

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

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South (East) Limited**

**Dogger Bank South Offshore
Wind Farms**

**Northern Power Grid Statement of Common
Ground**

Submission for Deadline 1

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for one or more Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
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
DBS	Dogger Bank South
DCO	Development Consent Order
ExA	Examining Authority
NPG	Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
RR	Relevant Representation
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground

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, Figure 5-1** [APP-072].
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 Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc ('NPG') 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 following guidance: *Planning Act 2008: 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 NPG is set out within the Rule 6 letter issued on 24th September 2024 following acceptance of the DCO application for examination.
5. This SoCG is intended to provide the Examining Authority (ExA) with a clear summary of discussions between the parties and has been structured to reflect topics which are of interest to NPG and which have been raised within the **NPG Relevant Representation** [RR-055] to the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farm 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 NPG 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.

1.2 Approach to SoCG

7. This SoCG has been developed during the pre-examination and examination phases of the Projects in accordance with discussions between the Applicants and NPG.

8. 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 those of NPG relating to topics discussed between parties and the status of agreement on those topics.

2 Consultation

2.1 Introduction

9. NPG is a statutory undertaker and licence holder under the Electricity Act 1989. NPG owns and operates the electricity distribution network in the North East, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire providing power to more than eight million people across 3.9m homes and businesses.
10. NPG has identified that it has a significant amount of infrastructure within the red line boundary area of the Order.
11. NPG has stated within its Relevant Representation that as a statutory undertaker, it has a statutory duty to provide its customers with an uninterrupted supply of electricity and thus rightly raises concerns to any scheme that would result in a breach to its duty.
12. NPG has been consulted on the proposed development throughout the pre-application stage, as well as via non-statutory and statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.

2.2 Consultation and Engagement Summary

13. **Table 2-1** summarises the consultation that the Applicants have undertaken with NPG as statutory or non-statutory consultation during the pre-application and post-application phases.

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

Date	Form of consultation	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
Pre – Application			
11/04/2023	Email to NPG	Introduction	Email to safedig2@northernpowergrid.com introducing the project and requesting asset details.
18/04/2023	Emails with NPG	Asset Plans	Request for plan from Jenny Morris (Senior Surveyor) and plans provided. Request for call to discuss further.
05/06/2023	Letter	Consultation	Notice of statutory consultation and information on consultation period 6 th June to 17 th July.

Date	Form of consultation	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
07/06/2023	Email to NPG	Interaction Plans	Updated plans and details provided to NPG following design refinement and statutory consultation notification.
09/06/2023	Email from NPG	Project Updates	Request for teams meeting once NPG has produced asset plans.
13/07/2023	Email to NPG	Consultation	Follow up email reminding of statutory consultation period dates and links to information.
14/07/2023	Email from NPG	Consultation Response	Confirmation that as standard procedure NPG will object and will discuss further at a meeting on 20 th July 2023.
20/07/2023	Meeting	Project Update/Interactions	Teams call to discuss project, interactions, safety guidance and requirements for protective provisions.
21/07/2023	Email from NPG	Protective Provisions	Provision of template protective provisions for DBS consideration and issue to solicitors.
24/07/2023	Email to NPG	Minutes	Meeting minutes issued.
04/09/2023	Email from Weightmans	Protective Provisions	Email from Weightmans (NPG's solicitors) attaching draft agreement and protective provisions.
26/10/2023	Email to NPG	Project Updates	Update to NPG on design refinement and changes since statutory consultation and update on actions from meeting 20/07.
08/11/2023	Email from NPG	Asset Protection Guidance	Response to previous queries relating to diversion process, connections process and provision of safety guidance documents.
10/11/2023	Letter	Consultation	Notification of targeted statutory consultation.
13/11/2023	Email to NPG	Asset Protection	Further queries raised on diversion process and plant protection matters.
07/12/2023	Email to NPG	Plans	Updated plans issued showing RLB changes within the vicinity of NPG assets.

Date	Form of consultation	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
03/01/2024	Email from NPG	NPG Processes	Further responses to additional queries raised.
12/01/2024	Email from NPG	Project Updates	Confirmation that if assets are not impacted by the changes to the DCO land (red line boundary) further no issues perceived.
07/03/2024	Email to Weightmans	Protective Provisions	Email to Weightmans (NPG's solicitors) with comments on draft agreement and protective provisions.
Post – Application			
06/08/2024	Email to NPG	Project Update	Update email to Jenny Morris to advise on application status and relevant representations.
23/07/2024	Letter	Consultation/S.56	Section 56 notice issued
29/07/2024	Email from Weightmans	Protective Provisions	Email from Weightmans (NPG's solicitors) with further comments on agreement and protective provisions.

3 Agreement Log

3.1 Overview

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

Table 3-1 - Agreement logs position status key

Position Status	Colour Code
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 Applicant or NPG 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 Applicant or NPG 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 NPG

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	NPG's Position	Position Status
Engagement			
1.	<p>The Applicants have adequately consulted with NPG 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.</p> <p>NPG did not raise any issues on this subject throughout discussion or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicant that the matter is agreed.</p>		
Asset Protection			
2.	<p>The Applicants have been engaged with NPG including engineering and land representatives throughout the pre-application stages of the project. The parties are liaising on asset protection in respect of protecting NPG equipment where possible based on the information currently available. Relevant safe working guidance was provided by NPG following meetings and updated plans have been shared by the Applicants as design refinements were made. Advice provided by NPG has been fully</p>	<p>Detailed designs have not yet been made available to NPG and therefore NPG are unable to confirm whether there will be any impact to its infrastructure or whether any diversions or relocation of infrastructure will be required.</p>	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	NPG's Position	Position Status
	<p>considered and project design refinements made in accordance with advice.</p> <p>The Applicants are aware of NPG's requirement for protective provisions for inclusion within the DCO.</p>		
Protective Provisions			
3.	<p>Standard form of protective provisions for the benefit of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers have been included within the draft DCO [APP-027] at Part 1, Schedule 15. NPG's preferred form of protective provisions were provided to the Applicants in July 2023 and discussions are ongoing between parties. The Applicants are continuing to work with NPG to reach agreement.</p>	<p>Within their Relevant Representation [RR-055] NPG stated that it requires bespoke protective provisions to protect its position and recover the costs of any required diversions. Northern Powergrid also has concerns over the currently proposed protective provisions as they do not accord with Northern Powergrid's standard protective provision requirements.</p>	

4 Summary

16. This SoCG has outlined the consultation and engagement that has taken place between the Applicants and NPG during the pre-application and Examination phases. The agreement logs present the position reached at the point of Deadline 1 between the Projects and NPG in relation to relevant matters.
17. This SoCG will be updated as discussions progress and made available to PINS as requested through the DCO examination phase.

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