



**RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank
South (West) Limited**

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South (East) Limited**

**Dogger Bank South Offshore
Wind Farms**

**Statement of Commonality of Statements of
Common Ground and Examination Progress Tracker
Submission for Deadline 1**

Document Date: January 2025

Document reference: 9.1

Revision Number: 01

Classification: Unrestricted

Company:	RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Limited and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Limited	Asset:	Development		
Project:	Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms	Sub Project/Package	Consents		
Document Title or Description:	Statement of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground and Examination Progress Tracker				
Document Number:	005405064-01	Contractor Reference Number:	PC2340-RHD-ZZ-ZZ-RP-Z-0188		
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Rev No.	Date	Status/Reason for Issue	Author	Checked by	Approved by
01	January 2025	Submission for Deadline 1	RHDHV	RWE	RWE

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for one or more Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
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.
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 Projects	DBS East and DBS West (collectively referred to as the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms).

Acronyms

Term	Definition
AEP	Annual Energy Production
AoS	Area of Search
ANS	Artificial Nesting Structure
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
DBS	Dogger Bank South
DCO	Development Consent Order
DML	Deemed Marine License
EA	Environment Agency
ERYC	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
ExA	Examining Authority
HAP	Humber Archaeology Partnership
ISH1	Issue Specific Hearing 1
ISH2	Issue Specific Hearing 2
LIR	Local Impact Report
LoS	Line of Sight
MCA	Maritime & Coastguard Agency
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MMMP	Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NAS	Noise Abatement Systems
NFFO	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission

NGT	National Gas Transmission
NPG	Northern Power Grid
NRIL	Network Rail
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
RCA	River Condition Assessments
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
RLoS	Radar Line of Sight
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SIP	Site Integrity Plan
SoCG	Statements of Common Ground

1 Introduction

1. This Statement of Commonality for the Statements of Common Ground and Examination Progress Tracker (hereafter referred to as the 'Statement of Commonality') has been prepared on behalf of RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Limited and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Limited ('the Applicants').
2. The Applicants are developing the Dogger Bank South (DBS) East and DBS West Offshore Wind Farm projects ('the Projects') located approximately 100km and 122km offshore in the North Sea. A detailed description of the Proposed Development is provided in **Chapter 5 Project Description** [APP-071] submitted with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application in June 2024.

1.1 Purpose

3. As part of the Examining Authority's (ExA) original **Rules 4, 6, 9, 13 and 17 Letter** thereafter referred to as the **original Rule 6 Letter** [PD-002], a request was made for a Statement of Commonality to be provided at various deadlines to assist the ExA in understanding areas of commonality between stakeholders across the Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) for the Projects. Additionally, the **Rule 6 Letter** [PD-010] requested the creation and subsequent update of an 'Examination Tracker' to track the principal issues raised by Interested Parties and progress made to address them. Section 5 of this Statement includes an Examination Tracker, as requested.
4. This Statement of Commonality is intended to act as a summary of the progress of the various SoCGs. However, the SoCGs remain the primary record of the status of discussion the various issues that they address. It should be noted that where a broad topic applies to more than one SoCG party the detailed matters discussed within that topic may not be directly comparable or related.

1.2 Structure

5. This document is structured as follows:
 - Section 2 provides an introduction to the drafting of the SoCGs along with a summary of their structure;
 - Section 3 provides an up to date list of the SoCGs and their status; and
 - Section 4 details the commonality between the SoCGs, outlines the key issues identified by stakeholders, and progress made in addressing these comments to date
 - Section 5 provides a summary of the principal/notable issues raised by Interested Parties and the status of those issues

2 Statements of Common Ground

6. The Applicants have sought SoCGs with Interested Parties in line with the ExA's **Rule 6 Letter** [PD-002 and PD-010]. The purpose of the SoCGs is to set out the position of the parties on key matters relating to the Application, including the construction and operation of the Projects. The SoCGs cover matters raised through ongoing engagement prior to and since the DCO submission, and matters identified within the relevant representations of the Interested Parties. A full list of the SoCGs and their status is provided within section 3.
7. To ensure consistency in the approach taken to documenting matters agreed, matters subject to ongoing discussions or matters not agreed, the SoCGs generally adopt a standard format in order to provide clarity. Each SoCG is broadly structured as follows:
 - A brief introduction setting out the approach to the SoCG, purpose of the document, an explanation of the statutory role of the Interested Party and the structure of the SoCG;
 - A summary of engagement undertaken on the SoCG; and
 - A table(s) setting out the current position of the Interested Party and the Applicants – for most SoCGs this is set out by topic with areas of agreement, disagreement and discussions ongoing stated under each topic or matter.
8. The SoCGs being sought with Statutory Undertakers are in a slightly modified form of the above accounting for their greater focus on items relating to interactions between the Projects and the Statutory Undertakers' assets rather than wider project decisions and or approach.
9. Section 2 of the SoCGs details all key meetings and correspondence with the relevant stakeholder to date on matters discussed within the SoCG.

