

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

Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

Marine Management Organisation Statement of Common Ground

Submission for Deadline 1

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Contents

1	Intro	oduction1	LO
	1.1	Background	LO
	1.2	Approach to SoCG	L 4
2	Con	sultation1	15
	2.1	Introduction to Consultation	15
	2.2	Consultation Summary	15
3	Agr	eement Log 2	26
	3.1	Overview	26
	3.2	General	27
	3.3	Deemed Marine Licences	33
	3.4	Marine Physical Environment	ŀΟ
	3.5	Benthic and Intertidal Ecology	4 7
	3.6	Fish and Shellfish Ecology5	56
	3.7	Marine Mammals	53
4	Sun	nmary 7	70
5	Refe	erences	71







Tables

Table 1-1 - Application documents of interest to the MMO
Table 2-1 - Summary of pre-application and post-application consultation with
the MMO15
Table 3-1 Agreement logs position status key26
Table 3-2 General Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed with the MMO27
Table 3-3 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to the Deemed
Marine Licences33
Table 3-4 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Marine Physical
Environment 40
Table 3-5 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Benthic and
Intertidal Ecology47
Table 3-6 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Fish and
Shellfish Ecology56
Table 3-7 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Marine
Mammals 69





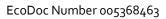


Glossary

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).
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.
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.
Expert Topic Group (ETG)	A forum for targeted engagement with regulators and interested stakeholders through the EPP.
Habitats Regulation 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.
National Significant Infrastructure Project	Large scale development including power generating stations which requires development consent under the Planning Act 2008. An offshore wind farm project with a capacity of more than 100MW constitutes an NSIP
Order land	The land shown on the land plans which is within the Order Limits in respect of which rights are to be acquired and described in the book of reference.
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 applicants and is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development
Project Change Request 1	The proposed changes to the DCO application for the Projects set out in Project Change Request 1 - Offshore & Intertidal Works [document reference 10.49].









Term	Definition
Receptor	A distinct part of the environment on which effects could occur and can be the subject of specific assessments. Examples of Receptors include species (or groups) of animals, plants, people (often categorised further such as 'residential' or those using areas for amenity or recreation), watercourses etc.
Section 42 Consultee	Organisations and individuals that are required to be consulted by the Applicants under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. Non-prescribed Section 42 consultees may be included by Applicants if identified as being of significance.
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

Acronym	Definition
AEol	Adverse Effect on Integrity
ANS	Artificial Nesting Sites
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
CIMP	Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan
DBS	Dogger Bank South
DCO	Development Consent Order
DML	Deemed Marine Licence
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
ExA	Examining Authority
FLCP	Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MMMP	Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol
ММО	Marine Management Organisation
NAS	Noise Abatement Systems
NIS	Non-Invasive Species
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
OFTO	Offshore Transmission Owner







Acronym	Definition
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PEMP	Project Environmental Management Plan
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
PSA	Particle Size Analysis
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SIP	Site Integrity Plan
SNCB	Statutory Nature Conservation Body
SNS	Southern North Sea
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance







1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1. The Application is for development consent for the Applicants to construct and operate the proposed Projects under the Planning Act 2008. Further description of the Projects is available in **Chapter 5 Project Description** [APP-071].
- 2. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared between RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Ltd and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Ltd, ('the Applicants') and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to set out the areas of agreement and disagreement between the two parties in relation to the proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Dogger Bank South ('DBS') West Offshore Wind Farm and DBS East Offshore Wind Farm, collectively known as DBS Offshore Wind Farms (herein 'the Projects').
- 3. In drafting this SoCG, the Applicants have had regard to the Planning Act 2008 Guidance: Examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2024).
- 4. The need for a SoCG between the Applicants and the MMO has been set out within the Rule 6 letter [PD-002] issued by the Planning Inspectorate post-application of the Projects DCO.
- of discussions between the parties and has been structured to reflect topics which are of interest to the MMO and which have been raised within the **MMO's Relevant**Representation [RR-030] to the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms DCO that has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate pursuant to the Planning Act 2008.
- 6. It is the intention that this document will facilitate further discussions between the Applicants and the MMO and will provide the ExA with a clear overview of the level of common ground between both parties. This document will be updated throughout the Examination process.
- 7. The following application documents have informed the discussions with the MMO and address the elements of the Projects that may affect the interests of the MMO (Table 1-1):

Table 1-1 - Application documents of interest to the MMO

ES Chapter/ Application Document	Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Reference
Deemed Marine Licences (within the Draft Development Consent Order)	APP-027 (superseded by Revision 4 – AS-130 and AS-131)







ES Chapter/ Application Document	Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Reference
Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment Alternatives	APP-067 (superseded by Revision 2 - AS-017 and AS-018)
Chapter 4 - Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives Figure 4-1 to Figure 4-36	APP-068
Chapter 5 Project Description	APP-071
Chapter 5 - Project Description Figure 5-1 to Figure 5-4	APP-072
Appendix 5-1 Project Description Consultation Responses	APP-073
Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment	APP-080
Chapter 8 - Marine Physical Environment Figure 8-1 to Figure 8-13	APP-081
Appendix 8-1 Marine Physical Environment Consultation Responses	APP-082
Appendix 8-2 Met Mast Survey Analysis	APP-083
Appendix 8-3 Marine Physical Processes Modelling Technical Report	APP-084
Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology	APP-085
Chapter 9 - Benthic and Intertidal Ecology Figure 9-1 to Figure 9-6	APP-086
Appendix 9-1 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology Consultation Responses	APP-087
Appendix 9-2 Intertidal Survey Report	APP-088
Appendix 9-3 Benthic Ecology Monitoring Report	APP-089
Appendix 9-4 Environmental Features Report	APP-090
Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology	APP-091
Chapter 10 - Fish and Shellfish Ecology Figure 10-1 to Figure 10-10	APP-092







ES Chapter/ Application Document	Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Reference
Appendix 10-1 Fish and Shellfish Ecology Consultation Responses	APP-093
Appendix 10-2 Fish and Shellfish Ecology Technical Appendix	APP-094
Chapter 11 Marine Mammals	APP-095
Chapter 11 - Marine Mammals Figure 11-1 to 11-9	APP-og6
Appendix 11-1 Marine Mammal Consultation Responses	APP-097
Appendix 11-2 Marine Mammal Information Report	APP-098
Appendix 11-3 Underwater Noise Modelling Report	APP-099
Appendix 11-4 iPCoD Modelling	APP-100
Appendix 11-5 CEA Screening	APP-101
Appendix 11-6 Unexploded Ordnance Clearance Information and Assessment	APP-102 (superseded by Revision 2 — AS-055 and AS-056)
Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology	APP-103 (superseded by Revision 2 - AS-057 and AS-058)
Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology - Figure 12-1	AS-059
Appendix 12-1 Offshore Ornithology Consultation Responses	APP-104
Appendix 12-2 Technical Appendix	APP-105
Appendix 12-3a-c Monthly Abundance - All, Sitting, Flying	APP-106 (superseded by Revision 2 — AS-060 and AS-061)
Appendix 12-4a-c Monthly Densities - All, Sitting, Flying	APP-107 (superseded by Revision 2 — AS -062 and AS-063)
Appendix 12-5a-c Seasonal Peak Abundance - All, Sitting, Flying	APP-108 (superseded by Revision 2 - AS-064 and AS-65)
Appendix 12-6a-c Seasonal Peak Density - All, Sitting, Flying	APP-109 (superseded by Revision 2 — AS-066 and AS-067)







