduce seascape and landscape visual impacts on the East Suffolk Coastline. Seascape impacts should therefore be included.'	The Applicant's final SoCC included reference to 'seascape visual amenity.'
	Suggestion to change text in Section 12 to include 'a list of the proposed in-person event locations Event(s) should also be held in the East Suffolk District in relation to the potential for seascape and landscape visual impacts on coastal communities identified within the North Falls SLVIA Zone of Theoretical Visibility.'	At the time the Applicant's SoCC was written, the timing and location of the events that were to be held had not yet been decided. The Applicant's SoCC therefore included reference to a 'range of consultation methodologies', including in-person and online consultation events.

9.5 Publication of the SoCC and publicity

9.5.1 As required by section 47(6)(za) of the Act, the final SoCC was published on the Project website on 26 March 2023. The Applicant's final SoCC was accessible free of charge at www.northfallsoffshore.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/North-Falls-Final-SoCC.pdf alongside the Project hotline number (0800 254 5340) which was open for enquiries.

Figure 1 Final SoCC on Project website



9.5.2 The following local authorities were notified of its publication on 27 March 2023:

- Essex County Council;
- Tendring District Council;
- East Suffolk Council; and
- Suffolk County Council.

9.5.3 Hard copies of the SoCC were placed at three deposit locations across the Project area from 28 March 2023 until the close of consultation on 14 July 2023. Proof of the SoCC being in place at these locations can be found in Appendix F.37.

Table 9.4 SoCC deposit locations

Venue	Opening times
Clacton Library, Station Road (opposite the Town Hall), Clacton-on-Sea CO15 1SF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday: 9am-5:30pm • Tuesday: 9am-5:30pm • Wednesday: 9am-7pm • Thursday: 9am-5:30pm • Friday: 9am-5:30pm • Saturday: 9am-5pm • Sunday: Closed
Frinton Library, 59 Old Road, Frinton-on-Sea CO13 9DA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday: Closed • Tuesday: 9am-5:30pm • Wednesday: Closed • Thursday: 9am-7pm • Friday: 9am-5:30pm • Saturday: 9am-5pm • Sunday: Closed
Tendring District Council Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 1SE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday-Friday: 9am-3pm • Saturday-Sunday: Closed

9.5.4 In line with section 47(6)(a) of the Act, the Applicant placed its section 47 notice in the Daily Gazette on 29 March 2023. See Appendix F.38.

9.6 Compliance with the SoCC

9.6.1 The commitments made in the Applicant's SoCC and how they were met are set out in Table 9.5.

Table 9.5 SoCC commitments and how they were met

SoCC page	SoCC commitment	Evidence of compliance	Reference
10	North Falls will undertake an environmental impact assessment (EIA)	<p>The Applicant undertook a preliminary EIA which informed the PEIR.</p> <p>The Applicant has prepared an ES which has been submitted as part of the Applicant's DCO submission.</p>	https://www.northfallsoffshore.com/peir/
10	The documents listed here will be consulted on during the EIA process and as the DCO application is prepared:	The Scoping Report and PEIR were available on the Project website throughout the consultation process and feedback was requested on the documents during the consultation.	Appendices C.16 and F.57

	Scoping report Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) ES	They remain available on the Project website the time of preparing this Consultation Report. The Applicant has prepared an ES which has been submitted as part of the Applicant's DCO submission. There will be opportunities to comment on the DCO application and ES at the Examination stage if the application is accepted.	
10	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.	The Applicant published and consulted on a PEIR as part of the statutory consultation.	https://www.northfalls offshore.com/peir/
10	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.	The Applicant has prepared an ES which has been submitted as part of the Applicant's DCO submission. This ES includes responses from the Applicant's consultation and results of the surveys and research undertaken, as well as the changes made to the project proposals and mitigations measures to be implemented.	N/A
10	Copies of these reports will be made available online and as part of our public consultations.	The Scoping Report and PEIR were both available in the 'Documents' tab on the Project website for the duration of the consultation process. These documents remain available to view on the Project website at the time of preparing this Consultation Report. The Applicant's ES will also be made available via the Planning Inspectorate's website subject to acceptance of the Applicant's DCO application.	Appendices C.16 and F.57
11	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.	The Applicant has encouraged and had regard to feedback at every stage of the Project's development and it has informed its final plans.	Appendices F.14 and F.14.1, G.5 and G.5.1
12	The draft SoCC was consulted on with relevant local authorities as well as parish councils, primarily	The Applicant sought the views of local authorities and political stakeholders through formal consultation on the SoCC between	Appendices F.32 and F.33

	<p>those falling within the original North Falls Scoping Area, including:</p> <p>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</p>	<p>4 April and 20 May 2022, thereby providing these stakeholders with a consultation period in excess of the 28 days required by section 47(3) of the Act.</p>	
12	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant received feedback on its draft SoCC from three local authorities.</p> <p>Where appropriate, this feedback was incorporated into the final published SoCC.</p>	<p>See Section 9.4 for more information, Table 9.3 for the Applicant's regard to feedback received to its draft SoCC, and Appendix F.35 for a copy of the final SoCC.</p>
12	<p>The North Falls SoCC can be read on, or downloaded from, the Project website, with hard copies available at local community venues or upon request.</p>	<p>The Applicant's SoCC was available to read on the Project website from 26 March 2023.</p> <p>The Project did not receive any requests for hard copies but did place the SoCC in deposit locations across the consultation zone.</p>	<p>See Appendix F.36 for the SoCC being published on the project website.</p> <p>See Table 9.4 for a list of locations where the SoCC was available in print.</p>
12	<p>The local community venues holding copies of the North Falls SoCC will be:</p> <p>Clacton Central Library Frinton Library Tendring District Council</p>	<p>Copies of the SoCC were placed at these community venues from 28 March 2023 until the close of consultation on 14 July 2023.</p>	<p>Appendix F.37</p>

13	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.	The Project has updated its proposals in line with the Scoping Opinion, environmental assessments, ongoing engineering and survey work and feedback from each consultation.	Appendices F.14 and F.14.1, G.5 and G.5.1
14	However to maintain project momentum and avoid the risk of project delays, our proposals (and this SoCC) will refer to both onshore and offshore grid connection options.	The Applicant included the option for an offshore grid connection in its consultation materials.	Appendix F.1
24	Local stakeholder and community consultation will be undertaken throughout the pre-application phase, and beyond.	The Applicant undertook four local stakeholder and community consultation periods before submitting its application for development consent.	Stage 1 (introductory consultation): Chapter 4 Stage 2 (pre-application consultation): Chapter 5 Stage 3 (statutory consultation): Chapter 6 Stage 4 (targeted consultation): Chapter 11
24	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 Applicant complied with the Act.	Illustrated throughout this Consultation Report.
24	The consultations will gather feedback on the preliminary assessments, including methodology, and on the project itself as it begins to take shape.	The Project's feedback form at stage 3 (statutory) consultation included the following questions on preliminary assessments, methodology and the Project itself: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you have any suggestions as to how North Falls could work with Essex-based businesses to help them take advantage of potential contracting opportunities with the project? Do you have any comments about any of the offshore-related assessments or on the 	Appendix F.2

		<p>mitigation measures proposed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you have any comments about any of the onshore-related assessments or on the mitigation measures proposed? Are you supportive of the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Project? <p>The Applicant's feedback form also asked for further comments which enabled the consultee to reiterate points already made or raise any other concerns not already covered.</p>	
24	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.	The Applicant conducted four stages of consultation, the durations of each all exceeded the 28 days minimum set out in the Act.	<p>Stage 1 (introductory consultation): Section 4</p> <p>Stage 2 (pre-application consultation): Section 5</p> <p>Stage 3 (statutory consultation): Section 6</p> <p>Stage 4 (targeted consultation): Section 11</p>
24	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.	<p>Consultees had the opportunity to comment on the proposals at four separate consultations, starting with stage 1 (introductory) consultation which was held during the formative stages of the Project's development.</p> <p>The Applicant sent a postcard publicising its consultation to approximately 45,700 addresses either within 3km of the proposed cable route, or within 1km of the proposed HGV routes.</p> <p>The Applicant also notified prescribed consultees, local elected representatives and hard to reach groups of the launch of the consultation.</p>	As per row above.
24	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.	The Applicant responded to all enquiries it received during its consultation and has had regard to all feedback received during this period. Feedback could be submitted by consultees via email, freepost, hard copy feedback form, online feedback form, feedback postcard and interactive consultation map. For further information on these feedback methods, see Table 6.5.	Appendices F14, F14.1, G.5, G.5.1

24	<p>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</p>	<p>The Applicant conducted an introductory consultation between 25 October and 10 December 2021.</p> <p>The information consulted on and a summary of responses, is still available to view on the Project website.</p>	Chapter 4, Appendix D.15
24	<p>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 routes, as well as the opportunity to give wider opinions on the plans.</p>	<p>The Applicant conducted a non-statutory consultation between 17 October and 09 December 2022 which included information on onshore and offshore proposals as well as EIA methodology.</p> <p>The Applicant's feedback form sought comments on both specific and wider elements of the Project.</p>	Appendices E.9 and E.11
24	<p>Consultation methods included: stakeholder meetings, five face-to-face consultation events, two online consultation events, publications and an online consultation portal, promotion via advertising, media stories, leaflet drops and direct emails.</p>	<p>The Applicant held the following consultation events during its non-statutory consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 3 November 2022, McGrigor Hall, Frinton-on-Sea • Friday 4 November 2022, Great Bromley Village Hall • Saturday 5 November 2023, Tendring Village Hall • Friday 11 November, Thorpe Le Soken Women's Institute • Saturday 12 November, Ardleigh Village Hall • Tuesday 15 November and Wednesday 23 November, online consultation events <p>The Applicant produced the following consultation materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large-scale display panels containing key information from the 28-page consultation booklet • Consultation booklets • Feedback forms and feedback postcards • Fact sheets • A virtual reality headset to show what an offshore wind farm could look like 	Chapter 5