3 Status of SoCGs at Deadline 1

10. This section provides a list and summary of the status of each SoCG at Deadline 1.

Table 3-1 - List and Status of SoCGs at Deadline 1

Applicants' Document reference	Interested Party	Position at Deadline 1	Position at Deadline 4	Position at Deadline 8
9.2	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was shared with East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 28/01/2025 by email with nine matters outstanding.		
9.3	Environment Agency	The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was shared with the Environment Agency on 23/01/2025 by email with nine matters outstanding. The Environment Agency's Onshore Ecology specialist confirmed receipt of the SoCG on 23/01/2025 and confirmed their agreement with the Onshore Ecology and Ornithology section.		
9.4	Historic England	The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was shared with Historic England on 18/12/2024 by email with nine matters outstanding. The Applicants have submitted the Statement of Common Ground with Historic England [Document reference: 9.4] at Deadline 1 but would like to note that the version submitted is in draft and has not yet been formally approved by Historic England. Comments were received from Historic England on 28/01/2025, were made to the version of the SoCG from September 2024 and therefore did not accurately reflect discussions and progress made between the		

Applicants' Document reference	Interested Party	Position at Deadline 1	Position at Deadline 4	Position at Deadline 8
		<p>parties. The Applicants have been and are continuing to actively engage with Historic England and will be updating the SoCG on receiving Historic England's comments on the latest version of the SoCG and taking into consideration their Written Representations, expected to be submitted at Deadline 1. The Applicants plan to submit the updated version of the SoCG with Historic England at Deadline 4.</p>		
9.5	Hull City Council	<p>The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was shared with Hull City Council on 23/01/2025 by email with one matter outstanding.</p> <p>Hull City Council advised by telephone conversation (22/01/24) that all matters were agreed with one matter outstanding.</p>		
9.6	Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	<p>The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was agreed with the MMO on 27/01/2025 by email with some matters still outstanding.</p>		
9.7	Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA)	<p>The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was agreed with MCA on 23/01/2025 by email with two matters outstanding.</p>		
9.9	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	<p>The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was agreed with NGET on 13/11/2024 by email with two matters outstanding.</p>		

Applicants' Document reference	Interested Party	Position at Deadline 1	Position at Deadline 4	Position at Deadline 8
9.10	National Gas Transmission (NGT)	The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was agreed with NGT on 28/11/2024 by email with one matter outstanding.		
9.11	Northern Power Grid (NPG)	The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was agreed with NPG on 14/11/2024 by email with one matter outstanding.		
9.12	National Highways	The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was shared with National Highways on 23/01/2025 by email with one matter outstanding. National Highways confirmed on 23/01/2025 that the SoCG is an accurate reflection of the status of discussions.		
9.13	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation (NFFO)	The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was agreed with the NFFO on 28/01/2025 by email with matters outstanding.		
9.14	Network Rail (NRIL)	A draft SoCG was issued to NRIL on 08/10/2024. Initial comments were received on 05/12/2024 and further updates issued to NRIL on 11/12/2024. Based on initial comments received, there are three matters outstanding.		
9.15	RSPB	The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was agreed with the RSPB on 27/01/2025 by email with matters outstanding.		

Applicants' Document reference	Interested Party	Position at Deadline 1	Position at Deadline 4	Position at Deadline 8
9.16	The Wildlife Trusts	The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was agreed with The Wildlife Trusts on 23/01/2025 by email with some matters outstanding.		
9.17	Trinity House	The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was agreed with Trinity House on 28/01/2025 by email with one matter outstanding.		
9.18	UK Chamber of Shipping	The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was agreed with the Chamber of Shipping on 27/01/2025 by email with one matter outstanding.		
9.19	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was agreed with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust on 20/01/2025 by email with matters outstanding.		
9.20	Humber Archaeology Partnership	The SoCG submitted at Deadline 1 was agreed with Humber Archaeology Partnership on 18/10/2024 by email with two matters outstanding.		
9.21	Orsted Hornsea 3 and Hornsea 4	The SoCG was issued for review on 24/01/2025. The SoCG will be submitted at Deadline 2.		
9.22	Dogger Bank A, Dogger Bank B, Dogger Bank C	The SoCG was issued for review on 24/01/2025. The SoCG will be submitted at Deadline 2.		
9.23	Natural England	The Examining Authority has requested that the Applicants produce a SoCG with Natural England. Natural England have advised that they will instead be producing a Principal Areas of Disagreement		

Applicants' Document reference	Interested Party	Position at Deadline 1	Position at Deadline 4	Position at Deadline 8
		document which will form their view of any issues. A SoCG will be submitted at Deadline 8 between the Applicants and Natural England.		

