



NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

Marine Plan Assessment

Document Reference: 7.5
Volume: 7
APFP Regulation: 5(2)(g)
Date: July 2024
Revision: 0

Project Reference: EN010119



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Project	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm
Document Title	Marine Plan Assessment
Document Reference	7.5
APFP Regulation	5(2)(g)
Supplier	Royal HaskoningDHV
Supplier Document ID	PB9244-RHD-ZZ-OF-RP-YE-0294

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

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Glossary of Acronyms

AEZ	Archaeological Exclusion Zones
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
DCO	Development Consent Order
DIO	Defence Infrastructure Organisation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GGOW	Greater Gabbard Offshore Windfarm
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GVA	Gross Value Added
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MCAA	Marine and Coastal Access Act
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MPS	Marine Policy Statement
NFOW	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Ltd
NPS	National Policy Statement
PEXA	Practice and Exercise Areas
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
RWE	RWE Renewables UK Swindon Limited
SSER	SSE Renewables Offshore Holdings Limited
UK	United Kingdom
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

Glossary of Terminology

Array area	The offshore wind farm area, within which the wind turbine generators, array cables, platform interconnector cable, offshore substation platform(s) and/or offshore converter platform will be located.
Array cables	Cables which link the wind turbine generators with each other, the offshore substation platform(s) and/or the offshore converter platform.
Landfall	The location where the offshore cables come ashore at Kirby Brook.
Offshore cable corridor	The corridor of seabed from array area to the landfall within which the offshore export cables will be located.
Offshore converter platform	Should an offshore connection to an HVDC interconnector cable be selected, an offshore converter platform would be required/ This is a fixed structure located within the array area, containing HVAC and HVDC electrical equipment to aggregate the power from the wind turbine generators, increase the voltage to a more suitable level for export and convert the HVAC power generated by the wind turbine generators into HVDC power for export to shore via a third party HVDC interconnector cable.
Offshore export cables	The cables which bring electricity from the offshore substation platform(s) to the landfall, as well as auxiliary cables.
Offshore substation platform(s)	Fixed structure(s) located within the array area, containing HVAC electrical equipment to aggregate the power from the wind turbine generators and increase the voltage to a more suitable level for export to shore via offshore export cables.
Offshore project area	The overall area of the array area and the offshore cable corridor.
Onshore export cables	The cables which take the electricity from landfall to the onshore substation. These comprise High Voltage Alternative Current (HVAC) cables and auxiliary cables, buried underground.
Platform interconnector cable	Cable connecting the offshore substation platforms (OSP) or the OSP and offshore converter platform.
The Applicant	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited (NFOW).
The Project or 'North Falls'	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, including all onshore and offshore infrastructure.
Wind turbine generator (WTG)	Power generating device that is driven by the kinetic energy of the wind.

1 Marine Plan Assessment

1.1 Introduction

1. North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Ltd (NFOW) ('the Applicant') (a joint venture between SSE Renewables Offshore Windfarm Holdings Limited (SSER) and RWE Renewables UK Swindon Limited (RWE)) has submitted a Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter 'North Falls').
2. North Falls is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, located in the southern North Sea, approximately 40km from the East Anglian coast, and is an extension to the west of the existing Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm.
3. North Falls would make an important contribution towards the achievement of the United Kingdom's (UK) climate change policies and net zero targets through the generation of clean, low carbon, renewable electricity (see Chapter 2 Need for the Project (Document Reference: 3.1.4)).
4. The following three grid connection options are included in the Project 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 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.
5. The North Falls project area comprises:
 - The offshore project area:
 - The offshore wind farm area (hereafter the 'array area') - within which the wind turbine generators, offshore substation platform(s), offshore converter platform (if required), platform interconnector cable, and array cables will be located;
 - Offshore cable corridor - the corridor of seabed from array area to the landfall within which the offshore export cables will be located; and
 - The onshore project area.
6. The project design envelope is discussed in Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 5 Project Description (Document Reference: 3.1.7).

1.2 Purpose of this document

7. Part 3 of Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) provides a framework for marine planning (discussed further in Section 1.3). In England, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is the planning authority for the marine environment, and the inshore and offshore waters have been split into 11 plan

areas. The North Falls array area overlaps the East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan Areas, and the offshore cable corridor overlaps the East Inshore and South East Inshore Marine Plan Areas.

8. In this Marine Plan Assessment (Section 2), North Falls' compliance with the South East Inshore Marine Plan (Defra, 2021) and East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan (Defra, 2014) policies have been reviewed (Table 2.1 and Table 2.2), with references to the relevant ES chapter, where appropriate, to provide further details.

1.3 Policy and legislative context

9. The MCAA sets out a spatial planning system for improved management and protection of the marine and coastal environment. The MCAA established the MMO, the authority tasked with ensuring the delivery of sustainable development in the marine area.
10. The MCAA contains provisions for the coastal environment, including improving access to the coast and undertaking Integrated Coastal Zone Management, which brings policy makers, decision makers and stakeholders together to manage coastal and estuarine areas.
11. The Marine Policy Statement (MPS) (HM Government, 2011) provides the policy framework for the preparation of Marine Plans, establishing how decisions affecting the marine area should be made in order to enable sustainable development.
12. Whilst policy in relation to the MPS was subsequently set out in more detail in National Policy Statements (NPS), the requirement to take the MPS into account in determining a DCO application nonetheless remains. A review of North Falls in the context of the NPS is provided in the Planning Statement (Document Reference: 2.2).

2 Marine Plan Assessment

2.1 East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan

13. The objectives of the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan and relevant policies established under them are listed in Table 2.1 and details provided on how these have been considered by the Applicant, including references to the relevant ES chapter where applicable.

Table 2.1 East Marine Plans objectives and policies

Number	Objective/ Policy Text	Assessment of Objective/Policy	North Falls compliance with Marine Plan
Objective 1	To promote the sustainable development of economically productive activities, taking account of spatial requirements of other activities of importance to the East marine plan areas.	<p>The siting, design and refinement of the Project has followed a site selection process underpinned by a set of 'golden rules' (see Appendix 4.1 (Document Reference: 3.3.1.1)) that considered environmental, physical, economic, and social effects and opportunities, as well as engineering, technical and commercial feasibility. The details of the approach taken to select the array area; offshore cable corridor; landfall area; onshore cable route and onshore substation works area are provided in ES Chapter 4 (Document Reference: 3.1.6) (see Sections 4.4 to 4.9). Additionally, spatial constraints of other activities have been considered and assessed in ES Chapter 18 Infrastructure and Other Users (Document Reference: 3.1.20) and embedded mitigation measures have been put in place to minimise potential interactions with neighbouring infrastructure and other users.</p> <p>To ensure the best accommodation and minimal disturbance to other activities of importance in the area, the Applicant has undertaken engagement with stakeholders, communities and landowners throughout the site selection process and development of the ES (see ES Chapter 7 Technical Consultation (Document Reference: 3.1.9)), to seek input to the North Falls site selection process, as well as to communicate key project updates. The golden rules were extensively shared with statutory stakeholders, either during Expert Topic Groups (ETG) or during dedicated sessions.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.

Number	Objective/ Policy Text	Assessment of Objective/Policy	North Falls compliance with Marine Plan
Policy EC1	Proposals that provide economic productivity benefits which are additional to Gross Value Added (GVA) currently generated by existing activities should be supported.	<p>Socio-economic impacts and benefits of the Project are considered in ES Chapter 31 (Document Reference: 3.1.33) and are predicted to have a minor beneficial or adverse effect.</p> <p>North Falls' average GVA contribution to the UK economy is expected to range from £4.9m to £41.9m per annum over the seven-year development and construction phase. Of this, Chapter 31 (Document Reference: 3.1.33) assesses a worst case scenario of £0.7m per annum being captured by businesses in Essex or Suffolk that access supply chain opportunities,</p> <p>During the operational phase of the Project, an average GVA between £18 to £20 million per annum is expected, over an assumed 30-year operational period. The offshore infrastructure expenditure retained locally (either in Essex or Suffolk) is estimated to support a GVA contribution of £9 million per annum throughout North Fall's operational phase. Although the decommissioning process is generally considered the reverse of the installation process during construction, the potential economic value impacts generated per annum by decommissioning activity are estimated to be less than during the (average annual) construction phase ranging from £12.6 to £17.6.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Objective 2	To support activities that create employment at all skill levels, taking account of the spatial and other requirements of activities in the East marine plan areas	At the UK level, it is estimated that North Fall's offshore development and construction activity will support between 50 and 410 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs per annum over the assumed seven-year development and construction period. Of these, it is estimated that less than 10 FTE jobs will be located within the local study area (Essex and Suffolk). Throughout the operational phase of the Project, these will range between 110 and 190 FTE jobs per annum over the 30-year with an average of between 80 and 90 FTE jobs retained per annum locally within Essex and Suffolk. During the decommissioning phase, an average of between 105 and 150 FTE jobs retained per annum at the UK level and around 40 FTE jobs retained locally within Essex and Suffolk.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.
Policy EC2	Proposals that provide additional employment benefits should be supported, particularly where these benefits have the potential to meet employment needs in localities close to the marine plan areas.		The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

Number	Objective/ Policy Text	Assessment of Objective/Policy	North Falls compliance with Marine Plan
Objective 3	To realise sustainably the potential of renewable energy, particularly offshore wind farms, which is likely to be the most significant transformational economic activity over the next 20 years in the East marine plan areas, helping to achieve the United Kingdom's energy security and carbon reduction objectives	<p>North Falls' contribution to UK energy security and carbon reduction objectives are discussed in the Needs Case and Project Benefits Statement (Document Reference: 2.1) and ES Chapter 2 Need for the Project (Document Reference: 3.1.4).</p> <p>The case underpinning the need for the Project is built upon North Falls' expected contribution to meeting the national climate change policies and net zero targets aims of:</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective
Policy EC3	Proposals that will help the East marine plan areas to contribute to offshore wind energy generation should be supported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decarbonisation to achieve Net Zero and the importance of developing at-scale zero-carbon electricity generation assets (see Section 2.3.1 and Section 2.3.3 of ES Chapter 2 (Document Reference: 3.1.4); and • Security of energy supply (see Section 2.3.2 and 2.3.4 of ES Chapter 2 (Document Reference: 3.1.4)). <p>North Falls will have an export capacity greater than 100 megawatts (MW) and in the context of reductions in the capacity of the UK to generate electricity (total UK generating capacity has fallen from 85GW in 2009 to 76.7GW in 2022 (DESNZ, 2023), will therefore contribute to meeting the UK Government's ambitious target of 50GW of generating offshore wind energy by 2030.</p> <p>Therefore, the Project will make a significant contribution to domestic renewable electricity generation from within the East marine plan area, helping to achieve the UK's national renewable energy targets, energy security and carbon reduction objectives.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Objective 4	To reduce deprivation and support vibrant, sustainable communities through improving health and social well-being.	<p>Socio-economic impacts of the Project are considered in ES Chapter 31 (Document Reference: 3.1.33). Human Health impacts are discussed in ES Chapter 28 (Document Reference: 3.1.30). Social benefits of the Project, including health and wellbeing are discussed in the Needs Case and Project Benefits Statement (Document Reference: 2.1)</p> <p>North Falls would increase energy independence of the UK and reduce air pollutants and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions that are produced from the generation of electricity from other non-renewable sources of energy (e.g. coal, oil</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.

