

RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Limited

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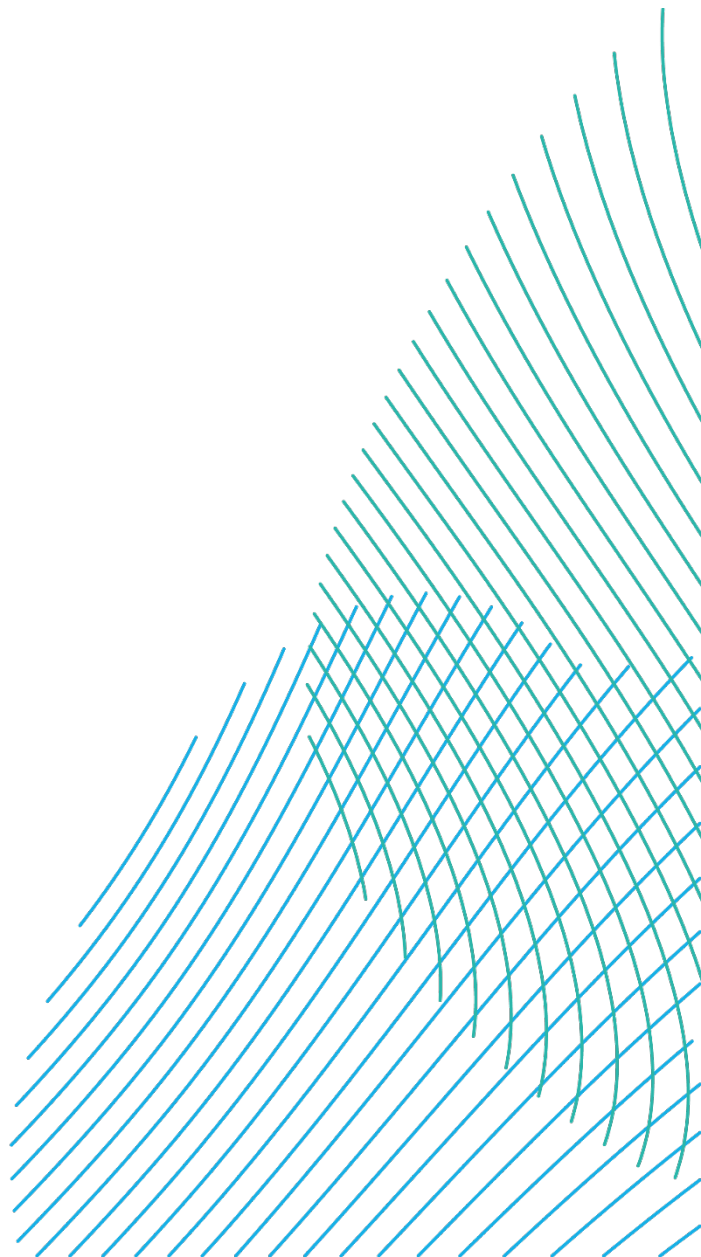
Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

**Environmental Statement
Volume 7
Chapter 7 - Consultation**

June 2024

**Application Reference: 7.7
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Revision: 01**

Unrestricted



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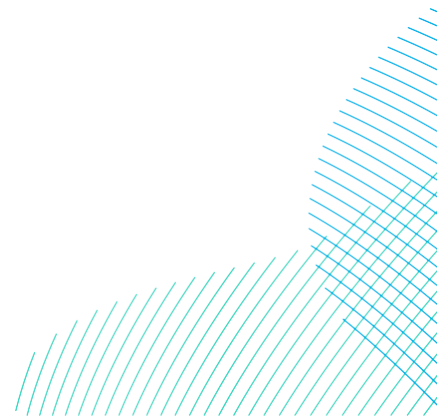
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Contents

7. Consultation.....	9
7.1. Introduction	9
7.2. Policy and Guidance	10
7.2.1. The Planning Act	10
7.2.2. National Policy Statements	11
7.2.3. EIA Regulations.....	11
7.2.4. The Planning Inspectorate Advice Notes.....	13
7.2.5. Guidance.....	14
7.3. Approach to EIA Consultation.....	14
7.3.1. Overview to Date.....	14
7.3.1.1. Non-Statutory Consultation.....	14
7.3.1.2. Statutory Consultation.....	14
7.3.1.3. HRA Consultation	15
7.3.2. Evidence Plan Process.....	16
7.3.2.1. Expert Topic Groups.....	16
7.3.2.2. Evidence Plan Process Consultation	21
7.3.3. Other Technical Consultation	31
7.4. Transboundary Cooperation.....	35
7.5. Statements of Common Ground.....	36
7.6. Conclusions.....	36

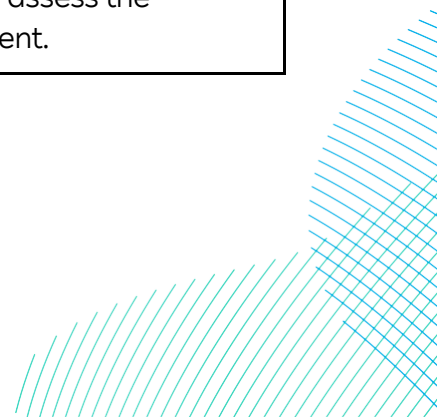
Tables

Table 7-1 Expert Topic Groups and Organisations Represented	18
Table 7-2 Overview of Meetings Under the EPP (to date).....	21
Table 7-3 Overview of Non-EPP Meetings (to date).....	32

