



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

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South (East) Limited**

**Dogger Bank South Offshore  
Wind Farms**

**The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust 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).
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 (NSIP)	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
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 <b>Project Change Request 1 - Offshore &amp; Intertidal Works</b> [document reference 10.49].
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.

Term	Definition
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 Effects on Site integrity
ANS	Artificial Nesting Sites
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
CRM	Collision Risk Modelling
DBS	Dogger Bank South
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
ExA	Examining Authority
FFC	Flamborough and Filey Coast
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
LWT	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SPA	Spatial Protection Area



# 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 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT) 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 LWT was not set out Rule 6 letter issued by the Planning Inspectorate post-application of the Projects DCO. However, due to the LWT's continued engagement with the Projects the Applicants have included the LWT in the list of stakeholders for which to enter the SoCG process with.
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 the LWT, and which have been raised within the **LWT's Relevant Representation** [RR-028] 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 LWT 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 LWT address the elements of the Projects that may affect the interests of LWT (**Table 1-1**).

**Table 1-1 Application Documents of interest to the LWT**

ES Chapter/ Application Document	Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Reference
Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment	APP-080
Appendix 8-3 – Marine Physical Processes Modelling Technical Report	APP-084
Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology	APP-085
Appendix 9-3 Benthic Ecology Monitoring Report	APP-089
Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology	APP-091
Chapter 11 Marine Mammals	APP-095
Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology	APP-103 (superseded by AS-057 and AS-058)
Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 1 of 4 – Introduction and Terrestrial Ecology	APP-045
Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 2 of 4 – Annex I Offshore Habitats and Annex II Migratory Fish	APP-046 (superseded by AS-051 and AS-052)
Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 3 of 4 - Annex II Marine Mammals	APP-047
Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features	APP-048 (superseded by AS-085 and AS-086)

8. The LWT and the Applicants have been working together to minimise possible impacts of the Projects on the LWT’s operations, and so LWT may influence and enhance the design of the Projects where appropriate.

## 1.2 Approach to SoCG

9. This SoCG has been developed during the pre-examination and examination phases of the Projects. In accordance with discussions between the Applicants and LWT, this SoCG is focused on matters of material interest and relevance to LWT, 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 LWT's position. **Table 3-2** to **Table 3-7** sets out those areas agreed in relation to the application documents set out in **Table 1-1**. Where a matter is 'not agreed' or 'under discussion' this is described in further detail in **Table 3-8** to **Table 3-13**.
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 LWT.
12. As referenced in **Table 2-1**, the Applicants consulted LWT on Project Change Request 1 between 15<sup>th</sup> November and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024. LWT did not provide any consultation comments on the Project Change Request.

## 2 Consultation and Engagement

### 2.1 Introduction to Consultation

13. LWT have been consulted on the proposed development throughout the pre-application stage, having engaged in the Marine Physical Environment, Benthic and Intertidal Ecology, Fish and Shellfish Ecology, Marine Mammals, and Offshore Ornithology Expert Topic Group (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

14. **Table 2-1** summarises the consultation and engagement that the Applicants have undertaken with LWT.

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

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
<b>Pre – Application</b>			
07/02/2023	ETG Meeting	Offshore Ornithology Pre-PEIR	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide ETG with a project update.</li> <li>• Provide a summary of the baseline environment for offshore ornithology, following the site-specific surveys undertaken for the Projects.</li> <li>• Detail the assessment methodology and preliminary findings of the assessment process.</li> </ul>
21/02/2023	ETG Meeting	Marine Mammal Pre-PEIR	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide ETGs with a project update.</li> <li>• Provide a summary on responses to scoping comments, the site-specific surveys undertaken to inform PEIR, the underwater noise modelling approach and a brief summary of sites screened in for HRA.</li> </ul>
27/02/2023	Email	Offshore Ornithology Pre- ES	Comments from Natural England on the Ornithology ETG.

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
09/05/2023	ETG Meeting	Offshore Ornithology Non-Kittiwake Compensation	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential compensation measures for non-kittiwake species.</li> </ul>
17/07/2023	Section 42 Consultation	Marine Physical Environment, Benthic and Intertidal Ecology, Fish and Shellfish Ecology, Marine Mammals, and Offshore Ornithology	LWT response to Section 42 consultation on PEIR. See <b>Appendix G</b> [APP-044] of the <b>Consultation Report</b> [APP-034].
14/09/2023	ETG Meeting	Marine Mammals	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project update;</li> <li>Site selection;</li> <li>Marine Mammals: PEIR comments and responses;</li> <li>Updated underwater noise modelling;</li> <li>Noise mitigation measures;</li> <li>Noise monitoring; and</li> <li>Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA).</li> </ul>
21/09/2023	ETG Meeting	Benthic and Intertidal Ecology	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benthic and intertidal ecology; and</li> <li>Review of PEIR comments.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Marine Conservation Zone Area considerations;</li> <li>Fish and Shellfish Ecology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Herring and Sandeel PEIR Queries; and</li> <li>Other related queries.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
25/01/2024	Email	Offshore Ornithology	CC issued a summary report detailing the collision and displacement numbers of key species that were used to inform the Offshore Ornithology ES chapter.