ES Chapter/ Application Document	Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Reference
Appendix 12-7a-c Survey Abundances - All, Sitting, Flying	APP-110 (superseded by Revision 2 — AS-068 and AS-069)
Appendix 12-8a-c Survey Densities - All, Sitting, Flying	APP-111 (superseded by Revision 2 - AS-070 and AS-071)
Appendix 12-9 Collision Risk Modelling Outputs	APP-112
Appendix 12-10 Species Distribution Figures	APP-113
Appendix 12-11 Review of Turbines Lighting - Furness 2018	APP-114
Appendix 12-12 Seasonal Displacement Matrices Upper Lower C.I. Abundance	APP-115
Appendix 12-13 Population Viability Analyses	APP-116
Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries	APP-117
Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries Figure 13-1 to Figure 13-2	APP-118
Appendix 13-1 Commercial Fisheries Consultation Responses	APP-119
Appendix 13-2 Commercial Fisheries Technical Report	APP-120
Appendix A - Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening	APP-049
Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol	APP-249 (superseded by Revision 2 - AS-100 and AS-101)
In Principle Site Integrity Plan for the Southern North Sea Special Area of Conservation	APP-250 (superseded by Revision 2 - AS-102 and AS-103)
Heat Mapping Report: Atlantic Herring and Sandeel	AS-105
The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations	PDA-013







8. The MMO and the Applicants have been working together to minimise possible impacts of the Projects on the MMO's operations. In the case of NSIPs, the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) enables DCOs for projects which affect the marine environment to include provisions which deem marine licences. As a prescribed consultee under the 2008 Act, the MMO advises developers during pre-application on those aspects of a project that may have an impact on the marine area or those who use it. In addition to considering the impacts of any construction, deposit or removal within the marine area, this also includes assessing any risks to human health, other legitimate uses of the sea and any potential impacts on the marine environment from terrestrial works. Where a marine licence is deemed within a DCO, the MMO is the delivery body responsible for post-consent monitoring, variation, enforcement and revocation of provisions relating to the marine environment. As such, the MMO has a keen interest in ensuring that provisions drafted in a deemed marine licence (DML) enable the MMO to fulfil these obligations.

1.2 Approach to SoCG

- g. This SoCG has been developed during the pre-examination and examination phases of the Projects. In accordance with discussions between the Applicants and the MMO, this SoCG is focused on matters of material interest and relevance to the MMO, namely matters covered in the Application Documents outlined in Table 1-1 and related topics.
- 10. The structure of this SoCG is as follows:
 - Introduction: background to the development of the SoCG.
 - Consultation: a summary of consultation to date.
 - Agreement Log: a record of the Applicants' position alongside the MMO's position. Table 3-2 to Table 3-7 sets out those areas agreed, 'not agreed' or 'under discussion' in relation to the application documents set out in Table 1-1.
- 11. It is agreed that this SoCG is an accurate description of the areas agreed and under discussion between the parties, and that this SoCG accurately records key meetings and consultation with the MMO.
- As referenced in **Table 2-1**, the Applicants consulted the MMO on Project Change Request 1 between 15th November and 16th December 2024. The MMO provided consultation comments on 16th December 2024 regarding the Change Request. As Project Change Request 1 was only recently accepted into the Examination on 21st January 2025, this SoCG does not include details of those comments, which will instead be included in the next iteration of this document.





2 Consultation

2.1 Introduction to Consultation

The MMO have been consulted on the proposed development throughout the preapplication stage (e.g. Scoping and PEIR), having engaged in the Site Selection, Marine Physical Environment, Benthic and Intertidal Ecology, Fish and Shellfish Ecology, Marine Mammals, and Offshore Ornithology (ETG) meetings under the Evidence Plan Process (EPP), as well as via non-statutory and statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.

2.2 Consultation Summary

Table 2-1 summarises the consultation that the Applicants have undertaken with the MMO as statutory or non-statutory consultation during the pre-application and postapplication phases.

Table 2-1 - Summary of pre-application and post-application consultation with the MMO

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title/ Topic	Summary of Consultation
Pre-Applicat	tion		
17/09/2021	DBS ETG Meeting	Marine Mammals Pre-Scoping	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: Project Update; EPP; Scoping Report and the approach to the EIA (offshore); and Site Selection Methodology.
28/09/2021	DBS ETG Meeting	Seabed	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: Project Update; EPP; Scoping Report and the approach to the EIA (offshore); Marine Physical Environment; Benthic Habitat and Species; Fish and Shellfish Ecology; Approach to HRA; and Site Selection Methodology.







Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title/ Topic	Summary of Consultation
13/10/2021	DBS ETG Meeting	Offshore Ornithology Pre-Scoping	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: Project Update; EPP; Scoping Report and the approach to the EIA (offshore); Approach to HRA; and Site selection methodology.
16/12/2021	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Project background; Current status; Indicative programme; Current priorities; and Survey Plans.
21/04/2021	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Any outstanding actions; DBS update: Project programme; DBS update: Survey Plans; and MMO updates.
16/02/2022	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Next round of ETGs; Metocean buoy deployment; Marine traffic surveys; Ornithology and marine mammal aerial surveys; and 2022 site investigation campaign.
04/05/2022	DBS ETG Meeting	Site Selection	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: • Provide ETGs with a project update; and • Review the site selection work for Creyke Beck.
23/05/2022	DBS ETG Meeting	Site Selection MMO/Natural England	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: Provide ETGs with a project update; Site selection work for Creyke Beck; and Onshore Ecology Survey.







Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title/ Topic	Summary of Consultation
26/05/2022	DBS ETG Meeting	Marine Physical Environment Benthic Habitat Benthic/ Marine Physical Processes Method Statement	 The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: Benthic survey campaign methodology; Marine physical processes assessment methodology; and Methodology for both aspects of discussion.
21/06/2022	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Actions; DBS update: Site selection; DBS update: Scoping; DBS update: Further issues; Programme update; Survey update; and MMO update.
21/06/2022	Email	Marine Physical Environment	MMO provided comment on the Marine Physical Processes Method Statement and confirmed no comment on the benthic/physical processes ETG minutes.
01/09/2022	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Actions; DBS update: Site selection; DBS update: Scoping; Programme update; Consultation; Survey update; HRA; and MMO update.
20/10/2022	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Actions; DBS update: Site selection; DBS update: Scoping; Programme update; Consultation; Survey update; and MMO update.







Date	Form of	Meeting Title/	Summary of Consultation
	Consultation	Topic	, and the second
07/12/2022	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Actions; DBS update: Site selection; DBS update: PEIR; Programme update; Consultation; Survey update; HRA; and MMO update.
20/01/2023	DBS ETG Meeting	Marine Physical Environment Pre-PEIR	 The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: Baseline environment characterisation; Approach to coastal erosion assessment; Marine Physical Processes Method Statement and applicability of Creyke Beck; and Numerical Modelling to the Dogger Bank South Projects.
30/01/2023	Email	HRA Screening	MMO provided comments on the HRA Screening report.
07/02/2023	DBS ETG Meeting	Benthic Habitats and Fish and Shellfish Ecology Seabed pre-PEIR	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: Project update; Baseline environment for the Benthic & Intertidal Ecology and Fish & Shellfish Ecology site-specific surveys undertaken in 2022; and Impacts assessed for Benthic & Intertidal Ecology.
15/02/2023	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Actions; DBS update: Site selection; DBS update: PEIR; Programme update; Consultation; Survey update; HRA; and MMO update.







Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title/ Topic	Summary of Consultation
21/02/2023	DBS ETG Meeting	Marine Mammals Pre-PEIR	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: • Project update; and • Summary on responses to: • Scoping comments, the site specific surveys undertaken to inform PEIR, the underwater; and • Noise modelling approach and a brief summary of sites screened in for HRA.
19/04/2023	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Actions; DBS update: PEIR; Programme update; Consultation; Survey update; and HRA.
09/05/2023	DBS ETG Meeting	Offshore Ornithology Non- Kittiwake Compensation	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: • Discuss potential compensation measures for non-kittiwake species.
24/05/2023	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Project Update; Offshore Completed Surveys; Offshore Upcoming Surveys; HRA; and MMO Update.
21/06/2023	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Outstanding Actions; Project Update; Survey Activity; HRA; and MMO Update.
17/07/2023	Section 42 Consultation	Benthic Habitats Marine Physical Environment	The MMO's response to Section 42 consultation on PEIR. See Appendix G Section 42 and 47 Responses and Applicants regard [APP-044] of the Consultation Report [APP-034].







