



Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Chapter 6 Technical Consultation

Volume 1 Chapters

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- Annex C Consultation Logs

Acronyms & Definitions

Abbreviations / Acronyms

Abbreviation / Acronym	Description
BBC	Boston Borough Council
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (now the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ))
CLG	Community Liaison Group
DCO	Development Consent Order
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, formerly Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), which was previously Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC)
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
EAP	Early Adopters Programme
ECC	Export Cable Corridor
EEA	European Economic Area
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
FLO	Fisheries Liaison Officer
GT R4 Ltd	The Applicant. The special project vehicle created in partnership between Corio Generation (a wholly owned Green Investment Group portfolio company), Gulf Energy Development and TotalEnergies
HND	Holistic Network Design
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
LCC	Lincolnshire County Council
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MCA	Maritime Coastguard Agency
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
NGESO	National Grid ESO
NPS	National Policy Statement
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
ODOW	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind
OTNR	Offshore Transmission Network Review
PADS	Principle Areas of Disagreement
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
S&ELCP	South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership
SHDC	South Holland District Council
SoS	Secretary of State

Abbreviation / Acronym	Description
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
TCE	The Crown Estate
THLS	Trinity House Lighthouse Services
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator

Terminology

Term	Definition
The Applicant	GT R4 Ltd. The Applicant making the application for a DCO. The Applicant is GT R4 Limited (a joint venture between Corio Generation, TotalEnergies and Gulf Energy Development (GULF)), trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind. The project is being developed by Corio Generation (a wholly owned Green Investment Group portfolio company), TotalEnergies and GULF.
Offshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC)	The Offshore Export Cable Corridor (Offshore ECC) is the area within the Order Limits within which the export cables running from the array to landfall will be situated.
Onshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC)	The Onshore Export Cable Corridor (Onshore ECC) is the area within which, the export cables running from the landfall to the onshore substation will be situated.
Onshore Infrastructure	The combined name for all onshore infrastructure associated with the Project from landfall to grid connection.
Order Limits	The area subject to the application for development consent. The limits shown on the works plans within which the Project may be carried out.
Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW)	The Project.
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	The PEIR was written in the style of a draft Environmental Statement (ES) and provided information to support and inform the statutory consultation process during the pre-application phase.
The Project	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, an offshore wind generation station together with associated onshore and offshore infrastructure.
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 or plants, people (often categorised further such as ‘residential’ or those using areas for amenity or recreation), watercourses etc.
Statutory consultee	Organisations that are required to be consulted by the Applicant, the Local Planning Authorities and/or The Planning Inspectorate during the pre-application and/or examination phases, and who also have a statutory responsibility in some form that may be relevant to the Project and the DCO application. This includes those bodies and interests prescribed under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.

Term	Definition
Transboundary impacts	Transboundary effects arise when impacts from the development within one European Economic Area (EEA) state affects the environment of another EEA state(s)

6 Technical Consultation

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Background

1. This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) presents the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consultation process for Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (the Project).
2. GT R4 Limited (trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind) hereafter referred to as the 'Applicant', is proposing to develop the Project.
3. GT R4 Limited (trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind) hereafter referred to as the 'Applicant', is proposing to develop the Project. The Project will be located approximately 54km from the Lincolnshire coastline in the southern North Sea. The Project will include both offshore and onshore infrastructure including an offshore generating station (windfarm), export cables to landfall, onshore cables, connection to the electricity transmission network, and ancillary and associated development (see Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description (Document Reference 6.1.3) for full details).
4. The Applicant commenced engagement with a range of stakeholders following the award of Preferred Bidder status of the Project in February 2021 and has continued this engagement at appropriate milestones throughout the EIA process. Consultation relevant to the technical onshore and offshore chapters of the ES is detailed within Volume 1, Chapters 7 to 31.
5. Throughout the pre-application period, consultation was an ongoing process. The Applicant engaged and consulted with all relevant stakeholders and interested parties in developing the Project and the ES and in preparation of the DCO application.

6.2 Statutory and Policy Context

6.2.1 Legislation

6. Volume 1, Chapter 2: Need, Policy and Legislative Context (document reference 6.1.2) sets out the legislative and policy context of the Project.
7. Under sections 15 and 15 of the Planning Act 2008 (2008 Act) the Project is defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and the Applicant must undertake pre-application consultation in accordance with the requirements of the 2008 Act. The Applicant must also comply with consultation requirements under Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations) due to the Project being an EIA development. Details of the Applicant's compliance with these regulations is set out in the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1) and the Compliance Checklist (document reference 5.1.1.).

6.2.2 Policy

8. The relevant National Policy Statements (NPS) which form the primary national guidance documents for NSIPs are listed below.
 - EN-1 - Overarching NPS for Energy (DECC, 2023a);
 - EN-3 - NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (DECC, 2023b); and
 - EN-5 - Electricity Networks Infrastructure, which covers the electrical infrastructure in conjunction with EN-1 (DECC, 2023c).
9. The Planning Inspectorate has published a series of advice notes, listed below to inform applicants, consultees, the public and others about a range of process matters in relation to the 2008 Act. The advice notes are non-statutory but provide advice and information of issues arising throughout the application process.
 - Advice Note Three: EIA consultation and notification (The Planning Inspectorate, 2017a);
 - Advice Note Six: Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (The Planning Inspectorate, 2023a)
 - Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements (The Inspectorate, 2020a);
 - Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope (The Inspectorate, 2018)
 - Advice Note Ten: Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) relevant to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (The Inspectorate, 2022);
 - Advice Note Eleven: Working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process (The Inspectorate, 2021b)
 - Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report (The Inspectorate, 2021).
 - Advice Note Seventeen: Cumulative Effects Assessment (The Inspectorate, 2019b)
10. Details of the Applicant's compliance with the NPS, Advice Notes and other relevant policy documents is set out in the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1) and the Compliance Checklist (document reference 5.1.1.).

6.3 Pre-Application Consultation

11. The Applicant has undertaken five phases of consultation to enable the communication of and consultation on project refinements made following feedback from previous phases of consultation as well as external project developments. Details on the pre-application consultation phases and the refinements made as a result are outlined in the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1)

6.4 The Evidence Plan Process (EPP)

12. Since September 2012, prospective applicants for NSIPs located in England and Wales, have been able to request and agree 'Evidence Plans' with relevant stakeholders as a means to manage and record informal consultation during the pre-application phase.