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
29/01/2024	ETG Meeting	Benthic and Intertidal Ecology  Marine Physical Processes	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Project Update;</li> <li>● Physical Processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Modelling update;</li> <li>○ Summary of construction impacts and model results; and</li> <li>○ Summary of operation impacts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Benthic and Intertidal Ecology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Benthic Ecology Monitoring Survey Summary;</li> <li>○ Impact results from the ES;</li> <li>○ Results from the CEA; and</li> <li>○ Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) conclusions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
01/02/2024	Email	Offshore Ornithology	<p>CC issued draft versions of appendices 12.9, 12.13 and other early modelling results following NE query on materials sent previously.</p>
06/02/2024	ETG Meeting	Offshore Ornithology  Pre-ES	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● DBS Project Update;</li> <li>● Discussion of key PEIR comments;</li> <li>● Presentation of preliminary ES results; and</li> <li>● Presentation of preliminary HRA results for project alone key Spatial Protection Area (SPA)s.</li> </ul>
23/02/2024	ETG Meeting	Fish and Shellfish	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Project Update;</li> <li>● Draft Assessment Findings;</li> <li>● Potential Mitigation Options; and</li> <li>● PEIR Comments.</li> </ul>
10/04/2024	ETG Meeting	Offshore Ornithology  Auks Compensation	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Project updates;</li> <li>● Predator eradication / reduction;</li> </ul>

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bycatch and Artificial Nesting Sites (ANS); and</li> <li>• Next steps.</li> </ul>
11/04/2024	ETG Meeting	Benthic and Intertidal Ecology HRA Compensation	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Update;</li> <li>• RIAA Conclusions; and</li> <li>• Compensation.</li> </ul>
25/04/2024	ETG Meeting	Offshore Ornithology Kittiwake Compensation	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project updates;</li> <li>• Conclusions for Flamborough and Filey Coast (FFC) SPA Kittiwake;</li> <li>• Overview of the Approach to Compensation; and</li> <li>• Offshore ANS Proposal.</li> </ul>
21/05/2024	Email	General	CC confirmed DBS DCO submission date had been revised to the 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2024.
13/06/2024	Email	General	CC confirmed DCO submitted 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2024, queried if stakeholder would wish for meetings later in summer to discuss application docs.
<b>Post Application</b>			
16/09/2024	Email	Relevant Representation	Received LWT's Relevant Representation via the Planning Inspectorate.
08/10/2024	Email	Relevant Representation	The Applicants issued their responses to the LWT's Relevant Representations via the Planning Inspectorate.
11/10/2024	Meeting	Draft SoCG	Meeting to discuss the draft SoCG issued to LWT on 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024.
17/10/2024	Email	Draft SoCG	Updated version of the draft SoCG following initial meeting issued to LWT for comment.

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
25/10/2024	Email	Draft SoCG	LWT issued amended version of the SoCG to the Applicants.
15/11/2024	Email	Project Change Request 1	<b>Project Change Request 1 - Environmental Assessment Update</b> [document reference: C1.1] issued to LWT for comment.
18/12/2024	Email	Draft SoCG	Updated version of the draft SoCG issued to LWT for review following LWT amendments.
09/01/2025	Email	Draft SoCG	Updated version of the draft SoCG received from LWT.
20/01/2025	Email	Draft SoCG	LWT confirmed agreement of the revised draft of the SoCG for submission into Examination at Deadline 1.



## 3 Agreement Log

### 3.1 Overview

15. The following sections of this SoCG summarise the level of agreement between the parties for each relevant offshore topic.
16. To easily identify whether a matter is 'agreed', 'not agreed' or 'under discussion', a colour coding system red, amber, green is used respectively within the 'position status colour' column as set out in **Table 3-1**.
17. Where a matter is 'not agreed' or 'under discussion' further detail is provided in section 3.8.

**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 LWT 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 LWT 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 LWT

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
EIA – Consultation			
1.	The Applicants have adequately consulted with LWT 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.	LWT noted agreement on this topic during the LWT SoCG meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2024.	
EIA – Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives			
2.	The site selection and route refinement outlined in <b>Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives</b> [AS-017 and AS-018] has properly considered the alternatives for the relevant elements of the Projects.	LWT do not agree that this is an environmentally acceptable location for this development and are opposed to any further development on the Dogger Bank. We are taking a strategic approach when it comes to consulting on this application however and will not outright object. We do disagree that this is an appropriate place for such a development.	