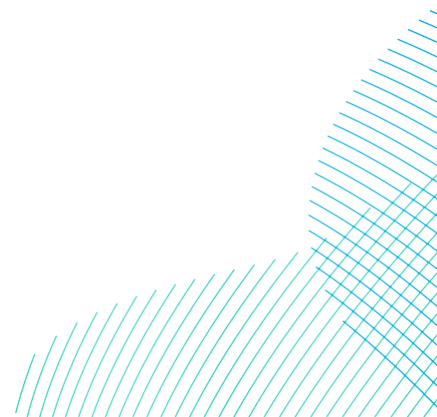
Glossary

Term	Definition
Consultation Bodies	Consultees defined under the EIA Regulations with reference to Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for one or more Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
Dogger Bank South (DBS) Offshore Wind Farms	The collective name for the two Projects, DBS East and DBS West.
EIA Regulations	The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A statutory process by which certain planned projects must be assessed before a formal decision to proceed can be made. It involves the collection and consideration of environmental information, which fulfils the assessment requirements of the EIA Directive and EIA Regulations, including the publication of an Environmental Statement (ES).
Environmental Statement (ES)	A document reporting the findings of the EIA and produced in accordance with the EIA Directive as transposed into UK law by the EIA Regulations.
European Offshore Marine Site	Sites located in the offshore marine area designated for nature conservation under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. This includes Special Areas of Conservation and candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, and Special Protection Areas, and is defined in regulation 18 of the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Term	Definition
European Site	Sites designated for nature conservation under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. This includes candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, and is defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
Evidence Plan Process (EPP)	A voluntary consultation process with specialist stakeholders to agree the approach, and information to support, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for certain topics.
Habitats Regulations	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	The process that determines whether or not a plan or project may have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site or European Offshore Marine Site.
Non-statutory consultee	Organisations that the Applicants may choose to engage (if, for example, there are planning policy reasons to do so) who are not designated in law but are likely to have an interest in a proposed development.
Onshore Development Area	The Onshore Development Area for ES is the boundary within which all onshore infrastructure required for the Projects would be located including Landfall Zone, Onshore Export Cable Corridor, accesses, Temporary Construction Compounds and Onshore Converter Stations
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	Defined in the EIA regulations as information referred to in part 1, Schedule 4 (information for inclusion in environmental statements) which has been compiled by the applicant and is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development.

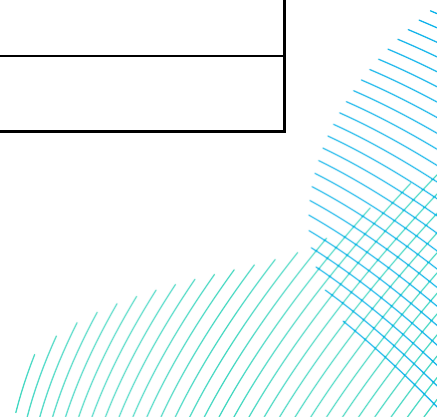


Term	Definition
Scoping Opinion	The report adopted by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State.
Scoping Report	The report that was produced in order to request a Scoping Opinion from the Secretary of State.
Statutory Consultee	Organisations that are required to be consulted by the Applicants under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. Such consultees have with a duty to respond to that consultation within a set deadline.
The Applicants	The Applicants for the Projects are RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Limited and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Limited. The Applicants are themselves jointly owned by the RWE Group of companies (51% stake) and Masdar (49% stake).
The Planning Inspectorate	The agency responsible for operating the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).
The Projects	DBS East and DBS West (collectively referred to as the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms).

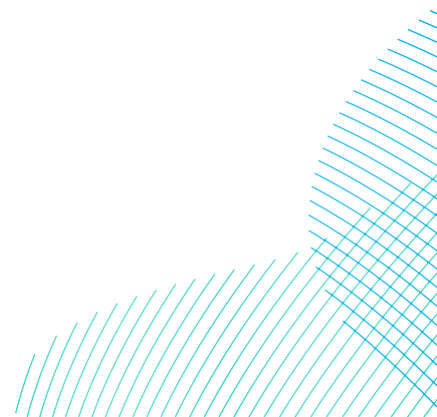


Acronyms

Term	Definition
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CWFG	Commercial Fisheries Working Group
DBS	Dogger Bank South
DCO	Development Consent Order
EEA	European Economic Area
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IFCA	Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
IPC	Infrastructure Planning Commission
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
NFFO	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
NPS	National Policy Statement
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment



Term	Definition
RSPB	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RYA	Royal Yachting Association
SLVIA	Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SoS	Secretary of State
SWFPO	Scottish White Fish Producer Organisation



7. Consultation

7.1. Introduction

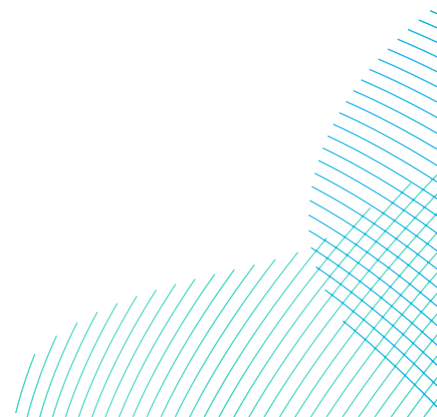
1. This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) presents the approach taken to consultation relating to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Dogger Bank South (DBS) East and DBS West offshore wind farms, collectively known as the DBS offshore wind farms (herein 'the Projects').
2. This chapter outlines the technical consultation which has taken place to inform the ES in advance of the Development Consent Order (DCO) submission. Technical consultation is defined as consultation which informs and focuses the approach to a technical aspect of an EIA with both statutory and non-statutory consultees. Technical consultation differs from other forms of consultation which have been undertaken and focuses on the EIA.
3. EIA-focused consultation includes statutory consultation (i.e. scoping and consultation undertaken in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (herein 'the Planning Act'), see section 7.2.1) being in accordance with Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (herein 'the EIA Regulations'), and non-statutory consultation (e.g. through the Evidence Plan Process (EPP) and other topic specific consultation on topics outside of the EPP (such as Commercial Fisheries, Shipping and Navigation etc.), see section 7.3.2).
4. A summary of technical consultation responses and their consideration by the Projects where relevant are given in Appendix 1 of each technical chapter of the ES. Where feedback has informed the site selection or Projects' design; this is outlined in **Volume 7, Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (application ref: 7.4)** and **Volume 7, Chapter 5 Project Description (application ref: 7.5)**.
5. In addition to the technical consultation the Applicants have consulted with a wider group of stakeholders including local communities and landowners. A description of all consultation, including technical, community, landowner, other stakeholders and statutory consultation under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act, is provided in the **Volume 5, Consultation Report (application ref: 5.1)** which forms part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

6. Consultation will continue throughout the development of the Projects. Formal targeted statutory consultation for the Projects ran in June to July 2023, August to September 2023, and November to December 2023 (see section 7.3.1 for further information). Technical stakeholders will continue to be consulted post-ES submission, where appropriate. The chapters of the ES have been prepared in consideration of technical consultation responses received to date. In order to allow finalisation of the submission, a cut-off of 31st March 2024 has been used for consideration of consultation information that has been incorporated in the ES.
7. The Projects are subject to a single DCO application, with a combined EIA process and associated submissions and therefore both Projects are being consulted on simultaneously at this stage of their development.