Date	Form of	Meeting Title/	Summary of Consultation
Dute	Consultation	Topic	Sommary or consolitation
		Fish and Shellfish Ecology Marine Mammals Commercial Fisheries	
13/08/23	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Outstanding Actions; Project Update; Survey Activity; HRA; and MMO Update.
11/09/2023	DBS ETG Meeting	Marine Physical Processes	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: • Project Update; • Marine Physical Processes Numerical Modelling: • Approach; • Progress; • Initial results; and • Ongoing modelling.
14/09/2023	DBS ETG Meeting	Marine Mammals	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: Project update; Site selection; Marine Mammals: PEIR comments and responses; Updated underwater noise modelling; Noise mitigation measures; and Noise monitoring: Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA); Summary and next step.
21/09/2023	DBS ETG Meeting	Benthic and Intertidal Ecology	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: • Project Update: • Benthic and Intertidal Ecology; and • Review of PEIR Responses.





Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title/ Topic	Summary of Consultation
			 Marine Conservation Zone Area Considerations: Fish and Shellfish Ecology; and Herring and Sandeel PEIR Queries. Other Related Queries.
09/10/2023	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Outstanding Actions; Project Update; Survey Activity; HRA; and MMO Update.
15/01/2024	DBS ETG Meeting	Marine Mammals Pre-ES	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: Project Update; Marine Mammals Update: Summary of densities; PIER comments; Significant impacts in the ES; Cumulative assessment and population modelling; Preliminary RIAA Assessment results; SIP; and Marine Mammal Monitoring Protocol (MMMP). In-Principle monitoring plan.
17/01/2024	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Outstanding Actions; Project Update; Survey Activity; HRA; and MMO Update.
25/01/2024	Meeting	Pre-Application Steering Group Meeting	Meeting with the MMO, The Planning Inspectorate, Historic England, Natural England, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the Environment Agency to discuss the following: Programme for application; Pre-application consultation programme:







Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title/ Topic	Summary of Consultation
			 Project programme (ETG topics, Auk compensation); and RWE aims and expectations. Stakeholder feedback on resourcing and any foreseeable issues; and The Planning Inspectorates thoughts of 2024 examinations.
25/01/2024	Email	Steering Group Meeting	MMO issued comments on the pre-application steering group meeting.
25/01/2024	Email	Offshore Ornithology	The Applicants issued a summary report detailing the collision and displacement numbers of key species that were used to inform the Offshore Ornithology ES chapter
29/01/2024	DBS ETG Meeting	Benthic Ecology and Physical Processes	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: Project Update; Physical Processes: Modelling update; Summary of construction impacts and model results; and Summary of operation impacts. Benthic and Intertidal Ecology: Benthic Ecology Monitoring Survey Summary; Impact results from the ES; and Results from the CEA. Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) conclusions.
06/02/2024	DBS ETG Meeting	Offshore Ornithology Pre- ES	 The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: DBS Project Update; Discussion of key PEIR comments; Presentation of preliminary ES results; and Presentation of preliminary HRA results for project alone key SPAs.
15/02/2024	Email	Marine Mammals	MMO issued comments on the 15 th January pre- EA Marine Mammal ETG.







Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title/ Topic	Summary of Consultation
23/02/2024	DBS ETG Meeting	Fish and Shellfish Ecology	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting:
			 Project Update; Draft Assessment Findings; Potential Mitigation Options; and PEIR Comments.
29/02/2024	DBS Draft ETG Meeting	Offshore Ornithology	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting:
		Auks Compensation	 Project updates; Long-list of measures for Auk species compensation; and Next step.
28/03/2024	Email	Dogger Bank South OWF - 2024 Geotechnical Campaign	Submission of 2024 Geotechnical Campaign updated from the 2024 campaign
10/04/2024	DBS Draft ETG Meeting	Offshore Ornithology Auks Compensation	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: • Project updates; • Predator eradication / reduction; • Bycatch and Artificial Nesting Sites (ANS); and • Next steps.
10/04/2024	Email	General	Draft DCO was submitted.
10/04/2024	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Outstanding Actions; Project Update; Survey Activity; HRA; and MMO Update.
11/04/2024	DBS ETG Meeting	Benthic Habitats Benthic HRA and Compensation	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: Project Update; RIAA Conclusions; and Compensation.







Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title/ Topic	Summary of Consultation
24/042024	Email	Steering Group Meeting	The Applicants issued Steering Group Meeting minutes. No comments were received.
25/04/2024	DBS ETG Meeting	Offshore Ornithology South Kittiwake Compensation	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: Project updates; Conclusions for FFC SPA Kittiwake; Overview of the Approach to Compensation; and Offshore ANS Proposal.
23/05/2024	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Outstanding Actions; Project Update; Survey Activity; HRA; and MMO Update.
30/05/2024	Email	Offshore Ornithology	MMO made no changes to second auk compensation meeting minutes. They stated that they do not support compensation to be agreed post-consent when it is a condition on the deemed marine licence.
30/05/2024	Email	Offshore Ornithology	MMO made no changes to kittiwake compensation meeting minutes. They stated that they do not support compensation to be agreed post-consent when it is a condition on the deemed marine licence.
Post-Submis	ssion		
03/10/2024	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Outstanding Actions; Project Update; Survey Activity; HRA; and MMO Update.
09/09/2024	Email	Relevant Representation	Received the MMO's relevant representation to The Planning Inspectorate.







Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title/ Topic	Summary of Consultation
08/10/2024	Email	Relevant Representation	The Applicants responded to the MMO's Relevant Representation within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013].
10/10/2024	Dedicated Meeting	Draft SoCG meeting	Meeting held to discuss the draft SoCG with the MMO.
15/11/2024	Email	Project Change Request 1	Project Change Request 1 - Environmental Assessment Update [document reference:C1.1] issued to the MMO for comment.
26/11/2024	Email	Draft SoCG meeting minutes	Draft SoCG meeting minutes sent to MMO for review.
27/11/2024	Email	Draft SoCG	MMO provided comments on the draft SoCG previously issued.
28/11/2024	Meeting	DBS MMO Regular Meeting	 Meeting to discuss the following with the MMO: Outstanding Actions; Project Update; Survey Activity; HRA; and MMO Update. MMO also stated that they had no comments on the draft minutes.
12/12/2024	Email	SoCG meeting minutes and Revised Draft SoCG	Final SOCG meeting minutes sent to the MMO alongside a revised draft of the SoCG.
20/01/2025	Email	Draft SoCG	The MMO returned the revised draft SoCG with minor comments.
21/01/2025	Email	Draft SoCG	Revised draft SoCG issued to the MMO.
27/01/2025	Email	Draft SoCG	The MMO confirmed agreement of the Draft SoCG for submission into Examination at Deadline 1.







Agreement Log

3.1 Overview

- The following sections of this SoCG summarise the level of agreement between the 15. parties for each relevant offshore topic.
- To easily identify whether a matter is 'agreed', 'not agreed' or 'under discussion', a 16. colour coding system red, amber, green is used respectively within the 'position status colour' column as set out in **Table 3-1**.