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three-dimensional computer-generated interactive visualisation of onshore and offshore landscape views, as well as animated flythroughs • A2 copies of Project maps • A colouring sheet of a wind turbine for children to use • Keep in touch cards • North Falls branded recyclable pens and notepads • External signage to direct members of the public to the venue <p>The Applicant used various methods to publicise the consultation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media releases on 17 October and 28 November 2022 • Sending over 12,000 postcards to residents and businesses along the proposed onshore cable route • Placing adverts in the Clacton and Frinton Gazette • Direct emails to stakeholders 	
24	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.	These feedback channels were open from 17 October to 9 December 2022.	Table 4.2
24	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.	The Applicant complied with the guidance set out in the Act.	Illustrated throughout this Consultation Report
24	This will include consultation on the preliminary environmental information report (PEIR).	The Applicant made it clear in its consultation materials that it was seeking feedback on its PEIR.	Appendices F.1 and F.3
24	The PEIR will incorporate the preliminary results of the EIA as well as feedback from prior consultations.	The Applicant's PEIR is an amalgamation of early EIA results and feedback from the introductory and non-statutory consultations.	https://www.northfallsoffshore.com/peir/
24	This consultation will identify specific elements on which input is requested.	The Applicant's consultation brochure and feedback form identified specific elements on which feedback was sought.	Appendices F.1 and F.2

24	<p>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 online consultation events, publications and an online consultation portal with feedback map.</p>	<p>As well as individual stakeholder meetings, the Applicant held the following consultation events during its statutory consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 2 June 2023, Great Bromley Village Hall • Saturday 3 June 2023, Tendring Village Hall • Thursday 8 June 2023, McGrigor Hall, Frinton-on-Sea • Friday 9 June 2023, Thorpe-le-Soken Women's Institute • Saturday 10 June 2023, Ardleigh Village Hall • Tuesday 13 June and Wednesday 21 June 2023, online consultation events <p>The Applicant created an individual Project website for the consultation, which included an interactive feedback map where members of the public could drop pins on the specific geographical areas referred to in their feedback. The Applicant also issued various other materials to support the consultation, such as a consultation brochure and fact sheets.</p>	Chapter 6, Appendices F.1, F.3, F.3.1, F.6 and F.11
24	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant placed copies of the section 48 notice, which included the event dates, times and locations in the following outlets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Daily Gazette, 16 May 2023 and 23 May 2023 • The Guardian, 16 May 2023 • London Gazette, 16 May 2023 • Fishing News, 15 May 2023 • Lloyd's List, 16 May 2023 <p>An email announcing the launch of statutory consultation was sent to stakeholders on 16 May 2023.</p> <p>A postcard announcing the launch of consultation was sent to 45,700 addresses in the consultation zone ahead of the consultation launch on 16 May.</p>	Chapter 10, Appendices F48, F49, F50, F51, F52, F53, F54, F24 and F39
24	<p>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.</p>	<p>Stakeholders were able to provide feedback through the online feedback map, online and hard copy feedback forms, the Project email, freephone and freepost address.</p>	Appendices F.3.1, F.2 and F.3

25	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 Applicant held a fourth, targeted consultation from 14 March to 22 April 2024.	Chapter 11
25	Our community consultations will be advertised and promoted widely in advance.	The Applicant's statutory consultation was advertised through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters sent to 16 community locations across the consultation zone • Section 47 and section 48 notices placed in both national and local newspapers • Print and digital advertising in the Clacton and Frinton Gazette • Social media posts on the Project's Instagram account • A postcard distributed to 45,700 addresses in the consultation zone 	Section 6.2, Appendices F.43, F.48-F.54, F.38, F.41, F.42, F.39 and F.55
25	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.	The Applicant's consultation was held from 16 May to 14 July 2023 so avoided the local summer holidays. The Applicant's statutory consultation lasted for 59 days, exceeding the statutory minimum requirement of at least 28 days.	Chapters 6-9
25	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.	The Applicant's consultation was held from 16 May to 14 July 2023 so avoided the local summer holidays. This was in close proximity to the Five Estuaries statutory consultation, which was held between 14 March and 12 May 2023. While the Applicant avoided consultation clashes as far as practicable it wasn't possible to completely avoid all other consultations and there were limited overlaps.	Table 1.2
25	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	The Applicant held meetings with landowners and relevant fisheries likely to be affected by the Project throughout the pre-application stage. The Applicant also responded to queries and ad hoc consultation requests that came through the general Project communication lines (freepost, email or freephone) outside of specified consultation periods.	Sections 3.6-3.7

	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.		
25	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.	The Applicant coordinated with other developers in the area as much as was practicable. Five Estuaries and North Falls have agreed to more closely liaise in relation to the projects, share information and undertake joint planning.	Appendix C.20
25	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.	The Applicant held a targeted consultation from 14 March to 22 April 2024 due to localised changes to the Project's onshore PEIR boundary.	Chapter 11
26	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: 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.	The Applicant consulted all relevant section 42 consultees during its stage 3 (statutory) and stage 4 (targeted) consultations.	Appendix F.22
26	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-	The Applicant consulted relevant section 47 consultees during its consultation in accordance with the SoCC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters sent to in 16 community locations across the consultation zone • A postcard sent out to 45,700 addresses in the consultation zone 	Appendices F.43 and F.39

	statutory groups. These are sometimes referred to as section 47 consultees.	The relevant section 47 consultees were also consulted during the Applicant's targeted consultation.	
26	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.	The Applicant's consultation was publicised to section 48 consultees through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 48 notices placed in national and local newspapers • Print and digital advertising in the Clacton and Frinton Gazette • Social media posts on the Project's Instagram account 	Chapter 6, Appendices F.43, F.48-F.54, F.38, F.41, F.42, F.39 and F.55.
26	We will carry out targeted activities for each group of consultees mentioned.	The Applicant tailored its stage 3 (statutory) and stage 4 (targeted) consultations to each group of consultees through targeted letters and emails, publicity, consultation events, and meetings.	Chapters 7 and 11, Appendices G.9, G.9.1 and F.24
26	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.	A postcard announcing the launch of statutory consultation was sent to 45,700 addresses within 3km of the onshore infrastructure and 1km of proposed construction activities ahead of consultation launch on 16 May.	Appendix F.39.
26	Properties within the three-and-one-kilometre consultation areas will receive direct communications such as leaflets from us in the post or via email.		
26	Targeted lists will be developed to direct correspondence to relevant bodies, councils and anyone who has registered an interest in the project.	The Applicant identified and created targeted lists of relevant consultees under sections 42 and 47 of the Act for use during consultation and maintained a distribution list of anyone who registered and interest in the Project.	Appendix F.22
26	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	The Applicant placed consultation materials at the following deposit locations, for the duration of the statutory consultation period, in areas that could be visually impacted by the Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aldeburgh Library (Suffolk) • Felixstowe Library (Suffolk) • Southwold Library (Suffolk) • Whitstable Library (Kent) 	Appendices F.4.1 and G.8.1

	<p>respond to the consultation.</p>	<p>Kent County Council and East Suffolk Council were also included in the ETG on SLVIA.</p> <p>Clerks in parish councils with a view in both East Suffolk and Kent also received an email notifying them of consultation launch.</p> <p>Finally, Kent County Council, East Suffolk Council and Maldon District Council received the same information as section 42 consultees (see Chapter 7).</p>	
26	<p>We recognise that there may be interested individuals or groups who are not living or working within the public consultation areas.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant published a section 48 notice publicising the consultation in four national publications (The Guardian, London Gazette, Fishing News and Lloyds List).</p> <p>Digital advertising was placed through the Clacton and Frinton Gazette.</p> <p>The Applicant also advertised the consultation on its Instagram account.</p>	<p>Appendices F.48-F.54, F.42 and F.55</p>
26	<p>Our consultation materials will be published online and available to view and download, or on request using our project contact details.</p>	<p>The Applicant's consultation materials for stage 3 (statutory) and stage 4 (targeted) consultations were uploaded to the Project website, where contact details were also readily available should anyone wish to request hard copies.</p>	<p>Appendix F.3</p>
27	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant regularly engaged with local planning authorities in the Project area to help determine their methods of engagement.</p>	<p>Tables 3.2 and 3.3</p>
27	<p>As well as the community consultation, we have, and will continue to, engage with a range of statutory and non-statutory consultees, including relevant:</p> <p>Owners, tenants and occupiers of the land identified within the application or who may be entitled to make a relevant claim.</p>	<p>The Applicant continued to engage with these bodies throughout the consultation process.</p>	<p>Chapter 7, Appendices F.22, F.23 and F.24</p>

	<p>MPs and local councils (county, district and parish).</p> <p>Statutory stakeholders, such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Wildlife Trusts.</p> <p>Marine groups and users such as fisheries, ports and the MCA.</p> <p>Local interest and community groups, inshore and those along the coast with a particular interest in seascape visual amenity.</p> <p>Hard to reach groups.</p>		
27	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant conducted both in-person and online consultation events, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 2 June 2023, Great Bromley Village Hall • Saturday 3 June 2023, Tendring Village Hall • Thursday 8 June 2023, McGrigor Hall • Friday 9 June 2023, Thorpe-le-Soken Women's Institute • Saturday 10 June 2023, Ardleigh Village Hall • Tuesday 13 June and Wednesday 21 June 2023, online consultation events 	Appendix F.11
27	<p>We will seek venues for public events that are accessible by a range of transport modes and compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act.</p>	<p>The Applicant conducted assessments of each venue that was used for a consultation event to ensure they were accessible by a range of transport modes and compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act.</p>	Appendix E.30
27	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant offered a range of communication methods including social media, print and digital advertising, emails and hard copy letters, postcards and update newsletters.</p>	Appendices F.24, F.55, F.41, F.42, F.39, F.16 and F.17
27	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant contacted a range of 'hard to reach' groups to notify them of the launch of consultation on 16 May 2023.</p>	Appendices F.23 and F.24

