



# NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

## ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

### Chapter 7 Technical Consultation

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**NORTH FALLS**

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## Glossary of Acronyms

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
DCO	Development Consent Order
DIO	Defence Infrastructure Organisation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
ETGs	Expert Topic Groups
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MoD	Ministry of Defence
NPS	National Policy Statements
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RYA	Royal Yachting Association

## 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.
Bentley Road improvement works	Works involving the widening and improvement of the carriageway along Bentley Road, required to facilitate heavy goods vehicle and abnormal indivisible load access to the onshore cable route and the onshore substation.
Landfall	The location where the offshore export cables come ashore at Kirby Brook.
National Grid connection point	The grid connection location for the Project. National Grid are proposing to construct new electrical infrastructure (a new substation) to allow the Project to connect to the grid, and this new infrastructure will be located at the National Grid connection point.
Offshore converter platform	Should an offshore connection to a third party HVDC 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.
Onshore PEIR boundary	The boundary encompassing the Project landfall, onshore cable route and onshore substation, as considered within the PEIR.

Onshore substation	A compound containing electrical equipment required to transform and stabilise electricity generated by the Project so that it can be connected to the National Grid.
Platform interconnector cable	Cable connecting the offshore substation platforms (OSP); or the OSP and offshore converter platform (OCP)
Temporary construction compound	Area set aside to facilitate construction of the onshore cable route. Will be located adjacent to the onshore cable route, with access to the highway where required.
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.

# 7 Technical Consultation

## 7.1 Introduction

1. This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) outlines the approach taken to consultation relating to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (hereafter referred to as ‘technical consultation’) for the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter ‘North Falls’ or ‘the Project’). Further details on the consultation undertaken to inform the Project’s EIA, feedback received and the Applicant’s response to feedback is presented in each relevant chapter in this ES.
2. Consultation in relation to the EIA includes statutory consultation on the Scoping Report and Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) (see Section 7.3) and non-statutory consultation (e.g. through the Evidence Plan Process (EPP), see Section 7.3.2).
3. The Applicant has had regard to feedback from the technical consultation and where appropriate used it to inform the design of North Falls and the scope of the impact assessment.
4. In addition to the technical consultation, the Applicant has consulted local communities and landowners. Further information on all aspects of the North Falls consultation is provided in the Consultation Report (Document Reference: 4.1), which is accompanied with the Project’s Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

## 7.2 Legislation, policy and guidance

5. As detailed in Chapter 3 Policy and Legislative Context (Volume 3.1) of the ES, the Project is defined under Part 3, Section 15(3) of the Planning Act 2008 as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). The Applicant has therefore undertaken pre-application consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications, Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (herein known as ‘the APFP Regulations’) and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (herein known as ‘the EIA Regulations’).

### 7.2.1 The Planning Act

6. A summary of the relevant Sections of Part 5, Chapter 2 of the Planning Act 2008 are outlined in Table 7.1.

**Table 7.1 Key sections of the Planning Act related to consultation**

Section	Provision	Summary of relevant requirements
Section 42	Duty to consult;	(1) The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application— (a) such persons as may be prescribed, (aa) the Marine Management Organisation (where development would or is likely to affect the territorial sea in England or other specified marine zones), (b) each local authority that is within section 43,(d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.