13. The primary objective of the EPP is for the Applicant to seek agreement (or otherwise to identify specific disagreements) with the key relevant stakeholders on the information (the evidence) that forms the basis of the EIA. The EPP also encompasses matters relevant to the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) that will accompany the DCO.

14. The EPP is summarised in Volume 3, Appendix 6.1: Evidence Plan Report (Document 6.3.6.1) and included as Appendix 5.1.16 of the Consultation Report (Document 5.1). Throughout the EPP, Minutes (Annex B) and Consultation Logs (Annex C) were created, acting as a record of the discussions, agreements, and disagreements on key topic areas within the EIA and HRA processes.

15. The purpose of the ETGs is to seek agreement on matters such as:

- The realistic worst-case parameters (Rochdale Envelope) for the EIA and Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment;
- The methodologies for surveys and data analysis;
- How relevant, suitable and adequate the data is for a specific survey and determine whether to continue or stop specific survey work and/or analysis);
- The methods for assessment (including, where possible, interpretation of impact, levels of significance and potential mitigation measures); and
- Whether, and when, to change survey requirements and collect additional evidence, including how this should be collected and analysed.

6.4.1.1 EPP Meeting Structure

16. The EPP was divided into ETG topics as summarised in Plate 6.1 and members for the different ETGs are provided in Table 6.1. The process was iterative and each ETG sought to agree as much as possible prior to the submission of the Application.

17. The EPP Steering Group (which was chaired by an independent chair, appointed by the Applicant) for the Project consisted of the following organisations:

- The Applicant;
- The Planning Inspectorate;

- Natural England;
- Marine Management Organisation (MMO);
- Lincolnshire County Council;
- Environment Agency;
- S&ELCP; and
- Historic England.

18. It is expected that discussions on outstanding areas of disagreement will continue with the relevant members of the ETGs throughout the examination process on a bilateral basis, and as directed by the Examining Authority as appropriate, with a view to agree as many topics as possible prior to the close of the Examination.

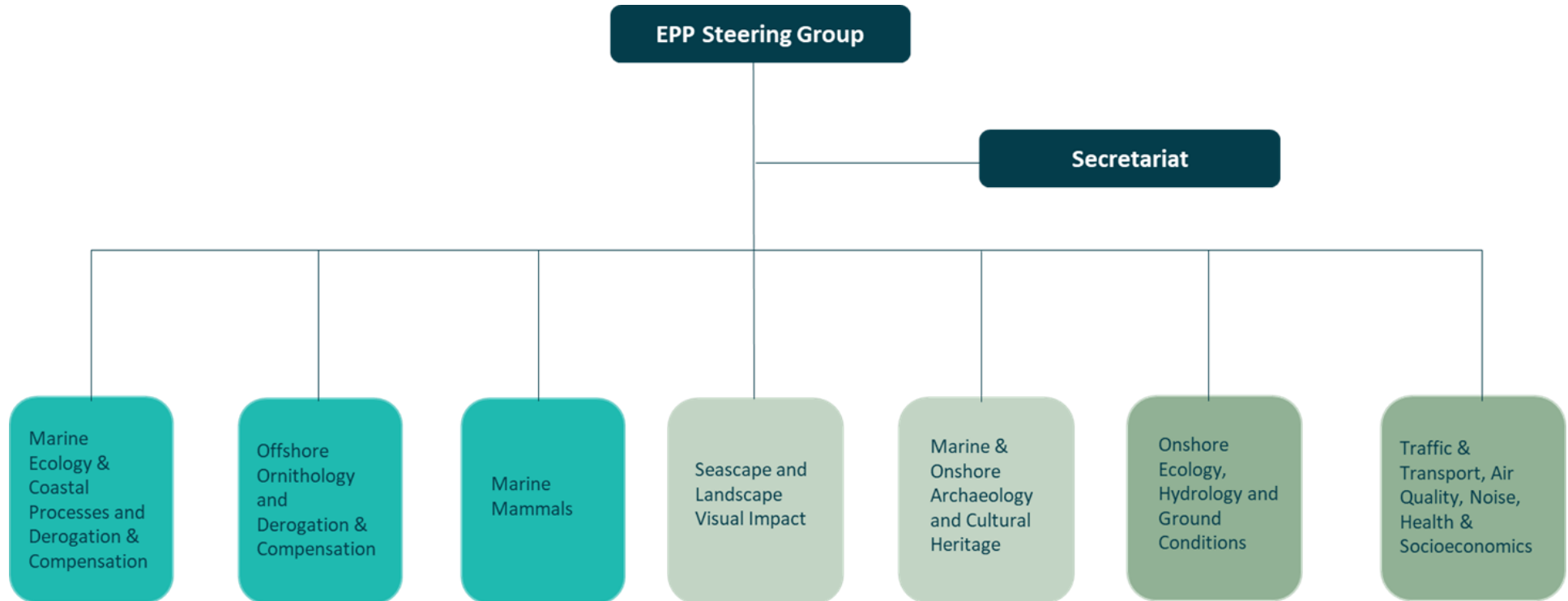


Plate 6.1 The Project Evidence Plan Overview

Table 6.1 ETG Members

ETG	Members
Marine Ecology, Coastal Processes and Derogation and Compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marine Management Organisation (MMO) ▪ Natural England ▪ Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust ▪ Environment Agency
Offshore Ornithology and Derogation and Compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MMO ▪ Natural England ▪ Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Marine Mammals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MMO ▪ Natural England ▪ Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Seascape and Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MMO ▪ Natural England ▪ Lincolnshire County Council ▪ Boston Borough Council ▪ East Lindsey District Council ▪ South Holland District Council¹
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MMO ▪ Historic England ▪ South & East Lincolnshire District Council Partnership ▪ Lincolnshire County Council ▪ East Lindsey District Council ▪ South Holland District Council ▪ Boston Borough Council
Onshore Ecology, Hydrology and Ground Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Natural England ▪ Environment Agency ▪ Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust ▪ RSPB ▪ Lindsey Marsh IDB ▪ Witham Fourth IDB ▪ Black Sluice IDB ▪ Welland and Deepings IDB ▪ South Holland IDB (Water Management Alliance) ▪ South & East Lincolnshire Council Partnership ▪ Lincolnshire County Council

¹ Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council councils form the partnership S&ELCP, therefore are represented through their partnership, rather than as individual entities.

ETG	Members
Traffic and Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Health and Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highways England ▪ South & East Lincolnshire Council Partnership ▪ Lincolnshire County Council ▪ Natural England

19. In addition to the meetings undertaken through the EPP, the Applicant has met with Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation on a regular basis, to provide updates and to seek advice on subjects including the site selection process, approach to the EIA and drafting the application documents. These meetings have supplemented discussions within the EPP.