4 Commonality

11. This section provides a summary of the principal issues covered in the SoCGs and demonstrates where there is commonality in the topics or matters being discussed with the various parties.
12. **Table 4-1** presents the topics covered within the various SoCGs, and **Table 4-2** presents the Habitats Regulations Assessment topics, which have been separated out for readability. **Table 4-1** and **Table 4-2** indicate each topics relevance to an Interested Party.
13. As requested in the ExA's **Rule 6 Letter** [PD-010], it uses a traffic light system to summarise the status of the various matters that are covered in the Statement of Common Grounds (SoCGs) as shown in **Plate 4-1** (please note this colour-coding is not the same as in the SoCGs).

	Topic not covered in SoCG
	All matters agreed
	Some matters agreed, some matters under discussion
	All matters under discussion
	Some matters under discussion, some matters not agreed
	All matters not agreed
	Some matters agreed, some matters not agreed
	Some matters agreed, some matters under discussion, some matters not agreed

Plate 4-1 – Traffic light system indicating the status of matters covered in the SoCGs

Table 4-1 - Table of Commonality

Doc. Ref	Interested Party	DCO and DMLs	Protective Provisions	Marine Processes	Benthic/Intertidal Ecology	Fish and Shellfish	Marine Mammals	Offshore Ornithology	Commercial Fisheries	Shipping and Navigation	Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology	Geology and Land Quality	Flood Risk and Hydrology	Land Use	Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Landscape and Visual	Traffic and Transport	Noise	Air Quality	Human Health	Socioeconomics	Project Interfaces	Other Offshore Documents
9.2	East Riding of Yorkshire Council																							
9.3	Environment Agency																							
9.4	Historic England																							
9.5	Hull City Council																							
9.6	MMO																							
9.7	Maritime & Coastguard Agency																							
9.9	National Grid Electricity Transmission																							
9.10	National Gas Transmission																							
9.11	Northern Power Grid																							
9.12	National Highways																							
9.13	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations																							
9.14	Network Rail																							
9.15	RSPB																							
9.16	The Wildlife Trusts																							
9.17	Trinity House																							
9.18	UK Chamber of Shipping																							

Doc. Ref	Interested Party	DCO and DMLs	Protective Provisions	Marine Processes	Benthic/ Intertidal Ecology	Fish and Shellfish	Marine Mammals	Offshore Ornithology	Commercial Fisheries	Shipping and Navigation	Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology	Geology and Land Quality	Flood Risk and Hydrology	Land Use	Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Landscape and Visual	Traffic and Transport	Noise	Air Quality	Human Health	Socioeconomics	Project Interfaces	Other Offshore Documents
9.19	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust																							
9.20	Humber Archaeology Partnership																							
9.21	Hornsea 3 and Hornsea 4																							
9.22	Dogger Bank A, Dogger Bank B, and Dogger Bank C																							
9.23	Natural England*																							

* Natural England's position will be included at Deadline 4 based on their Principal Areas of Disagreement document submitted at Deadline 1.

Table 4-2 - Habitats Regulations Assessment Table of Commonality

Doc. Ref	Interested Party	Introduction and Terrestrial Ecology	Offshore Habitats and Annex II Migratory Fish	Annex II Marine Mammals	Marine Ornithological Features	Dogger Bank Compensation Plan (Benthic Compensation)	Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Plan	Kittiwake Compensation Plan
9.2	East Riding of Yorkshire Council							
9.4	Historic England							
9.6	MMO							
9.15	RSPB							
9.16	The Wildlife Trusts							
9.19	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust							
9.23	Natural England							

5 Examination Tracker

14. The Examination Progress Tracker has been prepared by the Applicants further to the request outlined in the ExA’s original **Rule 6 Letter** [PD-002]. For ease of reference, it has been presented in table form and focuses on principle and notable matters which have been raised by Interested Parties in their Relevant Representations and/or through subsequent engagement with stakeholders.
15. The tracker provides the status of those issues and is based on a Red, Amber, Green ('RAG') rating as follows:

	Currently subject to disagreement
	Subject to further/ on-going discussion
	Agree

Plate 5-1 - RAG system indicating the status of matters within the Examination Tracker

16. The RAG status provided is the Applicants’ consideration of progress on the issue in question and has not been discussed directly with stakeholders albeit the majority of the issues below formulate discussion elements of Statements of Common Ground.