Section	Provision	Summary of relevant requirements
Section 45	Timetable for consultation under section 42;	<p>(1) The applicant must, when consulting a person under section 42, notify the person of the deadline for the receipt of consultation responses.</p> <p>(2) A deadline notified under subsection (1) must be at least 28 days after the day when the person receives the consultation documents.</p> <p>(3) In subsection (2) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the person by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the person.</p>
Section 46	Duty to notify the Secretary of State of proposed application;	<p>(1) The applicant must supply the Secretary of State with the same information in relation to the proposed application as if the applicant was consulting with the Secretary of State under section 42.</p> <p>(2) The applicant must comply with subsection (1) on or before commencing consultation under section 42.</p>
Section 47	Duty to consult local community;	<p>(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult people living in the vicinity of the land.</p> <p>(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.</p> <p>(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is 28 days after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.</p> <p>(4) In subsection (3) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consultation.</p> <p>(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2).</p> <p>(6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant <b>must</b>—</p> <p>(za) make the statement available for inspection by the public in convenient way,</p> <p>(a) publish, in a local newspaper a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and</p> <p>(b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed by regulations.</p> <p>(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.</p>
Section 48	Duty to publicise	<p>(1) The applicant must publicise the proposed application as prescribed by regulations</p> <p>(2) Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) set a deadline for responses to the publicity.</p>
Section 49	Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity	<p>(2) The applicant must, when deciding whether the application that the applicant is actually to make should be in the same terms as the proposed application, have regard to any relevant responses.</p> <p>(3) In subsection (2) “relevant response” means —</p> <p>(a) a response from a person consulted under section 42 received by the set deadlines</p> <p>(b) a response to consultation under section 47(7) received by the set deadlines</p> <p>(c) a response to publicity under section 48 received by the set deadlines.</p>

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

7. The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ('the APFP Regulations') set out the information to be included in the DCO application and provide details for how parts of the pre-application consultation must be carried out. The APFP Regulations also includes the list of prescribed consultees. The Consultation Report (Document Reference: 4.1) provides details of the Applicant's compliance with these Regulations.

## 7.2.3 National Policy Statements

8. The assessment of potential impacts upon Chapter 7 Technical Consultation has been made with specific reference to the relevant legislation and guidance, of which the principal policy documents with respect to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) are the National Policy Statements (NPS). Those relevant to the Project are:
  - EN-1 - Overarching NPS for Energy (DESNZ, 2023a);
  - EN-3 - Renewable Energy Infrastructure (DESNZ, 2023b); and
  - EN-5 - Electricity Networks, which covers the electrical infrastructure in conjunction with EN-1 (DESNZ, 2023c).

## 7.2.4 EIA Regulations

9. The EIA Regulations set out a process by which statutory stakeholders are to be notified about the intention to submit a planning application and be consulted on the information to be provided in the ES. It places a duty on these stakeholders to enter into consultation with the Applicant and to provide any environmental information they hold that is relevant to the preparation of the ES. The EIA Regulations also make provisions for the local community to be informed and consulted about the EIA development.
10. For the Project, the relevant sections of the EIA Regulations relating to pre-application consultation are:
  - Regulation 8(1)(b) - Notify the Secretary of State in writing that the applicant proposes to provide an ES;
  - Regulation 10 - Application for a Scoping Opinion;
  - Regulation 11- Procedure to facilitate preparation of ES;
  - Regulation 12 - Consultation statement requirements including in relation to PEIR;
  - Regulation 13 - Pre-application publicity under section 48 (duty to publicise); and
  - Regulation 32 - Development with significant transboundary effects.



## 7.2.5 Planning Inspectorate Advice Notes

11. The Planning Inspectorate has published a series of advice notes in relation to NSIPs. The advice notes are non-statutory but provide advice and information on a range of issues arising throughout the whole life of the application process.
12. The Applicant's approach to consultation has been informed by a range of the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Notes, with particular reference to:
  - Advice Note Three: EIA Consultation and Notification (Planning Inspectorate, 2017)<sup>1</sup>;
  - Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping (Planning Inspectorate, 2020a);
  - Advice Note Ten: Habitat Regulations Assessment relevant to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (Planning Inspectorate, 2022); and
  - Advice Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts and Process (Planning Inspectorate, 2020b)
  - Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report (Planning Inspectorate, 2021a).

## 7.3 Approach to technical consultation on the EIA

### 7.3.1 Statutory technical consultation

#### 7.3.1.1 Scoping

13. Regulation 10(1) of the EIA Regulations allows the Applicant to request a written opinion (the Scoping Opinion) from the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State), regarding the scope and level of detail of the information proposed to be provided in the ES.
14. A request for a Scoping Opinion was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2021, accompanied by the North Falls Scoping Report (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2021) which outlined the Project as it was understood at that time and described the likely significant effects to be assessed as part of the EIA, as well as the methodology for these assessments.
15. A Scoping Opinion (Document Reference: 7.25) was received in August 2021. The Scoping Opinion collated and considered comments from consultees and provided the Planning Inspector's opinion on what could be scoped in or out of the EIA.
16. Where impacts have been scoped in, as detailed in the Scoping Opinion, these are presented within each relevant technical chapter (Chapters 8 to 34, Volume 3.1).