20. Technical Consultation out with the EPP

21. Following the award of Preferred Bidder status as part of The Crown Estate leasing round 4 in February 2021 the Applicant commenced engagement with a range of stakeholders, in addition to consultation carried out through the EPP as outlined in Appendix 6.1 (document reference 6.3.6.1).

6.4.2 Commercial Fisheries

22. A Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) has been appointed to ensure effective, ongoing consultation with the fishing industry. The FLO is primarily responsible for maintaining effective communication and relationships between the Applicant, its consultants, and the fishing industry. The FLO has continued to work with the fishing industry to gain an understanding of the interactions and potential impacts of the Project for the industry and help gather data to accurately create a fisheries stakeholder database containing information on vessel operations. The FLO also provides information, notices, and project updates to fishing stakeholders and distributes information relating to safe operation of the fishing activity on the Project site. The FLO has been in regular contact with representatives of the fishing industry, including those fishermen operating in the Project area, including for example, when the Applicant has organised surveys that have necessitated the relocation of fishing gear. Details of consultation with the fishing industry is set out below in Table 6.2.

Table 6.2 Commercial Fisheries Consultation

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date and Type	Topic	Location	Key Discussion Points
Private Fishing Vessel Owner / Operator, NFFO	May 2021- In Person meeting	Geophys Survey	Grimsby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Project team introductions ■ Project introduction and updates ■ Overview of the site selection, preliminary details and Project programme. ■ Preparations for Geophysical Survey
Private Fishing Vessel Owner / Operator, NFFO	May 2021- In Person meeting	Geophys Survey	Grimsby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Project team introductions ■ Project introduction and updates ■ Overview of the site selection, preliminary details and Project programme. ■ Preparations for Geophysical Survey

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date and Type	Topic	Location	Key Discussion Points
Private Fishing Vessel Owner / Operator, NFFO	May 2021- In Person meeting	Geophys Survey	Bridlington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project team introductions ▪ Project introduction and updates ▪ Overview of the site selection, preliminary details and Project programme. ▪ Preparations for Geophysical Survey
Hornsea Fisheries Inshore Group (HFIG)	June 2021- In Person Meeting	Project Introduction	Bridlington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project team introductions ▪ Project introduction and updates ▪ Overview of the site selection, preliminary details and Project programme. ▪ Opportunities for collaboration on research and coexistence experiences on other East coast projects.
Private Fishing Vessel Owner / Operator	June 2021- Telephone call	Fisheries	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project team introductions ▪ Project introduction and updates ▪ Overview of the site selection, preliminary details and Project programme. ▪ Preparations for Geophysical Survey
SNSOWF Fisheries	June 2021- Online Meeting	SNS Developers Fisheries Forum	N/A	Industry Collaboration Forum
Private Fishing Vessel Owner / Operator, FLO	June 2021- In Person Meeting	Geophys Survey	Grimsby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline data confirmation and cooperation for Geophysical Survey
Private Fishing Vessel Owner / Operator, FLO	June 2021- In Person Meeting	Geophys Survey	Bridlington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline data confirmation and cooperation for Geophysical Survey
Private Fishing Vessel Owner / Operator, FLO	June 2021- In Person Meeting	Geophys Survey	Bridlington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline data confirmation and cooperation for Geophysical Survey

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date and Type	Topic	Location	Key Discussion Points
SNSOWF Fisheries	July 2021- Online Meeting	SNS Developers Fisheries Forum	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry Collaboration Forum
Private Fishing Vessel Owner / Operator, NFFO	July 2021- In Person Meeting	Commercial Fisheries	Bridlington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data confirmation and cooperation for Geophysical Survey
Private Fishing Vessel Owner / Operator, NFFO	July 2021- In Person Meeting	Commercial Fisheries	Bridlington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data confirmation and cooperation for Geophysical Survey
Fisheries	September 2021- In Person Meeting	Fisheries Meeting	Grimsby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data confirmation and cooperation for Geophysical Survey
Fisheries	October 2021- In Person Meeting	Fisheries Meeting	Bridlington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data confirmation and cooperation for Geophysical Survey
Private Fishing Vessel Owner / Operator	October 2021- In Person Meeting	Fisheries Meeting	Bridlington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data confirmation and cooperation for Geophysical Survey
Venture Seafoods	October 2021- In Person Meeting	Fisheries Meeting	Bridlington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data confirmation and cooperation for Geophysical Survey
HFIG	February 2022- In Person Meeting	HFIG	Bridlington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project introduction and updates Overview of the site selection, preliminary details and Project programme. Opportunities for collaboration on research and coexistence experiences on other East coast projects.

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date and Type	Topic	Location	Key Discussion Points
Eastern IFCA	March 2022- Online Meeting	Fisheries Meeting	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Update Cable Route Site Selection Without prejudice compensation measures and fisheries byelaws
Private Fishing Vessel Owner / Operator	March 2022- In Person Meeting	Fisheries- ODOW cable route	Grimsby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data confirmation and cooperation for Geophysical Survey
Fisheries	August 2022- In Person Meeting	Fisheries Meeting	Skegness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data confirmation and cooperation for Geophysical Survey
Private Fishing Vessel Owner / Operator	September 2022- In Person Meetings	Fisheries Meetings	Grimsby, Wells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data confirmation and cooperation for Geophysical Survey
Private Fishing Vessel Owner / Operator	July 2023- In Person Meeting	Fisheries Meetings	Grimsby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data confirmation and cooperation for Geophysical Survey
Private Fishing Vessel Owner / Operator	August 2023- In Person Meeting	Fisheries Meetings	Grimsby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data confirmation and cooperation for Geophysical Survey
Private Fishing Vessel Owner / Operator	August 2023- In Person Meeting	Fisheries Meetings	Grimsby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data confirmation and cooperation for Geophysical Survey
Eastern IFCA	August 2023- Online Meeting	Fisheries Meeting	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Update Cable Route Site Selection Without prejudice compensation measures and fisheries byelaws

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date and Type	Topic	Location	Key Discussion Points
Eastern IFCA	October 2023- Online Meeting	Fisheries Meeting	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Update Cable Route Site Selection Without prejudice compensation measures and fisheries byelaws
NFFO	October 2023- In Person Meeting	Fisheries Meeting	York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Update Review of draft assessment and baseline data Industry cooperation
Private Fishing Vessel Owner / Operator	December 2023- In Person Meeting	Fisheries Meetings	Grimsby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data confirmation and cooperation for Geophysical Survey

23. The data on fishing activity in the Project area gathered by the FLO and the commercial fisheries experts have been used to inform the assessment of potential impacts on the fishing industry as set out in this ES (see Volume 1, Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries (Document Reference 6.1.14)).