### 3.3 Marine Physical Environment

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

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
<b>EIA – Planning and Policy</b>			
3.	<p>All relevant plans and policies have been identified in section 8.4.1 of <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-o8o] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.</p> <p>LWT 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.</p>	LWT noted agreement on this topic during the LWT SoCG meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2024.	
<b>EIA – Baseline Environment</b>			
4.	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment as detailed in section 8.5 of <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-o8o].	Internal review awaited.	
5.	Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within section 8.5 of <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-o8o].	Internal review awaited.	
<b>EIA – Assessment Methodology</b>			
6.	The study area identified in section 8.3.1 of <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-o8o] is appropriate.	LWT share Natural England's concerns regarding a 'secondary halo' of effects outside the area that	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
		<p>has been considered the entire footprint of the works.</p> <p>LWT also share concerns outlined by TWT in their relevant representations over the impact to the seafloor affecting a wider area than is presented in the ES.</p>	
7.	<p>The realistic worst case scenario presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 8-1 of <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-o80] is sufficient and appropriate.</p>	<p>The potential for changes to the physical/biological function of the sandbank has not been considered. The worst case scenario should include effects on a wider area.</p>	
8.	<p>The embedded mitigation measures in Table 8-3 of <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-o80] (including mitigation regarding cables being buried where practicable (subject to a cable burial risk assessment)) are sufficient and appropriate.</p>	<p>Internal review awaited. LWT notes that all cables should be buried.</p>	
9.	<p>The project-specific numerical modelling undertaken for the assessment as presented in <b>Appendix 8-3 Marine Physical Processes Modelling Technical Report</b> [APP-o84] is sufficient to inform the assessment of effects presented in section 8.6 of <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-o80].</p>	<p>Internal review awaited.</p>	
10.	<p>The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, as presented in section 8.4.3 of <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-o80], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.</p>	<p>Internal review awaited. LWT are querying the results of the sensitivity metrics being too low.</p>	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
11.	The assessment of the significance of effects presented in section 8.7 of <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-o8o] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	The methodology used appears to be the standard however the sensitivities used are lower than expected.	
12.	Section 8.7.3 of <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-o8o] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during construction.	Internal review awaited.	
13.	Section 8.7.4 of <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-o8o] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during operation.	Internal review awaited. LWT are querying the results of the sensitivity metrics being too low Sensitivity of the receptor is often low or negligible where LWT say should be higher.	
14.	The assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 8.8 of <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-o8o] is consistent with the agreed-+*/methodologies.	Internal review awaited.	
<b>EIA - Assessment Conclusions</b>			
15.	The conclusions of assessment of significance as detailed in section 8.7 of <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-o8o] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	Internal review awaited.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
<b>EIA – Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) Conclusions</b>			
16.	The conclusions of the CEA as detailed in section 8.8 of <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-o8o] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	LWT expressed concerns in their relevant representation regarding cumulative effects with other projects on the Dogger Bank sandbank feature. No specific disagreement with the CEA presented in <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-o8o] was noted.	
<b>Other Matters as Required</b>			
17.	The proposed minimising of cable protection measures in the nearshore environment is considered acceptable with regards to the significance of effect assessed in section 8.7 of <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-o8o].  LWT 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.	LWT support minimising the cable protection but need to review in order to confirm if what is proposed is acceptable.	
18.	No significant effects on coastal processes within the landfall and wider region will occur as a result of the Projects.	Internal review awaited.	

## 3.4 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology

Table 3-4 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation Benthic and Intertidal

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
<b>EIA – Planning and Policy</b>			
19.	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in section 9.4.1 of <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-085] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	LWT noted agreement on this topic during the LWT SoCG meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2024.	
<b>EIA – Baseline Environment</b>			
20.	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment as detailed in section 9.5 of <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-085].  LWT 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.	Internal review awaited.	
21.	Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within section 9.5 of <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-085] and described in <b>Appendix 9-2 - Intertidal Survey Report</b> [APP-088], <b>Appendix 9-3 - Benthic Ecology Monitoring Report</b> [APP-089] and <b>Appendix 9-4 - Environmental Features Report</b> [APP-090].	Internal review awaited.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
<b>EIA – Assessment Methodology</b>			
22.	The study area identified in section 9.3.1 of <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-o85] is appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	
23.	<p>The realistic worst case scenario presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 9-1 of <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-o85] is appropriate.</p> <p>Regarding 'secondary halo effects' The Applicants have undertaken their assessments in line with standard advice, the advice received from stakeholders throughout the development of the Projects in addition to best practice. With the above in mind, the Applicants are of the opinion that halo effects should not be considered any further.</p>	Not considered the potential physical/biological changes to structure and function of sandbank beyond footprint. The worst case scenario needs to consider the secondary ecological halo.	
24.	The embedded mitigation measures in Table 9-3 of <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-o85] are appropriate.	Further mitigation measures needed for sediment deposition, concerned over the effects this will have on SAC/habitats.	
25.	The project-specific numerical modelling undertaken for the assessment as presented in <b>Appendix 8-3 Marine Physical Processes Modelling Technical Report</b> [APP-o84] is sufficient to inform the assessment of effects presented in section 8.6 of <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-o85].	Internal review awaited.	



SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
26.	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, as presented in section 9.4.3 of <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-085], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	Internal review awaited.	
27.	The assessment of the significance of effects presented in section 9.6 of <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-085] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	Internal review awaited.	
28.	Section 9.6.2 of <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-085] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during construction.	Internal review awaited.	
29.	Section 9.6.3 of <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-085] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during operation.	Internal review awaited.	
30.	The assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 9.8 of <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-085] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	Internal review awaited - concerns over cumulative impacts.	
<b>EIA - Assessment Conclusions</b>			
31.	The conclusions of assessment of significance as detailed in section 9.6 of <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-085] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	LWT expressed concerns in their relevant representation regarding impacts to the Dogger Bank sandbank feature and have noted the LWT's general position that there should be no further development on the Dogger Bank SAC. No	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
		specific disagreement with the assessment presented in <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-085] was noted.	
<b>EIA – Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) Conclusions</b>			
32.	The conclusions of the CEA as detailed in section 9.8 of <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-085] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	LWT expressed concerns in their relevant representation regarding cumulative impacts to the Dogger Bank sandbank feature and have noted the LWT's general position that there should be no further development on the Dogger Bank SAC. No specific disagreement with the CEA presented in <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-085] was noted however.	
<b>Other Matters as Required</b>			
33.	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 <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-085].	Internal review awaited.	
34.	The sites screened in for assessment in the <b>RIAA HR - Part 2 of 4 – Annex I Offshore Habitats and Annex II Migratory Fish</b> [AS-051 and AS-052] are appropriate.	LWT noted agreement on this topic during the LWT SoCG meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2024.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
35.	The potential adverse effects on site integrity (AEol) screened in for assessment within the <b>RIAA HRA - Part 2 of 4 – Annex I Offshore Habitats and Annex II Migratory Fish</b> [AS-051 and AS-052] are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	
36.	The worst case scenario for Annex I habitats detailed in Table 6-3 of the <b>RIAA HRA - Part 2 of 4 – Annex I Offshore Habitats and Annex II Migratory Fish</b> [AS-051 and AS-052] sufficiently details the Projects activities that may affect the Annex I habitats assessed in the report.	Internal review awaited.	
37.	The conclusions reached in the assessment of potential effects of the Projects alone within the <b>RIAA HRA - Part 2 of 4 – Annex I Offshore Habitats and Annex II Migratory Fish</b> [AS-051 and AS-052] are appropriate.	LWT expressed concerns regarding potential impacts on the Dogger Bank SAC in their relevant representation and have noted the LWT's general position that there should be no further development on the Dogger Bank SAC. No specific disagreement with the assessment presented in the <b>RIAA HRA - Part 2 of 4 – Annex I Offshore Habitats and Annex II Migratory Fish</b> [AS-051 and AS-052] was noted however.	
38.	The conclusions reached in Assessment of potential effects of the Projects in combination with other plans and projects within the <b>RIAA HRA - Part 2 of 4 – Annex I Offshore Habitats and Annex II Migratory Fish</b> [AS-051 and AS-052] are appropriate.	LWT expressed concerns regarding potential impacts on the Dogger Bank SAC in their relevant representation and have noted the LWTs general position that there should be no further development on the Dogger Bank SAC. No specific disagreement with the in-combination	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
		assessment presented in the <b>RIAA HRA - Part 2 of 4 – Annex I Offshore Habitats and Annex II Migratory Fish</b> [AS-051 and AS-052] was noted however.	
39.	The Applicants' primary compensation measure for the Dogger Bank (new SAC designation or extension) as detailed in the <b>Project Level Dogger Bank Compensation Plan</b> [APP-059] provides sufficient compensation for the Projects activities within the Dogger Bank SAC.	The LWT note in their relevant representation that:  '(the LWT) <i>do not believe compensation will be sufficient to address the adverse impact on site integrity</i> '.	
40.	The outline <b>Dogger Bank Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan</b> (CIMP) [APP-061] 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.	The LWT note in their relevant representation that:  '(the LWT) <i>do not believe compensation will be sufficient to address the adverse impact on site integrity</i> '.	

## 3.5 Fish and Shellfish Ecology

Table 3-5 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Fish and Shellfish Ecology