27	<p>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.</p>	<p>Both local authorities and 'hard to reach' groups have had multiple opportunities to provide feedback throughout the Applicant's consultation process.</p> <p>The Applicant's contact channels remain open should any of these groups wish to contact the Applicant.</p> <p>When the Applicant shared its draft SoCC with local authorities, it asked for input in identifying hard to reach groups in their area.</p> <p>In their joint feedback to the draft SoCC Essex County Council and Tendring District Council recommended the Applicant consulted the Young Essex Assembly and local youth clubs. The Young Essex Assembly were subsequently included in the Applicant's stage 3 (statutory) consultation.</p>	<p>Stage 1 (introductory consultation): Chapter 4</p> <p>Stage 2 (pre-application consultation): Chapter 5</p> <p>Stage 3 (statutory consultation): Chapter 6</p> <p>Stage 4 (targeted consultation): Chapter 11</p> <p>Appendices C.17, F.32, F.33, F.34 and F.22</p>
27	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant produced regular newsletters to update the local community on its proposals.</p> <p>The Applicant operated a freephone number throughout the consultation period. This number is still live.</p> <p>The Applicant hosted five in-person and two online consultation events.</p> <p>The Applicant did not receive any specific feedback from 'hard to reach' groups that necessitated a change in communication methods.</p>	<p>Appendices F.16, F.17, C.17 and F.11</p>
Fp28	<p>We will be seeking feedback to help develop our proposals including, but not limited to, the following:</p> <p>Our offshore infrastructure location and the marine environment including consultation with the MMO and local commercial fisheries organisations.</p>	<p>The Applicant's stage 3 (statutory) consultation feedback form sought feedback on these elements using the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have any comments about the landfall compound zone that could help us identify the best location for the TCC? • Are there any areas of the onshore cable route you have 	<p>Appendices F1 and F.2</p>

	<p>Our landfall location and siting of the temporary landfall construction compound.</p> <p>Refinement of the onshore cable route, temporary works compounds and access.</p> <p>The temporary construction-related impacts around activity such as traffic management, noise mitigation and the local environment.</p> <p>Relationship to other projects including cumulative and in-combination effects.</p> <p>Operational impacts that will be more permanent, for example on the local environment.</p> <p>Landscape and visual amenity.</p>	<p>specific information or comments about?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you have any comments about any of the offshore-related assessments or on the mitigation measures proposed? <p>The Applicant's feedback form also asked for further comments which enabled consultees to either reiterate already points made or raise any other concerns not already covered.</p> <p>The Applicant also addressed these elements in its stage 3 (statutory) consultation brochure.</p>	
29	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant held five in-person and two online consultation events.</p> <p>Feedback could be provided through an online interactive feedback map, online feedback form, hard copy feedback form, feedback postcard, freepost address and email.</p>	<p>Appendices F.3.1, F.2 and F.39</p>
29	<p>These methodologies will include consultation events and meetings, an online consultation portal, a dedicated project freephone line and project email.</p>	<p>The Applicant held five in person and two online consultation events and had a dedicated online consultation portal on the Project website, as well as a freephone line and email.</p>	<p>Appendices F.11 and F.3</p>
29	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant distributed three newsletters in spring 2022, spring 2023 and autumn 2023.</p>	<p>Appendices C.11 F.16 and F.17</p>
29	<p>Consultation methodologies will include:</p> <p>Online consultation portal accessed via the project website</p> <p>Feedback forms / questionnaires</p> <p>Community consultation events (in-person and online)</p> <p>Newsletters / factsheets (electronic and printed versions)</p>	<p>The Applicant used the following consultation methodologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific online portal for stage 3 (statutory) consultation Online and hard copy feedback form Five in-person and two online consultation events Three community update newsletters A factsheet available on the Project website and at consultation events 	<p>Appendices F.3, F.2, F.16, F.17, C.11, F.6, F.39, F.41, F.42, F.55 and F.24</p>

	<p>Direct mail (letters, invitations and information materials) delivered to those within the focussed consultation area(s)</p> <p>Direct emails to those on the North Falls mailing list</p> <p>Print and digital advertising in local newspapers (Clacton and Frinton Gazette)</p> <p>Establishment of community liaison groups as applicable</p> <p>Meetings with local representatives including parish, district and county councillors</p> <p>Project specific website: www.northfallsoffshore.com</p> <p>Social media including Instagram.</p> <p>Direct 24-hour phone line: 0800 254 5340</p> <p>Project-specific email address: contact@northfallsoffshore.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postcards delivered to 45,700 addresses in the consultation zone • Emails to those who had asked to be kept up to date at the launch of consultation • Print and digital advertising in the Clacton and Frinton Gazette • Establishment of a fisheries liaison group • Meetings with local planning authorities • A dedicated Project website • Social media posts on the Project's Instagram page • A direct freephone line • A Project email inbox 	
30	<p>Consultation periods will be widely advertised with opening and closing dates for input highlighted.</p>	<p>The Applicant's statutory consultation was advertised through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters sent to 16 community locations across the consultation zone. • Section 47 and section 48 notices placed in both national and local newspapers. • Print and digital advertising in the Clacton and Frinton Gazette. • Social media posts on the Project's Instagram account. • A postcard sent out to 45,700 addresses in the consultation zone. 	<p>Chapter 6, Appendices F.38, F.43, F.48-F.54, F.55, F.39, F41 and F.42</p>
30	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant had regard to all feedback received at each of the four stages of consultation.</p>	<p>Appendices F.14, F.14.1, G.5 and G.5.1</p>
30	<p>We will summarise the consultation activity and outcomes via our consultation portal and through summary Consultation Reports, also available online.</p>	<p>The Applicant produced a summary of activity following its first three stages of consultation, all of which was available to view on the Project website shortly following the close of consultation. Due to its proximity to the Applicant's DCO application submission, a summary for stage 4 (targeted) consultation was not published on the Project website.</p>	<p>Appendices D.15, E.32 and F.58</p>

30	Commonly asked questions, and answers, will be posted on the website and expanded with new questions and answers as need arises.	The Applicant regularly updated the FAQs available on the Project website, based on feedback received during its consultations.	Appendix F.56
30	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.	The Applicant had regard to all feedback received at each of the four stages of consultation and this feedback has influenced the Project's development. This feedback has been collated into tables and populated with the Applicant's regard, which describes how the Applicant has considered and taken into account feedback from each stage of consultation.	Appendices F.14, F.14.1, G.5 and G.5.1
30	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/)	The Applicant collected and stored all personal data received as part of the consultation process in line with GDPR and the Privacy Notice available on the Project website.	Appendix C.18

10. Stage 3 (statutory) consultation: section 48

10.1 Introduction and overview of publicity

10.1.1 Section 48 of the Act and regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations require the Applicant to place a notice publicising the proposed application in the prescribed manner in certain publications.

10.1.2 In line with the APFP regulations, Table 10.1 sets out the publications in which the section 48 notice was placed, and the dates it appeared. The publication dates for the section 48 notice align with the beginning of the statutory consultation period (in accordance with [58] of the DCLG Guidance (2015) on the pre-application process).

Table 10.1 Section 48 publicity under regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations

Regulation 4(2) of the APFP regulations	Publication	Date	Appendix
a) for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Proposed Development would be situated;	The Daily Gazette	16 May 2023	Appendix F.51
		23 May 2023	Appendix F.54

b) once in a national newspaper;	The Guardian	16 May 2023	Appendix F.53
c) once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	London Gazette	16 May 2023	Appendix F.52
d) where the proposed application relates to offshore development –	Fishing News	15 May 2023	Appendix F.49
(i) once in Lloyds List; and (ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal.	Lloyd's List	16 May 2023	Appendix F.50

10.1.3 In line with regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations 2009, the Applicant's section 48 notice included the following, as set out in Table 10.2. A copy of the section 48 notice as published can be found in Appendix F.48.

Table 10.2 Compliance with section 48

Requirement	How met (wording used)
The name and address of the Applicant	'North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited (company number 12435947) with registered office at Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 6PB'
A statement that the Applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State	The Applicant 'intends to make an 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"). for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm ("North Falls")
A statement that the application is an EIA development	'North Falls is an environmental impact assessment (EIA) development as defined in the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.'
A summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Proposed Development	<p>'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 24 kilometres from the coast near Frinton-on-Sea, the likely landfall location for that connection option. North Falls is set to support the UK's target of 50GW of installed offshore wind capacity by 2030. North Falls comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 72 offshore wind turbine generators • Up to two offshore substation platforms • Platform interconnector cables • Inter-array cables • Three options for transmission infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Option 1: Onshore electrical connection at a connection point within Tendring, Essex, with a project alone onshore cable route and onshore substation infrastructure; ○ Option 2: Onshore electrical connection at a National Grid connection point within Tendring, Essex, sharing an onshore cable route with separate onshore export cables with another project (such as Five Estuaries) where practicable, or