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<sup>1</sup> Consultation was undertaken under the 2017 version of Advice Note Three. There has since been an updated version issued in May 2024, however due to the time in which consultation begun, the 2017 note remains the key version for consultation on the Project.

17. A response to comments from the Scoping Opinion is provided within the relevant chapters of this ES.

#### *7.3.1.2 Preliminary Environmental Information*

18. A PEIR was prepared in accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, which requires the Applicant to publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information.
19. Preliminary environmental information is information compiled by the Applicant which is reasonably required for consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the relevant project, including any associated development.
20. A consultation period of 60 days was offered by the Applicant, from 16 May to 14 July 2023, which exceeded the statutory requirement of 28 days.
21. Responses to the relevant comments received during the PEIR consultation period are provided within the relevant chapters of this ES.

##### *7.3.1.2.1 Targeted consultation*

22. In addition to the PEIR consultation, a separate targeted consultation exercise was conducted between 14 March and 22 April 2024 (a consultation period of 40 days).
23. This exercise focused on changes to the onshore PEIR boundary made since PEIR, including areas for the Project's National Grid connection point, access, temporary construction compounds, amendments to the cable route and Bentley Road improvement works.
24. A PEIR addendum was prepared which assessed the likely significant effects of these amendments.
25. Responses to the relevant comments received during the targeted consultation period are provided within the relevant chapters of this ES.

#### *7.3.2 Non-statutory technical consultation*

##### *7.3.2.1 Pre-scoping consultation*

26. The Applicant proactively engaged with key stakeholders from an early stage in the Project, in relation to site selection and survey planning. Details of this early consultation is provided in Table 7.2. Further information regarding each meeting / consultation activity is provided in the relevant chapter of the ES.

**Table 7.2 Pre-scoping consultation**

Dates	Activity	Detail	Organisation(s) Consulted	Relevant chapter of the ES
September 2018	External workshop	A consultation event held with marine consultees around the initial array boundary, facilitated by Anatec Ltd.	MCA Trinity House	Chapter 15 Shipping and Navigation (Volume 3.1)
November 2018	Environmental constraint consultation	A consultation event (led by The Crown Estate) appraising constraints around the area sought for the array areas from North Falls	Chamber of Shipping Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Historic England Ministry of Defence (MoD) National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations Natural England Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB <sup>2</sup> ) Suffolk County Council The Wildlife Trusts Whale and Dolphin Conservation	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Volume 3.1)
September 2020 – February 2021	Presentation	An introductory session to North Falls was provided to the County Council and District Council	Essex County Council Tendring District Council	N/A
September 2020 – February 2021	External workshop	National Grid outlining the technical basis of the East Anglia substation	National Grid	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Volume 3.1)
December 2020	Written consultation	Consultation on onshore overwintering bird survey methodologies	Natural England	Chapter 24 Onshore Ornithology (Volume 3.1)
February – March 2021	Written consultation	Consultation on five shortlisted offshore export cable corridor options. Offered opportunity for a collective	Harwich Haven Authority Historic England	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Volume 3.1)

<sup>2</sup> Now *Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape*.

Dates	Activity	Detail	Organisation(s) Consulted	Relevant chapter of the ES
		workshop/ or individual presentations to selected stakeholders	MCA Marine Management Organisation (MMO) MoD (Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)) Natural England Port of Felixstowe Port of London Authority Royal Yachting Association (RYA) RSPB The Wildlife Trusts Trinity House	
February 2021	Presentation	An introductory session to North Falls	Historic England	N/A
February 2021	Online meeting	Quarterly project update and progress meeting	Natural England	N/A
February 2021	Presentation	A session was held regarding cable landfall options on the Tendring peninsula	Essex County Council	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Volume 3.1)
February 2021	Presentation/workshop	Presentation on background to offshore export cable corridor site selection and shortlist options (provided individually)	MCA (17 February 2021) Natural England (25 February 2021) Trinity House (22 February 2021)	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Volume 3.1)
February 2021	Written consultation	Consultation on Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Methodology	Essex County Council Natural England RSPB Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts	Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (Volume 3.1)
March 2021	Consultation update	Updated shipping and navigation consultees on route refinements based on consultation responses received and selection of final corridor for survey	Harwich Haven Authority MCA Port of Felixstowe	Chapter 15 Shipping and Navigation (Volume 3.1)