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		<p>and gas), see ES Chapter 33 Climate Change (Document Reference: 3.1.35). Therefore, the Project will contribute towards air quality and health improvement.</p> <p>By increasing the UK's generation of renewable energy, the Project will also support the mitigation of climate change effects such as floods and droughts that can have significant health impacts, including fatalities in recent years. In addition, climate change impacts on mental health and other indirect impacts as a result of disruption to critical supplies of utilities such as electricity and water (Health Protection Agency, 2012).</p> <p>The employment retainment supported by the Project not only provide economic benefits, but also social benefits to local communities given that job creation is linked to increases in wellbeing.</p> <p>Additionally, affordable, and reliant renewable energy can alleviate fuel poverty and potentially help improve households' health and wellbeing through more affordable heating.</p>	
Policy SOC1	Proposals that provide health and social well-being benefits including through maintaining, or enhancing, access to the coast and marine area should be supported.	North Falls would maintain access to the coast and marine area. The Applicant has committed to using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) during landfall construction work in order to avoid disruption on the beach. During offshore construction, safety zones may be required, however the impacts of these would be localised and temporary, with access retained for the wider marine area.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Objective 5	To conserve heritage assets, nationally protected landscapes and ensure that decisions consider the seascape of the local area.	<p>Assessment of likely significant effects and identification of mitigation for offshore heritage assets and onshore heritage assets are discussed in ES Chapters 16 and 25 (Document Reference: 3.1.18 and 3.1.27), respectively.</p> <p>With the application of mitigation, it is anticipated that impacts on heritage assets as a result of North Falls will be avoided or minimised, with a worst case scenario of minor adverse effect significance.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.
Policy SOC2	Proposals that may affect heritage assets should demonstrate, in order of preference:	The approach to the implementation of these mitigation measures is described in the Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Offshore) (Document Reference: 7.11). The WSI will be prepared in accordance with industry standards	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be

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	<p>that they will not compromise or harm elements which contribute to the significance of the heritage asset</p> <p>how, if there is compromise or harm to a heritage asset, this will be minimised</p> <p>how, where compromise or harm to a heritage asset cannot be minimised it will be mitigated against or the public benefits for proceeding with the proposal if it is not possible to minimise or mitigate compromise or harm to the heritage asset</p>	<p>and guidance including Archaeological Written Schemes of Investigation for Offshore Wind Farm Projects (The Crown Estate, 2021).</p> <p>Archaeological exclusion zones (AEZs) will be implemented around known wreck sites and marine geophysical anomalies of archaeological interest. Where practicable, potential heritage assets will also be avoided. Where assets cannot practicably be avoided, further investigation will be undertaken of the potential asset to establish the archaeological interest of the feature. Once the character, nature and extent of selected features are more fully understood, appropriate mitigation measures (proportionate to the significance of the asset) to avoid, reduce or off-set impacts can be determined on a case by case basis.</p> <p>Potentially beneficial effects have also been identified in relation to cumulative effects, through the collation of mappable data for other plans and projects, and academic research where available, in the southern North Sea.</p>	<p>compliant with this Policy.</p>
<p>Policy SOC3</p>	<p>Proposals that may affect the terrestrial and marine character of an area should demonstrate, in order of preference:</p> <p>that they will not adversely impact the terrestrial and marine character of an area</p> <p>how, if there are adverse impacts on the terrestrial and marine character of an area, they will minimise them</p> <p>how, where these adverse impacts on the terrestrial and marine character of an area cannot be minimised they will be mitigated against</p> <p>the case for proceeding with the proposal if it is not possible to minimise or mitigate the adverse impacts</p>	<p>Assessment of likely significant effects and identification of mitigation for landscapes and seascapes are assessed in ES Chapters 29 and 30 (Document Reference: 3.1.31 and 3.1.32), respectively and concluded negligible to moderate effect.</p> <p>Changes to the Project have been implemented to minimise landscape and seascape effects including reduction of the array area, reduction of tip height and reduced turbine numbers.</p> <p>ES Chapter 2 (Document Reference: 3.1.4) provides the case for proceeding with North Falls.</p> <p>NPS EN-1 (DESNZ, 2023) set out a case for the need and urgency for new energy infrastructure, with action required to be taken in the near-term in order for the identified needs to be met. The need for the Project is therefore fundamentally supported by the case presented within NPS EN-1. Further, the NPS EN-1 set out a case for new energy infrastructure to be consented and constructed with the objective of supporting the UK Government's policies on sustainable development, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigating and adapting to climate change; and 	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>

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Objective 6	To have a healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystem in the East marine plan areas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to a secure, diverse, and affordable energy supply. <p>Assessment of likely significant effects on the marine ecosystem are discussed in the following ES chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) • Chapter 12 Marine Mammals (Document Reference: 3.1.14) • Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference: 3.1.15) <p>Effects are assessed as negligible or minor adverse, and mitigation embedded in the design of North Falls seeks to reduce effects where practicable and therefore North Falls will not hinder this objective to have a healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystem.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy ECO1	Cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem of the East marine plans and adjacent areas (marine, terrestrial) should be addressed in decision-making and plan implementation.	<p>The cumulative effects assessment (CEA) considers other plans and projects that may impact cumulatively with North Falls. ES Chapter 6 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Methodology (Document Reference: 3.1.8) provides further details of the general framework and approach to the CEA.</p> <p>A CEA is provided in each technical ES chapter (Volume 3.1). Those related to marine and terrestrial ecosystems include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8 Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes (Document Reference: 3.1.10; CEA discussed in Section 8.8 of Chapter 8; • Chapter 9 Marine Water and Sediment Quality (Document Reference: 3.1.11); CEA discussed in Section 9.8 of Chapter 9); • Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.12); CEA discussed in Section 10.8 of Chapter 10); • Chapter 11 Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.13; CEA discussed in Section 11.8 of Chapter 11); • Chapter 12 Marine Mammals (Document Reference: 3.1.14; CEA discussed in Section 12.9 of Chapter 12); 	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

Number	Objective/ Policy Text	Assessment of Objective/Policy	North Falls compliance with Marine Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference: 3.1.15; CEA discussed in Section 13.8 of Chapter 13); • Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.25; CEA discussed in Section 23.8 of Chapter 23); and • Chapter 24 Onshore Ornithology (Document Reference: 3.1.26; CEA discussed in Section 24.8 of Chapter 24). <p>These CEAs conclude negligible or minor significance of effect, with the exception of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collision risk and collision and displacement effects for some species of seabirds (kittiwake, lesser black backed gull, great black backed gull and gannet). Effects have been mitigated as far as possible and proposals for compensatory measures for lesser black backed gull and without-prejudice compensatory measures for kittiwake are provided as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2.4). • The following onshore ecology and ornithology cumulative effects are concluded to be of moderate significance, however these are over 5km from the coast and therefore not adjacent to the marine plan areas and not applicable to this policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Impacts on habitats (for hedgerows in the short term) ○ impacts on protected and notable species (short term for commuting/ foraging barbastelle and brown-long eared bats) ○ Habitat Loss for Corn bunting ○ Construction Disturbance for Corn bunting 	
Policy ECO2	The risk of release of hazardous substances as a secondary effect due to any increased collision risk should be taken account of in proposals that require an authorisation.	Accidents and disasters such as release of hazardous substances and navigational safety risks are discussed in ES Chapter 34 Major Accidents and Disasters (Document Reference: 3.1.36).	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

Number	Objective/ Policy Text	Assessment of Objective/Policy	North Falls compliance with Marine Plan
		<p>Potential vessel collisions and exposed cables leading to vessel snagging is assessed in ES Chapter 15 Shipping and Navigation (Document Reference: 3.1.17).</p> <p>ES Chapter 15 Shipping and Navigation (Document Reference: 3.1.17) assesses any risks to navigational safety associated with the Project, including due to increased vessel movement to and from the offshore project area and the presence of offshore infrastructure during the life cycle of the Project.</p> <p>Mitigation of any accidental pollution is outlined in ES Chapter 9 Marine Water and Sediment Quality (Document Reference: 3.1.11) and discussed further in the Outline Project Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference: 7.6).</p>	
Objective 7	To protect, conserve and, where appropriate, recover biodiversity that is in or dependent upon the East marine plan areas:	<p>Assessments relating to biodiversity in or dependent on the East marine plan are included in the following ES chapters (Volume 3.1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.12) • Chapter 11 Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.13) • Chapter 12 Marine Mammals (Document Reference: 3.1.14) • Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference: 3.1.15) <p>Effects on marine biodiversity have been assessed as no change to minor adverse, and mitigation embedded in the design of North Falls seeks to reduce adverse effects where practicable. The approach to the implementation of these mitigation measures is described in the Outline Project Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference: 7.6).</p> <p>When considering the cumulative effects of the Project with other plans and projects, effects for the chapter topics listed above are concluded to be of negligible or minor significance, with the exception of:</p> <p>Collision risk and collision and displacement effects for some species of seabirds (kittiwake, lesser black backed gull, great black backed gull and gannet). Effects</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.

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		<p>have been mitigated as far as possible and proposals for compensatory measures for lesser black backed gull and without-prejudice compensatory measures for kittiwake are provided as part of the HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2.4).</p> <p>In addition, effects on designated sites are considered in the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) Parts 1 to 6 (Document Reference: 7.1.1 to 7.1.6) and the Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Assessment (Document Reference: 7.3).</p> <p>The RIAA concludes that an adverse effect on integrity of the lesser black backed gull feature of the Alde Ore Estuary SPA cannot be ruled out in-combination with other projects. Proposals for compensatory measures are provided as part of the HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2). In addition, information on without prejudice compensatory measures is provided for red throated diver of the Outer Thames Estuary SPA, and kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill from the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA.</p> <p>The MCZ assessment report (Document Reference: 7.3) concludes that conservation objectives of the assessed sites will not be hindered by the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of North Falls.</p> <p>North Falls will therefore not hinder this objective to protect, conserve and, where appropriate, recover biodiversity.</p>	
Policy BIO1	Appropriate weight should be attached to biodiversity, reflecting the need to protect biodiversity as a whole, taking account of the best available evidence including on habitats and species that are protected or of conservation concern in the East marine plans and adjacent areas (marine, terrestrial)	<p>Assessments relating to biodiversity are included in the following ES chapters (Volume 3.1), including consideration of interactions between the receptors covered in other chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.12) • Chapter 11 Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.13) • Chapter 12 Marine Mammals (Document Reference: 3.1.14) • Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference: 3.1.15) • Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.25) • Chapter 24 Onshore Ornithology (Document Reference: 3.1.26) 	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

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		<p>Effects on marine biodiversity have been assessed as no change to minor adverse, and mitigation embedded in the design of North Falls seeks to reduce adverse effects where practicable. The approach to the implementation of these mitigation measures is described in the Outline Project Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference: 7.6).</p> <p>When considering the cumulative effects of the Project with other plans and projects, effects for the chapter topics listed above are concluded to be of negligible or minor significance, with the exception of :</p> <p>Collision risk and collision and displacement effects over some species of seabirds (kittiwake, lesser black backed gull, great black backed gull and gannet). Effects have been mitigated as far as possible and proposals for compensatory measures and without-prejudice compensatory measures are provided as part of the HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2).</p> <p>Effects on terrestrial biodiversity have been assessed as adverse or beneficial. The majority of these impacts have been assessed as no greater than minor significance of effect and mitigation embedded in the design of North Falls seeks to reduce adverse effects where practicable. These mitigation measures are summarised in the Schedule of Mitigation (Document Reference: 2.6) and secured in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (Document Reference: 7.14).</p> <p>The following onshore ecology and ornithology effects are concluded to be of moderate significance; however these are over 5km from the coast and therefore not adjacent to the marine plan areas and not applicable to this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on habitats (for hedgerows in the short term) • impacts on protected and notable species (short term for commuting/ foraging barbastelle and brown-long eared bats) • Habitat Loss for Corn bunting • Construction Disturbance for Corn bunting 	