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
<b>EIA – Planning and Policy</b>			
41.	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in section 10.4.1 of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	LWT noted agreement on this topic during the LWT SoCG meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2024.	
<b>EIA – Baseline Environment</b>			
42.	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment as detailed in section 10.5 of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091].	Internal review awaited.	
43.	Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within section 10.5 of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091]. Additional information regarding sandeel spawning using the latest MarineSpace methodology has been provided in the <b>Heat Mapping Report: Atlantic Herring and Sandeel</b> [AS-105].	Want updated methods used to estimate sandeel spawning grounds. Assessment of the worst case area of impact on this spawning habitat which includes impacts of structure placement and cable protection on the seabed- how does this impact physical and biological processes.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
<b>EIA – Assessment Methodology</b>			
44.	The study area identified in section 10.3.1 of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091] is appropriate.	Need updates listed above, results of which may present a different study area needed.	
45.	The realistic worst case scenario presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 10-1 of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091] is appropriate.	Internal review required.	
46.	The embedded mitigation measures in Table 10-3 of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091] are appropriate.	Internal review required.	
47.	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, as presented in section 10.4.3 of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	Internal review required.	
48.	The assessment of the significance of effects presented in section 10.6 of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	Internal review required.	
49.	Section 10.6.1 of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during construction. Damage and impacts to fish and shellfish is assessed in sections 6.4.2.1.1 (for Project Alone, which covers DBS East and DBS West together) and 6.4.2.1.2 (in-combination with other projects) of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091].	LWT disagreed with the scoping out of direct damage and impacts to fish and shellfish.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
50.	Section 10.6.2 of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during operation. Damage and impacts to fish and shellfish is assessed in sections 6.4.2.1.1 (for Project Alone, which covers DBS East and DBS West together) and 6.4.2.1.2 (in-combination with other projects) of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091].	LWT disagreed with the scoping out of direct damage and impacts to fish and shellfish.	
51.	The assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 10.7 of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	LWT noted in their relevant representation they believed there had been ' <i>limited consideration of potential cumulative impacts</i> '.	
<b>EIA - Assessment Conclusions</b>			
52.	The conclusions of assessment of significance as detailed in section 10.6 of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	LWT noted concerns regarding the impacts to lesser sandeel as a result of the Projects:  <i>'LWT strongly disagrees with the applicant's decision to lower the appraised sensitivity to habitat disturbance, arguing that this is based on inaccurate recovery times for sandeel.</i>  Methods used to estimate spawning ground for sandeel outdated, use sandeel abundance data.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
<b>EIA – Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) Conclusions</b>			
53.	The conclusions of the CEA as detailed in section 10.7 of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	LWT noted concerns regarding cumulative impacts on lesser sandeel within the Dogger Bank sandbank. No specific disagreement with the CEA presented in <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091] was noted however.	

### 3.6 Marine Mammals

Table 3-6 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Marine Mammals

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
<b>EIA – Planning and Policy</b>			
54.	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in section 11.4.1 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	LWT noted agreement on this topic during the LWT SoCG meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2024.	



SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
<b>EIA – Baseline Environment</b>			
55.	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment as detailed in section 11.5 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095].	Internal review awaited.	
56.	Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Appendix 11-2 - Marine Mammal Information Report</b> [APP-098] and discussed in section 11.5 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095].	Internal review awaited.	
<b>EIA – Assessment Methodology</b>			
57.	The study area identified in section 11.3.1 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095] is appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	
58.	The realistic worst case scenario presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 11-1 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095] is appropriate.  LWT 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.	Internal review awaited.	
59.	The embedded mitigation measures in Table 11-3 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095] are sufficient and appropriate and no additional mitigation measures are necessary.	LWT ask that where significant impacts cannot be ruled out that additional mitigation be explored.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
		Need to mitigate the full piling injury zone for minke and harbour porpoise.	
60.	The project-specific underwater noise-modelling undertaken for the assessment as presented in <b>Appendix 11-3 - Underwater Noise Modelling Report</b> [APP-099] is sufficient to inform the assessment of effects presented in section 11.6 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095]. A response to NE's concerns regarding population modelling was provided in the <b>Response to Natural England's Relevant Representations (including Appendices A - F, and I)</b> [AS-048].	LWT agree with NE on over reliance on outcomes of population modelling and ask for updated assessments.	
61.	The project-specific iPCoD modelling undertaken for the assessment as presented in <b>Appendix 11-4 - iPCoD Modelling</b> [APP-100] is sufficient to inform the assessment of effects presented in section 11.6 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095].	Internal review awaited.	
62.	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, as presented in section 11.4.3 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	Internal review awaited.	
63.	The assessment of the significance of effects presented in section 11.6 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	Internal review awaited.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
64.	Section 11.6.1 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during construction.	Internal review awaited.	
65.	Section 11.6.2 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during operation.	Internal review awaited.	
66.	The assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 11.7 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	Internal review awaited.	
<b>EIA - Assessment Conclusions</b>			
67.	The conclusions of assessment of significance as detailed in section 11.6 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	Internal review awaited.	
68.	The additional mitigation proposed in section 11.6 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095] are sufficient to reduce the potential significance of effect of the Projects.	Internal review awaited.	
<b>EIA – Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) Conclusions</b>			
69.	The CEA screening presented in <b>Appendix 11-5 - CEA Screening</b> [APP-101] is appropriate to inform the CEA assessment within section 11.7 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095].	Internal review awaited.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
70.	The conclusions of the CEA as detailed in section 11.7 of <b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> [APP-095] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	Internal review awaited.	
<b>Other Matters as Required</b>			
71.	The potential AEoI screened in for assessment within the <b>RIAA HRA - Part 3 of 4 - Annex II Marine Mammals</b> [APP-047] are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	
72.	The worst case scenario for Annex I habitats detailed in Table 8-4 of the <b>RIAA HRA - Part 3 of 4 - Annex II Marine Mammals</b> [APP-047] sufficiently details the Projects activities that may affect the Annex II marine mammals assessed in the report.	Internal review awaited.	
73.	The conclusions reached in the assessment of potential effects of the Projects alone within the <b>RIAA HRA - Part 3 of 4 - Annex II Marine Mammals</b> [APP-047] are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	
74.	The conclusions reached in Assessment of potential effects of the Projects in combination with other plans and projects within the <b>RIAA HRA - Part 3 of 4 - Annex II Marine Mammals</b> [APP-047] are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	

### 3.7 Offshore Ornithology

18. LWT noted during the LWT SoCG meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024 that they would mirror the RSPBs position regarding the offshore ornithology SoCG. As such, this **Table 3-7** will be updated when updates are made to the RSPB SoCG.

