

Outer Dowsing Offshore

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 Evidence Plan Process

Volume 3

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Acronyms & Definitions

Abbreviations / Acronyms

| Abbreviation / Acronym | Description |
|------------------------|---|
| 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) |
| dML | deemed Marine Licence |
| EC | European Commission |
| EEC | European Economic Community |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| EPP | Evidence Plan Process |
| ES | Environmental Statement |
| ETG | Expert Topic Group |
| EU | European Union |
| 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 |
| HRA | Habitats Regulations Assessment |
| IDB | Internal Drainage Board |
| IDRBNR | Inner Dowsing Race Bank North Ridge SAC |
| LEA | Local Economic Area |
| LTRA | Local Tourism and Recreation Area |
| MCZ | Marine Conservation Zone |
| MMO | Marine Management Organisation |
| NSIP | Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project |
| ODOW | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (The Project) |
| PADS | Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements |
| PEIR | Preliminary Environmental Information Report |
| PINS | The Planning Inspectorate |
| RIAA | Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment |
| RSPB | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds |
| SAC | Special Area of Conservation |
| SMRU | Sea Mammal Research Unit |
| SoS | Secretary of State |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| 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. |
| Baseline | The status of the environment at the time of assessment without the development in place. |
| Deemed Marine Licence (dML) | A marine licence set out in a Schedule to the Development Consent Order and deemed to have been granted under Part 4 (marine licensing) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. |
| Development Consent Order (DCO) | An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). |
| Effect | Term used to express the consequence of an impact. The significance of an effect is determined by correlating the magnitude of the impact with the sensitivity of the receptor, in accordance with defined significance criteria. |
| EIA Directive | European Union 2011/92/EU (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU). |
| EIA Regulations | Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 |
| Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) | A statutory process by which certain planned projects must be assessed before a formal decision to proceed can be made. It involves the collection and consideration of environmental information, which fulfils the assessment requirements of the EIA Regulations, including the publication of an Environmental Statement (ES). |
| Environmental Statement (ES) | The suite of documents that detail the processes and results of the EIA. |
| Evidence Plan | A voluntary process of stakeholder consultation with appropriate Expert Topic Groups (ETGs) that discusses and, where possible, agrees the detailed approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and information to support Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for those relevant topics included in the process, undertaken during the pre-application period. |
| Impact | An impact to the receiving environment is defined as any change to its baseline condition, either adverse or beneficial. |

| Term | Definition |
|---|---|
| Maximum Design Scenario | The project design parameters, or a combination of project design parameters that are likely to result in the greatest potential for change in relation to each impact assessed |
| Mitigation | Mitigation measures are commitments made by the Project to reduce and/or eliminate the potential for significant effects to arise as a result of the Project. Mitigation measures can be embedded (part of the project design) or secondarily added to reduce impacts in the case of potentially significant effects. |
| Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) | The Project. |
| The Planning Inspectorate | The agency responsible for operating the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). |
| 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 generating station together with associated onshore and offshore infrastructure. |
| Project Design Envelope | A description of the range of possible elements that make up the Project's design options under consideration, as set out in detail in the project description. This envelope is used to define the Project for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) purposes when the exact engineering parameters are not yet known. This is also often referred to as the "Rochdale Envelope" approach. |
| 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. |
| Study Area | Area(s) within which environmental impact may occur – to be defined on a receptor-by-receptor basis by the relevant technical specialist. |
| Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) | A structure comprising a tower, rotor with three blades connected at the hub, nacelle and ancillary electrical and other equipment which may include J-tube(s), transition piece, access and rest platforms, access ladders, boat access systems, corrosion protection systems, |

| Term | Definition |
|------|--|
| | fenders and maintenance equipment, helicopter landing facilities and other associated equipment, fixed to a foundation |

6 Evidence Plan Process

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Project Background

1. This document reports on the Evidence Plan and the Evidence Plan Process (EPP) associated with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application by GT R4 Limited (trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind) for consent to develop the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as ‘the Project’). Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (hereafter referred to as ‘the Applicant’) is a joint venture between Corio Generation (a wholly-owned Green Investment Group portfolio company), TotalEnergies and Gulf Energy. Details of the Project can be found within Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description and information on the site selection process and consideration of alternatives are described in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives.
2. This report documents the Applicant’s approach to the EPP including the process, expectations and timeframes. This report is submitted to accompany the Volume 1, Chapter 6: Technical Consultation (Document Reference 6.1.6) as a summary of the EPP. Within the report there are records of agreements and discussions (Annex B Meeting Minutes and Annex C Consultation Logs).