Number	Objective/ Policy Text	Assessment of Objective/Policy	North Falls compliance with Marine Plan
		<p>In addition, effects on designated sites are considered in the RIAA Parts 1 to 6 (Document Reference: 7.1.1 to 7.1.6) and MCZ Assessment (Document Reference: 7.3).</p> <p>The RIAA concludes that an adverse effect on integrity of the lesser black backed gull feature of the Alde Ore Estuary SPA cannot be ruled out in-combination with other projects. Proposals for lesser black backed gull compensatory measures are provided as part of the HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2.2.1). In addition, information on without prejudice compensatory measures is provided for red throated diver of the Outer Thames Estuary SPA, and kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill from the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA</p> <p>The MCZ assessment report (Document Reference: 7.3) concluded that conservation objectives of the assessed sites will not be hindered by the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of North Falls and no further MCZ stage assessment is required.</p> <p>North Falls will therefore not hinder the need to protect biodiversity including habitats and species that are protected or of conservation concern in the East marine plans and adjacent areas (marine, terrestrial).</p>	
Policy BIO2	Where appropriate, proposals for development should incorporate features that enhance biodiversity and geological interests.	<p>The Project will deliver onshore biodiversity net gain (BNG), in accordance with the Environment Act 2021. All current information on the BNG proposals for the onshore project area is detailed in the Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Document Reference: 7.22).</p> <p>Proposals for HRA compensatory measures for potential adverse effects on SPAs (without prejudice of the Applicant's position presented in the RIAA Part 4, Document Reference: 7.1.4) are provided as part of the HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2).</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Objective 8	To support the objectives of Marine Protected Areas (and other designated sites around the coast that overlap, or are adjacent to the East marine plan areas), individually and as part of an ecologically coherent network.	<p>Effects on designated sites are considered in the RIAA Parts 1 to 6 (Document Reference: 7.1.1 to 7.1.6) and MCZ Assessment (Document Reference: 7.3).</p> <p>The MCZ assessment report (Document Reference: 7.3) concluded that conservation objectives of the assessed sites will not be hindered by the</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be

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		construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of North Falls and no further MCZ stage assessment is required.	compliant with this Objective.
Policy MPA1	Any impacts on the overall Marine Protected Area network must be taken account of in strategic level measures and assessments, with due regard given to any current agreed advice on an ecologically coherent network.	An HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2) is provided with the DCO application which includes compensatory measures to ensure the overall coherence of the National Site Network.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Objective 9	To facilitate action on climate change adaptation and mitigation in the East marine plan areas.	The Project's impact on climate change is assessed in ES Chapter 33 (Document Reference: 3.1.35). In summary, North Falls is expected to have a beneficial effect on GHG emissions, by a reduction of 48 million tonnes CO ₂ e, compared to equivalent electricity produced from gas. The Project will provide a renewable source of electricity which beneficially contributes to the UK's goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2050.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.
Policy CC1	Proposals should take account of: how they may be impacted upon by, and respond to, climate change over their lifetime and how they may impact upon any climate change adaptation measures elsewhere during their lifetime Where detrimental impacts on climate change adaptation measures are identified, evidence should be provided as to how the proposal will reduce such impacts.	The design of the Project (ES Chapter 5 Project Description (Document Reference: 3.1.7)) has been engineered to withstand predicted effects of climate change.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy CC2	Proposals for development should minimise emissions of greenhouse gases as far as is appropriate. Mitigation measures will also be encouraged where emissions remain following minimising steps. Consideration should also be	GHG emissions and proposed mitigation is discussed in Chapter 33 Climate Change (Document Reference: 3.1.35). In summary, North Falls is expected to have a beneficial effect on GHG emissions, by a reduction of 48 million tonnes CO ₂ e, compared to equivalent electricity produced from gas. The Project will provide a renewable source of	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

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	given to emissions from other activities or users affected by the proposal	<p>electricity which beneficially contributes to the UK's goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2050.</p> <p>The global atmosphere is the receptor for the GHG assessment (which is of high sensitivity) and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) guidance (2022) states that effects of GHG emissions from specific projects should therefore not be individually assessed, as there is no basis for selecting which projects to assess cumulatively over any other. The impact of GHG assessment is therefore inherently cumulative, and no specific cumulative assessment is required to be undertaken.</p>	
Objective 10	To ensure integration with other plans, and in the regulation and management of key activities and issues, in the East Marine Plans, and adjacent areas.	<p>The onshore infrastructure required for the North Falls offshore wind farm is detailed in ES Chapter 5 Project Description (Document Reference: 3.1.7). Of particular relevance to the Marine Plan are the landfall works, where HDD will be undertaken from the onshore landfall area to the subtidal zone within the offshore cable corridor, up to 1.5km from the shore.</p> <p>Port provisions required to support works in the offshore project area will be identified post consent. This approach is standard for offshore wind farms, due to commercial and procurement constraints. Where port assumptions are required to inform the assessment, the worst case scenario is described in the relevant ES chapters.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.
Policy GOV1	Appropriate provision should be made for infrastructure on land which supports activities in the marine area and vice versa.	<p>Different grid connection options are being considered within the Project envelope to enable potential co-ordination in relation to the proposed transmission infrastructure of North Falls and VE OWF.</p> <p>Alternatively, an offshore electrical connection supplied by a third party enabling offshore co-ordination is also being considered.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy GOV2	Opportunities for co-existence should be maximised wherever possible.	Likely significant effects on infrastructure and other marine users have been considered in ES Chapter 18 (Document Reference: 3.1.20), and includes other offshore wind farms, cables, dredging sites, disposal sites, and Ministry of Defence (MOD) activities. The effects over these receptors have been assessed as no change to minor adverse.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

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		<p>Impacts and mitigation to maximise co-existence with commercial fisheries, shipping and recreational users are discussed in Volume 3.1, ES Chapters 14 (Commercial Fisheries (Document Reference: 3.1.16)), 15 (Shipping and Navigation (Document Reference: 3.1.17)) and 32 (Tourism and Recreation (Document Reference: 3.1.34)) respectively.</p> <p>Effects have been assessed as negligible to minor adverse for Commercial Fisheries and Tourism and Recreation and broadly acceptable to tolerable and as Low as reasonably practicable (ALARP) for Shipping and Navigation.</p> <p>The approach to the implementation of mitigation measures is described in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan (Document Reference: 7.9) • Safety Zone Statement (Document Reference: 7.23) • Outline Vessel Traffic Management Plan (Document Reference: 7.21). • Outline Project Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference: 7.6) 	
Policy GOV3	<p>Proposals should demonstrate in order of preference:</p> <p>a) that they will avoid displacement of other existing or authorised (but yet to be implemented) activities</p> <p>b) how, if there are adverse impacts resulting in displacement by the proposal, they will minimise them</p> <p>c) how, if the adverse impacts resulting in displacement by the proposal, cannot be minimised, they will be mitigated against or</p> <p>d) the case for proceeding with the proposal if it is not possible to minimise or mitigate the adverse impacts of displacement</p>	<p>Site selection and assessment of alternatives has been considered in ES Chapter 4 (Document Reference: 3.1.6)).</p> <p>The siting, design and refinement of the North Falls offshore and onshore project areas (including landfall) has followed a site selection process underpinned by a set of 'golden rules' (see Appendix 4.1 (Document Reference: 3.3.1.1)), taking account of environmental, physical, technical, commercial and social considerations and opportunities, as well as engineering requirements. The details of the approach taken to select the array area; offshore cable corridor; landfall area; onshore cable route and onshore substation works area are provided in ES Chapter 4 (Document Reference: 3.1.6) (see Sections 4.4 to 4.9). Additionally, spatial constraints of other activities have been considered and assessed in ES Chapter 18 Infrastructure and Other Users (Document Reference: 3.1.20) and mitigation measures have been put in place to minimise potential interactions with neighbouring infrastructure and other users.</p> <p>To ensure the best accommodation of and minimal disturbance to other activities of importance in the area, the Applicant has undertaken pre-application engagement with stakeholders, communities and landowners throughout the site selection process and development of the application (see ES Chapter 7</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

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		<p>Technical Consultation (Document Reference: 3.1.9)) to seek input to the North Falls site selection process, as well as to communicate key Project updates. The golden rules were extensively shared with statutory stakeholders, either during Expert Topic Groups (ETG) or during dedicated sessions.</p> <p>Likely effects on other marine users have been considered in ES Chapter 18 (Document Reference: 3.1.20)), and includes other offshore wind farms, cables, dredging sites, disposal sites, and MOD activities. Impacts and mitigation to maximise co-existence with commercial fisheries, shipping and recreational users are discussed in ES Chapters 14 (Document Reference: 3.1.16), 15 (Document Reference: 3.1.17) and 32 (Document Reference: 3.1.34) respectively.</p> <p>Effects have been assessed as negligible to minor adverse for Commercial Fisheries and Tourism and Recreation and broadly acceptable to tolerable and as Low as reasonably practicable (ALARP) for Shipping and Navigation.</p>	
Policy DEF1	Proposals in or affecting Ministry of Defence Danger and Exercise Areas should not be authorised without agreement from the Ministry of Defence.	<p>The Project's footprint will not fall within MOD Danger Areas. The following military practice and exercise areas (PEXAs) overlap or are in proximity to the North Falls offshore project area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kentish Knock – X5119 (overlaps the array area); • North Galloper – X5121 (adjacent to the eastern boundary of the array area); • Outer Gabbard – X5117 (located to the north of the array area); • South Galloper – X5120 (overlaps the array area); and • Gunfleet – X5118 (overlaps the offshore cable corridor). <p>The scoping opinion from the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) confirmed significant effects relating to military maritime activities are not likely. In addition, with the implementation of embedded mitigation such as stakeholder engagement and promulgation of information, the effects on the MOD's use of PEXAs would be negligible.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy OG1	Proposals within areas with existing oil and gas production should not be authorised except where compatibility with oil and gas production and infrastructure can be satisfactorily demonstrated.	The Project's footprint will not fall within existing oil and gas production areas.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be

Number	Objective/ Policy Text	Assessment of Objective/Policy	North Falls compliance with Marine Plan
			compliant with this Policy.
Policy OG2	Proposals for new oil and gas activity should be supported over proposals for other development.	Policy is not applicable to application.	N/A
Policy WIND1	<p>Developments requiring authorisation, that are in or could affect sites held under a lease or an agreement for lease that has been granted by The Crown Estate for development of an Offshore Wind Farm, should not be authorised unless</p> <p>a) they can clearly demonstrate that they will not compromise the construction, operation, maintenance, or decommissioning of the Offshore Wind Farm</p> <p>b) the lease/agreement for lease has been surrendered back to The Crown Estate and not been re-tendered</p> <p>c) the lease/agreement for lease has been terminated by the Secretary of State</p> <p>d) in other exceptional circumstances</p>	<p>North Falls is an extension to the existing Greater Gabbard Offshore Windfarm (GGOW) and was identified during the extension leasing round launched by The Crown Estate in 2017 and finalised in 2019 (see Section 4.8 of ES Chapter 4 (Document Reference: 3.1.6)).</p> <p>North Falls will not compromise the construction, operation, maintenance or decommissioning of any offshore wind farms in the area as there is no overlap of the offshore project area with other offshore wind farms, as detailed in the ES Chapter 18 Infrastructure and other users (Document Reference: 3.1.20).</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy WIND2	Proposals for Offshore Wind Farms inside Round 3 zones, including relevant supporting projects and infrastructure, should be supported.	ES Chapter 18 (Document Reference: 3.1.20) provides an assessment of likely effects on other offshore wind farms, which includes Rounds 2 and 3. The effect is deemed to be of minor adverse significance, i.e. not significant in EIA terms.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy TIDE1	In defined areas of identified tidal stream resource, proposals should demonstrate, in order of preference:	North Falls does not fall within the identified tidal stream resource and will not compromise future development of a tidal stream project.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be