7.2. Policy and Guidance

7.2.1. The Planning Act

8. As outlined in **Volume 7, Chapter 3 Policy and Legislative Context (application ref: 7.3)**, the Projects are defined under Part 3, Section 15(3) of the Planning Act 2008 as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). The Applicants have therefore undertaken pre-application consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act and the EIA Regulations.
9. Sections 42 to 44 of the Planning Act set out details of statutory consultees, including local authorities, statutory bodies, and interested persons in the land to be developed. Section 47 of the Planning Act sets out the Applicant's duty to consult local communities.
10. The Applicants have a duty under Section 47 to prepare a **Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) (Volume 5, application ref: 5.5)**, and to undertake consultation in line with that statement. In addition, consultation should be undertaken with other people or groups who are not statutory consultees, but who may still be significantly affected by the Projects.
11. Applicants are required under Section 37 of the Planning Act to produce a **Consultation Report (Volume 5, application ref: 5.1)** alongside the application, which details how the consultation requirements have been complied with.



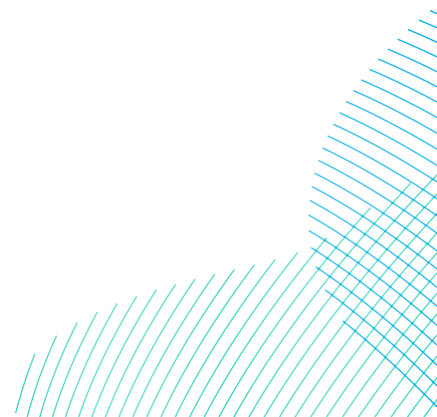
12. Sections of the Planning Act of additional relevance to the Projects include:
- Section 45: Stating the requirement to produce a timetable for consultation under Section 42;
 - Section 46: Duty to notify the Secretary of State (SoS) of the proposed application;
 - Section 48: Duty to publicise; and
 - Section 49: Duty to take account of consultation and publicity responses.

7.2.2. National Policy Statements

13. Consultation has been undertaken with reference to the relevant National Policy Statements (NPS) which form the primary national guidance documents for NSIPs. These documents encourage applicants to carry out pre-application consultation with a range of stakeholders. The relevant NPS for the Projects are:
- EN-1 - Overarching NPS for Energy (DESNZ, 2023a);
 - EN-3 - Renewable Energy Infrastructure (DESNZ, 2023b); and
 - EN-5 - Electricity Networks Infrastructure, which covers the electrical infrastructure in conjunction with EN-1 (DESNZ, 2023c).
14. The NPS apply to the application for the Projects and the Expert Topic Groups (ETG). The ES has been updated to reflect the final updated NPS that received formal designation by the SoS for Energy and Climate Change in January 2024. See **Volume 7, Chapter 3 Policy and Legislative Context (application ref: 7.3)**, for further details.

7.2.3. EIA Regulations

15. For NSIPs, the EIA process is governed by the EIA Regulations, which make the pre-application publicity and consultation requirements for the EIA process consistent with those of the Planning Act.



16. The EIA Regulations set out a process for the notification of consultation bodies¹ about the intention to submit an ES and the requirement for subsequent consultation on the included information. It places a duty on such bodies to enter into consultation with the promoter of an EIA development and to provide any environmental information they hold that is relevant to the preparation of the ES. The Regulations also require the local community to be informed and consulted on preliminary environmental information in relation to the proposed development.
17. For the Projects, the relevant sections of the EIA Regulations relating to pre-application consultation are:
 - Regulation 8(1)(b) - Notify the SoS in writing that the applicant proposes to provide an ES;
 - Regulation 10 - Application for a Scoping Opinion;
 - Regulation 11- Procedure to facilitate the preparation of ES;
 - Regulation 12 - Consultation statement requirements;
 - Regulation 13 - Pre-application publicity under Section 48 (duty to publicise); and
 - Regulation 32 - Development with significant transboundary effects.
18. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) relating to potential effects on European Sites and European Offshore Marine Sites (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017) is undertaken alongside the EIA as part of the DCO consenting process. Consultation is required with relevant statutory and any relevant non-statutory nature conservation bodies, to gather evidence to support the HRA. The consultation for both EIA and HRA has been undertaken together for the relevant topics as the two assessments are closely linked.

¹ Consultees defined under the EIA Regulations with reference to Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

19. One way of consulting on HRA matters is to agree an Evidence Plan. Guidance on Evidence Plans was produced by Defra in 2012. The guidance provides an overview of the process and roles of the parties. Its focus is on compliance with the Habitats Regulations and the corresponding Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Ten (HRA relevant to NSIPs), although it is now common practice for the Evidence Plan Process (EPP) to include all issues where there are potential significant environmental impacts which may benefit from additional consultation over and above that proposed as part of wider stakeholder consultation arrangements. This approach is being followed for the Projects, with the EPP having been initiated in September 2021. See section 7.3.2 for further details.

7.2.4. The Planning Inspectorate Advice Notes

20. The Planning Inspectorate has published a series of advice notes in relation to NSIPs. These are non-statutory but provide advice and information on a range of issues potentially arising throughout the application process. The Projects' approach to consultation has been informed by a range of the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Notes.
21. Notes of particular relevance include:
- Advice Note Two: The Role of Local Authorities in the Development Consent Process (2015);
 - Advice Note Three: EIA Consultation and Notification (2017);
 - Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping (2020);
 - Advice Note Eight: Overview of the nationally significant infrastructure planning process for members of the public and others (2016);
 - Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope (2012);
 - Advice Note Ten: Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) (2022);
 - Advice Note Eleven: Working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process (2017);
 - Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report (2021); and
 - Advice Note Seventeen: Cumulative Effects Assessment (2019).
22. The approach to consultation has been guided by additional discussions with relevant local authorities, statutory consultees, the Scoping Opinion and by a review of best practice on recent applications of a similar nature and scale.

7.2.5. Guidance

23. The consultation approach also takes into account relevant local and national policy and guidance including:
- Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), 29 March 2010. IPC Guidance Note 1 on Pre-Application Stages (Chapter 2 of the Planning Act 2008). Revision 1; and
 - Department for Communities and Local Government. Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (2015).

7.3. Approach to EIA Consultation

24. The Applicants have undertaken EIA consultation on the Projects. The process described in this chapter is documented in full in **Volume 5, Consultation Report (application ref: 5.1)** which forms part of the DCO submission.
25. In order to inform the ES, the Applicants have consulted on the Projects on a non-statutory basis (e.g. through the EPP, see section 7.3.2) since 2021 and will continue to consult via the EPP and direct engagement with stakeholders following the publication of the ES as the examination process progresses.