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Option 3: Offshore electrical connection supplied by a third-party electricity network provider. Such a connection will potentially be identified through the OTNR process.'
<p>A statement confirming that all application documents and maps are available free of charge on the Project website including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the address of the website where the documents, plans and maps may be inspected; • the place on the website where the documents, plans and maps may be inspected; • a telephone number which can be used to contact the applicant for enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps. 	<p>'From the start of the statutory consultation on 16 May 2023, the North Falls Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), a non-technical summary (NTS) providing an overview of the proposals, consultation booklet and other documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Project will be available to view and download free of charge via the consultation portal (www.stat.northfallsoffshore.com). The consultation portal can be accessed from the website (www.northfallsoffshore.com).</p> <p>Alternatively, copies of the documents can be requested by calling 0800 254 5340 or by emailing contact@northfallsoffshore.com. These contact details can also be used for any enquiries relating to the documents, plans and maps accompanying this consultation.'</p> <p>Paper copies of all consultation documents were also available to view free of charge at addresses in the vicinity of the Project:</p> <p>'Paper copies of all the consultation documents – including the PEIR - will be available to view at the following drop-in consultation events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Bromley Village Hall, 2 June 2023, 3:30-7:30pm • Tendring Village Hall, 3 June 2023, 9am-1pm • McGrigor Hall, Frinton-on-Sea, 8 June 2023, 3:30-7:30pm • Thorpe-le-Soken Women's Institute, 9 June 2023, 3:30-7:30pm • Ardleigh Village Hall, 10 June, 9am-1pm'
The latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection	'The documents, plans and maps will all be available online for at least the duration of the statutory consultation period ending at 11.59pm on 14 July 2023.'
Whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge	<p>'Electronic copies of the documents on a USB stick can be requested free of charge along with paper copies of the NTS, consultation booklet and previously published SoCC.</p> <p>However due to the size of the PEIR, a charge of £3,500 would be applied for a paper copy, to cover the production costs.'</p>
Details of how to respond to the publicity	'Responses can be submitted via a feedback form or the interactive map on the project consultation portal (www.stat.northfallsoffshore.com); via feedback forms or postcards available at the consultation events; by email contact@northfallsoffshore.com , or in writing to Freepost North Falls. Any responses related to North Falls statutory consultation should be received by the Applicant using the details above by 11.59pm on 14 July 2023.'
A deadline for receipt of those responses by the Applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is last published	'Any responses related to North Falls statutory consultation should be received by the Applicant

10.1.4 Letters enclosing the section 48 notice (see Appendix F24.1) were sent to all consultees identified under s42(1)(a), s42(1)(aa), s 42(1)(b) and s42(1)(d) of the Act (see Section 11), including any person notified to the Applicant in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations on 16 May 2023.

11. Stage 4 (targeted) consultation

11.1 Purpose and scope of the consultation

11.1.1 The Project's proposed design continued to develop following the close of stage 3 (statutory) consultation. This included ongoing design refinement informed by technical, engineering and environmental work, as well as consideration of feedback received to stage 3 (statutory) consultation.

11.1.2 This process resulted in the need for a further stage of targeted consultation on updated proposals following localised changes to the Project's onshore PEIR boundary. All proposed localised changes, with the exception of more defined TCC locations, resulted in additional land required outside the Project's onshore PEIR boundary.

11.1.3 To ensure these proposed localised changes were subject to adequate consultation, targeted consultation was undertaken between 14 March and 22 April 2024.

11.1.4 The location and details of the proposed localised changes consulted on during this consultation are described in Table 11.1. An overview map showing the location of the proposed localised changes and individual maps of each localised change are shown in Appendix G.1. In summary, the proposed localised changes were:

- Additional land required at National Grid Electricity Transmission's (NGET) proposed substation site, the East Anglia Connection Node (the Applicant's National Grid Connection Point), to align with land ownership boundaries;
- 10 locations where the Applicant requires additional land to make localised changes to the onshore PEIR boundary to accommodate the onshore cable route at Little Clacton Road, south of Walton Road, north of Tendring Road, and between Barlon Road and Spratts Lane, as well as access to temporary construction haul roads;
- 14 locations where the Applicant identified access points for operating and maintaining (O&M) the onshore electrical connection throughout the Project's operational lifespan;
- Inclusion of 11 construction traffic visibility splays, where the Applicant identified the need to have a wider area of hedgerow adjustment to meet the requirements of road safety audits and construction access points, allowing safe movement of traffic between the public highway and the onshore cable route;
- 12 proposed TCC locations; and

- Improvements and widening of Bentley Road to facilitate the Applicant's construction of the Project, as well as potential use of Bentley Road for maintenance during the Project's operational lifespan.
- 11.1.5 In determining the approach to this consultation, the Applicant considered paragraphs 73-77 of DCLG pre-application guidance.
- 11.1.6 Paragraph 73 states: "Applicants are not expected to repeat consultation rounds set out in their SoCC unless the project proposals have changed very substantially. However, where proposals change to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was consulted on, further consultation may well be needed. This may be necessary if, for example, new information arises which renders all previous options unworkable or invalid for some reason. When considering the need for additional consultation, applicants should use the degree of change, the effect on the local community and the level of public interest as guiding factors."
- 11.1.7 Having determined the changes as minor due to their small scale and localised impact, paragraphs 75-76 are relevant.
- 11.1.8 75. "If the application only changes to a small degree, or if the change only affects part of the development, then it is not necessary for an applicant to undertake a full re-consultation. Where a proposed application is amended in light of consultation responses then, unless those amendments materially change the application or materially changes its impacts, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. Instead, the applicant should ensure that all affected statutory consultees and local communities are informed of the changes."
- 11.1.9 76. "In circumstances where a particular issue has arisen during the preapplication consultation, or where it is localised in nature, it may be appropriate to hold a non-statutory, targeted consultation. A developer's SoCC should be drafted so that it does not preclude this approach. A more bespoke approach can be adopted, which may allow developers to respond with more agility to the issue at hand. If adopting this approach, the emphasis should be on ensuring that relevant individuals and organisations are included."
- 11.1.10 Given the nature of the proposed localised changes, the Applicant did not consider that the proposed application changes to such a large degree that the proposals could be considered a new application, or that it materially change[s] the application or materially changes its impacts.
- 11.1.11 The proposed localised changes, including their nature, extent and duration, were reviewed as part of the Applicant's environmental assessment. The findings of this assessment determined that they did not change significantly or materially change the effects of the EIA, as set out in the Applicant's PEIR and consulted on at stage 3 (statutory) consultation.
- 11.1.12 Considering this, and with regard to DCLG pre-application guidance, the Applicant considered the Project to be the same Project as was consulted on during its previous consultations.

11.1.13 Accordingly, it was not considered proportionate to undertake a full re-consultation as a result of the proposed localised changes. Instead, the Applicant conducted a round of targeted consultation centred on the proposed changes which included consultation with newly relevant and identified PILs and relevant consultees.

11.1.14 The Applicant's SoCC, published 27 March 2023, provided the option to undertake further consultation if necessary. From page 25 of the Applicant's SoCC: "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 preapplication consultation."

11.2 Overview of proposed localised changes consulted on

Table 11.1 Stage 4 (targeted) consultation proposed localised changes

Onshore cable route adjustments		
<p>A number of localised changes to the Applicant's onshore cable route were proposed to accommodate the cable route at Little Clacton Road, south of Walton Road, north of Tendring Road and between Barlon Road and Spratts Lane. These adjustments were also proposed to enable access to proposed temporary construction haul roads required to build the Applicant's Project. The below table is separated between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent works relating to the onshore cable route, meaning it's proposed these works will remain in place throughout the Project's operational lifespan; and • Temporary works relating to access to temporary construction haul roads, meaning it's proposed these works will remain in place only while the Project is being built. 		
Permanent works relating to onshore cable route		
Location	Description	Rationale
Fields south of Little Clacton Road	Inclusion of a slightly wider area at the western crossing of Little Clacton Road. Other options previously considered for crossing Little Clacton Road have been removed.	Using the additional eastern crossings of Little Clacton Road requires additional works, including further topsoil strips and temporary construction haul roads. This also helps to avoid potential archaeological features north of Little Clacton Road.
South of Walton Road	Incorporated to prevent a small amount of land being severed between the O&M access point and onshore cable route in this area.	Offers the potential to move the onshore cable route as close to nearby reservoirs as possible, therefore mitigating any potential effect on a nearby proposed housing development.
North of Tendring Road	Moved further north, closer to the field boundary.	Made as a result of feedback received saying to avoid mature trees to the south of the onshore cable route as far as possible.
Between Barlon Road and Spratts Lane	Moved further south.	Avoids potential archaeological feature in the onshore cable route.
Bentley Road	Improvements and widening of Bentley Road.	Facilitates the Applicant's construction of the Project, as well as potential use of Bentley Road for maintenance during the Project's operational lifespan.

North Falls and Five Estuaries' proposed colocated onshore substation zone	Incorporated to mitigate potential engineering constraints.	As well as mitigating potential engineering constraints, this also enables coordination with Five Estuaries and aligns with the onshore connection point provided by NGET.
Temporary works relating to haul roads for construction		
Location	Description	Rationale
North of Little Clacton Road	The temporary construction haul road needs to cross the hedgerow as far east as possible.	To avoid archaeological features and target gaps in the hedgerow.
South of Railway Line (Sunshine Coast Line)	Temporary construction haul road crossing of watercourse required to access the onshore cable route.	To cross a ditch at an existing culvert at an allowable shallow gradient.
Fields around Golden Lane	Temporary construction haul road around the horse paddocks near Golden Lane required to access the onshore cable route.	To mitigate potential effects to the horse paddocks.
North of Tendring Road	Additional section of temporary construction haul road to connect to the onshore cable route while avoiding the horse paddocks near Golden Lane.	To better align the temporary construction haul road with the onshore cable route.
South of the A120 / B1035 roundabout	Access from the public highway onto the onshore cable route off the B1035, south of Horsley Cross.	Access required off the public highway to a TCC in this area.
O&M access points		
<p>The table below describes the locations where the Applicant identified O&M access points that fell outside its onshore PEIR boundary. The intention is to use existing field access points rather than accessing along the onshore cable route from the public highway, therefore mitigating potential effects to crops in agricultural fields. The Applicant intends to limit O&M access points to infrequent use by light vehicles in the event of emergency repairs and routine maintenance.</p>		
Location	Description	Rationale
Fields south of Short Lane	Creating access to landfall transition joint bays in the fields south of Short Lane using the southern fork and the fields north of Short Lane using the northern fork.	To avoid interference with farm buildings south of the junction between the B1032 and Manor Road. Also to avoid a hedgerow immediately north of Short Lane.
Fields south of Little Clacton Road	Access to facilitate and maintain reduction of the length of cabling running through the farmstead.	<p>There is no direct access to the onshore cable route from the adjacent public highway.</p> <p>Creating a new road would involve removing a hedgerow and accessing a difficult area of Little Clacton Road due to limited visibility and an existing 60mph speed limit. A safer way to access the field is through the farmstead. Access to the field has been sought on both the eastern and western sides to mitigate possible effects on areas of cropping.</p>