Number	Objective/ Policy Text	Assessment of Objective/Policy	North Falls compliance with Marine Plan
	<p>a) that they will not compromise potential future development of a tidal stream project</p> <p>b) how, if there are any adverse impacts on potential tidal stream deployment, they will minimise them</p> <p>c) how, if the adverse impacts cannot be minimised, they will be mitigated</p> <p>d) the case for proceeding with the proposal if it is not possible to minimise or mitigate the adverse impacts</p>		compliant with this Policy.
Policy CCS1	<p>Within defined areas of potential carbon dioxide storage proposals should demonstrate in order of preference:</p> <p>a) that they will not prevent carbon dioxide storage</p> <p>b) how, if there are adverse impacts on carbon dioxide storage, they will minimise them</p> <p>c) how, if the adverse impacts cannot be minimised, they will be mitigated</p> <p>d) the case for proceeding with the proposal if it is not possible to minimise or mitigate the adverse impacts</p>	North Falls does not fall within the identified areas of potential carbon capture and will not compromise future development of carbon storage.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy CCS2	Carbon Capture and Storage proposals should demonstrate that consideration has been given to the re-use of existing oil and gas infrastructure rather than the installation of new infrastructure (either in depleted fields or in active fields via enhanced hydrocarbon recovery).	Policy is not applicable to application.	N/A
Policy PS1	Proposals that require static sea surface infrastructure or that significantly reduce under-keel	Overlap between the North Falls offshore project area and International Maritime Organisation (IMO) routes has been avoided during the site selection process,	The North Falls application is

Number	Objective/ Policy Text	Assessment of Objective/Policy	North Falls compliance with Marine Plan
	clearance should not be authorised in International Maritime Organization designated routes.	discussed further in ES Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Document Reference: 3.1.6). Likely effects on shipping and navigation are considered in ES Chapter 15 (Document Reference: 3.1.17) and have been assessed as broadly acceptable to tolerable and as Low as reasonably practicable (ALARP).	considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy PS2	Proposals that require static sea surface infrastructure that encroaches upon important navigation routes should not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. Proposals should: a) be compatible with the need to maintain space for safe navigation, avoiding adverse economic impact. b) anticipate and provide for future safe navigational requirements where evidence and/or stakeholder input allows and c) account for impacts upon navigation in-combination with other existing and proposed activities.	The approach to the implementation of these mitigation measures is described in the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline marine traffic monitoring plan (document reference 7.23), • Safety Zone Statement (Document Reference: 7.23) • Outline Vessel Traffic Management Plan (Document Reference: 7.21). 	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy PS3	Proposals should demonstrate, in order of preference: a) that they will not interfere with current activity and future opportunity for expansion of ports and harbours b) how, if the proposal may interfere with current activity and future opportunities for expansion, they will minimise this c) how, if the interference cannot be minimised, it will be mitigated	Overlap between the North Falls offshore cable corridor and the Harwich Haven approach channel have been avoided during the site selection process, discussed further in ES Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Document Reference: 3.1.6). In addition, detailed consultation has been undertaken with Harwich Haven Authority and the Port of London Authority to discuss opportunities to minimise the effects of the Project. Effects and proposed mitigation on shipping and navigation are considered in ES Chapter 15 (Document Reference: 3.1.17) and have been assessed as broadly acceptable to tolerable and as Low as reasonably practicable (ALARP). The approach to the implementation of these mitigation measures is described in the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Vessel Traffic Management Plan (Document Reference: 7.21) 	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

Number	Objective/ Policy Text	Assessment of Objective/Policy	North Falls compliance with Marine Plan
	d) the case for proceeding if it is not possible to minimise or mitigate the interference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety Zone Statement (Document Reference: 7.23) 	
Policy DD1	<p>Proposals within or adjacent to licensed dredging and disposal areas should demonstrate, in order of preference</p> <p>a) that they will not adversely impact dredging and disposal activities</p> <p>b) how, if there are adverse impacts on dredging and disposal, they will minimise these</p> <p>c) how, if the adverse impacts cannot be minimised they will be mitigated</p> <p>d) the case for proceeding with the proposal if it is not possible to minimise or mitigate the adverse impacts</p>	<p>There are no aggregate production agreement areas or exploration and option areas located within the offshore project area. The nearest production agreement area to the array area is licenced to DEME Building Materials Ltd (524). This area is adjacent to the south-east of the array area.</p> <p>In addition to aggregate dredging, the North Falls offshore cable corridor site selection was undertaken to avoid the Harwich Haven approach channel dredging area (discussed in ES Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Document Reference: 3.1.6). The tip of the Harwich Haven dredging channel is c.0.18km from the North Falls offshore cable corridor.</p> <p>There are three closed disposal sites which overlap the offshore project area.</p> <p>The nearest open disposal site to the array area is South Falls (TH070) at c. 8km south of the array area.</p> <p>Likely effects on these sites have been assessed as not significant in EIA terms (ranging from 'no change' to minor adverse significance). Further information is provided in ES Chapter 18 (Document Reference: 3.1.20).</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy AGG1	Proposals in areas where a licence for extraction of aggregates has been granted or formally applied for should not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances	There are no aggregate production agreement areas or exploration and option areas located within the offshore project area.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy AGG2	Proposals within an area subject to an Exploration and Option Agreement with The Crown Estate should not be supported unless it is demonstrated that the other development or activity is compatible	There are no aggregate production agreement areas or exploration and option areas located within the offshore project area.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be

Number	Objective/ Policy Text	Assessment of Objective/Policy	North Falls compliance with Marine Plan
	with aggregate extraction or there are exceptional circumstances		compliant with this Policy.
Policy AGG3	<p>Within defined areas of high potential aggregate resource, proposals should demonstrate in order of preference:</p> <p>a) that they will not, prevent aggregate extraction</p> <p>b) how, if there are adverse impacts on aggregate extraction, they will minimise these</p> <p>c) how, if the adverse impacts cannot be minimised, they will be mitigated</p> <p>d) the case for proceeding with the application if it is not possible to minimise or mitigate the adverse impacts</p>	North Falls will not prevent aggregate extraction, there are no aggregate production agreement areas or exploration and option areas located within the offshore project area.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy CAB1	Preference should be given to proposals for cable installation where the method of installation is burial. Where burial is not achievable, decisions should take account of protection measures for the cable that may be proposed by the applicant.	<p>Both array and export cables will be buried below the seabed where practicable. Where burial is not achieved, cables will be covered by cable protection. The exact form of cable protection used will depend upon local ground conditions, hydrodynamic processes and the selected cable protection contractor. However, the final choice may include one or more of the following: concrete ‘mattresses’; rock placement; geotextile bags filled with stone, rock or gravel; polyethylene or steel pipe half shells, or sheathes; and bags of grout, concrete, or another substance that cures hard over time.</p> <p>Further details of cable burial techniques are provided in ES Chapter 5 Project Description (Document Reference: 3.1.7).</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Objective 11	To continue to develop the marine evidence base to support implementation, monitoring and review of the East marine plans.	A North Falls In-Principle Monitoring Plan (Document Reference: 7.10) is submitted with the DCO application setting out the proposals for monitoring in relation to each of the topics and / or receptor groups covered in the ES.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.

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Policy FISH1	<p>Within areas of fishing activity, proposals should demonstrate in order of preference:</p> <p>a) that they will not prevent fishing activities on, or access to, fishing grounds</p> <p>b) how, if there are adverse impacts on the ability to undertake fishing activities or access to fishing grounds, they will minimise them</p> <p>c) how, if the adverse impacts cannot be minimised, they will be mitigated</p> <p>d) the case for proceeding with their proposal if it is not possible to minimise or mitigate the adverse impacts</p>	<p>ES Chapter 14 (Document Reference: 3.1.16) considers the likely effects of the Project on commercial fisheries receptors.</p> <p>The effects of North Falls on commercial fisheries receptors are not anticipated to exceed minor adverse significance.</p>	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>
Policy FISH2	<p>Proposals should demonstrate, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) that they will not have an adverse impact upon spawning and nursery areas and any associated habitat</p> <p>b) how, if there are adverse impacts upon the spawning and nursery areas and any associated habitat, they will minimise them</p> <p>c) how, if the adverse impacts cannot be minimised they will be mitigated</p> <p>d) the case for proceeding with their proposals if it is not possible to minimise or mitigate the adverse impacts</p>	<p>ES Chapter 11 (Document Reference: 3.1.13) considers the likely effects of the Project on fish and shellfish receptors and have been assessed as negligible to minor adverse.</p> <p>Measures to mitigate effects of the Project on fish and shellfish receptors include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to restrict piling activities during a suitable period of time between 1 November and 31 January, the duration of which will be discussed with the MMO and their advisors in order to reduce impacts to Downs herring (secured in the Project Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference: 7.6), • Adoption of measures such as soft-start and ramp-up secured through the Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (Document Reference: 7.7) would also benefit fish ecology by allowing mobile species to move away from the area of highest noise impact during installation of foundations. 	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>
Policy AQ1	<p>Within sustainable aquaculture development sites (identified through research), proposals should demonstrate in order of preference:</p>	<p>Policy is not applicable to application.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Number	Objective/ Policy Text	Assessment of Objective/Policy	North Falls compliance with Marine Plan
	<p>a) that they will avoid adverse impacts on future aquaculture development by altering the sea bed or water column in ways which would cause adverse impacts to aquaculture productivity or potential</p> <p>b) how, if there are adverse impacts on aquaculture development, they can be minimised</p> <p>c) how, if the adverse impacts cannot be minimised they will be mitigated</p> <p>d) the case for proceeding with the proposal if it is not possible to minimise or mitigate the adverse impacts</p>		
Policy TR1	<p>Proposals for development should demonstrate that during construction and operation, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) they will not adversely impact tourism and recreation activities</p> <p>b) how, if there are adverse impacts on tourism and recreation activities, they will minimise them</p> <p>c) how, if the adverse impacts cannot be minimised, they will be mitigated</p> <p>d) the case for proceeding with the proposal if it is not possible to minimise or mitigate the adverse impacts</p>	<p>ES Chapter 32 (Document Reference: 3.1.34) considered likely significant effects on tourism and recreation.</p> <p>During construction, effects to tourism and recreation are mainly predicted to be localised, temporary, and reversible.</p> <p>During O&M, impacts related to maintenance activities would be periodic, highly localised, and of lower magnitude than assessed for construction due to the non-disruptive nature of works.</p> <p>Long term visual effects associated with the presence of onshore infrastructure are predicted to be localised around the onshore substation works. Long term visual effects associated with the presence of offshore infrastructure are predicted to be more widespread, covering the seascape of the East Anglian waters and the Essex and Suffolk Coast. However, this is unlikely to have a significant effect on tourism and recreation, given the presence of existing OWFs and high levels of shipping activity visible within the seascape.</p> <p>All tourism and recreation residual effects during these phases are assessed to be negligible or minor adverse.</p>	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>

Number	Objective/ Policy Text	Assessment of Objective/Policy	North Falls compliance with Marine Plan
Policy TR2	<p>Proposals that require static objects in the East marine plan areas, should demonstrate, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) that they will not adversely impact on recreational boating routes</p> <p>b) how, if there are adverse impacts on recreational boating routes, they will minimise them</p> <p>c) how, if the adverse impacts cannot be minimised, they will be mitigated</p> <p>d) the case for proceeding with the proposal if it is not possible to minimise or mitigate the adverse impacts</p>	<p>Recreational boating activities are considered in ES Chapter 15 Shipping and Navigation (Document Reference: 3.1.17) and ES Chapter 32 Tourism and Recreation (Document Reference: 3.1.34).</p> <p>Based on experience of other UK wind farms under construction, it is likely that the majority of smaller vessels (e.g., fishing and recreational vessels) will avoid the buoyed construction area and hence the structures therein. However, in terms of internal navigation, the final layout will be approved by the MMO in consultation with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and Trinity House to ensure the structures are spaced and located to safely facilitate internal transits and minimise internal collision risk. Further, pre-commissioning safety zones of 50m in radius will be applied for around structures up until the point of final commissioning of the Project.</p> <p>Smaller vessels (e.g., fishing and recreation), may still choose to transit through at the discretion of individual vessel masters.</p>	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>
Policy TR3	<p>Proposals that deliver tourism and/or recreation related benefits in communities adjacent to the East marine plan areas should be supported.</p>	<p>ES Chapter 32 Tourism and Recreation (Document Reference: 3.1.34) considers the effects of the Project on these receptors.</p> <p>The EIA has established that visitors to marine, coastal, and onshore tourism and recreational assets could be affected as a result of impacts during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases. All tourism and recreation residual effects during these phases are assessed to be negligible or minor adverse.</p>	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>