7.3.1. Overview to Date

7.3.1.1. Non-Statutory Consultation

26. The Applicants commenced non-statutory technical consultation via the EPP in September 2021.
27. In addition to the statutory consultation and technical consultation which has been undertaken to date, a non-statutory public consultation on the initial proposals for the Projects was held between 9th September and 14th October 2022.
28. Details of non-statutory community and landowner consultation are presented in **Volume 5, Consultation Report (application ref: 5.1)**, submitted as part of the DCO application.

7.3.1.2. Statutory Consultation

29. On 26th July 2022, the Applicants submitted a Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (Planning Inspectorate, 2022). The SoS then issued the Scoping Opinion for the proposed Projects on 2nd September 2022.
30. East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council were consulted on the draft SoCC in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act in February and March 2023.

31. The EIA Regulations require a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) to be provided for public consultation by those seeking a DCO for development that constitutes EIA Development. The Applicants undertook such consultation with stakeholders in accordance with Section 42 and 47 of the Planning Act and on 6th June 2023, the Applicants published the PEIR for statutory consultation, with the window for providing comments running until the 17th July 2023.
32. Following the closing of this consultation period, it was identified that a small number of properties within the consultation zone had been omitted from the statutory consultation, and a number of third-party stakeholders were not consulted. There were 109 properties within the consultation zone that were missed from the Royal Mail letter distribution. There were 12 non-statutory stakeholders identified as not having received the initial invitation to respond to the consultation. As a result, the Applicants carried out a supplementary statutory consultation which ran from 4th August 2023 until 15th September 2023. During this time, anyone who visited the website and completed the online questionnaire (regardless of whether they were contacted directly) were able to respond to the consultation.
33. A further targeted statutory consultation period between the 13th November to the 10th December 2023 was undertaken involving all parties with an interest in the areas of land within the Onshore Development Area where adjustments had been made since the Projects' PEIR consultation.
34. Following PEIR, the Applicants, supported by a team of EIA consultants, continued a process of technical consultation for all topics via the EPP and other topic-specific consultation outside of the EPP (see section 7.3.3).
35. Details of statutory community and landowner consultation are presented in **Volume 5, Consultation Report (application ref: 5.1)** submitted as part of the DCO application.

7.3.1.3. HRA Consultation

36. The Applicants issued the draft HRA Screening Report for comment on 13th December 2022 to Natural England, the Environment Agency, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Cefas and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). A revised HRA screening report (see **Volume 6, Appendix A HRA Screening (application ref: 6.1.1)**) was issued alongside the PEIR on 6th June 2023, which took into account the responses received to the initial consultation for the report. The screening report details the European Sites and European Offshore Marine Sites screened in for further assessment in **Volume 6, Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) (application ref: 6.1)**.

7.3.2. Evidence Plan Process

37. The Applicants have consulted with stakeholders on a non-statutory basis through the EPP since 2021, with key consultation outcomes recorded in the first appendix of each technical chapter of the ES.
38. The EPP provides a mechanism to agree on the information to be provided to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the DCO application, such that the Projects can show compliance with the EIA Regulations and the Conservation of Habitats, Species Regulations 2017 and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
39. The EPP aims to assist all parties during the evolution of the DCO application process, by providing:
 - Greater confidence in the range and accuracy of existing information for use within the application;
 - The identification of knowledge gaps which may need to be fulfilled and the planning of subsequent surveying work to fill such gaps;
 - Opportunities to effectively plan timing and resourcing, ensuring the identification of key issues at an early stage to avoid the duplication of matters and streamline the process; and
 - Opportunities for multiple agencies and stakeholders to discuss a particular topic, which is recorded along with key agreements and actions.
40. The EPP does not replace or duplicate existing requirements and has been structured to fit with the Planning Act 2008 DCO application process, including the statutory pre-application consultation processes.
41. The Applicants are undertaking the majority of EIA and HRA technical consultation through the EPP. EIA Consultation that was undertaken outside the EPP is detailed in section 7.3.3.
42. As the Projects are being progressed together, early consultation through the Projects' EPP has included discussions around both Projects.

7.3.2.1. Expert Topic Groups

43. The EPP is divided into several ETGs which follow the majority of topics covered by the EIA and HRA. The ETGs are used to discuss, and if possible agree, the detail of the EIA information requirements for the DCO application. Each ETG is comprised of experts from relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies and they have the following functions:

- Agree on the relevance, appropriateness and sufficiency of existing baseline data for the specific assessments, including both site-specific and contextual data, and agree on the scope of any project-specific surveys to be undertaken;
 - Agree on the methods for data analysis;
 - Agree on realistic worst-case parameters for the assessments;
 - Agree on assessment methodology (including impact and levels of significance where possible);
 - Agree on the in-combination / cumulative impact assessment details, along with consideration of which projects to scope in and associated evidence;
 - Agree on focus areas for post-consent monitoring and mitigation;
 - Agree on whether and when to change the evidence requirements and collect additional evidence (updating the plan and timetable as necessary); and
 - Record discussions through ETG meeting minutes and agreed outcomes in Agreement Logs, which will be used to generate the Statement(s) of Common Ground (SoCG).
44. The process is iterative with each group working through the above functions, reaching agreements as far as possible during the pre-application period. Agreement / Disagreement Logs have been drafted in line with discussions held during the ETGs, and will be used to inform SoCGs post-application in consultation with the relevant consultees.
45. A breakdown of the various groups and which organisations are represented is provided in **Table 7-1**.
46. The table is organised into offshore, onshore and project wide ETGs. Although the EPP is not part of the statutory consultation, it provides the audit trail for the EIA and HRA process and associated decision-making. Topics consulted on outside of the EPP process and the relevant consultees are detailed in section 7.3.3.