Dates	Activity	Detail	Organisation(s) Consulted	Relevant chapter of the ES
			Port of London Authority Trinity House	
March 2021	Presentation/workshop	Workshop meeting to discuss specific aspects of the preferred offshore export cable corridor	Harwich Haven Authority	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Volume 3.11)
March 2021	Written consultation	Consultation on Phase 2 surveys of Holland Haven Marshes SSSI	Essex County Council Natural England RSPB Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts	Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (Volume 3.1)
April 2021	Presentation	An update meeting was held to inform the Council of project progress	Essex County Council	N/A
April 2021	Presentation	An introductory session to North Falls	Essex Wildlife Trust The Wildlife Trusts	N/A
April 2021	Online meeting	Quarterly project update and progress meeting	Natural England	N/A
April – May 2021	Written consultation	Consultation on terms for the North Falls EIA/ Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) EPP	Affinity Water Anglian Water East Suffolk Council Environment Agency Essex Coast Organisation Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust Highways England Historic England Kent County Council	N/A

Dates	Activity	Detail	Organisation(s) Consulted	Relevant chapter of the ES
			Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA)MMO/Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) Natural England RSPB Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Suffolk County Council Tendring District Council Whale and Dolphin Conservation The Wildlife Trusts	
April – June 2021	Workshop	Meetings to discuss project proposals for benthic ecology site characterisation and associated survey licensing requirements	The Crown Estate Natural England Marine Management Organisation	Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology (Volume 3.1)
June 2021	Online meeting	Quarterly project update and progress meeting	Natural England	N/A
June 2021	Presentation	An introductory session to North Falls	East Suffolk Council Suffolk County Council	N/A
June – July 2021	Workshops (Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings)	Pre-scoping ETG meetings undertaken in accordance with the North Falls EPP. See Table 7.5 for further details.	East Suffolk Council Environment Agency Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust Highways England (now National Highways) Historic England Kent & Essex IFCA MMO/Cefas Natural England RSPB Suffolk County Council	See Table 7.5

Dates	Activity	Detail	Organisation(s) Consulted	Relevant chapter of the ES
			Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts	

### *7.3.2.2 Post-scoping consultation*

27. The Applicant continued to engage with key stakeholders following the publication of the Scoping Opinion, in order to review the contents of the Scoping Opinion, agree the approach to PEIR and continue discussion regarding site selection. The feedback received from stakeholders during this process is consolidated in this ES. Details of this consultation are presented in Table 7.3. Further information regarding each meeting / consultation activity is provided in the relevant chapter of the ES.



**Table 7.3 Consultation to date (post-scoping)**

Dates	Activity	Detail	Organisation(s) Consulted	Relevant chapter of the ES
November 2021 – July 2024	Online meeting	Quarterly project update and progress meetings	Natural England	N/A
December 2021	Workshops (ETG meetings)	Post- scoping ETG meetings undertaken in accordance with the North Falls EPP. See Table 7.5 for further details.	East Suffolk County Council Essex County Council Natural England Suffolk County Council Tendring District Council National Highways	See Table 7.5
January 2022	Presentation/workshop	Consultation on the ‘Golden Rules’ for basis of site selection process and the landfall site selection process	Natural England Essex County Council Environment Agency	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Volume 3.1)
January-March 2022	Written consultation	Consultation on North Falls Golden Rules (to those not present at workshop)	Essex Wildlife Trust Historic England Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Volume 3.1)
March 2022	Written consultation	Consultation on Phase 2 Ecology Survey Methodologies	Environment Agency Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust Natural England Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts RSPB	Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (Volume 3.1)
April 2022	Presentation/workshop	Consultation on the onshore substation site selection process	Environment Agency Essex County Council Historic England Natural England	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Volume 3.1)