2.2 South East Inshore Marine Plan

Table 2.2 South East Inshore Marine Plan Objectives and Policies

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
Objective 1	Infrastructure is in place to support and promote safe, profitable and efficient marine businesses.	Socio-economic impacts and benefits of the Project are considered in ES Chapter 31 (Document Reference: 3.1.33) and are predicted to have a minor beneficial or adverse effect.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.
Objective 2	The marine environment and its resources are used to maximise sustainable activity, prosperity and opportunities for all, now and in the future.		The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.
Objective 3	Marine businesses are taking long-term strategic decisions and managing risks effectively. They are competitive and operating efficiently.	A full environmental impact assessment has been carried out by the Applicant (presented in the ES). The ES describes decisions/ embedded mitigation made by the Applicant as well as additional mitigation to manage risks. Competition and efficiency for offshore wind farms is inherent in the seabed leasing and route to market processes in the UK.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.
Objective 4	Marine businesses are acting in a way which respects environmental limits and is socially responsible. This is rewarded in the market place.		The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.
Objective 5	People appreciate the diversity of the marine environment, its seascapes, its natural and cultural heritage and its resources and can act responsibly.	Assessment of likely significant effects and identification of mitigation for landscapes and seascapes are assessed in ES Chapters 29	The North Falls application is considered by the

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
		<p>(Document Reference: 3.1.31) and 30 (Document Reference: 3.1.32), respectively and concluded negligible to moderate effect.</p> <p>Changes to the Project have been implemented to minimise landscapes and seascapes effects including reduction of the array area, reduction of tip height and reduced turbine numbers.</p> <p>Offshore cultural heritage is assessed in ES Chapter 16 (Document Reference: 3.1.18)</p>	Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.
Objective 6	The use of the marine environment is benefiting society as a whole, contributing to resilient and cohesive communities that can adapt to coastal erosion and flood risk, as well as contributing to physical and mental wellbeing.	The extensive benefits of the Project to the local community, as well as the wider UK and global benefits, are detailed in the Needs Case and Project Benefits Statement (Document Reference: 2.1).	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.
Objective 7	The coast, seas, oceans and their resources are safe to use.	Commercial fisheries, shipping, and other users of the marine environment are considered in ES Chapters 14 (Document Reference: 3.1.16), 15 (Document Reference: 3.1.17), and 18 (Document Reference: 3.1.20), respectively. Mitigation described in these chapters will ensure the Project does not cause an adverse effect on the safety of these receptors.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.
Objective 8	The marine environment plays an important role in mitigating climate change.	North Falls' contribution to mitigating climate change is discussed in the Needs Case and Project Benefits Statement (Document Reference: 2.1) and ES Chapter 2 Need for the Project (Document Reference: 3.1.4).	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.
Objective 9	There is equitable access for those who want to use and enjoy the coast, seas and their wide range of resources and assets and recognition that for some island and peripheral communities the sea plays a significant role in their community.	The impacts of the Project on tourism and recreation are considered in ES Chapter 32 (Document Reference: 3.1.34). The effects will be of negligible or minor significance.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
		<p>Due to the Applicant's commitment to the use of HDD at landfall, there is no requirement for beach closure, with restrictions limited to emergency access only.</p> <p>Offshore safety zones will be employed around potential obstacles during construction, however advance warning would be communicated. It will therefore be possible for marine users to transit through the offshore project area, between areas of activity and therefore the spatial extent of impacts on marine tourism and recreational users will be localised.</p>	compliant with this Objective.
Objective 10	Use of the marine environment will recognise, and integrate with, defence priorities, including the strengthening of international peace and stability and the defence of the United Kingdom and its interests.	<p>The scoping opinion from the DIO confirmed significant effects relating to PEXAs are not likely. In addition, with the implementation of embedded mitigation such as stakeholder engagement and promulgation of information, the effects on the MOD's use of PEXAs would be negligible.</p> <p>With regards to effects on military radar, the Applicant continues to engage with the MOD and will deliver appropriate mitigation required to have non-significant effects on military radar.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.
Objective 11	Biodiversity is protected, conserved and, where appropriate, recovered, and loss has been halted.	<p>Assessments relating to biodiversity are included in the following ES chapters (Volume 3.1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.12) • Chapter 11 Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.13) • Chapter 12 Marine Mammals (Document Reference: 3.1.14) • Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference: 3.1.15) • Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.25) • Chapter 24 Onshore Ornithology (Document Reference: 3.1.26) <p>Effects on marine biodiversity have been assessed as no change to minor adverse, and mitigation embedded in the design of North Falls seeks to reduce adverse effects where practicable. The approach to</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
		<p>the implementation of these mitigation measures is described in the Outline Ecological Management Plan (Document Reference: 7.6).</p> <p>When considering the cumulative effects of the Project with other plans and projects, effects for the chapter topics listed above are concluded to be of negligible or minor significance, with the exception of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collision risk and collision and displacement effects over some species of seabirds (kittiwake, lesser black backed gull, great black backed gull and gannet). Effects have been mitigated as far as possible and proposals for compensatory measures and without-prejudice compensatory measures are provided as part of the HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2). <p>The following onshore ecology and ornithology effects are concluded to be of moderate significance; however these are over 5km from the coast and therefore not adjacent to the marine plan areas and not applicable to this objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on habitats (for hedgerows in the short term) • impacts on protected and notable species (short term for commuting/ foraging barbastelle and brown-long eared bats) • Habitat Loss for Corn bunting • Construction Disturbance for Corn bunting <p>In addition, effects on designated sites are considered in the RIAA Parts 1 to 6 (Document Reference: 7.1.1 to 7.1.6) and MCZ Assessment (Document Reference: 7.3).</p> <p>The RIAA concludes that an adverse effect on integrity of the lesser black backed gull feature of the Alde Ore Estuary SPA cannot be ruled out in-combination with other projects. Proposals for lesser</p>	

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		<p>black backed gull compensatory measures are provided as part of the HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2). In addition, information on without prejudice compensatory measures is provided for red throated diver of the Outer Thames Estuary SPA, and kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill from the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA.</p> <p>The MCZ assessment report (Document Reference: 7.3) concluded that conservation objectives of the assessed sites will not be hindered by the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of North Falls and no further MCZ stage assessment is required.</p>	
Objective 12	Healthy marine and coastal habitats occur across their natural range and are able to support strong, biodiverse biological communities and the functioning of healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystems.	<p>Assessments relating to biodiversity are included in the following ES chapters (Volume 3.1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.12) • Chapter 11 Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.13) • Chapter 12 Marine Mammals (Document Reference: 3.1.14) • Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference: 3.1.15) <p>Effects on marine biodiversity have been assessed as no change to minor adverse, and mitigation embedded in the design of North Falls seeks to reduce adverse effects where practicable. The approach to the implementation of these mitigation measures is described in the Outline Ecological Management Plan (document reference 7.6).</p> <p>When considering the cumulative effects of the Project with other plans and projects, effects for the chapter topics listed above are concluded to be of negligible or minor significance, with the exception of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collision risk and collision and displacement effects over some species of seabirds (kittiwake, lesser black backed gull, great 	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.

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		<p>black backed gull and gannet). Effects have been mitigated as far as possible and proposals for compensatory measures and without-prejudice compensatory measures are provided as part of the HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2).</p> <p>In addition, effects on designated sites are considered in the RIAA Parts 1 to 6 (Document Reference: 7.1.1 to 7.1.6) and MCZ Assessment (Document Reference: 7.3).</p> <p>The RIAA concludes that an adverse effect on integrity of the lesser black backed gull feature of the Alde Ore Estuary SPA cannot be ruled out in-combination with other projects. Proposals for lesser black backed gull compensatory measures are provided as part of the HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2). In addition, information on without prejudice compensatory measures is provided for red throated diver of the Outer Thames Estuary SPA, and kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill from the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA.</p> <p>The MCZ assessment report (Document Reference: 7.3) concluded that conservation objectives of the assessed sites will not be hindered by the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of North Falls and no further MCZ stage assessment is required.</p>	
Objective 13	Our oceans support viable populations of representative, rare, vulnerable, and valued species.	<p>See above under Objective 12.</p> <p>Habitats and biotopes, including notable taxa found in the offshore project area from desktop investigations and site specific surveys, have been included in the above ES chapters.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Objective.

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Policy SE-INF-1	Proposals for appropriate marine infrastructure which facilitates land-based activities, or land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activities (including the diversification or regeneration of sustainable marine industries), should be supported.	<p>The onshore infrastructure required for the North Falls offshore wind farm is detailed in ES Chapter 5 Project Description (Document Reference: 3.1.7). Of particular relevance to the Marine Plan are the landfall works, where HDD will be undertaken from the onshore landfall area to the subtidal zone within the offshore cable corridor, up to 1.5km from the shore.</p> <p>Port provisions required to support works in the offshore project area will be identified post consent. This approach is standard for offshore wind farms, due to commercial and procurement constraints. Where port assumptions are required to inform the assessment, the worst case scenario is described in the relevant ES chapters.</p> <p>The extensive benefits of the Project are detailed in the Needs Case and Project Benefits Statement (Document Reference: 2.1).</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy SE-INF-2	<p>(1) Proposals for alternative development at existing safeguarded landing facilities will not be supported.</p> <p>(2) Proposals adjacent and opposite existing safeguarded landing facilities must demonstrate that they avoid significant adverse impacts on existing safeguarded landing facilities.</p> <p>(3) Proposals for alternative development at existing landing facilities (excluding safeguarded sites) should not be supported unless that facility is no longer viable or capable of being made viable for waterborne transport.</p> <p>(4) Proposals adjacent and opposite existing landing facilities (excluding safeguarded sites) that may have significant adverse impacts on the landing facilities should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.</p>	Policy is not applicable to application.	N/A

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Policy SE-CO-1	<p>Proposals that optimise the use of space and incorporate opportunities for co-existence and cooperation with existing activities will be supported.</p> <p>Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on, or displace, existing activities must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference</p> <p>avoid</p> <p>minimise</p> <p>mitigate</p> <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.</p> <p>If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals must state the case for proceeding.</p>	<p>Potential co-ordination in relation to the proposed transmission infrastructure of North Falls and VE OWF project has been sought to minimise impacts where practicable and enabling co-existence. In addition, an offshore electrical connection supplied by a third party enabling offshore co-ordination is also being considered.</p> <p>Likely effects on other marine users have been considered in ES Chapter 18 (Document Reference: 3.1.20), and includes other offshore wind farms, cables, dredging sites, disposal sites, and MOD activities. Impacts and mitigation to maximise co-existence with commercial fisheries, shipping and recreational users are discussed in Volume 3.1, ES Chapters 14 (Document Reference: 3.1.16), 15 (Document Reference: 3.1.17) and 32 (Document Reference: 3.1.34) respectively.</p> <p>Effects have been assessed as negligible to minor adverse significance for Commercial Fisheries and Tourism and Recreation and broadly acceptable to tolerable and as Low as reasonably practicable (ALARP) for Shipping and Navigation.</p> <p>The approach to the implementation of these mitigation measures is described in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan (Document Reference: 7.9) • Outline Vessel Traffic Monitoring Plan (Document Reference: 7.21), • Safety Zone Statement (Document Reference: 7.23) • Navigation and Installation Plan (Document Reference: 7.24) • Outline Code of Construction Practice (Document Reference: 7.13) 	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>
Policy SE-AGG-1	<p>Proposals in areas where a licence for extraction of aggregates has been granted or formally applied for should not be</p>	<p>There are no aggregate production agreement areas or exploration and option areas located within the offshore project area. The nearest production agreement area to the array area is licenced to</p>	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be</p>