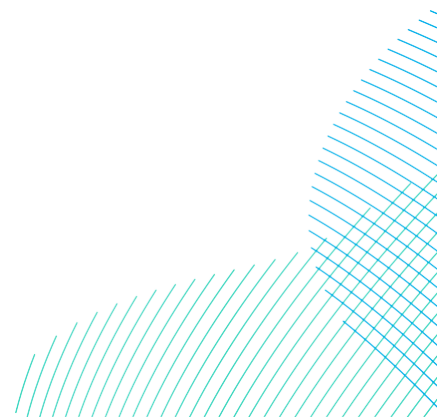
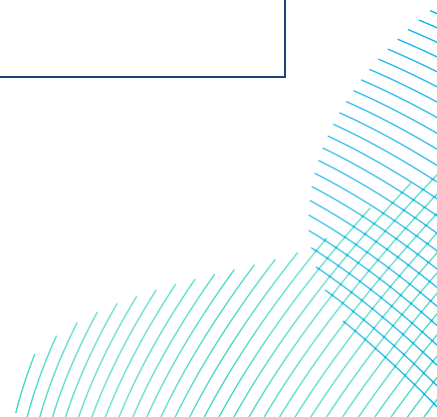
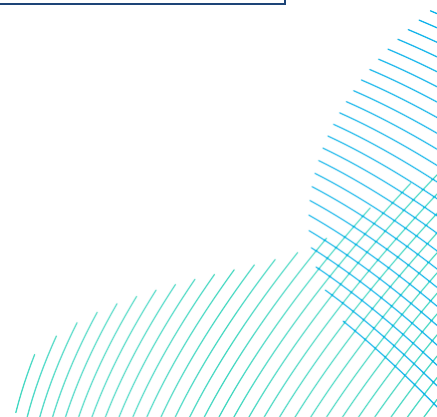


Table 7-1 Expert Topic Groups and Organisations Represented

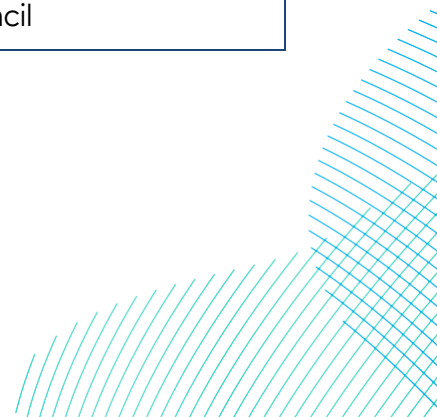
ETG	Member Organisations
Offshore	
Seabed (Marine Physical Processes, Benthic and Intertidal Ecology and Fish and Shellfish Ecology)	Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Natural England Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) Environment Agency Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) The Wildlife Trusts Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA)
Offshore Ornithology	MMO Natural England The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust JNCC The Wildlife Trusts
Marine Mammal and Underwater Noise	MMO Natural England The Wildlife Trusts Cefas
Offshore Historic Environment	Historic England East Riding of Yorkshire Council – Historic Environment Advisory Service Humber Archaeological Partnership



ETG	Member Organisations
Onshore	
Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology	Natural England Environment Agency RSPB Yorkshire Wildlife Trust East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Noise	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Hull City Council
Air Quality	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Hull City Council
Traffic and Transport	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Hull City Council National Highways
Onshore Historic Environment	Hull City Council Humber Archaeological Partnership Historic England East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Flood Risk and Hydrology/ Geology and Land Quality	Natural England Environment Agency Beverley & North Holderness Internal Drainage Board East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Human Health	Director of Public Health Office for Health Improvement and Disparities Health Security Agency



ETG	Member Organisations
PRoW and Access	Natural England East Riding of Yorkshire Council Joint Local Access Forum
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	Natural England East Riding of Yorkshire Council Humber Archaeological Partnership Hull City Council
Project Wide	
Site Selection	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Environment Agency Historic England MMO National Highways Natural England North Eastern IFCA RSPB The Wildlife Trusts Yorkshire Wildlife Trust York Consortium of Drainage Boards
HRA	MMO Natural England Cefas Environment Agency RSPB The Wildlife Trusts Yorkshire Wildlife Trust East Riding of Yorkshire Council



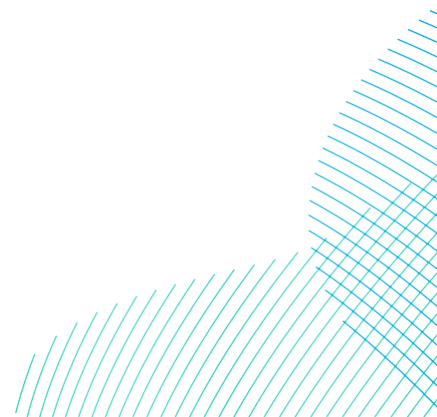
7.3.2.2. Evidence Plan Process Consultation

47. A summary of the consultation held so far under the EPP is provided in **Table 7-2**. Further details of the specific technical issues discussed as part of the EPP are presented in the topic chapters (**Volume 7, Chapters 8 to 30 (application ref: 7.8 to 7.30)**), with consultation under the EPP following the publication of the PEIR and receipt of stakeholders' feedback is also being included. Minutes for each meeting listed in **Table 7-2** (which include a summary of the meeting, shared materials and attendance) are included with **Volume 5, Consultation Report (application ref: 5.1)**.

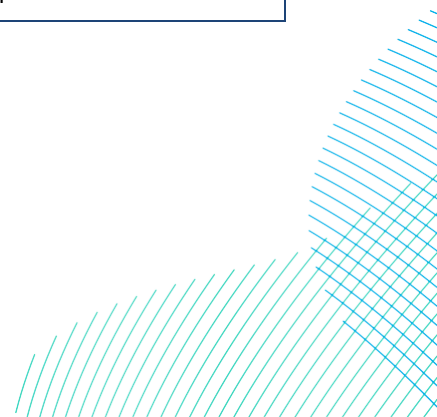
Table 7-2 Overview of Meetings Under the EPP (to date)

Meeting Title	Meeting Dates	Consultees
Traffic and Access, Onshore Noise and Air Quality - Pre-Scoping	14 th September 2021	National Highways Lincolnshire County Council East Riding County Council
Onshore Ecology and Ornithology - Pre-Scoping	14 th September 2021	Natural England Environment Agency RSPB Durham Wildlife Trust Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Durham County Council East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Historic Environment - Pre-Scoping	15 th September 2021	Historic England East Riding of Yorkshire Council Lincolnshire County Council East Lindsey District Council
Historic Environment - Pre-Scoping	15 th September 2021	Durham County Council Hartlepool Borough Council

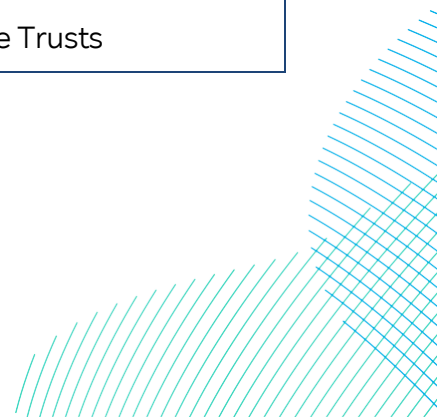
Meeting Title	Meeting Dates	Consultees
Water Resources - Pre-Scoping	17 th September 2021	Environment Agency East Riding of Yorkshire Council Yorkshire and Humber Drainage Board Beverley & North Holderness Internal Drainage Board
Marine Mammal and Underwater Noise - Pre-Scoping	17 th September 2021	Natural England The Wildlife Trusts MMO
SLVIA - Pre-Scoping	23 rd September 2021	Natural England Durham County Council Lincolnshire County Council The Wildlife Trusts East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Seabed - Pre-Scoping	28 th September 2021	Natural England The Wildlife Trusts MMO North Eastern IFCA
Offshore Ornithology - Pre-Scoping	13 th October 2021	Natural England RSPB MMO