Table 3-1 Agreement logs position status key

Position Status	Position Status Colour
The matter is considered to be agreed between the parties.	Agreed
The matter is neither 'agreed' or 'not agreed' and is a matter where further discussion is required between the parties, for example where relevant documents are being prepared or reviewed.	Under discussion
The matter is not agreed between the parties, however the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicants or the MMO is not considered to result in a material impact to the assessment conclusions. Discussions have concluded.	Not agreed – No material impact
The matter is not agreed between the parties and the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicants or the MMO is considered to result in a materially different outcome on the assessment conclusions.	Not agreed – material impact







3.2 General

Table 3-2 General Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed with the MMO

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
EIA – Co	onsultation		
1.	The Applicants have adequately consulted with the MMO throughout all stages of the Projects to date and the summary of Consultation (section 2.2 of this SoCG) is a fair and accurate record of pre-application consultation.	The MMO agrees with the applicant and considers this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
EIA – Si	te Selection and Assessment of Alternatives		
2.	The site selection and route refinement outlined in Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives [APP-067] has properly considered the alternatives for the relevant elements of the Projects.	The MMO agrees with the applicant and considers this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their		





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
EIA – De	ecommissioning		
3.	The ES chapters appropriately consider decommissioning at this stage of the process. The detail and scope of the decommissioning works will be determined by the relevant legislation and guidance at the time of decommissioning and will be agreed with the regulator. The Applicants response to the MMOs request within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] stated: The approach to assessing decommissioning impacts within the ES has followed the industry standard approach and is proportionate to the level of information available to consider on the topic at this time. The decommissioning sequence will generally be the reverse of construction and will involve similar types and numbers of vessels and equipment. As such, the effect of decommissioning on the marine physical environment will be comparable or lesser than those during the construction phase. Therefore, the ES chapters already appropriately consider decommissioning at this stage of the process and no further changes or additions need to be made.	The MMO's Relevant Representation states: 'The MMO requests the Applicant to amend the ES chapters by incorporating a section which clearly outlines the anticipated impacts to receptors from the decommissioning stage of the development. All impacts scoped into the decommissioning phase must be appropriately assessed in the ES so that it is clear to the examining authority that the Applicant has put sufficient thought into the impacts that their proposed development will have on the environment at all stages of its lifecycle. Presenting an incomplete assessment for a development of this nature and scale is not acceptable'. It has been discussed that a section/table is included within the ES that combines each chapters decommissioning detail and scope. This is to give a clearer overview of impacts at the decommissioning stage within one section. The MMO is currently reviewing the requirement for an outline decommissioning plan and condition within the DML and will provide comments in due course.	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
Other [Documents		
4.	The Outline Scour Protection [APP-251] provides sufficient details on the principles of how the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms intend to manage the effects of scour and hazards post-construction and throughout the operational life of the Projects. The Applicants acknowledged this request within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] and submitted the Outline Scour Protection Plan (Revision 2) [AS-080 and AS-081] on the 22 nd November 2024.	Within the Relevant Representation, the MMO requests that "Section 1.1 Purpose of this document' is updated to state how and when the plan will be agreed." The MMO will provide any further comments on the Outline Scour Protection Plan at Deadline 1.	
5.	The Outline Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan [APP-248] provides a description of the maintenance activities assessed in the ES at the Projects in order to inform the final Operation and Maintenance Plans(s) post-consent. The Applicants acknowledged this request within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] and submitted the Outline Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan (Revision 2) [AS-027 and AS-028] on the 8 th November 2024.	Within the Relevant Representation, the MMO requests that the definition of maintenance should be clearly defined and restricted to works that have been assessed and consented. In addition, clarification is sought on the numbers for the footprint of potential cable re-burial and cable protection replacement and whether scour protection is included within the offshore platforms section.	
6.	The Cable Statement [APP-244] sufficiently sets out the considerations for cable route design and the approach to installation, presenting preliminary information regarding the cable	The MMO requests 'Section 1.2 Purpose of the Cable Statement' is updated to state how and when the final cable	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	specification, burial depths and cable protection both offshore and onshore.	statement will be agreed. This should state that the final document will be submitted to the MMO for approval.	
	The Applicants acknowledged this request within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] and submitted the Cable Statement (Revision 2) [AS-078 and AS-079] on the 22 nd November 2024.	The MMO also requests that 'Section 1.4.5.2 UXO clearance' is updated to clarify that separate marine licence consents are required for UXO surveys and clearance.	
7.	The Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan (FLCP) [APP-252] provides a sufficient overview of sections that will be included in the final FLCP in order to facilitate and promote positive relationships and working between the Projects and local commercial fishing interests.	The MMO requests the below text in section 1.2 paragraph 6 is updated to remove the word 'material'. All changes to the Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan must be submitted to the MMO for approval.	
	The Applicants acknowledged this request within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] and submitted the Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan (Revision 2) [AS-081 and AS-082] on the 22 nd November 2024.	'The MMO will be consulted on any material changes to the FLCP. At the time of Offshore Transmission Owner (OFTO) Transaction, post construction, RWE and Masdar will make the latest finalised FLCP available to the OFTO for their awareness'.	
8.	The In Principle Monitoring Plan (SIP) for the Southern North Sea (SNS) Special Area of Conservation (SAC) [APP-250] provides a sufficient plan for monitoring measures that is required by conditions within the Deemed Marine Licences for the Projects.	The MMO notes in their Relevant Representation that: 'The MMO advise that monitoring of non-native invasive species (NIS) is undertaken to manage colonisation of infrastructure during the operation lifetime.	
	The Applicants acknowledged these requests within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013].	In addition, as there maybe anchoring events within the Holderness Inshore Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ),	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	With regards to invasive species, through the employment of biosecurity measures embedded into the Projects' design, the potential for the spread and colonisation of invasive species will be negligible. As such the Applicants believe that monitoring of NIS during the operational stages of the Projects is not required.	monitoring would be required to ensure that there is no impact. More information is also required on the timings of surveys and the expectations of the monitoring.	
	In relation to the Holderness Inshore MCZ, the Applicants committed pre-submission to no jack-up activities occurring within the MCZ. This commitment has been amended to include anchoring, therefore there is no longer any potential for direct impacts during cable installation activities to occur within the MCZ and as such no monitoring is required.		
9.	The Outline Project Environmental Management Plan (PEMP) [APP-245] provides sufficient detail on the linkages between the impact assessment for the offshore components of the Projects in order to inform the final PEMP.	The MMO notes in their Relevant Representation that they are still reviewing this and will provide comments at Deadline 1.	
10.	The In Principle Site Integrity Plan (SIP) for the Southern North Sea (SNS) Special Area of Conservation (SAC) [APP-250] sufficiently sets to sets out the approach for the Applicants to deliver potential mitigation and management measures that may be required to ensure the avoidance of Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEoI) on the designated feature of the SNS SAC.	With the Relevant Representation, the MMO requests that the following sections are also included within the SIP: Introduction: The Southern North Sea SAC. Project Description:	
	The Applicants acknowledged this request within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] and submitted	 Project Commitments. 	







SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	the In Principle Site Integrity Plan (Revision 2) [AS-102 and AS-103] on the 28 th November 2024.	 In Principle Management and Mitigation Measures: Measure X: Scheduling of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Clearance; Measure X: Clustering of UXO devices; Measures Not Applicable; and Other Mitigation Measures outside the scope of the SIP. 	
11.	The Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol [APP-249] sufficiently demonstrates the principles of the final MMMP to be submitted for approval under the Draft Development Consent Order [APP-027].	With the Relevant Representation, the MMO 'largely agree with the approach set out in the document' but requests minor changes regarding the breaks in piling and noise abatement measures.	
	The Applicants acknowledged this request within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] and submitted the Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (Revision 2) [AS-100 and AS-1014] on the 28 th November 2024.		
12.	The Disposal Site Characterisation Report [APP-242] provides sufficient information to characterise the disposal requirements for the Projects.	Within the Relevant Representation the MMO agree that "The characterisation report is therefore sufficient to designate the disposal sites".	
	The Applicants acknowledged this request within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] and will update the Disposal Site Characterisation Report [APP-242] during the Examination process.	However, the MMO requires information from the Applicants in relation to the specific sites to allow these to be designated. During a recent call with the Applicants the MMO discussed concerns regarding double consenting as disposal sites overlap	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
		and would like for this to be considered in the updates for Deadline 1.	