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	authorised, unless it is demonstrated that the proposal is compatible with aggregate extraction.	DEME Building Materials Ltd (524). This area is adjacent to the south-east of the array area.	compliant with this Policy.
Policy SE-AGG-2	Proposals within an area subject to an Exploration and Option Agreement with The Crown Estate should not be supported unless it is demonstrated that the proposal is compatible with aggregate extraction.	There are no aggregate production agreement areas or exploration and option areas located within the offshore project area. The nearest exploration and option agreement area to the North Falls offshore project area is licenced to Hanson Aggregates Marine Ltd. This area is c. 9km to the south west of the array area.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy SE-AGG-3	Proposals in areas of high potential aggregate resource that may have significant adverse impacts on future aggregate extraction should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: avoid minimise mitigate - adverse impacts so they are no longer significant. If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.	North Falls will not prevent current or future aggregate extraction, as there are no aggregate production agreement areas or exploration and option areas located within the offshore project area.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy SE-AQ-1	Proposals within existing or potential strategic areas of sustainable aquaculture production must demonstrate consideration of and compatibility with sustainable aquaculture production. Where compatibility is not possible, proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on sustainable aquaculture production must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate	Policy is not applicable to application.	N/A

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
	<p>- adverse impacts on sustainable aquaculture production so they are no longer significant.</p> <p>If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding</p>		
Policy SE-AQ-2	Proposals enabling the provision of infrastructure for sustainable aquaculture and related industries will be supported.	Policy is not applicable to application.	N/A
Policy SE-CAB-1	<p>Preference should be given to proposals for cable installation where the method of protection is burial. Where burial is not achievable, decisions should take account of protection measures for the cable that may be proposed by the applicant. Where burial or protection measures are not appropriate, proposals should state the case for proceeding without those measures.</p>	<p>Both array and export cables will be buried below the seabed where practicable.</p> <p>Where burial is not achieved, cables will be covered by cable protection. The exact form of cable protection used will depend upon local ground conditions, hydrodynamic processes and the selected cable protection contractor. However, the final choice may include one or more of the following: concrete 'mattresses'; rock placement; geotextile bags filled with stone, rock or gravel; polyethylene or steel pipe half shells, or sheathes; and bags of grout, concrete, or another substance that cures hard over time.</p> <p>Further details of cable burial techniques are provided in ES Chapter 5 Project Description (Document Reference: 3.1.7).</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy SE-CAB-2	<p>Proposals demonstrating compatibility with existing landfall sites and incorporating measures to enable development of future landfall opportunities should be supported. Where this is not possible proposals will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate <p>- adverse impacts on existing and potential future landfall sites so they are no longer significant.</p>	<p>Throughout the site selection process for the North Falls landfall area, existing constraints such as cables and pipelines have been avoided. The adoption of HDD avoids interference with intertidal habitats.</p> <p>Co-operation with the VE OWF has been sought and will ensure both projects can co-exist at the landfall at Kirby Brook.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

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	If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.		
Policy SE-CAB-3	Where seeking to locate close to existing subsea cables, proposals should demonstrate compatibility with ongoing function, maintenance and decommissioning activities relating to the cable.	Cable owners are, and will continue to be, consulted by the Applicant during the pre-construction development of the Project. Any necessary commercial and technical agreements would be put in place ahead of the commencement of construction which may include crossing and proximity agreements that would be agreed post-consent during the wind farm design period to ensure coexistence.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy SE-DD-1	In areas of authorised dredging activity, including those subject to navigational dredging, proposals for other activities will not be supported unless they are compatible with the dredging activity.	In addition to aggregate dredging discussed in relation to Policies SE-AGG-1 to 3, the North Falls offshore cable corridor site selection was undertaken to avoid the Harwich Haven approach channel dredging area (discussed in ES Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Document Reference: 3.1.6)). The tip of the Harwich Haven dredging channel is c.0.18km from the North Falls offshore cable corridor.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy SE-DD-2	<p>Proposals that cause significant adverse impacts on licensed disposal sites should not be supported. Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on licensed disposal sites must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.</p> <p>If it is not possible to mitigate the significant adverse impacts, proposals must state the case for proceeding</p>	<p>There are three closed disposal sites which overlap the offshore project area.</p> <p>The nearest open disposal site to the array area is South Falls (TH070) at c. 8km south east.</p> <p>Likely effects on these sites have been assessed as no change or minor. Further information is provided in ES Chapter 18 (Document Reference: 3.1.20).</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

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Policy SE-DD-3	Proposals for the disposal of dredged material must demonstrate that they have been assessed against the waste hierarchy. Where there is the need to identify new dredge disposal sites, including alternative use sites, proposals should be supported if they conform to best practice and guidance.	The Applicant is applying to designate the North Falls offshore project area (the array area and the offshore cable corridor) as a disposal site for material arising due to construction activities. A site characterisation report is provided with the DCO application (Document Reference: 7.26) where considerations of the alternatives for the prevention, reduction, re-use/recycle and disposal of dredged material is assessed.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy SE-OG-1	Proposals in areas where a licence for oil and gas has been granted or formally applied for should not be authorised unless it is demonstrated that the other development or activity is compatible with the oil and gas activity	The offshore project area is not within existing oil and gas production areas.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy SE-OG-2	Proposals within areas of geological oil and gas extraction potential demonstrating compatibility with future extraction activity will be supported.		The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy SE-PS-1	In line with the National Policy Statement for Ports, sustainable port and harbour development should be supported. Only proposals demonstrating compatibility with current port and harbour activities will be supported. Proposals within statutory harbour authority areas or their approaches that detrimentally and materially affect safety of navigation, or the compliance by statutory harbour authorities with the Open Port Duty or the Port Marine Safety Code, will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.	Overlap between the North Falls offshore cable corridor and the Harwich Haven approach channel have been avoided during the site selection process, discussed further in ES Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Document Reference: 3.1.6). In addition, detailed consultation has been undertaken with Harwich Haven Authority and the Port of London Authority to discuss opportunities to minimise the effects of the Project. Effects and proposed mitigation on shipping and navigation are considered in ES Chapter 15 (Document Reference: 3.1.17) and have been assessed as broadly acceptable to tolerable and as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP).	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

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	<p>Proposals that may have a significant adverse impact upon future opportunity for sustainable expansion of port and harbour activities, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate</p> <p>– adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.</p> <p>If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.</p>	<p>The approach to the implementation of these mitigation measures is described in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline marine traffic monitoring plan (Document Reference: 7.22), • Safety Zone Statement (Document Reference: 7.23) • Navigation Installation Plan (Document Reference: 7.24) 	
Policy SE-PS-2	<p>Proposals that require static sea surface infrastructure or that significantly reduce under-keel clearance must not be authorised within or encroaching upon International Maritime Organization routing systems unless there are exceptional circumstances.</p>	<p>Overlap between the North Falls offshore project area and IMO routes has been avoided during the site selection process, discussed further in ES Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Document Reference: 3.1.6).</p> <p>Likely effects on shipping and navigation are considered in ES Chapter 15 (Document Reference: 3.1.17) and have been assessed as broadly acceptable to tolerable and as Low as reasonably practicable (ALARP).</p>	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>
Policy SE-PS-3	<p>Proposals that require static sea surface infrastructure or that significantly reduce under-keel clearance which encroaches upon high density navigation routes, strategically important navigation routes, or that pose a risk to the viability of passenger services, must not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances</p>	<p>The approach to the implementation of these mitigation measures is described in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline marine traffic monitoring plan (Document Reference: 7.22), • Safety Zone Statement (Document Reference: 7.23) • Navigation and Installation Plan (Document Reference: 7.24) 	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>
Policy SE-PS-4	<p>Proposals promoting or facilitating sustainable coastal and/or short sea shipping as an alternative to road, rail or air transport will be supported where appropriate.</p>	<p>This policy is not applicable to the Project, however the likely effects of the Project on shipping and navigation are considered in ES Chapter 15 (Document Reference: 3.1.17) and have been assessed as broadly acceptable to tolerable and as Low as reasonably practicable (ALARP).</p>	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
		<p>The approach to the implementation of these mitigation measures is described in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Vessel Traffic Monitoring plan (Document Reference: 7.21), • Safety Zone Statement (Document Reference: 7.23) • Navigation and Installation Plan (Document Reference: 7.24) 	
Policy SE-REN-1	Proposals that enable the provision of renewable energy technologies and associated supply chains, will be supported.	North Falls represents a significant contribution to renewable energy technology production and associated infrastructure / supply chains. For more information and context on the Project see the Needs Case and Project Benefits Statement (Document Reference: 2.1) and ES Chapter 2 Need for the Project (Document Reference: 3.1.4).	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy SE-REN-2	Proposals for new activity within areas held under a lease or an agreement for lease for renewable energy generation should not be authorised, unless it is demonstrated that the proposed development or activity will not reduce the ability to construct, operate or decommission the existing or planned energy generation project.	Likely significant effects on infrastructure and other marine users have been considered in ES Chapter 18 (Document Reference: 3.1.20), and include other offshore wind farms, cables, dredging sites, disposal sites, and MOD activities. The effects upon these receptors have been assessed as no change to minor adverse. North Falls will not compromise the construction, operation, maintenance or decommissioning of any offshore wind farms in the area as there is no overlap of the offshore project area with other energy generation project.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy SE-REN-3	Proposals for the installation of infrastructure to generate offshore renewable energy, inside areas of identified potential and subject to relevant assessments, will be supported.	North Falls is an extension to the existing GGOW and was identified during the extension leasing round launched by The Crown Estate in 2017 and finalised in 2019 (see Section 4.8 of ES Chapter 4 (Document Reference: 3.1.6). The likely significant effects of the Project have been assessed in the Environmental Statement (Volume 3.1 of the Application)	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

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		<p>The effects on designated sites are considered in the RIAA Parts 1 to 6 (Document Reference: 7.1.1 to 7.1.6) and the MCZ Assessment (Document Reference: 7.3).</p> <p>Therefore, all relevant assessments have been completed as part of the DCO application. ES Chapter 2 (Document Reference: 3.1.4) describes the Need for the Project, which is also reflected by this Policy noting that offshore renewable energy should be supported.</p>	
Policy SE-HER-1	<p>Proposals that demonstrate they will conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets will be supported. Where proposals may cause harm to the significance of heritage assets, proponents must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate <p>- any harm to the significance of heritage assets.</p> <p>If it is not possible to mitigate, then public benefits for proceeding with the proposal must outweigh the harm to the significance of heritage assets</p>	<p>Assessment of likely significant effects and identification of mitigation for offshore heritage assets and onshore heritage assets are discussed in ES Chapters 16 (Document Reference: 3.1.18), and 25 (Document Reference: 3.1.27), respectively.</p> <p>With the application of mitigation, it is anticipated that impacts on heritage assets as a result of North Falls will be avoided or minimised, with a worst case scenario of minor adverse effect significance.</p> <p>The approach to the implementation of these mitigation measures is described in the Outline WSI (Offshore) (Document Reference: 7.11). The WSI will be prepared in accordance with industry standards and guidance including Archaeological Written Schemes of Investigation for Offshore Wind Farm Projects (The Crown Estate, 2021).</p> <p>AEZs will be implemented around known wreck sites and marine geophysical anomalies of archaeological interest. Where practicable, potential heritage assets will also be avoided. Where assets cannot practicably be avoided, further investigation will be undertaken of the potential asset to establish the archaeological interest of the feature. Once the character, nature and extent of selected features are more fully understood, appropriate mitigation measures (proportionate to the significance of the asset) to avoid, reduce or off-set impacts can be determined on a case by case basis.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
		Potentially beneficial effects have also been identified in relation to cumulative effects, through the collation of mappable data for other plans and projects, and academic research where available, in the Thames Region.	
Policy SE-SCP-1	<p>Proposals should ensure they are compatible with their surroundings and should not have a significant adverse impact on the character and visual resource of the seascape and landscape of the area.</p> <p>The location, scale and design of proposals should take account of the character, quality and distinctiveness of the seascape and landscape.</p> <p>Proposals that may have a significant adverse impact on the seascape and landscape of the area should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.</p> <p>If it is not possible to mitigate, the public benefits for proceeding with the proposal must outweigh significant adverse impacts to the seascape and landscape of the area.</p> <p>Proposals within or relatively close to nationally designated areas should have regard to the specific statutory purposes of the designated area. Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</p>	<p>Assessment of likely significant effects and identification of mitigation for landscapes and seascapes are assessed in ES Chapters 29 (Document Reference: 3.1.31) and 30 (Document Reference: 3.1.32), respectively and concluded negligible to moderate effect.</p> <p>Changes to the Project have been implemented to minimise landscapes and seascapes effects including reduction of the array area, reduction of tip high and reduced turbine numbers.</p> <p>ES Chapter 2 (Document Reference: 3.1.4) provides the case for proceeding with North Falls.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy SE-FISH-1	Proposals that support a sustainable fishing industry, including the industry's diversification, should be supported.	ES Chapter 14 (Document Reference: 3.1.16) considers the likely effects of the Project on commercial fisheries receptors.	The North Falls application is considered by the