Meeting Title	Meeting Dates	Consultees
Site Selection ETG	4 th May 2022	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Environment Agency Historic England MMO NEIFCA RSPB Yorkshire Wildlife Trust York Consortium of Drainage Boards National Highways Natural England The Wildlife Trusts
Site Selection ETG	23 rd May 2022	Natural England MMO
Seabed – Method Statements	26 th May 2022	Natural England Joint Nature Conservation Committee North Eastern IFCA MMO Environment Agency Cefas
Geological Sites at Landfall	26 th September 2022	Natural England East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Onshore Archaeology – Survey Update	20 th October 2022	Historic England Humber Archaeology Partnership



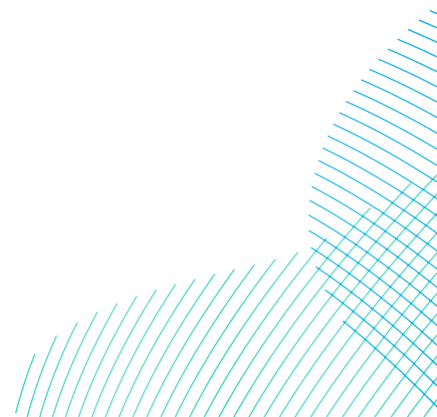
Meeting Title	Meeting Dates	Consultees
Traffic and Access – PEIR Approach	21 st November 2022	National Highways Hull City Council
Traffic and Access – PEIR Approach and Access	23 rd November 2022	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
LVIA – PEIR Approach	13 th December 2022	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Hull City Council Historic England
Onshore and Offshore Archaeology – PEIR Approach	19 th January 2023	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Historic England Humber Archaeology Partnership
Marine Physical Environment – PEIR Approach	20 th January 2023	Natural England Environment Agency JNCC MMO
Offshore Ornithology – PEIR Approach	7 th February 2023	Natural England RSPB Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust JNCC The Wildlife Trusts
Seabed ETG – PEIR Approach	7 th February 2023	Natural England Environment Agency Cefas JNCC MMO The Wildlife Trusts



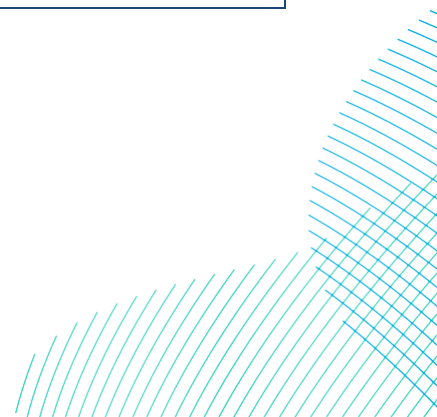
Meeting Title	Meeting Dates	Consultees
Marine Mammals ETG – PEIR Approach	21 st February 2023	Natural England MMO Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust JNCC The Wildlife Trusts
Traffic and Transport ETG	7 th March 2023	National Highways Hull City Council
Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology – Project Update, Surveys, PEIR Assessment	20 th April 2023	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Environment Agency Natural England
Non-Kittiwake Compensation Call	9 th May 2023	Natural England MMO RSPB Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust JNCC The Wildlife Trusts
Offshore Archaeology – Geophysical / Geoarchaeological Assessment Approach	10 th May 2023	Historic England
Onshore Heritage ETG – Onshore Archaeology and Heritage Update	25 th May 2023	Humber Archaeology Partnership Historic England
Traffic and Transport – Indicative Access Design	23 rd June 2023	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Noise and Air Quality – PEIR Assessments	3 rd July 2023	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Hull City Council



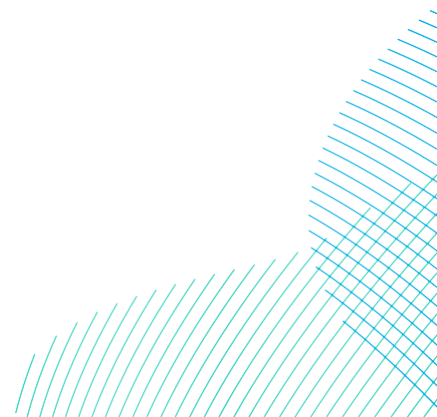
Meeting Title	Meeting Dates	Consultees
Flood Risk and Hydrology / Geology and Land Use – PEIR Assessments	20 th July 2023	Beverley & North Holderness Internal Drainage Board East Riding of Yorkshire Council Environment Agency
Traffic and Transport – Project Update and PEIR Comments	6 th September 2023	Hull City Council National Highways JSJV
Traffic and Transport – Project Update and PEIR Comments	8 th September 2023	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Marine Physical Environment – PEIR Comments	11 th September 2023	Natural England MMO Cefas Environment Agency
Marine Mammals – PEIR Comments	14 th September 2023	Natural England MMO Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust JNCC The Wildlife Trusts Cefas
Offshore Archaeology – PEIR Comments	20 th September 2023	Historic England Hull Archaeological Partnership



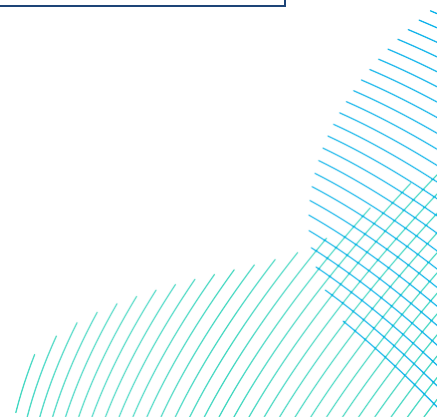
Meeting Title	Meeting Dates	Consultees
Seabed ETG – PEIR Comments	21 st September 2023	Natural England MMO Cefas Environment Agency Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust JNCC The Wildlife Trusts
Noise ETG – ES Assessment Methodology	21 st September 2023	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Noise and Air Quality ETG	27 th November 2023	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Hull City Council
Onshore Historic Environment ETG	5 th December 2023	Historic England Humberside Archaeological Partnership East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Flood Risk and Geology ETG	7 th December 2023	Beverley and North Holderness Internal Drainage Board (IDB) Natural England
Terrestrial Ecology ETG	11 th December 2023	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Environment Agency Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Flood Risk and Geology ETG	13 th December 2023	Environment Agency East Riding of Yorkshire Council