3.3 Deemed Marine Licences

Table 3-3 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to the Deemed Marine Licences

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
13.	All provisions set out in Article 5 (Benefit of the Order) in the DMLs within the Draft Development Consent Order [APP-027] are considered appropriate. The Applicants disagree with the MMO's position on this point and have provided a response within The Applicants (Bespenses to	In their Relevant Representation the MMO have requested for several sections of text to be removed from Article 5. The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2.	
	have provided a response within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-o13], submitted at Pre-Exam Procedural Deadline A. Awaiting further comments from the MMO on this topic.		
14.	The timeframes set out in the DMLs within the Draft Development Consent Order [APP-027] for the MMO's review of plans submitted by the Applicants are considered appropriate.	In their Relevant Representation the MMO noted that 'The MMO strongly considers that it is inappropriate to put timeframes on complex technical decisions of this nature. The time it takes the MMO to make such determinations depends on the quality of the application made, the complexity of the issues and the	







SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	The Applicants disagree with the MMO's position on this point, and have provided a response within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013], submitted at Pre-Exam Procedural Deadline A. Awaiting further comments from the MMO on this topic.	amount of consultation the MMO is required to undertake with other organisations to seek resolutions.' The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2.	
15.	The application timeframes for submission of plans to the MMO for approval as detailed in the DMLs within the Draft Development Consent Order [APP-027] are considered appropriate. The Applicants welcome that the MMO is open to discussion on this point and will therefore seek to agree the relevant timescales with the MMO and update the Examining Authority (ExA) once those discussions have taken place.	In their Relevant Representation the MMO noted that 'The MMO believes that if time scales are included within the DML for plans, then these should be 6 months and not 4 months.', also noting however that 'without prejudice to this position, the MMO is open to discussions on which documents should be 6 months and which documents could be 4 months, in order to take into account the concerns that the Applicant may have.' The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2.	
16.	The disposal sites identified in the DMLs within the Draft Development Consent Order [APP-027] are considered appropriate. The Applicants will update the appropriate DMLs to add the names of the relevant disposal sites and will submit an updated Draft DCO (Revision 3) [AS-120 and AS-121] in a future revision of the document.	In their Relevant Representation the MMO requested further clarification on the number and purpose of the disposal sites identified within the DMLs. During a recent call with the Applicants, the MMO discussed concerns regarding double consenting as disposal sites overlap and would like for this to be considered in the updates for Deadline 1.	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
17.	All potential risks of chemicals in the marine environment have been considered with appropriate conditions included in the DMLs within the Draft Development Consent Order [APP-027]. The Applicants acknowledge this request and will update the Outline Scour Protection Plan [APP-251] in line with the request in a future revision of the document.	In their Relevant Representation the MMO requested that 'the Applicant should consider the risks of placing plastic infrastructure into the marine environment, should they degrade. This should be discussed in the Outline Scour Protection Plan (document 8.26).' The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2. The MMO will also request an update to the Chemical condition at Deadline 2.	
18.	The DMLs within the Draft Development Consent Order [APP-027] include all relevant maximum design parameters for the Projects. The Applicants acknowledge this comment within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] and have made appropriate updates to the DMLs, submitted Draft DCO (Revision 3) [AS-120 and AS-121] on 6th December 2024.	In their Relevant Representation the MMO noted some design parameters that were missing from the DMLs and requested their addition. The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2.	
19.	All appropriate conditions regarding the reporting of impact pile driving have been included in the DMLs within the Draft Development Consent Order [APP-027]. The Applicants acknowledge this comment within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] and have made appropriate updates to the DMLs, submitted Draft DCO Revision 3) [AS-120 and AS-121] on 6 th December 2024.	In their Relevant Representation the MMO requested an additional condition be added to the DMLs on the reporting of impact pile driving to comply with UK requirements on noise reporting. The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2.	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
20.	All appropriate conditions regarding maintenance reporting have been included in the DMLs within the Draft Development Consent Order [APP-027]. The Applicants acknowledge this comment within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] and have made appropriate updates to the DMLs, submitted Draft DCO (Revision 3) [AS-120 and AS-121] on 6 th December 2024.	In their Relevant Representation the MMO requested an additional condition be added to the DMLs with regards to maintenance reporting. The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2.	
21.	All seasonal restrictions on works have been included in the DMLs within the Draft Development Consent Order [APP-027]. The Applicants have committed to seasonal restrictions on piling with the Electrical Switching Platform (ESP) search area (being the area shown on the works plans for Work Nos. 6A and 6B). This commitment is secured as standalone conditions 24 in DML3 and DML4 of the Draft DCO (Revision 3) [AS-120 and AS-121]. The Applicants do not anticipate any further seasonal restrictions being required, but the MMO's position is noted. If the Applicants do make any additional commitments to seasonal restrictions, these will be included as standalone conditions to the relevant DML(s).	In their Relevant Representation the MMO requested that any seasonal restrictions for any activities are clearly conditioned as a stand-alone condition and not within an additional plan. The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2.	
22.	The DMLs within the Draft Development Consent Order [APP-027] include all appropriate ornithological monitoring conditions. The Applicants disagree with the MMO's position on this point and have provided a response to this within The Applicants' Responses	In their Relevant Representation the MMO requested a specific ornithological monitoring condition to be added to the DMLs. The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2.	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	to Relevant Representations [PDA-013], submitted at Pre-Exam Procedural Deadline A. Awaiting further comments from the MMO on this topic.		
23.	All appropriate conditions regarding piling restrictions have been included in the DMLs within the Draft Development Consent Order [APP-027].	In their Relevant Representation the MMO requested piling restriction conditions are included within the DML 1 (Schedule 10) and DML 2 (Schedule 11).	
	The Applicants disagree with the MMO's position on this point and have provided a response to this within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013], submitted at Pre-Exam Procedural Deadline A. Awaiting further comments from the MMO on this topic.	The MMO also requested that no piling activity within the Offshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) between the months of August and October is undertaken to mitigate for disturbance to the Banks population of Atlantic herring via impulsive underwater noise impacts. The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2.	
24.	No additional conditions regarding activities interacting with the seabed within the Offshore Export Cable Corridor are required to be included in the DMLs within the Draft Development Consent Order [APP-027] with regard to herring. The Applicants welcome the MMO's pragmatism in the potential for the spatial refinement of the proposed temporal restriction. The Heat Mapping Report: Atlantic Herring and Sandeel [AS-105]	In their Relevant Representation the MMO requested that a temporal restriction from the 1st August – 31st October to be placed on works which interact with the seabed within the Offshore Export Cable Corridor, noting however it may be possible for this restriction to be refined spatially given that some areas of the cable route offshore are not situated within the herring spawning ground.	
	submitted on 28 th November 2024, presents an updated heat map using the Kyle-Henney <i>et al.</i> (2024) methodology, and utilise Particle Size Analysis (PSA) data to ground-truth the underlying	The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2.	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	EMODnet data layers. Areas characterised as unsuitable potential spawning habitat by the PSA data (aligning the Folk classifications with the description of unsuitable habitat in Kyle-Henney <i>et al.</i> (2024) will be deemed as 'not a potential spawning habitat for Atlantic herring'.		
	The restriction as proposed in its current form does not align with the most recent restrictions pertaining to herring spawning in the North Sea. The Heat Mapping Report: Atlantic Herring and Sandeel [AS-105] assesses the suitability of the proposed temporal restrictions, whilst also further refining regions of the Offshore Development Area where herring spawning potential is 'moderate' to 'higher' based on best available data.		
25.	All necessary timeframes for dredging and clearance activities have been included in the DMLs within the Draft Development Consent Order [APP-027]. The Applicants are not able to confirm at this stage whether any dredging or clearance activities will take longer than three years from commencement and on that basis, the Draft DCO (Revision 3) [AS-120 and AS-121] has been updated to include a sediment sampling condition in the DMLs.	In their Relevant Representation the MMO requested clarity on if any dredging or clearance activities will take longer than 3 years from commencement, and if so that an additional condition be added to the DMLs. The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2.	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
26.	The Applicants' inclusion of the "Force Majeure" conditions within the Draft DCO [APP-027] are relevant and in line with other offshore wind DCOs. This condition is well precedented, and commonly included in DCOs. The Applicants do not agree that this wording is not necessary. Section 86 provides a defence for actions taken in an emergency, whereas this condition is about notifying the MMO of a deposit made in those circumstances. It does not overlap with Section 86, which will still apply. No change to the Draft DCO [APP-027] is proposed.	The MMO request that "Force Majeure" conditions are removed from the DML. The MMO does not consider provisions on Force Majeure to be necessary as Section 86 MCAA 2009 provides a defence for action taken in an emergency in breach of any licence conditions. The defence under Section 86 of MCAA has two limbs, and in the event that the undertaker fails to notify the appropriate licensing authority, in this case the MMO, within a reasonable time of their actions (Section 86(2) "matters") the defence cannot be relied upon in the event of any enforcement action.	