Topic	Sub-topic	Interested Party(ies)	Description of Issue	Progress Made (if Any)	RAG Rating
Aviation and Radar	Objection by Ministry of Defence due to DBS West being within Radar Line of Sight (RLoS) of RRH Staxton Wold	Ministry of Defence	Assessment concludes that the DBS West array area lies within the Line of Sight (LoS) of RRH Staxton Wold. The Interested Party raised objection in September 2024 which will remain until suitable mitigation is agreed.	<p>The Applicants expected the objection received by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Nominally the Applicants would seek to work towards an agreed Requirement with the MOD restricting generation or turbine movement until a sufficient mitigation has been agreed and installed, as has been done by previous projects.</p> <p>However, the new UK Government has brought forward a new policy on funding and delivery of air defence radar mitigation. The Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (released December 2024), details The Ministry of Defence’s Programme Njord (in collaboration with DESNZ, The Crown Estate, Crown Estate Scotland, the devolved governments and the Offshore Wind Industry Council). Programme Njord’s objectives are to identify, procure and implement a mitigation to resolve military radar issues. The action plan discloses that:</p> <p><i>“The full costs of the long-term radar mitigation solutions identified by Programme Njord will be funded via an alternative route, delivered by government, and the funding requirement is therefore removed from offshore wind developers.”</i></p> <p>This chain of events has occurred within the last couple of months, notably post MOD’s submission of their objection. It is expected Programme Njord will deliver Government’s enduring air defence radar mitigation solution.</p> <p>The Applicants contacted the MOD in January 2025 to discuss altering Requirement 31 of the Draft DCO (Revision 5) (document ref:3.1) to account for this change in situation and discuss any requirements for mitigation that may still be required for DBS West.</p>	Yellow
Commercial Fisheries	The commercial fisheries baseline	National Federation of Fisheries Organisation (NFFO)	Concerns about the lack of contemporary and site-specific data presented in the fish and shellfish ecology assessments, and a lack of focus on key commercial species that have a range that overlaps with the development area, specifically shellfish.	<p>The Applicants provided response to Relevant Representations made in this regard by NFFO in The Applicants’ Response to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] in line RR034:3.</p> <p>The NFFO confirmed this matter was agreed with the Applicants in an email dated 27/01/2025.</p>	Green
Commercial Fisheries	Cumulative assessment of in-combination effects with other projects on fisheries receptors.	National Federation of Fisheries Organisation (NFFO)	Concerns regarding the assumption that that mobile gear vessels can move from the area is an oversimplification and does not evidence how fisheries in the region have been squeezed into smaller and smaller marine space over progressive offshore wind developments, marine legislation and offshore cabling	<p>The Applicants provided response to Relevant Representations made in this regard by NFFO in The Applicants’ Response to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] in line RR034:4.</p> <p>Since submission of this document, the Applicants have engaged with the NFFO on the 1st October. No further agreement regarding potential effects on Commercial Fisheries was agreed. The current progression of Statements of Common Ground with NFFO is being provided at the same time as this document at Deadline 1 on the 29th January [Document ref: 9.13].</p> <p>In addition, the Applicants have subsequent to this Relevant Representation being received submitted Change Request 1: Offshore and Intertidal Works [AS-141] and had this change accepted into examination by the Examining</p>	Yellow