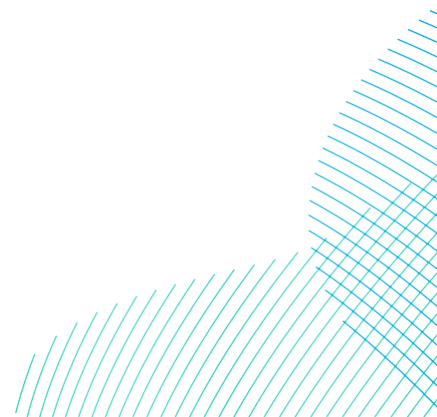
Meeting Title	Meeting Dates	Consultees
PRoW and Access ETG	14 th December 2023	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Kingston upon Hull & East Riding of Yorkshire area, Joint Local Access Forum
Terrestrial Ecology ETG	14 th December 2023	Natural England
Offshore Archaeology – Geoarchaeological and palaeo landscape assessment discussion	14 th December 2023	Historic England
Human Health ETG Meeting	19 th December 2023	UK Health Security Agency East Riding of Yorkshire Council Department of Health and Social Care
Marine Mammals – Pre ES ETG	15 th January 2024	Natural England MMO Cefas
Landscape and Visual ETG	26 th January 2024	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Benthic Ecology / Marine Physical Environment – Pre-ES ETG	29 th January 2024	Natural England MMO Cefas Environment Agency JNCC The Wildlife Trust Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust



Meeting Title	Meeting Dates	Consultees
Offshore Ornithology – Pre-ES ETG	6 th February 2024	Natural England RSPB MMO Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Fish and Shellfish Ecology – Pre-ES ETG	23 rd February 2024	Natural England MMO Cefas Environment Agency Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Traffic and Transport ETG	27 th February 2024	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Draft Auk Compensation Plan (Meeting 1) ETG	29 th February 2024	Natural England RSPB MMO
Traffic and Transport ETG	7 th March 2024	National Highways Hull City Council
Noise and Air Quality ETG Meeting	14 th March 2024	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Hull City Council
Onshore PRow and Access ETG	14 th March 2024	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Kingston upon Hull & East Riding of Yorkshire area Joint Local Access Forum
Landscape and Visual Impact ETG	15 th March 2024	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Hull City Council



Meeting Title	Meeting Dates	Consultees
Onshore Historic Environment ETG Meeting	19 th March 2024	Humber Archaeological Partnership Historic England East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Terrestrial Ecology ETG	19 th March 2024	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Natural England
Flood Risk and Geology ETG	20 th March 2024	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Environment Agency Beverley & North Holderness IDB
Human Health ETG Meeting	25 th March 2024	UK Health Security Agency Office of Health Improvement and Disparities East Riding of Yorkshire Council Director of Public Health
Draft Auk Compensation Plan (Meeting 2) ETG	10 th April 2024	MMO Natural England RSPB Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust JNCC The Wildlife Trusts



Meeting Title	Meeting Dates	Consultees
Benthic Compensation Plan ETG	11 th April 2024	MMO Natural England Cefas Environment Agency JNCC The Wildlife Trusts Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Kittiwake Compensation Plan ETG	25 th April 2024	MMO Natural England RSPB Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust JNCC The Wildlife Trusts

7.3.3. Other Technical Consultation

48. Consultation for EIA topic areas for which there are long-established EIA consultation processes have been undertaken outside the EPP. The details of these consultation processes are provided in technical appendices to the relevant ES chapters, namely:

- Commercial Fisheries Consultation (**Volume 7, Appendix 13-1 (application ref : 7.13.13.1)**);
- Shipping and Navigation Consultation (**Volume 7, Appendix 14-1 (application ref: 7.14.14.1)**);
- Aviation and Radar Consultation (**Volume 7, Appendix 15-1 (application ref: 7.15.15.1)**);
- Infrastructure and Other Users Consultation (**Volume 7, Appendix 16-1 (application ref: 7.16.16.1)**);
- Land Use Consultation (**Volume 7, Appendix 21-1 (application ref: 7.21.21.1)**);
- Human Health Consultation (**Volume 7, Appendix 27-1 (application ref: 7.27.27.1)**);

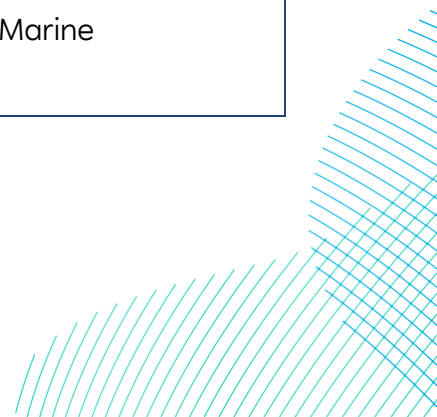
- Socio-economics Consultation (**Volume 7, Appendix 28-1 (application ref: 7.28.28.1)**);
- Tourism and Recreation Consultation (**Volume 7, Appendix 29-1 (application ref: 7.29.29.1)**); and
- Climate Change Consultation (**Volume 7, Appendix 30-1 (application ref: 7.30.30.1)**).

49. Details on any meetings held for these non-EPP topics are provided in **Table 7-3**, below. Consultation on other topics listed above was carried out via email communication where appropriate, and has been included in **Table 7-3**. See **Volume 5, Consultation Report (application ref: 5.1)** for further information regarding consultation on the topics listed above.