3.4 Marine Physical Environment

Table 3-4 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Marine Physical Environment

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
EIA – Plan	ning and Policy		
27.	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in section 8.4.1 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-080] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment. The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation.	The MMO notes that this will need to remain open until all other topics have been agreed.	
EIA – Base	eline Environment		
28.	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment as detailed in section 8.5 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-080]. The Applicants maintain that the ES adequately characterises the baseline environment as detailed in section 8.5 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-080].	In their Section 42 response the MMO noted that that the physical process impacts were 'generalised (i.e., estimated based on an 'expert judgement' application of impacts approximated on the basis of other locations)'. In the final ES chapter the marine physical processes baseline has been updated with project specific data and the results from Appendix 8-3 – Marine Physical Processes Modelling Technical Report [APP-084]. No further comments were made	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
		in the MMO's Relevant Representations regarding the baseline environment.	
		The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2 this is not yet considered agreed.	
29.	Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within section 8.5 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o].	The MMO will provide further response to this in Deadline 2, this is not yet considered agreed.	
	The Applicants maintain that sufficient survey data have been collected to inform the assessment as presented within section 8.5 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-080].		
EIA – Asse	ssment Methodology		
30.	The study area identified in section 8.3.1 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-080] is appropriate.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
31.	The realistic worst-case scenario presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 8-1 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-080] is appropriate.	Within the Relevant Representation, the MMO would like clarification on how the maximum volume of sediment disturbed due to seabed preparation was calculated.	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	The Applicants have provided further explanatory text within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] in response to the MMO's Relevant Representation.	A further response will be provided in Deadline 1 or 2 following review of the Applicants' response to the MMOs Relevant Representation.	
32.	The embedded mitigation measures in Table 8-3 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-080] are appropriate. The Applicants acknowledge this comment within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] and note that the Draft DCO (Revision 3) [AS-120 and AS-121] was submitted on 6 th December 2024.	The MMO did not comment on the appropriateness of the embedded mitigation measures within their Relevant Representation, only that they should be clearly reflected in the DML. A further response will be provided in Deadline 1 or 2 following review of the Applicants' response to the MMOs Relevant Representation.	
33.	The project-specific numerical modelling undertaken for the assessment as presented in Appendix 8-3 Marine Physical Processes Modelling Technical Report [APP-084] is sufficient to inform the assessment of effects presented in section 8.6 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-080].	The MMO have noted that the worst-case turbine array layout options remain under discussion and may provide a further response at future examination deadlines.	
	The Applicants believe the worst-case array layout option used to inform the assessment within Appendix 8-3 Marine Physical Processes Modelling Technical Report [APP-084] is a realistic option based on design parameters included in the application that represents the absolute worst-case for effects on the marine physical environment.		





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
34.	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, as presented in section 8.4.3 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-080], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
35.	The assessment of the significance of effects presented in section 8.7 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-080] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
o8o] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during construction. should note the potential for impacts of assessment. In response the Applicants	In their Section 42 response the MMO requested that the ES should note the potential for impacts of re-powering in the assessment. In response the Applicants noted that 'Given the		
	Physical Environment [APP-080] represents a comprehensive	uncertainty regarding the technical specifications around any potential repowering and therefore potential levels of impacts, reference to repowering has not been made in this ES'.	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
		No further comments were made in the MMO's Relevant Representations regarding the point on re-powering.	
		The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2, the MMO does not yet consider this matter agreed.	
37-	Section 8.7.4 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-080] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during operation.	The MMO notes in the Relevant Representation "that consideration of the 30-year operational lifespan hasn't been discussed, in terms of what might be predicted would be	
	The Applicants maintain that section 8.7.4 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-080] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during operation.	happening at the end of the operational lifespan. This should be addressed."	
		The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2, the MMO does not yet consider this matter agreed.	
38.	The assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 8.8 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	The MMO notes in the Relevant Representation that they would like the Applicants to discuss comments regarding sediment transport and sedimentary features within the cumulative impacts assessment.	
	The Applicants have provided further explanatory text in response to the MMO's Relevant Representation within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013], submitted at Pre-Exam Procedural Deadline A.		





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
EIA - Asse	ssment Conclusions		
39.	The conclusions of assessment of significance as detailed in section 8.7 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-080] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms. The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation.	The MMO notes that this will need to remain open until all other topics have been agreed.	
EIA – Cum	ulative Effects Assessment (CEA) Conclusions		
40.	The conclusions of the CEA as detailed in section 8.8 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms. The Applicants have provided further explanatory text in response to the MMO's Relevant Representation within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-o13], submitted at Pre-Exam Procedural Deadline A.	The MMO notes in the Relevant Representation that they would like the Applicants to discuss comments regarding sediment transport and sedimentary features within the cumulative impacts assessment.	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
Other Mat	ters as Required		
41.	The proposed minimising of cable protection measures in the nearshore environment are considered acceptable with regards to the significance of effect assessed in section 8.7 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-080].	The MMO has noted they are keeping a watching brief on discussions around this topic and will consider providing further comments at future deadline responses.	
The Applicants believe the embedded mitigation included in the Projects design to commit to only 10% of the length of cabling within the 10m depth contour is sufficient to reduce the potential effects on sediment transport and coastal processes in the nearshore environment.			
42.	No significant effects on coastal processes within the landfall and wider region will occur as a result of the Projects. The Applicants believe the embedded mitigation included in the Projects design to commit to only 10% of the length of cabling within the 10m depth contour is sufficient to reduce the potential effects on sediment transport and coastal processes in the nearshore environment.	The MMO has noted they are keeping a watching brief on discussions around this topic and will consider providing further comments at future deadline responses.	