North of Little Clacton Road	Creating access to the onshore cable route via fields north east and east of Great Holland Mill.	There is no direct access to the onshore cable route from the public highway. Accessing via the onshore cable route would involve removing a hedgerow and accessing a difficult area of Little Clacton Road, due to the curved nature of the road limiting visibility, as well as its current 60mph speed limit.
Field west of Pork Lane	Extension of access required north of Little Clacton Road (as per O&M Access Point Outside Onshore PEIR Boundary – 3, available to view in the targeted consultation brochure (Appendix G.1)).	As per rationale for O&M Access Point Outside Onshore PEIR Boundary – 3. There is also an additional hedgerow and a watercourse on the southern field boundary, which is a protected habitat.
Southern part of field north and field south of the railway (Sunshine Coast Line)	Additional access to the onshore cable route from Thorpe Park Lane.	Due to the field location and a watercourse and railway line, access to either side of the railway is constrained from an engineering and environmental perspective. This route allows for easier access to these fields and mitigates any potential effects on the land.
Fields west of Pork Lane	Allowing access to the onshore cable route via the northernmost part of the field north of the railway.	This prevents the need to track across the field. Direct access from the B1033 could cause significant damage to the field and cropping areas.
South of Walton Road	Utilises an existing access to the onshore cable route.	Direct access from the public highway to the onshore cable route would require the unnecessary removal of a hedgerow.
Fields around Golden Lane	Utilises an existing access to the onshore cable route.	Direct access from the public highway to the onshore cable route would require the unnecessary removal of a hedgerow.
Fields around Tendring Brook	Utilises existing access to the onshore cable route and an existing crossing of Tendring Brook.	Alternative access to the field north of Tendring Brook would require tracking around the field boundary.
Fields south of Wolves Hall Lane	Utilises an existing access to the onshore cable route.	Due to the size of the field, access from Lodge Lane is required. Alternative accesses would be through the farmstead and across the field via Lodge Lane.
Fields north of Wolves Hall Lane	Utilises an existing access to the onshore cable route.	Direct access from the public highway to the onshore cable route would require the unnecessary removal of a hedgerow.
Fields north of Stones Green	Utilises an existing access to the onshore cable route.	Direct access from the public highway to the onshore cable route would require the unnecessary removal of a hedgerow.
Fields south of the A120	Utilises an existing access to the onshore cable route.	Utilising the existing access is likely more safe than traffic accessing and

		leaving the field from the A120 and avoids disturbance to the operational farm in this area.
Field east of Bentley Road	Utilises an existing access to the onshore cable route.	Access direct from the public highway to the onshore cable route would require the unnecessary removal of a hedgerow.
Construction traffic visibility splays		
<p>Visibility splays are locations where the Applicant proposes to reduce the height of vegetation to improve overall road safety by ensuring construction vehicles leaving a site have good visibility before joining the local road networks. 11 locations were identified following discussion with Essex County Council's highways department and more detailed design work, including safety audits.</p> <p>These seek to allow safe access and egress for construction vehicles onto the public highway, allowing them to more clearly see other traffic approaching. The 11 proposed construction traffic visibility splays are listed below.</p>		
1	Fields south of Little Clacton Road	
2	Thorpe Road	
3	Sneating Hall Lane	
4	Damant's Farm Lane	
5	B1414 / Landermere Road	
6	Fields around Golden Lane	
7	Fields north of Stones Green	
8	South of the A120 / B1035 roundabout	
9	Fields east of Bentley Road	
10	Payne's Lane	
11	Ardleigh Road	
TCCs		
<p>There will be a requirement to have TCCs in place in strategic locations along the onshore cable route. These will provide the Applicant with facilities to service the installation of approximately 24km of onshore cable, build the Project's onshore substation, and store construction materials and plan. The 12 proposed locations of TCCs are listed below.</p>		
1	Landfall TCC off Short Lane	
2	East of B1032 / Clacton Road	
3	West of B1032 / Clacton Road	
4	South of B1033 / Thorpe Road	
5	North of B1035 / Tendring Road, south of Swan Road	
6	North of B1035 / Thorpe Road, west of Swan Road	
7	South of A120 OFF b1035 / Thorpe Road	
8	North of A120, east of B1035 / Clacton Road	

9	North of A120, west of B1035 / Clacton Road
10	East of Bentley Road
11	West of Bentley Road, north of onshore cable route
12	West of Bentley Road, south of onshore cable route

11.3 Overview of identification of consultees

Section 42(1)(a)

11.3.1 Given the proposed localised changes were focused onshore, the Applicant deemed it appropriate to only consult prescribed bodies under section 42(1)(a) interested in and / or affected by the Project's onshore elements. Prescribed bodies under section 42(1)(a) exclusively interested in and / or affected by the Project's offshore elements were not consulted. A list of this consultation's section 42(1)(a) consultees is shown in Appendix G.7.

Section 42(1)(b)

11.3.2 The Applicant adopted the same approach to identifying section 42(1)(b) consultees. The following local authorities consulted at stage 3 (statutory) consultation but were not consulted at this consultation because the Applicant deemed likely effects to these authorities to be negligible due to the location of the proposed localised changes: Havering London Borough Council, Enfield London Borough Council, Waltham Forest London Borough Council; and, Redbridge London Borough Council.

Table 11.2 Stage 4 (targeted) consultation local authorities consulted

Section of the Act	Local Authority	Classification
Section 43(1)	Tendring District Council	B
	Essex County Council	C
Section 43(2)	Colchester City Council	A
	Babergh District Council	A
	Suffolk County Council	A and D
	Hertfordshire County Council	D
	Cambridgeshire County Council	D
	Southend-on-Sea Council	D
	Thurrock Council	D
Medway Council	D	

11.3.3 Additionally, Rochford District Council, East Suffolk Council, Kent County Council and Maldon District Council were consulted as non-prescribed local authorities potentially affected by visual and landscape impacts.

Section 42(1)(d)

11.3.4 Given the proposed localised changes included an extension to the Project's onshore PEIR boundary and compulsory acquisition powers over those additional areas, land interests potentially affected by the additional areas under section 42(1)(d) were identified and consulted. See Appendix C.8 for a list of these land interest interests.

11.3.5 Additionally, some of the proposed changes meant the potential impact to some land interests would be different to what was consulted on during stage 3 (statutory) consultation. For example, where a TCC location had been identified. While the proposed TCC locations are within the onshore PEIR boundary presented at stage 3 (statutory) consultation, the locations of the TCC had not been identified at stage 3 (statutory) consultation, therefore affected land interests consulted at that time could not be reasonably expected to have anticipated they would be affected or responded to stage 3 (statutory) consultation accordingly. As such, the Applicant considered it proportionate to reconsult those land interests where proposed changes could have introduced a different impact to their interests.

11.3.6 It was not considered proportionate to reconsult land interests across the entire onshore PEIR boundary as in the majority of locations, the only change had been for the onshore PEIR boundary to reduce.

11.3.7 Consultation under section 42(1)(d) was carried out from 14 March to 22 April 2024 to give those newly identified, newly affected and differently affected land interests an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes, as well as the PEIR and PEIR Addendum.

11.3.8 The following groups of land interests were identified for inclusion in stage 4 (targeted) consultation:

- Newly identified from referencing land interests affected by onshore works, excluding highways and junction works;
- Existing land interests with additional land affected due to highways and junction works;
- New land interests due to highways and junction works;
- Existing land interests who had TCC or O&M locations identified within their land parcel(s);
- Land interests with off-route haul road through their land parcel(s);
- New potential category 3 interests, as per section 44(4) of the Act, as a result of changes (excluding highways and junction); and
- New potential Category 3 interests as a result of changes, including highways and junction works.

11.3.9 The process used by Dalcour Maclaren to identify potential Category 3 interests was the same as set out within Land Referencing Methodology (see

Appendix B.1). The Project team worked with Dalcour Maclaren to review and confirm land interests according to the categories set out above.

- 11.3.10 172 PILs were initially identified and sent letters at the beginning of stage 4 (targeted) consultation. An additional thirty-one PILs were identified following the commencement of the consultation and were subsequently consulted in the same manner in excess of the statutory minimum requirement of at least 28 days (see Appendix C.21 for the letter to these additional consultees).
- 11.3.11 109 PILs were identified and consulted as Category 1 interests, 65 as Category 2 interests and 29 as Category 3 interests.
- 11.3.12 In October 2023, prior to the stage 4 (targeted) consultation, meetings were extended to 50 land interests to review the localised changes. There were 46 meetings held jointly with representative of Five Estuaries between November and December 2023, representing an uptake rate of 92 per cent.
- 11.3.13 During the stage 4 (targeted) consultation, meetings were offered to 10 land interests who were identified as being potentially directly impacted by the proposed improvement and widening works to Bentley Road. All land interests were then contacted directly to ask if they would like a meeting. None of the land interests contacted accepted an offer of a meeting.
- 11.3.14 The Applicant also conducted site visits to investigate land that was either unregistered, or its interests unknown, and site notices were placed in the vicinity inviting persons with further information to contact the Applicant. There were 30 site notices erected on the 13 March 2024 which were monitored by Dalcour Maclaren for six weeks throughout the stage 4 (targeted) consultation period. Where notices needed repairing or replacing due to damage, this was undertaken as necessary.