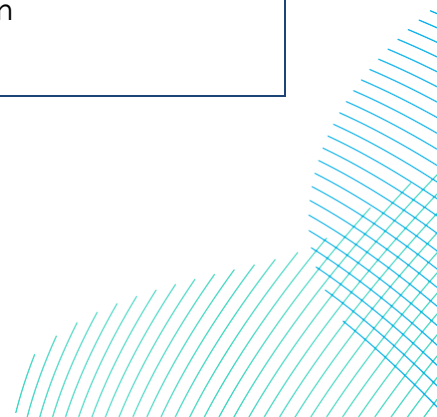
Table 7-3 Overview of Non-EPP Meetings (to date)

Meeting Title	Meeting Dates	Consultees
Shipping and Navigation Pre-Scoping Meeting	21 st September 2021	Chamber of Shipping
Shipping and Navigation Pre-Scoping Meeting	27 th September 2021	Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) Trinity House
Commercial Fisheries Working Group (CWFG) Meeting 1	30 th March 2022	Rederscentrale (Belgian Fisheries) Danish Fisherman and Chair of Danish Pelagic Fishermen's Association Danish Fishing Association CRPMEM Normandie German Fisheries Association National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO) VisNed / Anglo - Dutch Fishing Representative North West Dutch Fisheries Producer Organisation

Meeting Title	Meeting Dates	Consultees
		<p>Deep Wind Offshore and Former Norwegian Fisheries Liaison Officer</p> <p>Scottish White Fish Producer Organisation (SWFPO)</p> <p>Swedish Pelagic Federation Producer Organisation</p>
CWFG Meeting 2	6 th January 2023	<p>German Fisheries Association NFFO</p> <p>VisNed / Anglo – Dutch Fishing Representative</p> <p>North West Dutch Fisheries Producer Organisation</p> <p>SWFPO</p> <p>Independent Fisheries Consultant</p> <p>Holderness Fishing Industry Group (HFIG)</p> <p>Independent Bridlington Fisherman</p>
Shipping and Navigation Update Meeting	23 rd January 2023	<p>MCA</p> <p>Trinity House</p>
Shipping and Navigation Update Meeting	1 st February 2023	<p>Chamber of Shipping</p>
Shipping and Navigation Hazard Workshop	25 th April 2023	<p>MCA</p> <p>Trinity House</p> <p>Chamber of Shipping</p> <p>Royal Yachting Association (RYA)</p> <p>Cruising Association</p> <p>Tidewater Marine</p> <p>Deme</p>



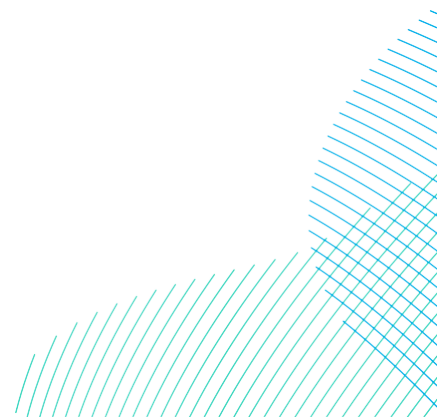
Meeting Title	Meeting Dates	Consultees
		Britannia Aggregates Hanson Neptune Energy Perenco AB Ports UK Major Ports
CWFG Meeting 3	11 th July 2023	HFIG Independent Bridlington Fishing Vessel Owner (Nordstjernen) Independent Fisheries Consultant Representative of Dutch Fishermen German Fisheries Association Representative of the Norwegian Fishermen's Association Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Shipping and Navigation Update Meeting	9 th October 2023	MCA Trinity House
Shipping and Navigation Second Hazard Workshop	9 th November 2023	MCA Trinity House UK Chamber of Shipping Neptune Energy Deme Group
CWFG Meeting 4	22 nd November 2023	Representative of the Norwegian Fishermen's Association VisNed



Meeting Title	Meeting Dates	Consultees
		CRPMEM - Boulogne sur Mer
Shipping and Navigation Update Meeting	27 th November 2023	RYA Cruising Association

7.4. Transboundary Cooperation

50. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention (the 'Espoo Convention') sets out the obligations of states to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that have the potential to give rise to significant adverse environmental effects across international boundaries (termed 'transboundary effects').
51. Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations places a statutory duty on the SoS to notify and consult other European Economic Area (EEA) states where they are of the view that the development is likely to have significant effects on the environment of another EEA State.
52. The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Twelve sets out the procedures for transboundary notification and consultation associated with NSIP applications, where such an application may have transboundary effects. Developers are advised to identify any possible significant transboundary effects.
53. Initial consideration of the potential for transboundary effects was made at the scoping stage, based on the information that was available at that time. Following this, the Planning Inspectorate provided a transboundary issues notification under Regulation 32 which identified Denmark, France, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, Sweden and Norway as states requiring notification due to potential impacts on commercial fisheries, aviation and radar, shipping and navigation and existing infrastructure. Following the issue of this notification, Germany, The Netherlands and Norway expressed their wish to participate under Regulation 32. Sweden expressed their wish to not participate further, and no response was received from Belgium, Denmark or France.



54. Where relevant, details of transboundary consultation undertaken is provided in each of the technical chapters of the ES together with an assessment of the potential effects. The assessments presented in the ES identify the potential for any significant transboundary effects and which EEA states may be affected. The ES has been shared with the relevant transboundary consultees.

7.5. Statements of Common Ground

55. Following submission of the DCO application, the Applicants will endeavour to agree on SoCGs with relevant consultees to assist the Planning Inspectorate in understanding which issues have been agreed upon and which remain unresolved. Where consultees have participated in the EPP, the SoCG will build on the Agreement / Disagreement Logs which have been drafted in line with discussions held during the ETGs.

7.6. Conclusions

56. The Applicants have conducted a comprehensive and transparent pre-application consultation in relation to the EIA process, with a wide range of stakeholders.
57. The aim of the consultation process is to meet or exceed the requirements of the Planning Act and EIA Regulations whilst being as efficient and effective as possible with stakeholder input. The Projects have taken into account relevant advice and guidance published by the Planning Inspectorate and relevant UK Government departments.
58. Stakeholders have been engaged in the development process from an early stage, with update meetings held throughout scoping, PEIR and prior to final ES submission. The Applicants acknowledge and appreciate their involvement and corresponding influence on the design of the Projects (as outlined in **Volume 7, Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (application ref: 7.4)**, **Volume 7, Chapter 5 Project Description (application ref: 7.5)** and the EIA.
59. Consultation responses have been carefully documented and considered in the ongoing development work. Responses which are considered relevant to the ES, and the regard that the Applicants have had for them, are included in appendices to each technical chapter of the ES. Full details of all consultation received on the Projects are presented in **Volume 5, Consultation Report (application ref: 5.1)**.

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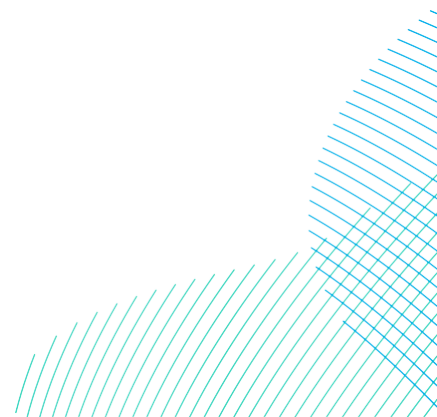
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