3.5 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology

Table 3-5 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Benthic and Intertidal Ecology

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
EIA – PI	anning and Policy		
43.	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in section 9.4.1 of Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology [APP-085] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
EIA – Ba	aseline Environment		
44.	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment as detailed in section 9.5 of Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology [APP-085].	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
45.	Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within section 9.5 of Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology [APP-085] and described in Appendix 9-2 - Intertidal Survey Report [APP-088], Appendix 9-3 - Benthic Ecology Monitoring Report [APP-089] and Appendix 9-4 - Environmental Features Report [APP-090].	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
EIA – As	sessment Methodology		
46.	The study area identified in section 9.3.1 of Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology [APP-085] is appropriate.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
47.	The realistic worst-case scenario presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 9-1 of Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology [APP-085] is appropriate.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
48.	The embedded mitigation measures in Table 9-3 of Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology [APP-085] are appropriate. The Applicants have provided further explanatory text in response to the MMO's Relevant Representation within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013], submitted at Pre-Exam Procedural Deadline A.	Broad agreement with the MMO, however some additional information and commitments have been requested for preconstruction surveys and micro-siting (see ID 34). The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2.	
49.	The approach to Pre-construction surveys and micro-siting (as detailed in 9-3 of Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology [APP-085] is appropriate. The Applicants have provided further explanatory text in response to the MMO's Relevant Representation within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013], submitted at Pre-Exam Procedural Deadline A.	In their Relevant Representation the MMO stated that 'The MMO broadly agrees with the approach set out by the Applicant regarding the pre-construction monitoring survey to determine the presence of Annex I / UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats within the development area and inform the detailed layout design to avoid as necessary'. The MMO have requested that 'the design of the preconstruction monitoring survey is submitted at least six months prior to the first survey.' In addition, the MMO also recommended that 'the Applicant provides further clarification on specific mitigation measures to avoid Piddock' habitat', and that 'Inclusion of the requirement	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
		to provide the information on the "as built plan" of the development (relevant sections of the draft DCO referenced in paragraph 9) will allow subsequent assessment of any change from the pre-construction condition of the benthic environment by informing the design of future research surveys.' The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2.	
50.	The project-specific numerical modelling undertaken for the assessment as presented in Appendix 8-3 Marine Physical Processes Modelling Technical Report [APP-084] is sufficient to inform the assessment of effects presented in section 8.6 of Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology [APP-085].	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
51.	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, as presented in section 9.4.3 of Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology [APP-085], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant		





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
52.	The assessment of the significance of effects presented in section 9.6 of Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology [APP-085] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
53.	Section 9.6.2 of Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology [APP-085] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during construction.	In their Section 42 response the MMO recommended that the potential pollution impacts of paint flakes and sacrificial anodes were assessed in the ES.	
		Potential pollution from paint flakes was agreed to be discounted from the assessment in the Marine Physical Processes and Benthic Ecology ETG held on the 29 th January 2024, Cefas stating that any type of chemical should be considered early in the Project Environmental Management Plan. The Outline PEMP [APP-245] includes paints within section 4.2 Chemical Risk Assessment.	
		Potential seabed contamination from sacrificial anodes was also agreed to be discounted from assessment in the Marine	







SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
		Physical Processes and Benthic Ecology ETG held on the 29 th January 2024.	
		The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
54-	Section 9.6.3 of Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology [APP-085] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during operation.	In their Section 42 response the MMO recommended that the potential pollution impacts of paint flakes and sacrificial anodes were assessed in the ES.	
		Potential pollution from paint flakes was agreed to be discounted from the assessment in the Marine Physical Processes and Benthic Ecology ETG held on the 29 th January 2024, Cefas stating that any type of chemical should be considered early in the Project Environmental Management Plan. The Outline PEMP [APP-245] includes paints within section 4.2 Chemical Risk Assessment.	
		Potential seabed contamination from sacrificial anodes was also agreed to be discounted from assessment in the Marine Physical Processes and Benthic Ecology ETG held on the 29 th January 2024.	
		The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
55.	The assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 9.8 of Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology [APP-085] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	The MMO agree with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
EIA - Ass	sessment Conclusions		
56.	The conclusions of assessment of significance as detailed in section 9.6 of Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology [APP-085] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	The MMO notes that this will need to remain open until all other topics have been agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation.		
EIA – Cu	mulative Effects Assessment (CEA) Conclusions		
57.	The conclusions of the CEA as detailed in section 9.8 of Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology [APP-085] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant		





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
Other N	latters as Required		
58.	The proposed minimising of cable protection measures in the nearshore environment is considered acceptable with regards to the significance of effect assessed in section 9.6 of Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology [APP-085].	The MMO agrees with the Applicants in relation to benthic ecology and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
59.	The sites screened in for assessment in the RIAA HRA - Part 2 of 4 – Annex I Offshore Habitats and Annex II Migratory Fish [APP-046] are appropriate.	On this topic, in their Relevant Representation the MMO note: <i>`The MMO defer to Natural England as the SNCB.</i>	
64.	The Applicants' primary compensation measure for the Dogger Bank (new SAC designation or extension) as detailed in the Project Level Dogger Bank Compensation Plan [APP-059] provides sufficient compensation for the Projects activities within the Dogger Bank SAC.	On this topic, in their Relevant Representation the MMO note: 'The MMO defers to the Statutory Nature Conservation Body (SNCB) on the need for, or amount of, compensation. The level of compensation required is not for the MMO to determine.'	







SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
		The MMO will provide further information regarding the MMO not being classed as the arbitrator in relation to compensation.	
65.	The outline Dogger Bank Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (CIMP) [APP-o61] provides a sufficient plan for the development of future implementation and monitoring of any agreed compensation measures, should consent for the Projects be granted and compensation for the Dogger Bank Special Area of Conservation (DB SAC) sandbank feature be required.	On this topic, in their Relevant Representation the MMO note: 'The MMO defers to the Statutory Nature Conservation Body (SNCB) on the need for, or amount of, compensation. The level of compensation required is not for the MMO to determine.' The MMO will provide further information regarding the MMO not being classed as the arbitrator in relation to compensation.	







3.6 Fish and Shellfish Ecology

Table 3-6 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Fish and Shellfish Ecology

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
EIA – Pla	anning and Policy		
66.	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in section 10.4.1 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
EIA – Ba	seline Environment		
67.	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment as detailed in section 10.5 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091].	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation.	
	The Applicants maintain that the ES adequately characterises the baseline environment as detailed in section 10.5 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091].	The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2.	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
68.	Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within section 10.5 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091]. The Applicants believe the data sources used to inform the assessment in this chapter are sufficient. A Heat Mapping Report: Atlantic Herring and Sandeel [AS-105] with updated heat mapping based on the latest MarineSpace guidance was submitted on 28 th November 2024.	Within their Relevant Representation, the MMO states that several data sources used to inform the chapter are missing. Additional data is also suggested to add to the herring and sandeel potential spawning heat maps. The MMO will review this submission after Deadline 1.	
EIA – As	sessment Methodology		
69.	The study area identified in section 10.3.1 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] is appropriate. The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	Applicants that the matter is agreed.	The MANAGE and the state of the	
70.	The realistic worst-case scenario presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 10-1 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] is appropriate.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their		