Local communities

- 11.3.15 The Applicant identified the improvements and widening of Bentley Road to be a key proposed change and so consulted with communities in the vicinity of Bentley Road. Figure 2, with Bentley Road highlighted yellow for ease of reference, shows the extent of the Applicant's consultation zone in the vicinity of Bentley Road. The larger red dots on this map show the border of the consultation zone while the smaller red dots represent addresses within that zone.
- 11.3.16 The Applicant considered this consultation zone to be proportionate to the likely effects of proposals in this area, encompassing communities living in relative close proximity to Bentley Road and / or those that are likely to use Bentley Road on a regular basis and therefore likely to be directly affected by these proposed works. The consultation zone follows roads and other existing landmarks as far as practicable so as to minimise the severing of certain parts of residential areas. This consultation zone contained 289 business and residential addresses.
- 11.3.17 Inquiry was undertaken to identify whether any of the addresses within this Bentley Road consultation zone were also the addresses of consultees identified under section 42(1)(d). 25 such addresses were identified and these

addresses were subsequently removed from the Applicant's Bentley Road mailing database to avoid duplication.

11.3.18 All consultation within this zone was governed by the principles of the SoCC as far as applicable and proportionate.

Figure 2 Stage 4 (targeted) consultation zone



11.4 Additional non-prescribed bodies

11.4.1 In the interest of thoroughness and openness, as well as a willingness to consult as widely as possible, additional potentially interested stakeholders, not identified under section 42 or the list of prescribed bodies under regulation 11(1)(c), were sent the same information as section 42 consultees. For stage 4 (targeted) consultation, this list can be found in Appendix G.7.

11.5 Consultation materials

11.5.1 The Applicant produced a suite of materials in digital and print format providing information on the proposed localised changes being consulted on and their likely effects. The materials shared during Stage 3 consultation on the PEIR were also available to newly identified PILs during this time.

11.5.2 Digital materials were made available from the launch of the consultation on 14 March 2024 via the Applicant's online targeted consultation portal: targetedconsultation.northfallsoffshore.com. Consultees could also submit feedback via this portal. Screen shots of this consultation portal can be seen in Appendix G.3.

11.5.3 Printed copies of the Applicant's consultation brochure and feedback form were sent to all consultees and arrived on or before 13 March 2024 in readiness for consultation to start on 14 March 2024. See Appendix G.1 for the consultation brochure and Appendix G.2 for the feedback form.

11.5.4 Materials produced to support this consultation are described in more detail in Table 11.3.

Table 11.3 Stage 4 (targeted) consultation materials

Material	Description
<p>Online consultation portal: targetedconsultation.northfallsoffshore.com</p>	<p>The Applicant's website was updated from the first day of targeted consultation (14 March 2024) to include a dedicated targeted consultation portal: targetedconsultation.northfallsoffshore.com. This portal set out information about the targeted consultation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context relating to why targeted consultation was needed and how the Project had evolved through its previous three stages of consultation; • Descriptions, rationale and maps for each proposed localised change; • An online feedback form through which feedback to the consultation could be provided; • An online interactive map which allowed people to search by postcode, zoom, view the proposed localised changes in high detail, and submit feedback; and • A three-dimensional computer-generated fly-through video showing and explaining the Applicant's proposed localised changes and how its proposed DCO boundary differed from its onshore PEIR boundary. <p>The targeted consultation portal URL was included in letters and / or emails sent to all consultees, as well as the printed brochure and feedback form. Screenshots of the Applicant's targeted consultation portal can be found in Appendix G.3.</p> <p>This portal also included an overview map for the consultation (see Appendix G.4).</p> <p>The portal was visited throughout the targeted consultation period with a peak in visitors during the first days of the consultation. User traffic then plateaued before peaking again towards the end of the consultation period.</p> <p>Over the duration of the targeted consultation period the microsite was visited a total of 1,042 times. There were 138 visits to the 'documents' page of the microsite, where all materials supporting the targeted consultation were available to view and download.</p>
<p>Consultation brochure</p>	<p>The Applicant produced a consultation brochure which set out the same information included on the targeted consultation portal.</p> <p>Printed brochures were sent, along with a covering letter and feedback form, to all consultees. A digital version of the brochure was hosted on the Applicant's targeted consultation microsite and further printed copies of the brochure were made available on request. The Applicant also made it clear in its brochure that it would accommodate requests for materials to be provided in alternative formats (i.e., large print, although the Applicant received no such requests).</p>
<p>Consultation feedback form</p>	<p>To give consultees the option to submit written feedback to the targeted consultation, the Applicant produced and distributed printed feedback forms to all consultees. The feedback form was also available in .pdf format on the Applicant's targeted</p>

	<p>consultation portal so consultees could print additional copies. A digital version of the feedback was also produced and hosted on the targeted consultation website to allow consultees to submit feedback electronically.</p> <p>Formatted as a four-page document, the feedback form invited consultees to provide comments on any of the proposed localised changes. It also signposted to where more information could be found in the consultation brochure, PEIR Addendum and on the targeted consultation portal.</p>
<p>Consultation notification letters</p>	<p>Advance notice of consultation emails were sent to select parish councils, Essex County Council and Tendring District Council.</p> <p>A copy of the advance notice letter sent to select parish councils can be seen in Appendix G.8.1. A copy of the advance notice email sent to select parish councils can be seen in Appendix G.8.2.</p> <p>A copy of the advance notice letter sent to local authorities can be seen in Appendix G.8. A copy of the advance notice email sent to local authorities can be seen in Appendix G.8.3.</p> <p>Consultation notification letters were sent to all consultees and consultation notification emails were sent to all section 42(1)(a) and section 42(1)(b) consultees. A copy of the consultation notification email sent to section 42(1)(a), 42(1)(b) and 42(1)(d) consultees can be seen in Appendix G.9. A copy of the consultation notification letter to section 42 consultees can be seen in Appendix G.9.2.</p> <p>Section 47 consultees (addresses in the vicinity of Bentley Road) were sent a bespoke cover letter focusing specifically on proposals to improve and widen Bentley Road. A copy of the consultation notification letter to section 47 consultees can be seen in Appendix G.9.1</p> <p>All consultation notification letters or emails clearly stated when the consultation period started and ended, where more information could be found, and how to provide feedback.</p>
<p>PEIR Addendum</p>	<p>The PEIR Addendum provided a supplementary environmental review of proposed localised changes to the Applicant's onshore Project area following the publication of its PEIR in May 2023. The PEIR Addendum provided information on whether the environmental receptors, the magnitude of impact, and / or resulting assessment outcomes presented in the PEIR had changed as a result of the proposed localised changes to the onshore PEIR boundary. It also considered whether these proposed localised changes were likely to present new or materially different likely significant effects, following mitigation.</p> <p>The PEIR Addendum was hosted digitally on the Applicant's targeted consultation microsite and printed copies were available on request, although no such requests were made. Printed copies were given to select residents along Bentley Road at in-person meetings held by the Project's land agent, Dalcour Maclaren. The PEIR Addendum can be seen in Appendix G.6.</p>

Section 42 site notice	<p>30 section 42 notices were placed at the closest public spaces to unregistered land parcels. These notices served various purposes, namely requesting information from individuals who may have an interest in the unregistered land, or informing them about the intended use of land.</p> <p>These site notices were checked and, if necessary, replaced on a regular basis throughout the targeted consultation. A total of 25 site notices were repaired or replaced during the six week monitoring period from 13 March to 23 April 2024. A copy of the section 42 site notice can be seen in Appendix G.14.</p>
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11.6 Consultation activity

11.6.1 Table 11.4 provides a summary of consultation activity undertaken with each category of consultee.

Table 11.4 Stage 4 (targeted) consultation activities summary

Consultee	Activity
Section 42(1)(a)	<p>Relevant section 42(1)(a) consultees were sent a consultation notification letter (see Appendix G.9.2), which arrived on or before 13 March 2024, along with a printed brochure and feedback form. They also received a consultation notification email on 13 March 2024, which included links to digital materials on the online consultation portal.</p> <p>Little Bentley, Great Bromley, Tendring and Mistley parish councils also received an email providing advance notice of consultation on 22 February 2024. These parish councils were sent advance notice emails because of their proximity to Bentley Road and because their parish boundaries intersected with the Applicant's Bentley Road consultation zone (see Figure 2). In this advance notice email, these parish councils were offered a virtual briefing with the Project team following the beginning of the consultation period. A copy of the presentation given by the Project team at this meeting can be seen in Appendix G.11.</p> <p>A copy of the advance notice letter sent to select parish councils can be seen in Appendix G.8.1. A copy of the advance notice email sent to select parish councils can be seen in Appendix G.8.2.</p> <p>Two weeks following the issuing of advance notice emails to Little Bentley, Great Bromley, Tendring and Mistley parish councils, the Applicant had not received a response from Great Bromley, Little Bentley and Mistley parish councils and so emailed again on 12 March 2024 to confirm whether they would like to arrange a meeting with the Project team. A copy of this email can be seen in Appendix G.12.</p> <p>On 22 March 2024, the Applicant had still not received a response from Mistley and Great Bromley parish councils and so emailed again. A copy of this email can be seen in Appendix G.13.</p> <p>Little Bentley and Tendring parish councils accepted the Applicant's offer of a meeting. The Project team's meeting with Little Bentley Parish Council took place on 20 March 2024. The Project</p>