6.4.3 Shipping and Navigation

24. Relevant shipping and navigation stakeholders (including statutory bodies such as the MCA and THLS as well as shipping operators) have been invited to meetings as a forum to discuss the potential effects on shipping and navigation receptors. As part of the work undertaken to inform the PEIR a Hazard workshop was conducted on 10th November 2022. A further Hazard Workshop was then held on 23rd November 2023 to consult on the Project changes from PEIR to ES and inform the updated EIA assessments. Full details of the relevant consultation undertaken to date is discussed in more detail in ES Volume 1, Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation (Document Reference 6.1.15).

Table 6.3 Consultation with Shipping and Navigation consultees

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date	Topic
DFDS and CoS	02 June 2021	Initial NRA consultation
Trinity House	10 Jan 2022	Pre scoping consultation
MCA	14 Jan 2022	Pre scoping consultation
CoS	16 Aug 2022	NRA consultation

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date	Topic
DFDS	18 Sep 2022	NRA consultation
MCA	13 Sep 2023	Post PEIR consultation
CoS and DFDS	07 Sep 2023	Post PEIR consultation
Trinity House	15 Sep 2023	Post PEIR consultation
Hazard Workshop	10 Nov 2022	Pre PEIR hazard workshop
Hazard Workshop	10 Nov 2022	Post PEIR hazard workshop

6.4.4 Aviation and Civil and Military Radar

25. For civil and military radar, relevant stakeholders have been invited to meetings as a forum to discuss the potential effects on aviation and radar in the area. Consultation with relevant stakeholders was ongoing throughout the pre-application process, allowing for consultation on the potential impacts arising from the Project. This is discussed in more detail within ES Volume 1, Chapter 16: Aviation, Radar, and Military and Communication (Document Reference 6.1.16) and to the extent that other offshore owners and operators of infrastructure in the vicinity were affected, is included within Table 6.4 below.

6.4.5 Other Offshore Owners and Operators of Infrastructure in the Vicinity of the Project

26. Within the vicinity of the Project array area and the offshore export cable corridor (ECC) a range of other offshore users and commercial interests have been identified including oil and gas operators, pipeline and cable operators, marine aggregate dredging operators, and adjacent existing and proposed offshore wind farms. Consultation with relevant operators was ongoing throughout the pre-application process and is summarised in ES Volume 1, Chapter 18: Marine Infrastructure and Other Marine Users (Document Reference 6.1.18) and set out in Table 6.4 below.

Table 6.4 Consultation with other offshore owners and operators

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date	Topic	Key Discussion Points
Shell	April 2021	Introductory meeting- proximity to gas platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to the Project ▪ Overview of upcoming surveys & SimOps ▪ Interface with existing assets & project design / array interaction ▪ Data collaboration ▪ Aviation interfaces

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date	Topic	Key Discussion Points
Perenco	April 2021	Introductory meeting- proximity to gas platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to the Project ▪ Overview of upcoming surveys & SimOps ▪ Interface with existing assets & project design / array interaction ▪ Data collaboration ▪ Aviation interfaces
ABP Humber Estuary Services	May 2021	Introductory meeting and overview of geophys survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to the Project ▪ Overview of upcoming surveys & SimOps ▪ Interface with existing assets & project design / array interaction
DFDS	June 2021	Geophys Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Navigation Risk Assessment ▪ Interaction with commercial shipping route(s) ▪ Upcoming surveys
Orsted	June 2021	Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Industry collaboration and interaction with existing operational projects
Equinor	June 2021	Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Industry collaboration and interaction with existing operational projects
Vattenfall	July 2021	Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Industry collaboration and interaction with existing operational projects
Equinor, Gatroben	July 2021	Grid Connection/Ornithology Compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Industry collaboration and interaction with existing operational projects

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date	Topic	Key Discussion Points
Perenco	October 2021	Surveys, Decommissioning of offshore infrastructure within the array area, safety zones, lines of sight and co-existence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveys, Decommissioning of offshore infrastructure within the array area, safety zones, lines of sight and co-existence.
CCUS	December 2021	Carbon Capture and Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interaction with future licensing rounds
Orsted	December 2021	Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry collaboration and interaction with existing operational projects
Vattenfall	January 2022	OWIC Aviation, Defence & Radar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry collaboration and interaction with existing operational projects
Perenco	January 2022	Aviation, Radar, Military & Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveys, Decommissioning of offshore infrastructure within the array area, safety zones, lines of sight and co-existence.
Orsted	February 2022	Compensation Collaboration- Artificial Nesting Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry collaboration and interaction with existing operational projects
Hanson Aggregates	March 2022	ODOW offshore cable route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interaction with Area 1805
Hornsea Four	March 2022	ODOW and Hornsea Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry collaboration and interaction with existing operational projects
Orsted	March 2022	Compensation Collaboration- Artificial Nesting Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry collaboration and interaction with existing operational projects
Hanson Aggregates	April 2022	ODOW offshore cable route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interaction with Area 1805

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date	Topic	Key Discussion Points
Perenco	May 2022	Proximity Agreements for ODOW seabird census and tagging study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proximity Agreements for ODOW seabird census and tagging study
National Grid Ventures	June 2022	NGV ODOW Meeting, Continental Link Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project update & any potential interactions with future interconnector projects
Shell	June 2022	Proximity Agreements for ODOW seabird census and tagging study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry collaboration and interaction with existing operational projects
Orsted	October 2022	Compensation Collaboration- Artificial Nesting Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry collaboration and interaction with existing operational projects
Equinor	October 2022	Potential for collaborative compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry collaboration and interaction with existing operational projects
Equinor	November 2022	Gatrogen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry collaboration and interaction with existing operational projects
Gatrogen/SSE/Equinor	January 2023	Interaction with grid connection / cable routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interaction with grid connection / cable routes
Dogger Bank/SSE	February 2023	Offshore Cable Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offshore Cable Routes
NSTA	February 2023	Industry collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry collaboration
Perenco	March 2023	Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms
Shell	April 2023	Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date	Topic	Key Discussion Points
Boston Alternative Energy Facility	May 2023	Interaction with onshore cable route - compensation areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interaction with onshore cable route - compensation areas
Shell	May 2023	Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms
Perenco	June 2023	Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms
Shell	June 2023	Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms
Dudgeon Extension / Sheringham Extension / Equinor	July 2023	Navigation - Cumulative impact considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navigation - Cumulative impact considerations
Eastern Green Link	July 2023	Interaction with offshore and onshore cable route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interaction with offshore and onshore cable route
IOG Petroleum	August 2023	Interaction with licensing blocks & future plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interaction with licensing blocks & future plans
Orsted- Race Bank and Lincs	September 2023	Proximity Agreement for cable route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proximity Agreement for cable route
Perenco	September 2023	Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms
Orsted Hornsea Four	October 2023	Collaboration on radar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration on radar
Perenco	November 2023	Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date	Topic	Key Discussion Points
SEAL Pipeline	November 2023	Pipeline crossing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pipeline crossing
Shell	November 2023	Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms
Dudgeon Extension / Sheringham Extension / Equinor	November 2023	Proximity Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proximity Agreement
Perenco	December 2023	Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms
Shell	December 2023	Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms
Shell	January 2024	Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aviation interface with platforms and pipeline crossing, Line of Sight Comms
ABPorts	January 2024	O&M Facility - Review of opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ O&M Facility - Review of opportunities