Table 3-7 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Offshore Ornithology

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWTs Position	Position Status
<b>EIA – Planning and Policy</b>			
75.	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in section 12.4.1 of <b>Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology</b> [AS-057 and AS-058] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	LWT noted agreement on this topic during the LWT SoCG meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2024.	
<b>EIA – Baseline Environment</b>			
76.	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment as detailed in section 12.5 of <b>Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology</b> [AS-057 and AS-058].	Internal review awaited.	
77.	Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within section 12.5 of <b>Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology</b> [AS-057 and AS-058] and <b>Appendix 12-3 to 12-8</b> [AS-060 to AS-071].	Internal review awaited.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWTs Position	Position Status
<b>EIA – Assessment Methodology</b>			
78.	The study area identified in section 12.3.1 of <b>Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology</b> [AS-057 and AS-058] is appropriate.	On ornithology, LWT is intending to confirm the position following meeting with RSPB and tend to defer to their expertise.	
79.	The realistic worst case scenario presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 12-2 of <b>Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology</b> [AS-057 and AS-058] is appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	
80.	The embedded mitigation measures in Table 12-4 of <b>Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology</b> [AS-057 and AS-058] are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	
81.	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, as presented in section 12.4 of <b>Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology</b> [AS-057 and AS-058], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts on the Projects.	Internal review awaited.	
82.	The collision risk modelling (CRM) undertaken for the Projects (as detailed in <b>Appendix 12-9 - Collision Risk Modelling Outputs</b> [APP-112]) has been undertaken using appropriate input parameters and avoidance rates for key species (Arctic skua, Arctic tern, commic tern, common gull, common tern, fulmar, great black-backed gull, great skua, herring gull, kittiwake, lesser black-backed gull).	Internal review awaited.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWTs Position	Position Status
83.	The CRM undertaken for the Projects (as detailed in <b>Appendix 12-9 - Collision Risk Modelling Outputs</b> [APP-112]) has been undertaken using appropriate input parameters and avoidance rates for gannet.	Internal review awaited.	
84.	The significance of effects presented in section 12.6 of <b>Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology</b> [AS-057 and AS-058] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	Internal review awaited.	
85.	Section 12.6 of <b>Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology</b> [AS-057 and AS-058] represents a comprehensive list of the potential effects during construction.	Internal review awaited.	
86.	Section 12.6 of <b>Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology</b> [AS-057 and AS-058] represents a comprehensive list of the potential effects during operation.	Internal review awaited.	
87.	The assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 12.7 of <b>Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology</b> [AS-057 and AS-058] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	Internal review awaited.	
<b>EIA - Assessment Conclusions</b>			
88.	The conclusions of the assessment of significance as detailed in in section 12.6 of <b>Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology</b> [AS-057 and AS-058] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	Internal review awaited.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWTs Position	Position Status
<b>EIA – Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) Conclusions</b>			
89.	The conclusions of the CEA as detailed in section 12.7 of <b>Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology</b> [AS-057 and AS-058] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	Internal review awaited.	
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>			
90.	The Kittiwake Compensation Measures and Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Measures outlined in Schedule 18, Part 2 and Part 3 of the draft Development Consent Order provide sufficient detail to allow for these compensation measures to be implemented should the Projects receive consent.	Internal review awaited.	
<b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment / Compensation Strategy</b>			
91.	The sites screened in for assessment within the <b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features</b> [AS-085 and AS-086] are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	
92.	The potential AEoI screened in for assessment within the <b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features</b> [AS-085 and AS-086] are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	



SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWTs Position	Position Status
93.	The worst case scenario for ornithological features detailed in Table 9-12 of the <b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features</b> [AS-o85 and AS-o86] sufficiently details the Projects activities that may affect ornithological features assessed in the report.	Internal review awaited.	
94.	The conclusions reached in Assessment of potential effects of the Projects alone within the <b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features</b> [AS-o85 and AS-o86] for kittiwake are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	
95.	The conclusions reached in Assessment of potential effects of the Projects alone within the <b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features</b> [AS-o85 and AS-o86] for guillemot are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	
96.	The conclusions reached in Assessment of potential effects of the Projects alone within the <b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features</b> [AS-o85 and AS-o86] for razorbill are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	
97.	The conclusions reached in Assessment of potential effects of the Projects alone within the <b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features</b> [AS-o85 and AS-o86] for gannet are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWTs Position	Position Status
98.	The conclusions reached in the assessment of potential effects of the Projects alone within the <b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features</b> [AS-o85 and AS-o86] for all other bird species assessed (red-throated diver, common scoter and puffin) are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	
99.	The conclusions reached in Assessment of potential effects of the Projects in combination with other plans and projects within the <b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features</b> [AS-o85 and AS-o86] for kittiwake are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	
100.	The conclusions reached in Assessment of potential effects of the Projects in combination with other plans and projects within the <b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features</b> [AS-o85 and AS-o86] for guillemot are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	
101.	The conclusions reached in Assessment of potential effects of the Projects in combination with other plans and projects within the <b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features</b> [AS-o85 and AS-o86] for razorbill are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWTs Position	Position Status
102.	The conclusions reached in Assessment of potential effects of the Projects in combination with other plans and projects within the <b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features</b> [AS-085 and AS-086] for gannet are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	
103.	The conclusions reached in Assessment of potential effects of the Projects in combination with other plans and projects within the <b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features</b> [AS-085 and AS-086] for all other bird species assessed (red-throated diver, common scoter and puffin) are appropriate.	Internal review awaited.	
104.	The Project-level compensation measures detailed in <b>Appendix 1 - Project-Level Kittiwake Compensation Plan</b> [AS-087 and AS-088] are sufficient to compensate for any potential impacts to kittiwake that may occur as a result of the operation of the Projects.	Internal review awaited.	
105.	The <b>Outline Kittiwake Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan</b> [APP-054] 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 kittiwake be required.	Internal review awaited.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	LWTs Position	Position Status
106.	The proposed compensation measures for guillemot and (if required) razorbill detailed in <b>Appendix 2 - Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan</b> [AS-089 and AS-090] are sufficient to compensate for any potential impacts to guillemot (and razorbill) that may occur as a result of the operation of the Projects.	Internal review awaited.	
107.	The shortlist of potential predator eradication sites detailed in Table 5-2 of <b>Appendix 2 - Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan</b> [AS-089 and AS-090] presents a suitable range of potential sites for the primary guillemot (and razorbill) compensation measure (predator eradication) to be explored further.	Internal review awaited.	
108.	<b>Annex A - Outline Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan</b> [APP-057] 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 guillemot (and razorbill) be required.	Internal review awaited.	

## 3.8 Status of Discussions for Matters ‘Not Agreed’ or ‘Under Discussion’

### 3.8.1 General

Table 3-8 Status of discussions relating to General Topics

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants’ Position	LWT’s Position	Position Status
2.	Site selection	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	

### 3.8.2 Marine Physical Environment

Table 3-9 Status of discussions relating to Marine Physical Environment

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants’ Position	LWT’s Position	Position Status
4.	Baseline environment	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
5.	Survey data	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
6.	Study area	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
7.	Worst case scenario	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
8.	Embedded mitigation	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
9.	Project-specific numerical modelling	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
10.	Methodology	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
11.	Assessment consistency with methodology	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
12.	Construction impacts assessed	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
13.	Operational impacts assessed	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
14.	CEA consistency with methodology	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
15.	ES assessment conclusions	The Applicants believe the assessment conclusions detailed in <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-080] are sufficiently justified in the section 8.7 of the chapter.	Overall concerns regarding the effects of the Projects on the Dogger Bank.	
16.	CEA assessment conclusions	The Applicants believe the assessment conclusions detailed in <b>Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment</b> [APP-080] are sufficiently justified in the section 8.8 of the chapter.	Overall concerns regarding the effects of the Projects in-combination with other plans/projects on the Dogger Bank.	

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
17.	Cable protection	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
18.	Coastal processes	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	

### 3.8.3 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology

Table 3-10 Status of discussions relating to Benthic and Intertidal Ecology

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
20.	Baseline environment	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
21.	Survey data	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
22.	Study area	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
23.	Worst case scenario	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
24.	Embedded mitigation	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
25.	Project-specific numerical modelling	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
26.	Methodology	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
27.	Assessment consistency with methodology	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
28.	Construction impacts assessed	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
29.	Operational impacts assessed	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
30.	CEA consistency with methodology	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
31.	ES assessment conclusions	The Applicants believe the assessment conclusions detailed in <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-085] are sufficiently justified in the section 9.6 of the chapter.	Overall concerns regarding the effects of the Projects on the Dogger Bank.	
32.	CEA assessment conclusions	The Applicants believe the assessment conclusions detailed in <b>Chapter 9 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b> [APP-085] are sufficiently justified in the section 9.8 of the chapter.	Overall concerns regarding the effects of the Projects in-combination with other plans/projects on the Dogger Bank.	



SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
33.	Cable protection	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
35.	Potential AEoI screened for assessment	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
36.	RIAA worst case scenario	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
37.	RIAA conclusions	The Applicants believe the assessment conclusions detailed in <b>RIAA HRA - Part 2 of 4 – Annex I Offshore Habitats and Annex II Migratory Fish</b> [AS-051 and AS-052] are sufficiently justified in the report.	Overall concerns regarding the effects of the Projects on the Dogger Bank.	
38.	RIAA in-combination conclusions	The Applicants believe the in-combination assessment conclusions detailed in <b>RIAA HRA - Part 2 of 4 – Annex I Offshore Habitats and Annex II Migratory Fish</b> [AS-051 and AS-052] are sufficiently justified in the report.	Overall concerns regarding the effects of the Projects in-combination with other plans/projects on the Dogger Bank.	
39.	Project Level Dogger Bank Compensation Plan	The primary compensation measure for the Dogger Bank (new SAC designation or extension) has been agreed with the statutory nature conservation bodies, and such will be sufficient to compensate for the Projects activities within the Dogger Bank SAC.	LWT do not believe compensation will be sufficient to address the adverse impact on site integrity on the Dogger Bank SAC.	