Topic	Sub-topic	Interested Party(ies)	Description of Issue	Progress Made (if Any)	RAG Rating
				Authority on the 21 st January 2025. The acceptance of Change Request 1 into examination removes elements of scope of the offshore works to be undertaken by the project, with nominal reductions in impacts on commercial fisheries receptors compared to the submitted application.	
Draft DCO	Comment received requesting updates to various draft DCO Requirements and Deemed Marine License (DML) Conditions	MMO Natural England East Riding of Yorkshire Council Environment Agency Hull City Council National Highways Trinity House MCA RSPB	Concerns raised by stakeholders regarding the adequacy of the wording of Draft DCO Requirements, a limited number of suggested amendments to Protective Provisions and Articles, Deemed Marine License Conditions and the timing outlined at which these conditions need to be discharged.	The Applicants submitted a revised Draft DCO (Revision 3) [AS-120] on the 7 th December and accompanying the Change Request application on the 10 th January 2025 (Revision 4 [AS-130]). These updates account for the majority of requested edits to from these stakeholders. Where updates have not been made the Applicants have explained in responses to relevant representations why it is not appropriate for the requested changes to be made.	
Ecology and Nature Conservation (Onshore)	Appropriateness of the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Strategy	Environment Agency Natural England East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Concerns raised regarding the lack of River Condition Assessments (RCA) undertaken to inform the assessment of the baseline environment for which Biodiversity Net Gain will be calculated against and minor comments about the inclusion of individual trees identified in the arboricultural assessment and interpretation of the guidance and use of the BNG metric.	As outlined in The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations (Revision 1) [PDA-013] the Applicants met with the Environment Agency to discuss this issue in October 2024. The Applicants have agreed to undertake RCAs in spring/early summer 2025 to ensure they are undertaken in the optimal conditions and update Appendix 18-10 - Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy [APP-157] accordingly. The EA are in agreement with this approach as outlined in the SoCG Environment Agency [Document ref: 9.3]. The Applicants have made the commitment to update Appendix 18-10 - Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy [APP-157] at Deadline 5, to address any minor comments and include the results of the RCA surveys. Under Requirement 32 of the Draft DCO (Revision 4) [App-130], the Applicants must gain approval of the final Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy from the relevant planning authority in consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body. Calculations of loss of biodiversity will be undertaken at this stage when the Projects have undertaken detailed design and ensure a minimum of no net loss of biodiversity as a result of onshore construction activities.	
Habitats Regulations Assessment	Auk Compensation	Natural England The Wildlife Trust RSPB	Concerns by stakeholders in Relevant representations regarding sufficient progress in further development of the Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan	The Applicants provided updated versions of the Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan [APP-056] on the 29 th October [PDB-004] and the 25 th November 2024 [AS-089]. These updates demonstrate substantial progress in the development of compensation measures for Guillemot and Razorbill (collectively "auks"). The Applicants have also provided Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Site Shortlist Refinement Report (Revision 01)	

Topic	Sub-topic	Interested Party(ies)	Description of Issue	Progress Made (if Any)	RAG Rating
				<p>[PDB-008] to the ExA to demonstrate progress since DCO submission in the identification of a site for predator eradication.</p> <p>Further discussions with Natural England regarding an update on auk compensation proposals were held on 20/11/24. Whilst Natural England are not actively engaging in the SoCG process as they utilise their Principal Areas of Disagreement to demonstrate progress, the Applicants consider conversations where auk compensation updates have been shared have been received positively.</p> <p>The Applicants provided an brief update on the progress on compensation measures including guillemot [and razorbill], at Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on 15th January, and a more detailed version is provided in the written summary [Document ref: 11.4] at Deadline 1.</p>	
Habitats Regulations Assessment	Kittiwake Compensation	Natural England RSPB	Concerns by stakeholders in Relevant Representations regarding sufficient progress of the Project Level kittiwake Compensation Plan	<p>The Applicants provided updated versions of the Project-Level Kittiwake Compensation Plan - (Revision 01) [APP-052] on the 29th October [PDB-002]. and the 25th November 2024 [AS-088]. These updates demonstrate substantial progress in the development of compensation measures for kittiwake. The Applicants have also provided Project-Level Kittiwake Artificial Nesting Structure (ANS) Site Selection Report (Revision 01) [PDB-007] to the ExA to demonstrate progress since DCO submission in the development of a site for a project led offshore artificial nesting structure for kittiwake.</p> <p>Further discussions with Natural England regarding an update on ANS Areas of Search (AoS) and site selection work were held on 30/09/24 and 5/12/24, with feedback provided by email on 9/12/24. Whilst Natural England are not actively engaging in the SoCG process as they utilise their Principal Areas of Disagreement to demonstrate progress, the Applicants consider conversations where kittiwake compensation updates have been shared have been received positively.</p> <p>The Applicants provided an brief update on the progress on compensation measures including kittiwake, at ISH1 on 15th January, and a more detailed version is provided in the written summary [Document ref: 11.4] at Deadline 1.</p>	
Historic Environment (onshore)	Effects on Heavy Anti-aircraft gunsite scheduled monument at Butt Farm	Historic England East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Concerns outlined in Relevant Representations and in the Local Impact Report regarding impacts on the setting of the Heavy Anti-aircraft gunsite scheduled monument at Butt Farm	<p>The Applicants are in discussion with East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) about comments raised within the Local Impact Report [PDC-007] which state that the Butt Farm WWII anti-aircraft gunsite (scheduled monument) would be 'substantially harmed' by the proposal, which the Applicant Strongly disagrees with. The Applicant notes that the SoCG agreed with Humber Archaeological Partnership (HAP) (heritage advisors to ERYC) outlines concerns associated with impacts to the setting of the scheduled monument and the onsite experience when visiting the monument. A meeting is planned with ERYC and Humber Archaeology Partnership (HAP)</p>	