6.4.6 Consultation Relevant to the National Grid Connection Point

27. The Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) was initiated by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) (now DESNZ) to investigate the way that the offshore transmission network is designed and delivered, consistent with the UK's ambition to deliver net zero emissions by 2050.
28. The Applicant has engaged with National Grid ESO (NGESO) in relation to the OTNR process, and the pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND). Following the preliminary conclusions as published in the HND Report (July 2022, NGESO) which identified two grid connection options for the Project as assessed in the PEIR (Lincolnshire Node and Weston Marsh), the Applicant has continued to engage with NGESO and a final grid connection point for the Project was confirmed as Surfleet Marsh (previously Weston Marsh North) on 10th August 2023.

29. In parallel, the Applicant engaged with key stakeholders in developing and identifying Offshore ECC routes and landfall sites (this was also in response to the requirements of The Crown Estate process for agreeing the Agreement for Lease (AfL) for the offshore cable route). Meetings were held with Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation and Cefas in March 2022 to discuss the offshore areas of search and potential landfall locations, with further relevant discussions regarding project refinements undertaken through the established ETGs.
30. (See ES Volume 1, Chapter 4 Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives (Document Reference 6.1.4)).

Table 6.5 Engagement with the National Grid

Consultee	Engagement Date	Key Discussion Points	
NGESO	Regular meetings throughout 2021/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meetings with NGESO to input into OTNR Process. 	
NGESO	Regular meetings throughout Jan – July 2023	Grid Connection location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputting project parameters to OTNR process
NGESO	Regular meetings throughout July – Nov 2023	Grid Connection Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entering into Grid Connection Agreement
NGET	Regular meetings throughout Nov – Present 2023	Interface Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interface discussions for Weston Marsh

6.4.7 Transboundary Consultation

31. Transboundary effects arise when impacts from a development within one European Economic area (EEA) state effects the environment in other EEA state(s). The need to consider transboundary effects has been embodied by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context (commonly referred to as the 'Espoo Convention'). The Convention requires that assessments are extended across borders between Parties of the Convention when a planned activity may cause significant adverse transboundary effects. The approximate distances of the Project from the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundaries of other EEA states are shown in Table 1.2 of Volume 1, Chapter 5: EIA Methodology (Document Reference 6.1.5).

32. The consultation requirements for transboundary effects set out in the Espoo Convention have been implemented in the UK for the purposes of NSIPs by the Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017. Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations sets out a prescribed process for the Secretary of State to notify and consult EEA States if the Secretary of State is of the view that a Project is likely to have significant transboundary effects on the environment in that EEA State.
33. The Applicant has followed the Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts and Processes (The Planning Inspectorate, 2020b) which sets out the procedures for consultation in association with an application for a DCO where such a development may have significant transboundary effects, noting the Applicant’s responsibility to provide relevant information on potential transboundary effects as part of the DCO application.
34. Transboundary effects have been largely scoped out for many receptors given the location of the Project. However, each of the technical chapters includes details of the potential transboundary effects (see ES Chapters 7 through to 30).
35. Where consultation has been undertaken to inform the transboundary assessment, these have been recorded and summarised in the Consultation Report (Doc Ref 5.1).

6.4.8 Habitat Regulations and Compensation

36. The Project has been required to undertake a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) in accordance with section 63(1) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Further details on the HRA process are set out in the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (document reference 7.1) HRA Screening Report (document reference 7.2) and the Need, Policy and Legislative Context chapter of the ES (document referent 6.1.2).
37. The Project has concluded that it will not have an Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEoI) on any of the designated features of the relevant Special Protected Areas (SPA) or Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). However, in the event that the Secretary of State (SoS) identifies that an AEoI cannot be ruled out on any of the relevant sites, the Project has put forward a range of ‘without prejudice’ compensation measures for the relevant benthic and ornithological features (document references 7.6 – 7.9).
38. In addition to consultation undertaken through the Expert Topic Groups (ETGs) and EPP process including identification and prioritisation of HRA matters, the Project has undertaken extensive consultation with a range of other stakeholders in relation to HRA and associated without prejudice compensation matters. These meetings are recorded below within Table 6.6.

Table 6.6 HRA and Compensation consultation

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date	Key Discussion Points
Associated British Ports	June 2023	Potential onshore Artificial Nesting Structure locations
Associated British Ports	Sep 2023	Potential onshore Artificial Nesting Structure locations
COWSC	Mar 2023	COWSC Updates

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date	Key Discussion Points
COWSC	July 2023	COWSC Updates Expert working group 3 Habitat Creation/Restoration (Meeting 5)
COWSC	Jul 2023	COWSC strategic delivery group
COWSC	Jul 2023	COWSC Strategic Compensation Expert Working Group 4 infrastructure removal (Meeting 5)
COWSC	Sep 2023	COWSC Strategic Compensation Expert Working Group 4 infrastructure removal (Meeting 6)
COWSC	Sep 2023	COWSC Updates Expert working group 3 Habitat Creation/Restoration (Meeting 6)
COWSC	Sept 2023	COWSC Strategic Expert Group 2 Predation Reduction
COWSC	Oct 2023	COWSC strategic delivery group - recommendations to DEFRA
COWSC	Nov 2023	COWSC Updates Expert working group 3 Habitat Creation/Restoration (Meeting 7)
DEFRA	Jan 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Defra updates ▪ Discussion on SAC extension and non like for like compensation, ▪ Energy Bill, ▪ Ongoing engagement with Defra
DEFRA	Mar 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates, ▪ Defra updates, ▪ Discussion around different types of proposed without prejudice compensation and ▪ Update on Energy Bill and MRF
DEFRA	May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic Compensation Workshop, ▪ Library of Measures, ▪ Marine Recovery Fund, ▪ Plan Level measures, ▪ Timeframes
DEFRA	Jun 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates, ▪ Benthic Compensation Options, ▪ Ornithological Compensation Options, ▪ Defra Updates
DEFRA	Aug 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates, ▪ MRF, ▪ MPA Extension, ▪ Compensation Guidance, Fisheries management, ▪ Defra Updates
DEFRA	Oct 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates, ▪ Defra Updates,