	<p>team's meeting with Tendring Parish Council took place on 22 March.</p> <p>Following these meetings the Applicant sent Little Bentley and Tendring parish councils a copy of the presentation given by the Project team.</p>
Section 42(1)(b)	<p>Relevant section 42(1)(b) consultees were sent a consultation notification letter (see Appendix G.9.2), which arrived on or before 13 March 2024, along with a printed brochure and feedback form. They also received a consultation notification email on 13 March 2024, which included links to digital materials on the online consultation portal (see Appendix G.9).</p> <p>Essex County Council and Tendring District Council, the Project's host authorities, also received an email providing advance notice of consultation on 22 February 2024. In this advance notice email, the host authorities were offered a virtual briefing with the Project team ahead of the consultation period beginning. A joint meeting with Essex County Council and Tendring District Council took place on 6 March 2024. A copy of the presentation given by the Project team at this meeting can be seen in Appendix G.11. A copy of the advance notice email to Essex County Council and Tendring District Council can be seen in Appendix G.8.3.</p> <p>Following this meeting the Applicant sent Essex County Council and Tendring District Council a copy of the presentation given by the Project team.</p>
Section 42(1)(d)	<p>Relevant section 42(1)(d) consultees were sent a consultation notification letter which arrived on or before 13 March 2024, along with a printed brochure and feedback form. A copy of the consultation notification email to section 42(1)(d) consultees can be seen in Appendix G.9.</p>
Local communities (addresses in vicinity to Bentley Road)	<p>These consultees were sent a consultation notification letter which arrived on or before 13 March 2024, along with a printed brochure and feedback form. A copy of the consultation notification letter sent to local communities can be seen in Appendix G.9.1.</p>

11.7 Responses to the consultation

11.7.1 Consultees were able to respond to the targeted consultation using a number of methods:

- Completing and returning a printed feedback form to Freepost North Falls;
- Writing a letter and sending it to Freepost North Falls;
- Completing and submitting an electronic version of the feedback form via the online consultation portal;
- Sending an email to contact@northfallsoffshore.com; or
- Leaving comments via the online interactive feedback map on the online consultation portal.

11.7.2 In total, the Applicant received 102 individual pieces of feedback to this consultation from 95 respondents. A breakdown of feedback received by category of consultee is included in Table 11.5. A summary of the responses received and the Applicant's regard to them is provided in Appendix G.5 and Appendix G.5.1.

Table 11.5 Stage 4 (targeted) consultation response summary

Response channel	Section 42(1)(a) and (b)	Section 42(1)(d)	Section 47	Additional non-prescribed
Emails	17	27	39	27
Online feedback form / map point	2	1	4	1
Interactive feedback map	0	0	2	0
Hard copy (including feedback forms / letters received to freepost address)	0	0	0	0
Total	19	10	28	45

11.7.3 As well as receiving 102 individual pieces of feedback, the Applicant received nine phone call enquiries and 13 enquiry emails.

11.8 Conclusion

11.8.1 The Applicant considers it has fully complied with paragraphs 73-77 of DCLG pre-application guidance. In context of this guidance, the Applicant considered that the Project remained the same Project as was consulted on during its stage 3 (statutory) consultation.

11.8.2 Accordingly, it was not considered proportionate to undertake a full re-consultation as a result of the proposed localised changes. Instead, the Applicant conducted a round of targeted consultation centred on the proposed changes which included consultation with newly relevant and identified PILs, as well as other relevant consultees.

11.8.3 The Applicant adopted a strategy whereby targeted consultation was delivered to allow the following consultees to provide feedback on its proposed localised changes:

- Section 42(1)(a) and 42(1)(b) consultees exclusively interested in and / or affected by the Project's onshore elements;
- Section 42(1)(d) consultees newly identified, newly affected and differently impacted; and
- Addresses in the vicinity of Bentley Road (local communities).

11.8.4 The Applicant carried out a targeted consultation on proposed localised changes to the Project's onshore PEIR boundary from 14 March to 22 April

2024, a period of 40 days, exceeding the statutory minimum requirement of at least 28 days.³

- 11.8.5 Ongoing and informal consultation continued up until the DCO application was submitted, providing ongoing engagement with a range of stakeholders and two-way dialogue between the Applicant and consultees, which enabled the Applicant to continuously consider consultee feedback during the iterative design of the Applicant's proposals. This approach is recommended by government advice on the pre-application process for DCOs (Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process, DCLG, March 2015).

12. Consultation under EIA Regulations and Habitats Regulations

12.1 EIA scoping consultation

- 12.1.1 The North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Project is an EIA development for the purposes of the EIA Regulations. This was stated in the Applicant's section 47 and section 48 communications in line with Regulation 12 and Regulation 13.
- 12.1.2 EIA is a widely used tool for identifying the potential impacts of new developments and it is intended to provide decision-makers with an understanding of the probable environmental consequences of a proposed project and thereby facilitate the making of more environmentally sound decisions.
- 12.1.3 Further detail on the need for EIA is set out in the Applicant's ES Chapter 1 Introduction (document reference 3.1.3).
- 12.1.4 Regulation 8 requires that applicants, before carrying out consultation under section 42, must notify the Secretary of State that they propose to provide an ES for the proposed development.
- 12.1.5 The Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate as part of the formal request for a Scoping Opinion (pursuant to Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations) on 16 July 2021 (see Appendix H.1).
- 12.1.6 The request was accompanied by a Scoping Report containing the relevant information required under Regulation 10(3) of the EIA Regulations.
- 12.1.7 A Scoping Opinion⁴ was received from the Planning Inspectorate on 26 August 2021.
- 12.1.8 Scoping responses received from stakeholders have been considered during the development of the PEIR and subsequently the ES, with detail described within the consultation sections of the topic specific ES chapters.
- 12.1.9 Responses to scoping have been listed in each relevant chapter of the ES along with how the Applicant has considered the comments.

³ As per section 11.3 of this report, an additional 31 land interests were identified following the commencement of stage 4 (targeted) consultation and were consulted for the statutory minimum requirement of at least 28 days.

⁴ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010119/EN010119-000054-EN010119%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf>

12.1.10 Other consultation requirements under the EIA Regulations (including obligations under regulations 12 and 13) are described in the sections above.

12.2 Transboundary consultation

12.2.1 Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations establishes the procedural duties necessary where the Planning Inspectorate is of the view that an NSIP is likely to have significant effects on the environment in an EEA State; or where an EEA State is of the view that its environment is likely to be significantly affected by an NSIP.

12.2.2 The Planning Inspectorate determined that it was likely the Project could have a significant effect on the environment in The Netherlands.

12.2.3 Under Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations 2017, the Planning Inspectorate therefore issued a notification to one state consulting them on the scope of the EIA. This notice was issued on 3 February 2022 and is included in Appendix H.3.

12.2.4 A response was received from The Netherlands and is included in the ES. The Applicant has considered these response in the development of the ES and the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment.

12.3 Compliance with Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)

12.3.1 In accordance with the Habitats Regulations and DCLG guidance (DCLG, 2015), the Applicant consulted the relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies in order to gain evidence to inform the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) which accompanies the application (document reference 7.1.1-7.1.6).

12.3.2 The HRA screening was the subject of consultations that took place from 1 October 2021 (offshore effects) and 15 November 2022 (onshore effects) as well as through stage 3 (statutory) consultation.

12.3.3 Table 12.1 details the consultees engaged as part of the Applicant's derogation process.

Table 12.1 Consultees engaged in derogation process

Date	Consultation	Stakeholder
3 March 2022	In Principal Compensation Options Review submitted to ETG	Natural England and RSPB
17 March 2022	ETG meeting including discussion on compensation options for red throated diver, kittiwake and lesser black-backed gull	Natural England (apologies from RSPB)
22 March 2022	Written feedback on compensation options review for red throated diver, kittiwake and lesser black-backed gull	RSPB
5 April 2022	Written Feedback on compensation options review for red throated diver, kittiwake and lesser black-backed gull	Natural England
6 June 2022	Meeting regarding strategic compensation	Defra

2 August 2022	Meeting regarding strategic compensation	Defra
29 November 2022	Meeting regarding strategic compensation	Defra
16 May 2023	Updated In Principal Compensation Options Review submitted as part of preliminary environmental information	All
14 July 2023	Written feedback on compensation options review for red throated diver, kittiwake and lesser black-backed gull (PEI response, Annex 5)	Natural England & RSPB
30 October 2023	Red throated diver technical note submitted to ETG	Natural England and RSPB
13 November 2023	Expert topic group meeting including discussion on compensation for red-throated diver and lesser black-backed gull	Natural England and RSPB
28 November 2023	Lesser black-backed gull technical note submitted to ETG	Natural England and RSPB
15 December 2023	Written feedback on red-throated diver in-principle compensation options technical note	Natural England
8 January 2024	Written feedback on lesser black-backed gull in-principle compensation options technical note	Natural England
1 February 2024	Meeting regarding strategic compensation	Defra
5 March 2024	Meeting regarding strategic compensation	Defra
8 March 2024	Kittiwake in-principle compensation options technical note submitted to ETG	Natural England
8 March 2024	Auk in-principle compensation options technical note submitted	Natural England and RSPB
19 March 2024	Capacity Increase Programme	The Crown Estate
11 April 2024	ETG meeting regarding red throated diver, kittiwake, lesser black-backed gull and auk compensation	Natural England and RSPB
26 April 2024	Written feedback on auk in-principle compensation options technical note	Natural England
2 May 2024	Meeting regarding strategic compensation	Defra

12.3.4 Further detail on consultation on the RIAA and how responses were taken into account is detailed in the RIAA document (document reference 7.1.1-7.1.6).

13. Conclusion

13.1 Summary

13.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken an extensive, iterative, multi-stage consultation process in accordance with all of the relevant legislation, regulation and guidance. An initial non-statutory consultation introduced early proposals to the community and other stakeholders, resulting in 61 pieces of feedback. This

was followed by a further non-statutory consultation on updated proposals, resulting in 71 pieces of feedback. Then a full statutory consultation was undertaken, which included preliminary environmental information for the Project, five in-person and two online consultation events, and resulted in 641 pieces of feedback being submitted. Finally, a targeted consultation was carried out to ensure all relevant stakeholders had an opportunity to comment on proposed localised changes to the Project's onshore PEIR boundary before the submission of the application. Stage 4 (targeted) consultation resulted in a further 102 individual pieces of feedback.