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
		The effects of North Falls on commercial fisheries receptors are not anticipated to exceed minor adverse significance.	Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy SE-FISH-2	<p>Proposals that enhance access for fishing activities should be supported. Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on access for fishing activities must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.</p> <p>If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.</p>		The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy SE-FISH-3	<p>Proposals that enhance essential fish habitat, including spawning, nursery and feeding grounds, and migratory routes should be supported.</p> <p>Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on essential fish habitat, including spawning, nursery and feeding grounds, and migratory routes, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant</p>	<p>ES Chapter 11 (Document Reference: 3.1.13) considers the likely effects of the Project on fish and shellfish receptors which have been assessed as negligible to minor adverse.</p> <p>Measures to mitigate effects of the Project on fish and shellfish receptors include:</p> <p>Commitment to restrict piling activities during a suitable period of time between 1 November and 31 January, the duration of which will be discussed with the MMO and their advisors in order to reduce impacts to Downs herring (secured in the Project Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference: 7.6),</p> <p>Adoption of measures such as soft-start and ramp-up secured through the Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (Document Reference: 7.7) would also benefit fish ecology by allowing mobile species to move away from the area of highest noise impact during installation of foundations.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
Policy SE-EMP-1	<p>Proposals that result in a net increase in marine related employment will be supported, particularly where they meet one or more of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) are aligned with local skills strategies and support the skills available 2) create a diversity of opportunities 3) create employment in locations identified as the most deprived 4) implement new technologies <p>- in, and adjacent to, the south east marine plan area.</p>	<p>Socio-economic impacts and benefits of the Project are considered in ES Chapter 31 (Document Reference: 3.1.33) and are predicted to have a minor beneficial or adverse effect.</p> <p>North Falls' average GVA contribution to the UK economy is expected to range from £4.9m to £41.9m per annum over the seven-year development and construction phase. Of this, less than £1 million per annum is expected to be captured by businesses in Essex or Suffolk that access supply chain opportunities, with only a minor difference between the three scenarios. During the operational phase of the Project, an average GVA between £18 to £20 million per annum is expected, over an assumed 30-year operational period. The offshore infrastructure expenditure retained locally (either in Essex or Suffolk) is estimated to support a GVA contribution of £9 million per annum throughout North Fall's operational phase. Although the decommissioning process is generally considered the reverse of the installation process during construction, the potential economic value impacts generated per annum by decommissioning activity are estimated to be less than during the (average annual) construction phase ranging from £12.6 to £17.6.</p> <p>At the UK level, it is estimated that North Fall's offshore development and construction activity will support between 50 and 410 FTE jobs per annum over the assumed seven-year development and construction period. Of these, it is estimated that less than 10 FTE jobs will be located within the local study area (Essex and Suffolk). Throughout the operational phase of the Project, these will range between 110 and 190 FTE jobs per annum over the 30-year with an average of between 80 and 90 FTE jobs retained per annum locally within Essex and Suffolk. During the decommissioning phase, an average of between 105 and 150 FTE jobs retained per annum at the UK level and around 40 FTE jobs retained locally within Essex and Suffolk.</p>	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
Policy SE-CC-1	<p>Proposals that conserve, restore or enhance habitats that provide flood defence or carbon sequestration will be supported. Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on habitats that provide a flood defence or carbon sequestration ecosystem service must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) compensate for significant adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated 	<p>The Applicant has committed to HDD at landfall and the landfall compound, where the HDD will be located, will be set back approximately 400m from the coast (and the Holland Haven Marshes SSSI). The depth profile of the HDD below ground would be designed to ensure there would be no change at the coast. Therefore, there is no potential pathway for impact between any onshore elements and the coast. Effects on the coast and coastal processes are considered in ES Chapter 8 Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes (Document Reference: 3.1.10) and effects are assessed as no change or negligible significance.</p> <p>Water resources and flood risk are considered in ES Chapter 21 (Document Reference: 3.1.23) and effects are assessed as minor adverse significance.</p>	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>
Policy SE-CC-2	<p>Proposals in the south east marine plan area should demonstrate for the lifetime of the project that they are resilient to the impacts of climate change and coastal change.</p>	<p>The design of the Project (ES Chapter 5 Project Description (Document Reference: 3.1.7) has been developed to withstand predicted effects of climate change (e.g., the Outline Operational Drainage Plan developed for the Project (Document Reference: 7.19) considers potential changes in peak rainfall event associated to climate change, and commitment to HDD at landfall avoids potential effects if there is coastal erosion (see ES Chapter 8 Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes (Document Reference: 3.1.10)).</p>	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>
Policy SE-CC-3	<p>Proposals in the south east marine plan area, and adjacent marine plan areas, that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on coastal change, or on climate change adaptation measures inside and outside of the proposed project areas, should only be supported if they can demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid 	<p>The Project's impact on climate change as well as the potential environmental effects of climate change on the Project are assessed in ES Chapter 33 (Document Reference: 3.1.35). In summary, North Falls is expected to have a beneficial effect on GHG emissions, by a reduction of 48 million tonnes CO_{2e}, compared to equivalent electricity produced from gas. The Project will provide a renewable</p>	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
	b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.	<p>source of electricity which beneficially contributes to the UK's goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2050.</p> <p>The design of the Project (ES Chapter 5 Project Description (Document Reference: 3.1.7) has been engineered to withstand any effects of climate change (e.g., the Outline Operational Drainage Plan developed for the Project (Document Reference: 7.19) considers potential changes in peak rainfall event associated to climate change, commitment to HDD at landfall avoids potential effects if there is coastal erosion (see ES Chapter 8 Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes (Document Reference: 3.1.10)).</p> <p>Effects on coastal processes are assessed in ES Chapter 8 Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes (Document Reference: 3.1.10) and have been assessed as no change to negligible significance.</p>	
Policy SE-CCUS-1	Decommissioning programmes for oil and gas facilities should demonstrate that they have considered the potential for re-use of infrastructure.	Policy is not applicable to application.	N/A
Policy SE-AIR-1	<p>Proposals must assess their direct and indirect impacts upon local air quality and emissions of greenhouse gases. Proposals that are likely to result in increased air pollution or increased emissions of greenhouse gases must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate</p> <p>- air pollution and/or greenhouse gas emissions in line with current national and local air quality objectives and legal requirements</p>	<p>The Project's impact on climate change as well as the potential environmental effects of climate change on the Project are assessed in ES Chapter 33 (Document Reference: 3.1.35). In summary, North Falls is expected to have a beneficial effect on GHG emissions, by a reduction of 48 million tonnes CO₂e, compared to equivalent electricity produced from gas. The Project will provide a renewable source of electricity which beneficially contributes to the UK's goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2050.</p> <p>Air quality is considered in ES Chapter 20 (Document Reference: 3.1.22) and likely effects have been assessed as 'not significant' in EIA terms.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
Policy SE-ML-1	Public authorities must make adequate provision for the prevention, re-use, recycling and disposal of waste to reduce and prevent marine litter. Public authorities should aspire to undertake measures to remove marine litter within their jurisdiction.	The management of waste during the offshore works will be detailed post consent within the Project Environmental Management Plan (PEMP), in accordance with the Outline Project Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference: 7.6). The Outline PEMP requires waste to be considered for reuse, recycling or recovery where it is practicable and places responsibility on contractors involved in the Project to manage waste.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy SE-ML-2	Proposals that facilitate waste re-use or recycling to reduce or remove marine litter will be supported. Proposals that could potentially increase the amount of marine litter in the marine plan area must include measures to, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate - waste entering the marine environment.	In addition, Controls for any wastewater discharges (such as effluent discharges, ballast waters, bilge waters, and deck runoff) will be included in the PEMP, in accordance with the latest legislation, regulatory limits and good practice	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy-SE-WQ-1	Proposals that protect, enhance and restore water quality will be supported. Proposals that cause deterioration of water quality must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise, c) mitigate - deterioration of water quality in the marine environment.	Marine water and sediment quality is considered in ES Chapter 9 (Document Reference: 3.1.11). The effects on water quality during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of North Falls are considered either 'minor adverse' or 'negligible'.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy-ACC-1	Proposals demonstrating appropriate enhanced and inclusive public access to and within the marine area, including the provision of services for tourism and recreation activities, will be supported. Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on public access should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid	North Falls would maintain access to the coast and marine area. The Applicant has committed to using HDD during landfall construction work in order to avoid disruption on the beach. During offshore construction, safety zones may be required, however the impacts of these would be localised and temporary, with access retained for the wider marine area.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
	b) minimise c) mitigate – adverse impacts so they are no longer significant		
Policy-SE-TR-1	Proposals that promote or facilitate sustainable tourism and recreation activities, or that create appropriate opportunities to expand or diversify the current use of facilities, should be supported. Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on tourism and recreation activities must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.	ES Chapter 32 (Document Reference: 3.1. 34) considered likely significant effects on tourism and recreation. All tourism and recreation residual effects during these phases are assessed to be negligible or minor adverse.	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy-SE-SOC-1	Those bringing forward proposals should consider and demonstrate how their development shall enhance public knowledge, understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the marine environment as part of (the design of) the proposal.	The Applicant has undertaken engagement with stakeholders, communities and landowners throughout the site selection process and development of the ES through the Scoping and PEIR consultation and Expert Topic Groups (see ES Chapter 7 Technical Consultation (Document Reference: 3.1.9). A Statement of Community Consultation was produced in consultation with Essex County Council and published online on the Project's website and placed in three locations in the vicinity of the Project. Community engagement is described in the Consultation Report (Document Reference: 4.1).	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy-SE-DEF-1	Proposals in or affecting Ministry of Defence areas should only be authorised with agreement from the Ministry of Defence.	The following military PEXAs overlap or are in proximity to the North Falls offshore project area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kentish Knock – X5119 (overlaps the array area); • North Galloper – X5121 (adjacent to the eastern boundary of the array area); 	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outer Gabbard – X5117 (located to the north of the array area); • South Galloper – X5120 (overlaps the array area); and • Gunfleet – X5118 (overlaps the offshore cable corridor). <p>The scoping opinion from the DIO confirmed significant effects relating to military maritime activities are not likely. In addition, with the implementation of embedded mitigation such as stakeholder engagement and promulgation of information, the effects on the MOD's use of PEXAs would be negligible.</p>	compliant with this Policy.
Policy-MPA-1	<p>Proposals that support the objectives of marine protected areas and the ecological coherence of the marine protected area network will be supported. Proposals that may have adverse impacts on the objectives of marine protected areas must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate</p> <p>- adverse impacts, with due regard given to statutory advice on an ecologically coherent network.</p>	<p>Effects on designated sites and associated mitigation are discussed in the RIAA Parts 1 to 6 (Document Reference: 7.1.1 to 7.1.6) and MCZ Assessment (Document Reference: 7.3).</p> <p>The Applicant has committed to avoiding direct impacts of the Project on designated sites where practicable as described in ES Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Document Reference: 3.1.9).</p> <p>An HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2) is provided with the DCO application which includes compensatory measures to ensure the overall coherence of the National Site Network.</p> <p>The RIAA concludes that an adverse effect on integrity of the lesser black backed gull feature of the Alde Ore Estuary SPA cannot be ruled out in-combination with other projects. Proposals for lesser black backed gull compensatory measures are provided as part of the HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2). In addition, information on without prejudice compensatory measures is provided for red throated diver of the Outer Thames Estuary SPA, and kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill from the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA.</p> <p>The MCZ assessment report (Document Reference: 7.3) concluded that conservation objectives of the assessed sites will not be hindered by the construction, operation, and decommissioning</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
		phases of North Falls and no further MCZ stage assessment is required.	
Policy SE-MPA-2	<p>Proposals that enhance a marine protected area's ability to adapt to climate change, enhancing the resilience of the marine protected area network, will be supported. Proposals that may have adverse impacts on an individual marine protected area's ability to adapt to the effects of climate change, and so reduce the resilience of the marine protected area network, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate <p>- adverse impacts.</p>	<p>Global warming places many species at risk, with a loss of suitable habitats, and shifts in prey distributions due to changing conditions. The extensive benefits of the Project in contributing to combating climate change are detailed in the Needs Case and Project Benefits Statement (Document Reference: 2.1).</p>	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>
Policy-SE-MPA-3	<p>Where statutory advice states that a marine protected area site condition is deteriorating or that features are moving or changing due to climate change, a suitable boundary change to ensure continued protection of the site and coherence of the overall network should be considered.</p>		<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>
Policy-MPA-4	<p>Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on designated geodiversity must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.</p>	<p>Assessments relating to geodiversity are considered in ES Chapter 8 Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes (Document Reference: 3.1 10) and concluded effects would range from no change to negligible significance.</p> <p>Embedded mitigation including WTG spacing, micro-siting where practicable to minimise the requirements for seabed preparation prior to foundation installation and cable installation will be implemented to minimise interference with marine physical processes.</p>	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
Policy SE-BIO-1	<p>Proposals that enhance the distribution of priority habitats and priority species will be supported. Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on the distribution of priority habitats and priority species must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse impacts so they are no longer significant d) compensate for significant adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated.</p>	<p>Not applicable to the Project. No priority habitats or species are present in the offshore project area.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
Policy SE-BIO-2	<p>Proposals that enhance or facilitate native species or habitat adaptation or connectivity, or native species migration, will be supported.</p> <p>Proposals that may cause significant adverse impacts on native species or habitat adaptation or connectivity, or native species migration, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse impacts so they are no longer significant d) compensate for significant adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated.</p>	<p>Assessments relating to native species are included in the following ES chapters (Volume 3.1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.12) • Chapter 11 Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.13) • Chapter 12 Marine Mammals (Document Reference: 3.1.14) • Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference: 3.1.15) • Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.25) • Chapter 24 Onshore Ornithology (Document Reference: 3.1.26) <p>Effects on marine biodiversity have been assessed as no change to minor adverse, and mitigation embedded in the design of North Falls seeks to reduce adverse effects where practicable. The approach to the implementation of these mitigation measures is described in the Outline Ecological Management Plan (Document Reference: 7.6).</p>	<p>The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.</p>