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
40.	Dogger Bank Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan	The primary compensation measure for the Dogger Bank (new SAC designation or extension) has been agreed with the statutory nature conservation bodies, and such will be sufficient to compensate for the Projects activities within the Dogger Bank SAC.	LWT do not believe compensation will be sufficient to address the adverse impact on site integrity on the Dogger Bank SAC.	

### 3.8.4 Fish and Shellfish Ecology

Table 3-11 Status of discussions relating to Fish and Shellfish Ecology

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
42.	Baseline environment	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
43.	Survey data	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
44.	Study area	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
45.	Worst case scenario	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
46.	Embedded mitigation	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
47.	Methodology	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
48.	Assessment consistency with methodology	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
49.	List of potential impacts during construction	Permanent loss of habitat of sandeel habitat has been assessed within section 10.6.2.6 of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091].	LWT disagreed with the scoping out of direct damage and impacts to fish and shellfish.	
51	List of potential impacts during operation	Permanent loss of habitat of sandeel habitat has been assessed within section 10.6.2.6 of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091].	LWT disagreed with the scoping out of direct damage and impacts to fish and shellfish.	
51.	CEA methodology	The CEA presented in 10.7 of <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091] sufficiently assesses for potential cumulative effects based on a robust methodology detailed in <b>Appendix 6-2 - Offshore Cumulative Effects Assessment Methodology</b> [APP-078].	LWT noted in their relevant representation they believed there had been ' <i>limited consideration of potential cumulative impacts</i> '.	
52.	ES assessment conclusions	The Applicants believe the assessment conclusions detailed in <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091] are sufficiently justified in the section 10.6 of the chapter.	LWT noted concerns regarding the impacts to lesser sandeel as a result of the Projects.	
53.	CEA conclusions	The Applicants believe the assessment conclusions detailed in <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-091] are sufficiently justified in the section 10.7 of the chapter.	LWT noted concerns regarding impacts on the Dogger Bank as a result of the Projects activities.	

### 3.8.5 Marine Mammals

Table 3-12 Status of discussions relating to Marine Mammals

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
55.	Baseline environment	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
56.	Survey data	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
57.	Study area	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
58.	Worst case scenario	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
59.	Embedded mitigation	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
60.	Underwater noise modelling	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
61.	iPCoD modelling	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
62.	Methodology	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
63.	Assessment consistency with methodology	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
64.	List of potential impacts during construction	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
65.	List of potential impacts during operation	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
66.	CEA methodology	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
67.	ES assessment conclusions	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
68.	Additional mitigation	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
69.	CEA Screening	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
70.	CEA conclusions	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
71.	Potential AEoI screened for assessment	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
72.	RIAA worst case scenario	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
73	RIAA conclusions	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	
74.	RIAA in-combination conclusions	The Applicants await an updated LWT position on this topic.	Internal review awaited.	

### 3.8.6 Offshore Ornithology

Table 3-13 Status of discussions relating to Offshore Ornithology

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
75.	Planning and Policy	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
76.	Baseline Environment	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
77.	Survey data	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
78.	Study Area	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
79.	Worst case scenario	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
80.	Embedded Mitigation	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
81.	Impact assessment methodology	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
82.	CRM modelling (all birds except gannet)	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
83.	CRM modelling (gannet only)	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
84.	Projects-alone Assessment consistency with methodology	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
85.	List of construction impacts assessed	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
86.	List of operational impacts assessed	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
87.	CEA consistency with methodology	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
88.	ES Assessment Conclusions	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
89.	CEA Assessment Conclusions	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	



SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
90.	DCO/DMLs and compensation plans	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
91.	RIAA sites screened in	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
92.	Potential AEoI screened in for assessment	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
93.	Worst-case parameters	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
94.	Project alone kittiwake assessment	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
95.	Project alone guillemot assessment	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
96.	Project alone razorbill assessment	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
97.	Project alone gannet assessment	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
98.	Project alone assessment – all other species	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
99.	RIAA in-combination kittiwake assessment	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
100.	RIAA in-combination guillemot assessment	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
101.	RIAA in-combination razorbill assessment	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
102.	RIAA in-combination gannet assessment	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
103.	RIAA in-combination assessment – all other species	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
104.	Project-Level Kittiwake Compensation Plan	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
105.	Outline Kittiwake Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
106.	Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	
107.	Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan Site Shortlist	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	LWT's Position	Position Status
108.	Outline Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan	The Applicants will update the LWT Offshore Ornithology position through examination to align with the current RSPB position.	LWT's position to be updated in line with RSPB's SoCG through examination.	

## 4 Summary

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

## 5 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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