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
71.	The embedded mitigation measures in Table 10-3 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] are appropriate. The Applicants maintain their previously issued position that the guidance MMO have referenced in support of the 135db single threshold criteria is not relevant in the context of the Offshore Development Area and should not be used to determine the distance at which behavioural changes for herring may occur. As such the Applicants believe that NAS are not necessary to mitigate potential impacts on herring. However, in relation to marine mammals, the Applicants are considering the use of 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.	The MMO does not believe the embedded mitigation measures are sufficient to mitigate the likely significant impacts to herring from underwater noise as a result of piling and UXO clearance and believes Noise Abatement Systems (NAS) should be included as a mitigation measure for the Projects. The MMO agreed that the embedded mitigation measures, while not being specific to shellfish, would be sufficient for mitigation of impacts on shellfish.	
72.	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, as presented in section 10.4.3 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	The MMO has recommended that the heat mapping methodology is updated to the latest version produced in collaboration with MarineSpace, MMO and Cefas. The MMO will review this submission after Deadline 1.	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	The heat mapping methodology has been updated using the latest MarineSpace guidance within the Heat Mapping Report: Atlantic Herring and Sandeel [AS-105], submitted 28 th November 2024.		
73.	The assessment of the significance of effects presented in section 10.6 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
74-	Section 10.6.1 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during construction. The Applicants responded to the MMO's Relevant Representation within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013]. However, the Applicants maintain that section 10.6.1 of	The MMO requested updates and clarifications to the potential impacts assessed during the construction phase in their Section 42 response. The Applicants provided responses and made updates where appropriate in Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091]. No further points were raised in the MMO's Relevant Representation.	
	Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during construction.	The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2, this is not yet considered to be agreed.	
75.	Section 10.6.2 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during operation.	The MMO requested updates and clarifications to the potential impacts assessed during the operation phase in their Section 42 response. The Applicants provided responses and made updates where appropriate in Chapter 10 Fish and	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	The Applicants responded to the MMO's Relevant Representation within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013]. However, the Applicants maintain that section 10.6.1 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during operation.	Shellfish Ecology [APP-091]. No further points were raised in the MMO's Relevant Representation. The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2, this is not yet considered to be agreed.	
76.	The assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 10.7 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2, this is not yet considered to be agreed.	
	In their Section 42 response the MMO requested a detailed CEA be included with the final ES. This was included by the Applicants in section 10.7 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091]. No further comments regarding the CEA were raised in the MMO's Relevant Representation.		
	The Applicants responded to the MMO's Relevant Representation within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013]. However, the Applicants maintain that the assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 10.7 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.		





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
EIA - As	sessment Conclusions		
77-	The conclusions of assessment of significance as detailed in section 10.6 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms. The Applicants believe the conclusions reached in the assessment Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] are scientifically robust and based on sufficient supporting evidence.	The MMO noted their strong disagreement with the assessment of effects associated with underwater noise and vibration via impact piling and UXO within the Array Areas on Atlantic Herring.	
78.	No additional mitigation measures are required to mitigate for any potential effects of the Projects activities with regards to Fish and Shellfish receptors. The Applicants responded to the MMO's Relevant Representation within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013]. The Applicants maintain their previously issued position that the guidance MMO have referenced in support of the 135db single threshold criteria is not relevant in the context of the Offshore Development Area and should not be used to determine the distance at which behavioural changes for herring may occur. As such the Applicants believe that NAS are not necessary to mitigate potential impacts on herring.	The MMO disagrees with this position in their Relevant Representation, noting several measures that the Applicants should commit to including: Noise Abatement; Shellfish Monitoring; and Piling and Trenching restrictions during herring/sandeel spawning seasons.	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	However, in relation to marine mammals, the Applicants are considering the use of 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. The Heat Mapping Report: Atlantic Herring and Sandeel [AS-105], submitted 28 th November 2024 discusses the proposed restrictions along the Offshore Export Cable Corridor and presents the Applicants' latest position on the need for mitigation.		
EIA – Cu	umulative Effects Assessment (CEA) Conclusions		
79-	The conclusions of the CEA as detailed in section 10.7 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms. The Applicants maintain that the conclusions of the CEA as detailed in section 10.7 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	In their Section 42 response the MMO requested a detailed CEA be included with the final ES. This was included by the Applicants in section 10.7 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091]. No further comments regarding the CEA were raised in the MMO's Relevant Representation. The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2, this is not yet considered to be agreed.	





3.7 Marine Mammals

Table 3-7 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Marine Mammals

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
EIA – Pla	anning and Policy		
84.	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in section 11.4.1 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
EIA – Ba	aseline Environment		
85.	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment as detailed in section 11.5 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095].	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
86.	Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Appendix 11-2 - Marine Mammal Information Report [APP-098] and discussed in section 11.5 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095].	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
EIA – As	sessment Methodology		
87.	The study area identified in section 11.3.1 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095] is appropriate.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
88.	The realistic worst-case scenario presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 11-1 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095] is appropriate.	The MMO have queried the worst-case parameters used to inform the underwater noise modelling report that informs Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095].	
		The MMO understands the Applicants are updating their modelling and will provide further comment in due course.	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	The Applicants have provided further explanatory text in response to the MMO's Relevant Representation within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013].		
89.	The embedded mitigation measures in Table 11-3 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095] are appropriate. The Applicants note that potential mitigation options, including NAS, are listed within the Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (Revision 2) [AS-100 and AS-101] and In Principle Site Integrity Plan for the Southern North Sea Special Area of Conservation (Revision 2) [AS-102 and AS-103], which would be finalised post consent in line with the final design of the Projects.	The MMO have requested that NAS is included as a mitigation measure, with its inclusion reflected throughout all relevant documents.	
90.	The project-specific underwater noise modelling undertaken for the assessment as presented in Appendix 11-3 - Underwater Noise Modelling Report [APP-099] is sufficient to inform the assessment of effects presented in section 11.6 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095]. The Applicants' provided further explanatory text in response to the MMO's queries on the underwater noise modelling report within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013].	The MMO raised several queries with regards to Appendix 11-3 - Underwater Noise Modelling Report [APP-099] in their Relevant Representation. The MMO understands the Applicants are updating their modelling and will provide further comment in due course.	





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
91.	The project-specific iPCod modelling undertaken for the assessment as presented in Appendix 11-4 - iPCoD Modelling [APP-100] is sufficient to inform the assessment of effects presented in section 11.6 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095].	The MMO will provide a further response to this in Deadline 2, the MMO do not yet consider this agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation.		
	The Applicants maintain that the project-specific iPCod modelling undertaken for the assessment as presented in Appendix 11-4 - iPCoD Modelling [APP-100] is sufficient to inform the assessment of effects presented in section 11.6 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095].		
92.	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, as presented in section 11.4.3 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
93.	The assessment of the significance of effects presented in section 11.6 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
94.	Section 11.6.1 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during construction.	In their Section 42 response the MMO noted 'The MMO believes that all relevant impacts have been scoped in for assessment'.	
95.	Section 11.6.2 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during operation.	In their Section 42 response the MMO noted 'The MMO believes that all relevant impacts have been scoped in for assessment'.	
		The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
96.	The assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 11.7 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their		





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
EIA - As	sessment Conclusions		
97.	The conclusions of assessment of significance as detailed in section 11.6 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	The MMO notes that this will need to remain open until all other topics have been agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation.		
98.	The additional mitigation proposed in section 11.6 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095] are sufficient to reduce the potential significance of effect of the Projects.	The MMO has requested that NAS is included as a mitigation measure, with its inclusion reflected throughout all relevant documents.	
	The Applicants note that potential mitigation options, including NAS, are listed within the Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol [APP-249] and In Principle Site Integrity Plan for the Southern North Sea Special Area of Conservation (Revision 2) [AS-102 and AS-103], which would be finalised post consent in line with the final design of the Projects.		
	However, in relation to marine mammals, the Applicants are considering the use of NAS as mitigation for underwater noise, and the use of it will be dependent on the final project design and		





SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	MMO's Position	Position Status
	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.		
EIA – Cu	mulative Effects Assessment (CEA) Conclusions		
99.	The CEA screening presented in Appendix 11-5 - CEA Screening [APP-101] is appropriate to inform the CEA assessment within section 11.7 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095].	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
100.	The conclusions of the CEA as detailed in section 11.7 of Chapter 11 Marine Mammals [APP-095] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	The MMO agrees with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
	The MMO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		





4 Summary

This SoCG has outlined the consultation that has taken place between the Applicants 17. and the MMO during the pre-application and Examination phases. This SoCG will be updated as discussions progress and made available to PINS as requested through the DCO examination phase.







References

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2024). Planning Act 2008: Examination stage for Nation-ally Significant Infrastructure Projects. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-examination-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects. [Accessed August 2024].





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