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
		<p>When considering the cumulative effects of the Project with other plans and projects, effects for the chapter topics listed above are concluded to be of negligible or minor significance, with the exception of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collision risk and collision and displacement effects over some species of seabirds (kittiwake, lesser black backed gull, great black backed gull and gannet). Effects have been mitigated as far as possible and proposals for compensatory measures and without-prejudice compensatory measures are provided as part of the HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2). <p>Effects on terrestrial biodiversity have been assessed as adverse or beneficial. The majority of these impacts have been assessed as no greater than minor significance of effect and mitigation embedded in the design of North Falls seeks to reduce adverse effects where practicable. These mitigation measures are summarised in the Schedule of Mitigation (Document Reference: 2.6) and detailed across several documents such as the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (Document Reference: 7.14).</p> <p>The following onshore ecology and ornithology effects are concluded to be of moderate significance; however these are over 5km from the coast and therefore not adjacent to the marine plan areas and not applicable to this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on habitats (for hedgerows in the short term) • impacts on protected and notable species (short term for commuting/ foraging barbastelle and brown-long eared bats) • Habitat Loss for Corn bunting • Construction Disturbance for Corn bunting 	

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
		<p>The effects on designated sites are considered in the RIAA Parts 1 to 6 (Document Reference: 7.1.1 to 7.1.6) and the MCZ Assessment (Document Reference: 7.3).</p> <p>The RIAA concludes that an adverse effect on integrity of the lesser black backed gull feature of the Alde Ore Estuary SPA cannot be ruled out in-combination with other projects. Proposals for lesser black backed gull compensatory measures are provided as part of the HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2). In addition, information on without prejudice compensatory measures is provided for red throated diver of the Outer Thames Estuary SPA, and kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill from the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA.</p> <p>The MCZ assessment report (Document Reference: 7.3) concludes that conservation objectives of the assessed sites will not be hindered by the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of North Falls.</p>	
Policy SE-BIO-3	<p>Proposals that conserve, restore or enhance coastal habitats, where important in their own right and/or for ecosystem functioning and provision of ecosystem services, will be supported.</p> <p>Proposals must take account of the space required for coastal habitats, where important in their own right and/or for ecosystem functioning and provision of ecosystem services, and demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate d) compensate for 	<p>Assessments relating to coastal habitats are included in the following ES chapters (Volume 3.1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8 Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes (Document Reference: 3.1.10) • Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.12) <p>Impacts on the coastal zone have been minimised by the Applicant's commitment to HDD at landfall, avoiding impact on the intertidal zone.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
	- net habitat loss.		
Policy-SE-INNS-1	<p>Proposals that reduce the risk of introduction and/or spread of invasive non-native species should be supported.</p> <p>Proposals must put in place appropriate measures to avoid or minimise significant adverse impacts that would arise through the introduction and transport of invasive non-native species, particularly when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) moving equipment, boats or livestock (for example fish or shellfish) from one water body to another 2) introducing structures suitable for settlement of invasive non-native species, or the spread of invasive non-native species known to exist in the area. 	<p>Assessments relating to invasive non-native species are included in the following ES chapters (Volume 3.1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.12) • Chapter 11 Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.13) <p>The overall significance of effect from the colonisation and introduction of INNS was assessed as minor adverse, which is not significant in EIA terms.</p> <p>In addition, invasive non-native species are considered in the RIAA Part 2 (Document Reference: 7.1.2) and MCZ Assessment (Document Reference: 7.3).</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy-SE-INNS-2	Public authorities with functions to manage activities that could potentially introduce, transport or spread invasive non-native species should implement adequate biosecurity measures to avoid or minimise the risk of introducing, transporting or spreading invasive non-native species.	Mitigation to avoid the spread of invasive non-native species is outlined in the Outline Project Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference: 7.6).	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy-SE-DIST-1	<p>Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on highly mobile species through disturbance or displacement must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.</p>	<p>Assessments relating to highly mobile species are included in the following ES chapters (Volume 3.1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11 Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.13) • Chapter 12 Marine Mammals (Document Reference: 3.1.14) • Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology (Document Reference: 3.1.15) <p>Effects on marine mobile species have been assessed as no change to minor adverse for most of the impacts, and mitigation embedded in the design of North Falls seeks to reduce adverse effects where practicable. The approach to the implementation of these mitigation</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
		<p>measures is described in the Outline Project Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference 7.6).</p> <p>When considering the cumulative effects of the Project with other plans and projects, Collision risk and collision and displacement effects over some species of seabirds have been assessed as up to moderate adverse (kittiwake, lesser black backed gull, great black backed gull and gannet). Effects have been mitigated as far as possible and proposals for compensatory measures and without-prejudice compensatory measures are provided as part of the HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2).</p> <p>In addition, highly mobile species are considered in the RIAA Parts 3 to 5 (Document Reference: 7.1.3 to 7.1.5).</p> <p>The RIAA concludes that an adverse effect on integrity of the lesser black backed gull feature of the Alde Ore Estuary SPA cannot be ruled out in-combination with other projects. Proposals for lesser black backed gull compensatory measures are provided as part of the HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2). In addition, information on without prejudice compensatory measures is provided for red throated diver of the Outer Thames Estuary SPA, and kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill from the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA.</p>	
Policy-SE-UWN-1	Proposals that result in the generation of impulsive sound must contribute data to the UK Marine Noise Registry as per any currently agreed requirements. Public authorities must take account of any currently agreed targets under the Marine Strategy Part One Descriptor 11.	<p>The Applicant is committed to contributing data to the UK Marine Noise Registry.</p> <p>Noise and vibration effects and associated mitigation are considered in the following ES Chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.12) • Chapter 11 Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.13) • Chapter 12 Marine Mammals (Document Reference: 3.1.15) 	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy-SE-UWN-2	Proposals that result in the generation of impulsive or non-impulsive noise must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:		The North Falls application is considered by the

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
	a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse impacts on highly mobile species so they are no longer significant If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals must state the case for proceeding.	Effects on mobile species range from no effect to minor adverse, and mitigation embedded in the design of North Falls seeks to reduce adverse effects where practicable. The approach to the implementation of these mitigation measures is described in the outline Project Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference: 7.6) and Draft Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan/Protocol (Document Reference: 7.7).	Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.
Policy-SE-CE-1	Proposals which may have adverse cumulative effects with other existing, authorised, or reasonably foreseeable proposals must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse cumulative and/or in-combination effects so they are no longer significant.	A CEA is provided for each technical chapter in the ES. The CEA considers other plans, projects and activities that may impact cumulatively with North Falls. ES Chapter 6 EIA Methodology (Document Reference: 3.1.8) provides further details of the general framework and approach to the CEA. These activities include other OWFs, subsea cables and pipelines, oil and gas exploration and extraction and fisheries management areas. As a general rule, other activities are only screened into the CEA where there is a spatial and/or temporal overlap in effects such that a cumulative effect would be possible, or where effects are on a defined receptor group (such as within the boundaries of a designated site). When considering the cumulative effects of the Project with other plans and projects, effects for the chapter topics listed above are concluded to be of negligible or minor significance, with the exception of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collision risk and collision and displacement effects over some species of seabirds (kittiwake, lesser black backed gull, great black backed gull and gannet). Effects have been mitigated as far as possible and proposals for compensatory measures and without-prejudice compensatory measures are provided as part of the HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2). 	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

Number	Objective/ Policy	Assessment	North Falls Compliance with Marine Plan
		<p>The effects of the Project on designated sites are considered in the RIAA Part 1 to 6 (Document Reference: 7.1.1 to 7.1.6) and the MCZ Assessment (Document Reference: 7.3).</p> <p>The RIAA concludes that an adverse effect on integrity of the lesser black backed gull feature of the Alde Ore Estuary SPA cannot be ruled out in-combination with other projects. Proposals for lesser black backed gull compensatory measures are provided as part of the HRA derogation case (Document Reference: 7.2). In addition, information on without prejudice compensatory measures is provided for red throated diver of the Outer Thames Estuary SPA, and kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill from the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA.</p> <p>The MCZ assessment report (Document Reference: 7.3) concludes that conservation objectives of the assessed sites will not be hindered by the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of North Falls.</p> <p>North Falls will therefore not hinder this objective to protect, conserve and, where appropriate, recover biodiversity.</p>	
Policy-SE-CBC-1	Proposals must consider cross-border impacts throughout the lifetime of the proposed activity. Proposals that impact upon one or more marine plan areas or terrestrial environments must show evidence of the relevant public authorities (including other countries) being consulted and responses considered.	<p>Transboundary effects are considered for each relevant technical chapter in the ES. ES Chapter 6 EIA Methodology (Document Reference: 3.1.8) provides further details of the general framework and approach.</p> <p>The Consultation Report (Document Reference: 4.1) provides evidence of consultation undertaken with relevant public authorities (including other countries). Each technical chapter of the ES provides details of comments received and the Applicants response.</p>	The North Falls application is considered by the Applicant to be compliant with this Policy.

3 References

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NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm



RWE

HARNESSING THE POWER OF NORTH SEA WIND

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited

A joint venture company owned equally by SSE Renewables and RWE.

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