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date	Key Discussion Points
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MRF, ▪ COWSC
DEFRA	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ MMO Bylaws, ▪ Benthic and Ornithological compensation options, ▪ Defra Updates
EIFCA	Aug 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to the Project, ▪ Benthic Compensation Plans, ▪ Historical Fisheries, ▪ Fishing Activity, ▪ Commercial Fisheries, ▪ Ongoing Engagement
EIFCA	Oct 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Locations for potential compensation, ▪ Oyster and mussel seed and cultch availability, ▪ Biogenic Reef
Equinor	Mar 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborative Discussion, ▪ Update on SEP DEP, Strategic and Policy updates and Discussion, ▪ Project updates
Equinor	July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on SEP DEP, ▪ Update on ODOW
Equinor	Sep 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on SEP DEP, ▪ Update on ODOW
ESCA	Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ODOW Introduction to Project, ▪ Telecommunications cable recovery discussion.
ESCA	Jan 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ESCA Cable Recovery and Compensation continued discussion.
KSCP	Dec 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KSCP Meeting 1
KSCP	Feb 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KSCP Meeting 1.5
KSCP	Mar 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KSCP Meeting 2
KSCP	Mar 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KSCP Meeting 3
KSCP	Apr 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KSCP Meeting 4
KSCP	May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KSCP Meeting 5
KSCP	Jun 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KSCP Meeting 6
KSCP	Aug 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KSCP Meeting 7

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date	Key Discussion Points
KSCP	Aug 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KSCP Meeting 8
KSCP	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KSCP Meeting 9
KSCP	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KSCP Meeting 10
KSCP	Jan 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KSCP Meeting 11
MMO	Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion regarding Guillemot sites in Devon and Cornwall.
National Trust Jersey	Apr 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion regarding Guillemot sites in Devon and Cornwall.
National Trust Jersey	May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion regarding Ornithological Compensation Plans for Guillemot.
National Trust Jersey	Jun 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Introduction, ▪ NT Jersey Introduction to potential Predator Control Project
National Trust Jersey	Jul 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued Discussion regarding Plemont Seabird Reserve, ▪ ODOW Updates, ▪ NT Jersey Updates
National Trust Jersey	Aug 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion regarding Ornithological Compensation Plans for Guillemot, ▪ ODOW Updates, ▪ NT Jersey Updates
National Trust Jersey	Sep 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued Discussion regarding Plemont Seabird Reserve, ▪ ODOW Updates, ▪ NT Jersey Updates
National Trust Jersey	Oct 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued Discussion regarding Plemont Seabird Reserve, ▪ ODOW Updates, ▪ NT Jersey Updates
National Trust Jersey	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued Discussion regarding Plemont Seabird Reserve, ▪ ODOW Updates, ▪ NT Jersey Updates
National Trust Jersey	Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued Discussion regarding Plemont Seabird Reserve, ▪ ODOW Updates, ▪ NT Jersey Updates
National Trust	Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion regarding Guillemot sites in Devon and Cornwall.

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date	Key Discussion Points
Orsted	Apr 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborative Meeting on Compensation, ▪ Hornsea 4 Project 4 Updates, ▪ ODOW Updates
RWE	Jun 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting to discuss collaboration on compensation, ▪ updates on Five Estuaries, ▪ ODOW Updates and ▪ RWE Updates
RWE	Aug 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting to discuss collaboration on compensation and data sharing with Dogger Bank South
RWE	Sep 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting to discuss collaboration on compensation, ▪ updates on Five Estuaries, ▪ ODOW Updates and ▪ RWE Updates
RWE	Oct 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting to discuss collaboration on compensation, ▪ updates on Five Estuaries, ▪ ODOW Updates and ▪ RWE Updates
RWE	Oct 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting to discuss collaboration on compensation, ▪ updates on Five Estuaries, ▪ ODOW Updates and ▪ RWE Updates
RWE	Oct 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting to discuss collaboration on compensation, ▪ updates on Five Estuaries, ▪ ODOW Updates and ▪ RWE Updates
RWE	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting to discuss collaboration on compensation, ▪ updates on Five Estuaries, ▪ ODOW Updates and ▪ RWE Updates
RWE	Jan 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting to discuss collaboration on compensation, ▪ updates on Five Estuaries, ▪ ODOW Updates and ▪ RWE Updates
SPR	Aug 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaboration discussions on compensation, ▪ ODOW Introduction to project, ▪ SPR Introduction to project
Vattenfall	Aug 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaboration discussions on compensation, ▪ ODOW Introduction to project, ▪ Vattenfall introduction to projects
Vattenfall	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborative discussions on compensation,

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date	Key Discussion Points
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ODOW project updates, Vattenfall project updates
Exmoor National Park	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Introduce Project and ask for information regarding Guillemot in Devon
Devon National Landscape	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Introduce Project and ask for information regarding Guillemot in Devon
Cornwall National Landscape	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Introduce Project and ask for information regarding Guillemot in Devon
Torbay Harbour Authority	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Introduce Project and ask for information regarding Guillemot in Devon
Natural England	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Introduce Project and ask for information regarding Guillemot in Devon and Cornwall
Natural England	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Introduce Project and ask for information regarding Guillemot in Devon and Cornwall
Natural England	Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Introduce Project and ask for information regarding Guillemot in Devon and Cornwall
Natural England	Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Introduce Project and ask for information regarding Guillemot in Devon and Cornwall
Cornwall Wildlife Trust	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Introduce Project and ask for information regarding Guillemot in Devon and Cornwall
Seabird Monitoring Programme	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Introduce Project and ask for information regarding Guillemot in Devon and Cornwall
RSPB	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Introduce Project and ask for information regarding Guillemot in Devon and Cornwall
RSPB	Jan 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting to Introduce the project and gather information on guillemot populations in Devon and Cornwall
Devon Birds	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Introduce Project and ask for information regarding Guillemot in Devon and Cornwall
Cornwall Birds	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Introduce Project and ask for information regarding Guillemot in Devon and Cornwall
Cornwall Wildlife Trust	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Introduce Project and ask for information regarding Guillemot in Devon and Cornwall