Topic	Sub-topic	Interested Party(ies)	Description of Issue	Progress Made (if Any)	RAG Rating
				<p>representatives to discuss the heritage comments received in the Local Impact Report (LIR).</p> <p>As set out in the SoCG with Historic England, Historic England confirmed in their RR (16/09/2024) that the Onshore Converter Stations represent 'less than substantial harm' to the significance of the Scheduled Monument of 'Heavy Anti-aircraft gunsite, 350m west of Butt Farm' but at the high end of this scale. Noting that this high degree of 'harm' needs to be addressed.</p> <p>The Applicants have met with HE onsite and offered a number of enhancement proposals for interpretation and investigation of the Heavy Anti-aircraft gunsite at Butt Farm, and are awaiting HE feedback, which HE have advised will be provided in their Written Representation at Deadline 1.</p> <p>After the submission of HE's Relevant Representation [RR-022] and ERYC's LIR [PDC-007] the Applicants submitted Project Change Request 2 [AS-152] into examination which was accepted into examination on 21st January 2025. This change was made in part to address stakeholder feedback and reduces the prominence of the proposed Onshore Converter Station compared to the DCO submitted scheme which formulated these comments.</p>	
Hydrology, hydrogeology and Flooding	Hydrological impacts associated with the construction of the Cable Corridor	Beverley & North Holderness Internal Drainage Board Environment Agency East Riding of Yorkshire Council	<p>Protective Provisions relating to the disapplication of the Land Drainage Act 1991 in the DCO</p> <p>Impacts of crossing (EA) Main Rivers with a trenchless technique</p> <p>Impacts of crossings of ordinary water courses with non-trenchless methods</p> <p>How Main Rivers and ordinary water courses will be crossed with the temporary haul road</p>	<p>Concerns were raised by the Environment Agency in the Relevant Representation [RR-039] about how Main Rivers would be temporarily crossed by the haul road during construction. The Applicants have provided a response to the Relevant Representations [PDA-013] and made a number of updates to the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision 2) [AS-094] and Appendix 5-2 - Obstacle Crossing Register (Revision 2) [AS-053] to commit to clear span bridges in November 2024. However, this was not possible at one location and a culvert crossing will be required. The Applicants are awaiting a response from the Environment Agency on these issues and have included them as items 'under discussion' in the Environment Agency SoCG [Document reference 9.3].</p> <p>The Environment Agency have also raised a number of issues around how the crossing of Main Rivers using a trenchless technique will be undertaken e.g. depth of ducts and vibration impacts on flood defences. They have also stated they may not agree to the protective provisions in the Draft DCO (Revision 4) [AS-130]. Responses were provided by the Applicants and amendments to the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision 2) [AS-094] made in November 2024. As above, the Applicants are awaiting a response from the Environment Agency on these matters.</p> <p>The Beverley & North Holderness Internal Drainage Board and ERYC, in their Local Impact Report raised an issue with the use of the 'open cut' method to cross ordinary water courses (drains). The Applicants have provided a response to state that there are several control measures to mitigate potential impacts in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision 2) [AS-094] including the requirement to agree a crossing method statement</p>	

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				<p>with the relevant drainage authority. Therefore, with these measures in place the Applicants are not proposing to remove this option from the application.</p> <p>A meeting with the Beverley and North Holderness Internal Drainage Board to discuss if any further mitigation could be considered to resolve this issue has been requested by the Applicants. However, a response was not received prior to Deadline 1. The Applicants have provided a written response to the Beverley & North Holderness Internal Drainage Board additional submission [Document reference 11.7], which was shared with them in advance of Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2).</p>	
Landscape and Visual (Onshore)	Visual impacts of construction and operation from works in the Onshore Substation Zone	East Riding of Yorkshire Council Rowley Parish Council [RR-048] Public Relevant Reps: RR-060, RR-050, RR-063	Request for additional photomontages of the Substation Zone Temporary Construction Compounds, construction lighting plan details and views from the south of the Substation Zone where vegetation has been removed by the Jocks Lodge Development along the A164 Queries on the LVIA construction assessment methodology Objection to the Projects based on visual impact from Rowley Parish Council	<p>A photomontage showing the outline of the Substation Zone temporary construction compounds from View Point (VP) 3, where they would be most was previously issued to ERYC and has been updated at Deadline 1 to include a fence, 2.4m in height. Chapter 5 Project Description [APP-071] has also been updated to at Deadline 1 to provide further description of the key equipment and temporary offices (portacabins) that could be located within the Substation Zone Temporary compounds and a photo of an indicative construction compound layout has been included in Appendix C of the Applicants Response to Action Points [Document reference 11.6]. It has been agreed with the ERYC that a construction lighting plan cannot be provided by the Applicants prior to detailed design. The Applicants have added further detail to the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision 2) [As-094] to explain what would be included in a construction lighting plan at the detailed design stage. This is in addition to the mitigation measures already included both the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision 2) [As-094] and Outline Ecological Management Plan (Revision 3) [AS-114] to control the impacts of construction lighting.</p> <p>Additional photomontages have been committed to by the Applicants from the A164 to consider changes in vegetation as a result of the Jock's Lodge Development and will be submitted at Deadline 2, taking account of Project Change Request 2 [AS-152].</p> <p>ERYC have also provided comments on the construction assessment methodology in ES Chapter 23 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-192]. The Applicants have clarified that significant construction effects have been identified for those visual receptors located closest to the Substation Zone and that construction mitigation relates to the reinstatement of the temporary construction compounds. Following this, the construction effects would be superseded by those identified for the operational phase.</p> <p>The above matters remain 'under discussion' in the ERYC SoCG [Document reference 9.2]. A meeting was held with the ERYC on the 27th January to provide an update on the above, ERYC have agreed to review those updates and continue a proactive dialogue with the Applicants to reach agreement on these matters.</p>	