Dates	Activity	Detail	Organisation(s) Consulted	Relevant chapter of the ES
			Tendring District Council	
June 2022	Presentation/workshop	Consultation on the onshore cable corridor site selection process	Environment Agency Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust Historic England National Highways Natural England RSPB Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts	Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Volume 3.1)
July 2022	Site visit	Consultation on settings assessment for archaeology	Essex County Council Historic England	Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (Volume 3.1)
March 2022 to February 2023	Workshops (Expert Topic Group meetings)	Pre-PEIR ETG meetings undertaken in accordance with the North Falls EPP. See Table 7.5 for further details.	East Suffolk Council Environment Agency Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust Historic England Kent & Essex IFCA MMO/Cefas National Highways Natural England RSPB Suffolk County Council Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts	See Table 7.5

Dates	Activity	Detail	Organisation(s) Consulted	Relevant chapter of the ES
September 2023 to May 2024	Workshops (Expert Topic Group meetings)	Post-PEIR ETG meetings undertaken in accordance with the North Falls EPP. See Table 7.5 for further details.	East Suffolk Council Environment Agency Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust Historic England Kent & Essex IFCA MMO/Cefas National Highways Natural England RSPB Suffolk County Council Tendring District Council East of England Ambulance Service (EEAST) Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board (SNEE ICB) Essex Chamber of Commerce Department for Work and Pensions STEM Learning UK East of England Energy Group (EEEGR) University of Essex Freeport East	See Table 7.5

### 7.3.3 The Evidence Plan Process

#### 7.3.3.1 Overview of Evidence Plan Process

28. In order to ensure that the Project is subject to full and open consultation during the EIA process, targeted engagement with regulators and interested stakeholders is undertaken through the EPP and its associated ETGs.
29. The EPP is a mechanism to help agree the information to be supplied to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the DCO application for the Project to ensure compliance with the EIA Regulations, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
30. The EPP aims to assist all parties in the process during the evolution of the proposed DCO application, by:
  - Giving greater certainty to all parties on the amount and range of evidence to be presented within the application;
  - Providing structure and efficiency to discussion and sequential identification of key environmental and consenting issues;
  - Enabling time and resource requirements to be planned and optimised for all parties;
  - Helping address and agree issues earlier in the pre-application stage where possible so that robust, streamlined decisions can be taken and additional data can be collected as required; and
  - Providing a platform to debate advice on one topic between multiple agencies / stakeholders.
31. The EPP is a non-statutory, voluntary process and there are no legal obligations associated with it. It does not replace or duplicate existing requirements, the plans are formulated to fit with the DCO application process, including the statutory pre-application consultation processes.
32. The EPP is a framework within which statutory consultees and the Applicant ensure that the HRA process and agreed elements of the EIA process are completed in a way that is satisfactory to all parties involved. It is comprised of topic and issue-specific ETGs, which bring together relevant technical experts from each organisation in order to ensure that key issues can be discussed and where possible resolved as part of a collaborative process.

#### 7.3.3.2 North Falls Evidence Plan Process

33. The ETGs which have been convened to date are shown in Table 7.4 below. These groups are designed to streamline the process and ensure that the most relevant technical experts from each organisation are represented on the ETGs and attend ETG meetings.

**Table 7.4 ETG structure for the Project EPP**

Topic	Invited members
Seabed	Cefas Environment Agency Essex Coast Organisation Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority MMO Natural England Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts
Offshore Ornithology	Natural England RSPB
Marine Mammal Ecology	Natural England MMO The Wildlife Trusts
Onshore Site Selection	Environment Agency Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust Historic England National Highways Natural England RSPB Tendring District Council The Wildlife Trusts
Onshore Ecology	Environment Agency Essex County Council Essex Wildlife Trust Natural England Tendring District Council
Seascape, Landscape and Visual impact Assessment (SLVIA) & Land Use, Health, Socio-economics & Tourism	East Suffolk Council Essex County Council Kent County Council Natural England Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Suffolk County Council Tendring District Council EEAST SNEE ICB Essex Chamber of Commerce Department for Work and Pensions STEM Learning UK EEEGR University of Essex Freeport East
Traffic & Transport, Air Quality and Noise & Vibration	Essex County Council National Highways Tendring District Council
Water Resources & Flood Risk, Land Quality & Geology	Affinity Water