6.4.9 Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs)

39. The ECC is located within the areas managed by five IDBs who own certain drainage assets, including pumping stations and some of the largest drains:

- Lindsey March IDB
- Witham Fourth District IDB (W4DIDB)
- Black Sluice IDB
- Welland and Deepings IDB (WDIBD)

- South Holland IDB

40. Other drains are managed by the IDBs and activities relating to riparian drains (which are owned by the relevant landowner) also are regulated by the IDBs. The IDB owned or maintained drains, and the riparian drains are identified in ES Volume 3 Crossing Schedule (document reference 6.3.3.2) and ES Volume 1 Hydrology and Flood Risk (document reference 6.1.24).
41. The IDBs own certain drainage assets, including pumping stations and some of the largest drains. Other drains are managed by the IDBs and activities relating to riparian drains, which are owned by the relevant landowner, are regulated by the IDBs. The IDB owned or maintained drains and the riparian drains are identified in the Chapter 24 of the ES Hydrology and Flood Risk (document reference 6.1.24) and the Crossing Schedule (document reference 6.3.3.2).
42. All of the IDBs listed above have been involved in the Onshore Ecology, Hydrology, Geology & Ground Conditions and Land Use ETG meetings conducted as part of the EPP with Witham Fourth District IDB acting as a representative of the group for negotiating technical details and arrangements for approvals.
43. Additionally, the Applicant has held additional meetings to discuss Project activities that fall within the IDB's regulatory remit and clarify the Project's understanding of their requirements in relation to works. Separate discussions have taken place with the Welland and Deepings IDB regarding the permanent drainage discharge arrangements for the OnSS, which are described in Outline Operational Drainage Management Plan (Document 8.12).

Table 6.7 Consultation with the IDBs

IDB	Engagement Date	Topic/ Key Discussion Points
W4DIDB (as rep)	Jun 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Programme ▪ ECC route ▪ IDB Crossing parameters ▪ Technical requirements ▪ IDB key concerns to be addressed
WDIDB (as IDB for the OnSS site)	Sep 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OnSS introduction ▪ Site features ▪ Drainage discharge requirements ▪ Discharge run off levels and costs
WDIDB (as IDB for the OnSS site)	Sep 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Confirmation of development drainage charges
WDIDB (as IDB for the OnSS site)	Oct 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project's OnSS landscaping ▪ IDB easements ▪ Access and maintenance ▪ Agreement of planting arrangements

IDB	Engagement Date	Topic/ Key Discussion Points
W4DIDB (as rep)	Oct 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Documents for W4IDB legal review ▪ Rollout to other IDBs ▪ DCO and Protective Provisions ▪ Crossing arrangements and administrative process
W4DIDB (as rep)	Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consent Process Summary ▪ Approval of disapplications ▪ PPA
WDIDB	Feb 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project OnSS drainage options and costs
WDIDB	Feb 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OnSS drainage

6.4.10 Anglian Water Services (AWS)

44. AWS is the statutory undertaker providing potable water and sewerage services within the Project area and has a large number of assets, such as water mains and sewerage pipes located within the Project's Order Limits.
45. The Applicant consulted AWS through its formal consultation processes and received responses regarding the requirement for protective provisions in relation plant which could be affected by the project, and a request for a meeting. An inception meeting was held to brief AWS regarding the project and for AWS to set out its requirements and procedures, both for the DCO process and for the management of service crossings during construction.
46. An inception meeting was held to brief AWS regarding the project and for AWS to set out its requirements and procedures, both for the DCO process and for the management of service crossings during construction.
47. AWS infrastructure is shown in the Onshore Crossings Schedule (document 6.3.3.2) and following a review of crossing methodology by the applicant's engineers, a site meeting was held with AWS to investigate recorded redundant services at one crossing location, which represented a potential design consideration

Table 6.8 Consultation with Anglian Water

Engagement Date	Topic/ Key Discussion Points
Jun 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Inception Meeting ▪ Scoping of topics to be addressed ▪ Arrangements for review of protective provisions
October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of Protective Provisions
Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Haven crossing AWS existing infrastructure

6.4.11 The Environment Agency

48. The Environment Agency (EA) is a public body sponsored by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) which has responsibilities and a regulatory role for the management of flood defences, main rivers, abstraction and discharges and other activities requiring environmental permits. The primary areas of interaction between ODOW and the EA relate to the landfall, the five main rivers and associated flood defences (under which cables will be installed by trenchless techniques) and the OnSS, in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA). The EA is also a landowner and owns assets, including flood defences, land and a bridge within the project order limits.
49. The EA has been involved in the ETG and Evidence Plan process through the Onshore Ecology, Hydrology and Land-use group and specific meetings have been held to discuss project activities that fall within the EA’s regulatory remit. The assessments relating to the topics discussed are contained in ES Volume 1, Chapter 24: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk (document 6.1.24).
50. Specific consultation meetings have been carried out, both to discuss concerns raised by the EA and to clarify ODOW’s understanding of EA requirements in relation to works, such as the clearances required for trenchless crossings under main rivers and to discuss ODOWs indicative construction methodologies.
51. The EA currently has an annual program of beach nourishment close to the cable landfall location and discussions have taken place in order to understand each party’s works and potential interactions. The potential for the EA to carry out future flood defence works has also been considered in relation to the depth of installation of the cables, at locations where the EA has identified that works may occur in the future.
52. The EA has been the main consultee in relation to the flood resilience requirements for the OnSS and the modelling that was required in order to determine the maximum depth to be considered in the OnSS design. The assessment is contained in the OnSS Flood Risk Assessment (document 6.3.24.3) and Annex 1 the River Welland Breach Model report (document 6.3.24.3.1).