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				<p>The Applicants have provided a response to Rowley Parish Council and the Public Relevant Reps received in the Applicants Response to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] in November, providing further detail on the LVIA undertaken and the proposed mitigation. The Applications attended a meeting with all affected Parish Councils on the 22nd January and no comments on this issue were raised at the meeting.</p>	
Landscape and Visual (Onshore)	Development of Landscape mitigation post consent	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	<p>SuDs design</p> <p>Adequacy of landscape planting to the North of the Substation Zone</p>	<p>ERYC have raised queries on the outline SuDS design and the single, engineered SuDS pond included on the Outline Operational Drainage Strategy (Revision 2) [As-098] and shown in the indicative Landscape Mitigation Plan in ES Chapter 23 – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Figure 23-1 to Figure 23-15 (Revision 2) [PDA-010]. The Applicants continued discussions on this matter with the ERYC on the 27th January and agreed to revise the wording in the Design and Access Statement [APP-233], Outline Landscape Management Plan (Revision 2) [AS-096] and Outline Operational Drainage Strategy (Revision 2) [As-098] at Deadline 2 which are all being updated to accommodate the Project 2 Change Request [As-152]. Although the revised documents will also include an outline SuDs drainage design the Applicants have committed to the 'landscape led' SuDs approach and that multiple swales rather than a single 'end of pipe' solution would be included at the detailed design stage. Further detail on this topic is included in the Applicants Response to the LIR [Document reference: 11.3] and this remains an 'item under discussion' in the ERYC SoCG [Document reference 9.2].</p> <p>Comments have also been raised on the screening plating to the North of the Substation Zone and that this is not providing an adequate level of screening in the VP3 photomontage. The Applicants agreed on the 27th January to review again. However, there is no further space within the Order Limits to add more planting, due to existing constraints. The Applicants have also stated that this would not provide additional benefit due to the topography of the land between VP3 and the Substation Zone. Further detail on this topic is included in the Applicants Response to the LIR [Document reference: 11.3].</p>	
Landscape and Visual	Design and Access Statement	<p>East Riding of Yorkshire Council</p> <p>Rowley Parish Council</p>	Request for consultation of the detailed design and outputs of the Design Panel	The ERYC have asked to be consulted on the detailed design and the outputs of the Design Panel. The Applicants have committed to review the wording in the Design and Access Statement [APP-233] to be updated at Deadline 2.	