Topic	Invited members
	Anglian Water Environment Agency Essex County Council Tendring District Council
Historic environment (onshore and offshore)	Essex County Council Historic England Tendring District Council

34. ETG meetings commenced in June/July 2021 and are being held at relevant milestones for each topic. A summary of consultation meetings held under the EPP (to date) is provided in Table 7.5. Several ETG meetings were joint with Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm, which have been identified in Table 7.5 where applicable.
35. Where appropriate, consultation is also undertaken with the ETGs via written exchange of information, such as review of methodologies for surveys and data analysis.
36. A summary of all technical consultation feedback received via meetings and written exchange, and the account taken of it by the Applicant is provided in each relevant technical chapter of the ES.

**Table 7.5 Overview of meetings under the EPP**

Date	Activity	Applicant(s) attending	ES chapter reference (Volume 3.1)
June 2021	Water Resources and flood risk, Land quality and geology ETG meeting	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 19 Ground Conditions and Contamination</li> <li>• Chapter 21 Water Resources and Flood Risk</li> </ul>
July 2021	Archaeology and cultural heritage ETG meeting	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 16 Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</li> <li>• Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>
July 2021	Marine mammals ETG meeting	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 12 Marine Mammals</li> </ul>
July 2021	Offshore ornithology ETG meeting	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology</li> </ul>
July 2021	Onshore ecology and ornithology ETG meeting	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology</li> <li>• Chapter 24 Onshore Ornithology</li> </ul>
July 2021	Seabed topics ETG meeting	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 8 Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes</li> <li>• Chapter 9 Marine Water and Sediment Quality</li> <li>• Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</li> <li>• Chapter 11 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</li> </ul>
July 2021	SLVIA, Land use, Human health, Socio-economics, and	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapters:

Date	Activity	Applicant(s) attending	ES chapter reference (Volume 3.1)
	Tourism and Recreation ETG meeting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 22 Land Use and Agriculture</li> <li>Chapter 29 SLVIA</li> <li>Chapter 30 LVIA</li> <li>Chapter 31 Socio-economics</li> <li>Chapter 32 Tourism and Recreation</li> </ul>
July 2021	Traffic and transport, Noise and vibrations, Air quality, Climate change ETG meeting	NFOW	<p>Further details are discussed in chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 20 Onshore Air Quality</li> <li>Chapter 26 Noise and Vibration</li> <li>Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport</li> <li>Chapter 33 Climate Change</li> </ul>
December 2021	Traffic and transport, Noise and vibrations, Air quality, Climate change ETG meeting	NFOW	<p>Further details are discussed in chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 20 Onshore Air Quality</li> <li>Chapter 26 Noise and Vibration</li> <li>Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport</li> <li>Chapter 33 Climate Change</li> </ul>
December 2021	SLVIA ETG meeting	NFOW	<p>Further details are discussed in chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 29 SLVIA</li> <li>Chapter 30 LVIA</li> </ul>
March 2022	Archaeology and cultural heritage ETG meeting	NFOW	<p>Further details are discussed in chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>
March 2022	Offshore ornithology ETG meeting	NFOW	<p>Further details are discussed in chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology</li> </ul>
May 2022	LVIA ETG meeting	NFOW	<p>Further details are discussed in chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</li> <li>Chapter 30 LVIA</li> </ul>
May 2022	Traffic and transport and Noise ETG meeting	NFOW	<p>Further details are discussed in chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 26 Noise and Vibration</li> <li>Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport</li> </ul>
June 2022	Seabed topics ETG meeting (Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit)	NFOW	<p>Further details are discussed in chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology.</li> </ul>
June 2022	Traffic and transport ETG (National Highways)	NFOW	<p>Further details are discussed in chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport</li> </ul>
August 2022	Archaeology and cultural heritage ETG	NFOW	<p>Further details are discussed in chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>
November 2022	Onshore ecology and ornithology ETG	NFOW	<p>Further details are discussed in chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology</li> <li>Chapter 24 Onshore Ornithology</li> </ul>
February 2023	Archaeology and cultural heritage ETG	NFOW and Five Estuaries	<p>Further details are discussed in chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 16 Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</li> <li>Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>
March 2023	Offshore ornithology ETG	NFOW	<p>Further details are discussed in chapter:</p>