Table 6.9 Consultation with the Environment Agency

Engagement Date	Topic/ Key Discussion Points
Jan 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landfall methodology ▪ Temporary flood protection ▪ TJB permanent site level ▪ East coast defences- commitment re cable depth ▪ Beach nourishment works ▪ Topics for SOCG
Jan 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flood risk modelling report ▪ Flood modelling review arrangements ▪ Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) Sequential test

Engagement Date	Topic/ Key Discussion Points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FRA Exception test ▪ Topics for SOCG
April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Introductions ▪ Scoping of Issues ▪ Project Updates ▪ Geotechnical Investigations (beach borehole permit) ▪ Beach Nourishment works ▪ Project Landfall works ▪ Flood defences and coastal assets ▪ EA Steeping catchment management plans ▪ Trenchless crossings ▪ Wainfleet relief channel bridge ▪ Construction assumptions
Apr 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Receipt of EA review of flood modelling methodology
Jul 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flood defences and coastal assets ▪ IDB crossing arrangements (info only) ▪ EA Beach nourishment – outline SIMOPS agreements ▪ EA Steeping catchment management plan ▪ DCO and Protective Provisions ▪ OnSS flood resilience design ▪ Wainfleet relief channel bridge
Aug 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submission of ODOW methodology for flood modelling for EA review
Sep 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EA (Estates): bridge ownership
Oct 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCO and Protective Provisions ▪ Disapplication of EP Regulations ▪ Use of EP exemptions ▪ EA Beach Nourishment – comments on SIMOPS ▪ Other EA assets ▪ OnSS flood risk modelling update ▪ OnSS flood protection proposals
Mar 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EA beach works and interaction with the EA’s beach nourishment works at landfall

6.4.12 Van Oord

53. The Applicant engaged with Van Oord in relation to interactions with the construction with their dredging activities.

Table 6.10 Engagement with the Van Oord

Consultee	Engagement Date	Topic	Key Discussion Points
Van Oord	May 2022	Interaction with beach replenishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interface with beach replenishment scheme
Van Oord	March 2023	Interaction with beach replenishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interface with beach replenishment scheme
Van Oord	June 2023	Interaction with beach replenishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interface with beach replenishment scheme

6.4.13 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT)

54. The Applicant engaged early with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to ensure they could avoid or minimise impacts on LWT wildlife sites as well as to discuss potential opportunities in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain.

Table 6.11 Consultation with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT)

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date	Topic	Key Discussion Points
LWT	May 2021	Introduction to Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project introduction
LWT	June 2022	Landfall and cable route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input to Landfall and cable route options
LWT	September 2022	Scoping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response to Scoping Report
LWT	January 2023	Landfall interaction with LWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On site meeting to discuss the landfall and Anderby Marsh LNR
LWT	March 2023	Borehole investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landfall and Ecological mitigation Preparation for borehole campaign
LWT	June 2023	Borehole investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation for onshore borehole investigation Access arrangements Timing of works

6.4.14 RSPB

55. The Applicant engaged in a number of meetings with the RSBP to understand more about their Landscape Recovery Project ‘The Greater Frampton Vision’ and how they can support and contribute to it. Further information in relation to this engagement is included in ES Chapter 22 Onshore Ornithology (document reference 6.1.22).

Table 6.12 Other Consultation with the RSPB

Consultee	Engagement Date	Topic	Key Discussion Points
RSPB	March 2023	Teams Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1a consultation and introduction
RSPB	October 2023	On Site In person meeting - The Greater Frampton Vision project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Greater Frampton Vision project and opportunities for the Project to support and contribute to it. . Discussions in relation to the project’s reinstatement of the impacted area in line with the Frampton Vision.
RSPB	December 2023	Teams Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of the MoU

6.4.15 Boston Alternative Energy Facility (BAEF)

56. The Applicant engaged with the BAEF about their potential compensation site that is in the vicinity of the Project’s footprint. Further information in relation to this engagement is included in ES Chapter 22 Onshore Ornithology (document reference 6.1.22).

Table 6.13 Engagement with the BAEF

Consultee	Engagement Date	Topic	Key Discussion Points
BAEF	May 2023	Compensation sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To discuss interface with proposed compensation sites with onshore cable route
BAEF	January 2024	Compensation sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To discuss interface with proposed compensation sites with onshore cable route and timelines

6.4.16 Land Interest Groups

57. A Land Interest Group (LIG) has been formed consisting of land agents who are representing landowners affected by the Project’s proposals. The LIG was set up by the agents and supported by the Project as it brings efficiencies and a more streamlined approach to voluntary negotiations. The Project has also engaged with the LIG on both the outline Code of Construction Practice (document reference 8.1) and Soil Management Plan (document reference 8.1.3) to ensure that concerns highlighted throughout both the formal and informal consultation have been addressed.

58. The LIG has met with the Applicant and the Applicant’s land agents regularly since January 2023. These meetings have been centred around agreeing Heads of Terms for the Deeds of Easement which the Applicant is seeking to enter into on a voluntary basis to obtain the land rights for the Project.

59. Due to the number of landowners impacted by the cable corridor, the LIG enabled feedback to be streamlined prior to the Heads of Terms being issued to the landowners.

60. Following the Heads of Terms being issued there were further negotiations facilitated through the LIG which led to these being amended.

61. The LIG has also held meetings to discuss and negotiate terms for the Temporary Works Areas.

Table 6.14 LIG Meetings

Meeting No.	Date	Meeting Type	Topics Covered
Meeting 1	Jan 23	In Person Meeting	kick off meeting
Meeting 2	Start Apr 23		started review of HoTS
Meeting 3	End Apr 23		completed 1st review of HoTs
Meeting 4	Start July 23		Teams Meeting – HoTs review
Meeting 5	End July 23	Teams Meeting	Teams Meeting – HoTs review
Meeting 6	Aug 23		LIG Meeting re Easement HoTs
Meeting 7	Sep 23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Easement Heads of Terms
Meeting 8	Nov 23	Solicitors meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft Option Agreement for Easement and Deed of Easement
Meeting 9	Feb 24	Teams Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Temporary Working Areas

6.4.17 National Trust

62. The Applicant engaged early with the National Trust to discuss their Sandilands Project and discuss potential opportunities in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain.

Table 6.15 Consultation with the National Trust

Panel/Consultee	Engagement Date	Topic	Key Discussion Points
National Trust	March 2023	Sandilands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ potential opportunities in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain

6.5 Summary

63. The Applicant has had regular engagement with a wide range of stakeholders from the early stages of the Project. The Project design has had due regard to all responses and feedback received from throughout the consultation phases, including both technical and non-technical consultation. Consultation on the PEIR has been acknowledged in the ongoing design of the project and considered in the ES where appropriate.
64. Further information on the consultation activities undertaken and how consultation responses have influenced the Project design and the preparation of the DCO application, are reported within the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1).

7 References

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