- 13.1.2 Informal consultation continued up until the submission of the DCO application, providing ongoing engagement with a range of stakeholders and two-way dialogue between the Applicant and consultees. This enabled the Applicant to continuously consider consultee feedback during the iterative design of its Applicant's proposals. This approach is recommended by government advice on the pre-application process for DCOs (Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process, DCLG, March 2015).
- 13.1.3 In total, nearly 875 individual pieces of feedback were received during the pre-application consultation process for the Project.
- 13.1.4 The Project's proposals have evolved in numerous ways as a direct result of feedback received. Feedback has also informed the consultation process and the Project's ongoing design development in many other ways. A sample of these changes is shown in Table 13.1.
- 13.1.5 In this Consultation Report, and its supporting annexes, the Applicant has accurately reflected the various stages of consultation carried out and fairly summarised the issues raised in feedback. The Consultation Report itself aligns with the recommended structure and content provided in relevant guidance.

13.2 Changes as a result of consultation

- 13.2.1 Changes have been made following the Applicant's consideration of feedback received during each stage of consultation. Where feedback has led to changes in the Project's proposals or application, these have been captured in full in the response tables in Appendices F.14, F.14.1, G.5 and G.5.1. Below is a non-exhaustive sample of some of the more significant changes made to the Project as a result of consultation.

Table 13.1 Changes as a result of consultation

Summary of issue	Resulting change
At all stages of consultation	
Requests for an offshore transmission connection solution, to avoid the need for an onshore connection to the national electricity transmission network at the Project's proposed onshore substation.	<p>This issue was raised in response to all four stages of consultation and was the predominant issue in feedback from members of the public.</p> <p>The Applicant has engaged as fully as possible with the government's OTNR and successfully applied for the OCSS. However, the Applicant has retained the onshore connection as the default connection solution within its application due to the current offer</p>

	of an onshore grid connection point from National Grid in Tendring.
Stage 1 (introductory) consultation	
Feedback raised concerns around construction traffic, recognising the local area has many narrow roads considered to be unsuitable for an increase in traffic.	<p>The Applicant has submitted an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan as part of its DCO application (document reference 7.16) with details of how HGV and other vehicle movements will be controlled, monitored and enforced during construction. This will be further developed and agreed with stakeholders prior to construction. Amongst other details, the final Construction Traffic Management Plan will include how accesses and offsite highway works will be designed and how a temporary haul road within the construction corridor will minimise the amount of traffic on the local road network.</p> <p>Construction traffic will be routed and timed to avoid school drop off and pick up, and to mitigate potential impacts on local community events as far as practicable.</p> <p>Trenchless construction techniques are being used to cross roads wherever possible and to reduce the need for temporary road closures.</p>
Stage 2 (pre-application) consultation	
Requests for greater cooperation with Five Estuaries.	<p>While there has always been an element of collaboration, following the completion of stage 2 (pre-application) consultation both parties agreed to liaise more closely with each other in respect of the projects, share information and undertake joint planning.</p> <p>Since then, the two projects have been able to almost completely align their respective onshore cable routes and commit to colocating their onshore substations.</p> <p>This has created opportunities for coordination to reduce impacts during construction and operation.</p>
Feedback asked about how the Project's proposed onshore substation would be landscaped as there were concerns about its visual impact.	<p>The Applicant followed National Infrastructure Commission guidance (February 2020), which sets out design principles for NSIPs. As a result, the Applicant has committed to sensitive landscaping around the onshore substation in consultation with the community. This is secured in the OLEMS (document reference 7.14) and further described in Chapter 30 Landscape and Visual Impact of the ES. The Applicant's site selection principles also aligned with the Horlock Rules guidance on the siting and design of substations.</p> <p>The Project consulted on a proposed onshore substation footprint of eight hectares, as presented in the PEIR at stage 3 (statutory) consultation. Considering feedback, as well as further engineering design studies, this has been reduced by two hectares to approximately six hectares.</p>
Requests to consider water drainage along the onshore cable route.	The Applicant will appoint a land drainage consultant to develop pre and post-construction drainage plans in consultation with landowners along the onshore cable route. Additionally, land drainage systems will be maintained during construction and land drainage will be reinstated once construction is complete. This

	commitment is secured through the Outline Code of Construction Practice (document reference 7.13).
Requests for the Project's onshore cables to be buried.	The Applicant has committed to completely burying its onshore cables. See Schedule 1 of the draft DCO (document reference 6.1) and described in Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives of the ES (document reference 3.1.6).
Stage 3 (statutory) consultation	
Respondents stated a preference for the southern route option for the onshore cable near the village of Thorpe-le-Soken	<p>As part of the consultation, the Project included a northern, central and southern option for the onshore cable route near the village of Thorpe-le-Soken and asked the community for their preferred route.</p> <p>Following review of consultation feedback, as well as further engineering design, the southern route was chosen. While this route is closest to Thorpe-le-Soken, it was selected because it is outside the Hamford Water Special Protection Area (SPA). It's also more linear, therefore enabling the creation of a continuous haul road within the onshore cable route, which will mitigate construction traffic impacts.</p>
Marine stakeholders questioned the need for four circuits per project (North Falls and Five Estuaries) for their offshore export cables.	<p>Both North Falls and Five Estuaries carried out additional design and engineering work and concluded that the projects can progress with two circuits each. See Schedule 1 of the draft DCO (document reference 6.1).</p> <p>Offshore this means fewer cables on the seabed, mitigating shipping and navigation concerns. It also facilitated closer alignment of the two projects' landfall locations, and reduces onshore construction impacts considerably, due to the reduced working widths.</p>
Consultees, including many landowners, questioned the need for four circuits per project for their onshore export cables.	As with offshore, the Project's onshore export cable circuits have been reduced from four to two. See Schedule 1 of the draft DCO (document reference 6.1). This has decreased the overall footprint of the onshore cable route, mitigating impacts on land take and the environment.
Preference for colocation of North Falls and Five Estuaries' proposed onshore substations	North Falls and Five Estuaries confirmed that they will colocate their onshore substations. This will enable greater coordination on mitigation, have a lower overall land take, and limit the number of areas impacted by new electrical infrastructure.
Concerns about the loss of farmland (temporary and permanent)	The Applicant worked to reduce the onshore cable route width from up to 243m (as shown in the PEIR) to approximately 90m in the submitted proposals (except at certain HDD crossings), as can be seen within the submitted Works Plans (Volume 5). This decision is supported by confirmation that the Project will only need up to two cable circuits rather than the four included in the PEIR.
Concerns about the suitability of the road network for construction	Following this consultation more locations were confirmed for the use of trenchless construction, reducing the number of roads that would be temporarily impacted. Improvement proposals for Bentley Road were also developed to increase the suitability of the highway between the junction with

	the A120 and the onshore cable route. This is described in Chapter 5 Project Description (document reference 3.1.7).
Concerns about the visual impact of the wind farm, particularly from the East Anglian coast, and any tourism or seascape impacts	<p>The Applicant decided to remove the northern offshore array, which was the section of the Project that was closest to shore and where WTGs would have potentially been most visible. The means the closest WTGs to shore will no longer be 22km but rather approximately 40km, significantly reducing what people will be able to see from shore. This commitment is secured in the draft DCO, which contains offshore array coordinates (document reference 6.1).</p> <p>Removal of the northern offshore array, as well as a reduction in size of the remaining southern offshore array, will reduce the overall offshore footprint, mitigating concerns from the shipping sector and reducing visual impacts from onshore viewpoints.</p>
A number of responses suggested the turbines would have an adverse visual impact on the coastline.	The maximum height of the WTGs was reduced by 20m, from 397m to 377m, and the maximum number of WTGs has been reduced by 15, from 72 to 57. This commitment is secured in the draft DCO (document reference 6.1). The reduction of WTG height and number, combined with the removal of the northern offshore array and reduction in size of the remaining southern offshore array, will reduce the visual impacts of the wind farm from shore, as well as reducing the impact on shipping and mitigating impacts on offshore ornithology.
There was a preference for the Project's landfall TCC to be located away from the Holland Haven marshes and site of specific scientific interest (SSSI), and to keep disturbance to Frinton Golf Club and beach huts to a minimum.	The Applicant will place its landfall TCC to the east of Kirby Brook, avoiding Holland Haven Marshes and remaining outside the SSSI. This location means cables will no longer go underneath Frinton beach huts. Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) will be used to route cables under Frinton Golf Club, with the TCC to be located to the edge of the golf club's western end to mitigate impacts. This decision also means the Project's landfall TCC will be closer to Five Estuaries' landfall location, allowing greater opportunity for the projects to coordinate their landfall works.
Preference for greater alignment of North Falls and Five Estuaries' onshore cable route	The onshore cable route for both projects is almost fully aligned along its length.
Stage 4 (targeted) consultation	
Specific land interest or commercial concerns	Discussions are ongoing with individual landowners. Measures to mitigate specific landowner or commercial impacts will be considered and included as part of the Project's detailed design where practicable to do so.

13.3 Statements of Common Ground

13.3.1 The Applicant is preparing Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) with key stakeholders to assist the Planning Inspectorate, the Secretary of State and the MMO, in respect of the deemed marine licence, in understanding which issues regarding the Project have been resolved, and which remain unresolved.

13.3.2 The SoCGs will set out a record of engagement undertaken to date with each stakeholder, including but not limited to responses to consultations detailed in this report, and the key areas of agreement and any outstanding issues. Should this DCO application be accepted, the SoCGs will be updated with the aim of submitting final and signed versions no later than the midpoint of the Applicant's Examination. The midpoint's date will be determined following the holding of the Preliminary Meeting and the Examining Authority's confirmation of the Examination table.



NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm



HARNESSING THE POWER OF NORTH SEA WIND

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