Date	Activity	Applicant(s) attending	ES chapter reference (Volume 3.1)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology</li> </ul>
August 2023	Archaeology and cultural heritage ETG	NFOW and Five Estuaries	Further details are discussed in chapter: Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
August 2023	Traffic and Transport ETG	NFOW and Five Estuaries	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport</li> </ul>
September 2023	Hydrology, Hydrogeology & Flood Risk and Geology & Ground Conditions ETG	NFOW and Five Estuaries	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 19 Ground Conditions and Contamination</li> <li>Chapter 21 Water Resources and Flood Risk</li> </ul>
September 2023	SLVIA/LVIA and Onshore Archaeology ETG	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</li> <li>Chapter 29 SLVIA</li> <li>Chapter 30 LVIA</li> </ul>
September 2023	Traffic and Transport ETG	NFOW and Five Estuaries	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport</li> </ul>
September 2023	Socio-economics & Tourism and Human Health & Major Disasters ETG	NFOW and Five Estuaries	Further details are discussed in chapters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 31 Socio-economics</li> <li>Chapter 32 Tourism and recreation</li> </ul>
October 2023	Airborne Noise, Air Quality and Climate Change ETG	NFOW and Five Estuaries	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 20 Onshore Air Quality</li> <li>Chapter 26 Noise and Vibration</li> <li>Chapter 33 Climate Change</li> </ul>
October 2023	Onshore Ecology and Ornithology ETG	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology</li> <li>Chapter 24 Onshore Ornithology</li> </ul>
October 2023	Marine Geology, Oceanography & Physical Processes and Benthic Ecology ETG	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 08 Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Process</li> <li>Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</li> </ul>
October 2023	Traffic and Transport ETG	NFOW and Five Estuaries	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport</li> </ul>
November 2023	Offshore Ornithology ETG	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology</li> </ul>
November 2023	Marine Mammals and Fish Ecology ETG	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 9 Marine Water and Sediment Quality</li> </ul>
November 2023	Onshore Archaeology ETG	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 25 Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>
November 2023	Onshore Ecology and Ornithology ETG	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology</li> <li>Chapter 24 Onshore Ornithology</li> </ul>



Date	Activity	Applicant(s) attending	ES chapter reference (Volume 3.1)
January 2024	Traffic and Transport ETG	NFOW and Five Estuaries	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport</li> </ul>
February 2024	Onshore Ecology ETG	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology</li> </ul>
February 2024	Onshore Ecology ETG (Natural England)	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology</li> </ul>
February 2024	LVIA ETG	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 30 LVIA</li> </ul>
March 2024	Offshore Archaeology ETG	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 16 Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>
March 2024	Onshore Ecology ETG (Natural England)	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology</li> </ul>
May 2024	Human Health ETG (EEAST)	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 28 Human Health</li> </ul>
April 2024	Offshore Ornithology ETG	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 13 Offshore Ornithology</li> </ul>
May 2024	Human Health ETG (SNEE ICB)	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 28 Human Health</li> </ul>
June 2024	Traffic and Transport ETG (National Highways)	NFOW	Further details are discussed in chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport</li> </ul>

### 7.3.3.3 Other topics not included in the EPP

37. There are also EIA topic areas for which there are established consultation processes which stand outside the EPP, namely:

- Commercial fisheries (discussed further in Section 14.2 of Chapter 14, Document Reference: 3.1.16);
- Shipping and navigation (discussed further in Section 15.2 of Chapter 15, Document Reference: 3.1.17); and
- Aviation and radar (discussed further in Section 17.2 of Chapter 17, Document Reference: 3.1.19).

## 7.4 References

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Royal HaskoningDHV (2021) North Falls Scoping Report. Available at: <a href="https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/en010119-000019-en010119-scoping-report.pdf">EN010119-000019-EN010119 - Scoping Report.pdf (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</a>



**NORTH FALLS**

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