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Working Hours (onshore)	Construction Working Hours	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Comments on the hours being too long as currently drafted from 7am to 7pm	The Applicants have discussed this matter with ERYC at a meeting held 27/01/25 and it has been agreed that, subject to the Applicant providing further details in the Outline Code of Code of Construction Practice [AS- 094] on the process for agreeing prior consent under Section 61 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 at particularly sensitive sites; that the construction working hours detailed within Requirement 20 of the Draft DCO [AS-121] were acceptable.	
Infrastructure and Other Users	Potential for wake effects upon existing offshore wind farms	The Projects (Dogger Bank A, Dogger Bank B, Dogger Bank C) Hornsea 3 Limited Hornsea 4 Limited	Interested Parties have raised the potential for Wake Effects to arise from the operation of the Dogger Bank South Projects and have requested wake effects assessments to be undertaken to understand the impacts of the Projects to their Annual Energy Production (AEP)	The Applicants provided response to Relevant Representations made in this regard by The Projects, Hornsea 3 Limited, and Hornsea 4 Limited in The Applicants' Response to Relevant Representations [PDA-013]. The Applicants provided an updated position at ISH2 on 15 th January as they consider that neither NPS nor the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 require an assessment of wake effects. A more detailed version is provided in the written summary (document ref: 11.4) at Deadline 1.	
Marine Ecology	Effects on benthic habitats at Dogger Bank SAC	Natural England	Concerns raised that assessment of construction effects in the RIAA concludes disturbance as a temporary effect.	The Applicants have submitted a document entitled Review of Evidence on Recovery of Sandbank Habitat Following Habitat Damage [AS-025] which addresses several comments raised by Natural England in their Relevant Representations [RR-039] by providing site specific evidence of habitat recovery within Dogger Bank SAC and provides evidence towards DBS proposals for compensation quantum currently outlined in the Project Level Dogger Bank Compensation Plan [APP-059]. The Applicants have not yet received a response from Natural England with regards to the evidence presented or received any evidence to the contrary to the findings of this document.	
Fish and Shellfish Ecology	Data used to inform assessment	Marine Management Organisation Natural England	Concerns that data used to inform the assessment of the impact of the development on sandeel and herring was not the most appropriate dataset to use for assessment.	The Heat Mapping Report (revision 1) [AS-105] was submitted on the 28th November which included an update from the Latto <i>et al.</i> (2013) methodology to the Reach <i>et al.</i> (2024) methodology for sandeel; and the Reach <i>et al.</i> (2013) methodology to the Kyle-Henney <i>et al.</i> (2024) methodology for Atlantic herring as requested. This report was prepared in response to relevant representations received from MMO and Natural England. The applicants are awaiting feedback on this update.	
Fish and Shellfish Ecology and Marine Mammals	Potential effects on marine ecology from underwater noise during construction	Marine Management Organisation Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Natural England The Wildlife Trusts	Concern raised by stakeholders regarding potential noise impacts on Herring spawning grounds near Flamborough Head and requests for additional seasonal restrictions upon certain construction activities. Concerns raised by stakeholders regarding potential impacts on marine mammals from underwater noise during piling. Stakeholders	Change Request 1 will greatly reduce the geographical footprint of impacts as a result of the removal of the platform from the Export Cable Corridor. The impacts of noise on herring have been assessed as minor adverse and not significant in Environmental Impact Assessment terms. Thus, no further mitigation is proposed. The Applicants are awaiting stakeholder feedback relating to the impacts of the Projects following the acceptance of Change Request 1 and the supporting information submitted into Examination associated with this change request.	

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			advise that noise abatement systems are committed to as a mitigation measure at this stage to minimise the impacts from piling.	The Applicants are considering the use of Noise Abatement Systems (NAS) as mitigation for underwater noise, and the use of it will be dependent on the final project design and determined at the post-consent stage. NAS is being included within the Projects' procurement strategy as an optional element to allow it to be called upon should it be required based on the final design parameters, rather than not including it all. The Applicants have included the potential use of noise abatement systems in the Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP) (Revision 2) [AS-100] and In Principle Site Integrity Plan (SIP) for the Southern North Sea SAC [AS-102]. Final mitigation measures must be agreed in writing with the MMO and relevant statutory nature conservation bodies through submission of a final MMMP and final SIP post-consent.	
Offshore Ornithology	Assessment methodology for offshore ornithology receptors	Natural England RSPB	Concerns from stakeholders that the assessment of offshore ornithology in the ES and Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) at application stage did not capture the latest NE Guidance (March 2024), or other methodology requests.	<p>In response to a request from Natural England in Relevant Representations [RR-039] [Document reference 10.18] the ornithological assessment was updated in line with revised guidance from Natural England (March 2024) on impact calculations. As a result a - 6.1 Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features (Revision 3) [As-085] and Environmental Statement Chapter 12 – Offshore Ornithology (Revision 2) [AS-058] were provided to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 25/11/24 and 22/11/24 respectively. Kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill compensation quantum figures were updated and provided to PINS in the Project Level Kittiwake Compensation Plan (Revision 3) [AS-088] and Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan [[AS-089], on 25 November 2024.</p> <p>Natural England have not yet reviewed these documents in detail but in their letter of 17/12/24 [AS-126] they 'acknowledge and welcome that the Applicant appears to have made considerable efforts to provide an updated assessment in line with Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies advice and Best Practice Guidance'.</p> <p>It should be noted that Natural England and RSPB approaches to methodology are not fully aligned, and where there is discrepancy, the Applicants have deferred to the Natural England guidance as the statutory nature conservation body. Despite this, the RSPB's letter of 16/12/24 [AS-128] stated that for the offshore ornithology impact predictions: 'based on the information provided to date, we consider it is probable that sufficient information to assess the effects of the Dogger Bank South offshore wind farm proposal will be available within the 6-month examination period'.</p>	

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