6.1.2 Background to the Evidence Plan Process

3. The EPP provides a framework and documents a non-statutory, voluntary process that allows engagement and aims to encourage upfront agreement on the information an applicant is required to supply to the Planning Inspectorate as part of a DCO application. It aims to ensure that Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Marine Conservation Zone Assessment (MCZA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) requirements are met and to reduce the risk of major infrastructure projects being delayed within the examination phase.
4. The EPP was initially developed by the Major Infrastructure Environment Unit (MIEU) of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to provide a formal mechanism to agree between applicants and statutory bodies what information and evidence an applicant for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) should submit. The process originally focussed on the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) and was then recommended to be expanded to all EIA issues.
5. Guidance on the preparation of Evidence Plans is provided within the Defra Guidance Note ‘Habitats Regulations : Evidence Plans for National Significant Infrastructure Projects’ (Defra 2012). This has been supplemented with the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 11 – Annex H: Evidence Plans for Habitats Regulations Assessments of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (the Planning Inspectorate 2022a).

6. The guidance provides an overview of the process and the roles of the parties. Its focuses on compliance with EC Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) and the corresponding PINS Advice Note 10: HRA relevant to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (the Planning Inspectorate 2022b).
7. The advice note states that applicants are expected to:
 - Engage actively and constructively with SNCBs, the Inspectorate and other consenting bodies throughout the process.
 - Collect the evidence and analyse it using agreed methodologies, adhering to agreed timelines.
 - Accept that evidence requirements may change throughout the process, due to changes in the proposed NSIP application and/ or as a result of evidence highlighting new areas of concern.
8. The advice note states that SNCBs are expected to:
 - Seek pragmatic solutions (e.g. to uncertainties and/ or changing evidence).
 - Take a proportionate approach, setting appropriate evidence levels, assessment methodologies and interpretation criteria, seeking evidence that is justified and consistent with the matters being considered.
 - Only change evidence requirements following:
 - The assessment of evidence provided by the Applicant identifying new areas of concern.
 - Relevant evidence, information or research coming to light that would have an impact on what information is required.
 - A change to the NSIP proposal that is likely to change the potential impacts and therefore the evidence requirements to address these.
 - Engage pro-actively, giving clear guidance and advice, aiming to resolve issues in pre-application and adhering to agreed timelines specified in the Evidence Plan.
 - Be clear about the work they will charge for and the rate, or rates, they will charge and communicate these before costs are incurred by a developer.

6.1.2.1 Implementing the Evidence Plan Process

9. There are four stages of the EPP that have been followed by the Applicant. These are described in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1 The four stages of the Project Evidence Plan

| Stage | Description | Compliance |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 Requesting an Evidence Plan | The Applicant of the proposed NSIP notifies the Inspectorate of the intention to submit a DCO application(s) and requests an Evidence Plan. The Applicant then contacts the relevant SNCBs and requests that they work on the Evidence Plan. Once the SNCBs have agreed to work on the plan, they will | The Applicant met with the Inspectorate in August 2021 for an inception meeting, in which the Evidence Plan was requested and the draft EPP Terms of Reference (ToR) were presented. Subsequently, the Applicant confirmed on November 2021 that it had commenced the EPP. |

| Stage | Description | Compliance |
|--|---|---|
| | <p>inform the Inspectorate and other relevant consenting bodies. The SNCBs, in conjunction with the Applicant, will then agree a time period for the agreement of the Evidence Plan. .</p> | |
| <p>2 Agreeing an Evidence Plan</p> | <p>The Applicant prepares and maintains the plan until the EPP is considered complete. The initial plan is agreed between the relevant SNCBs and the Applicant. A draft EPP should be provided to allow the Inspectorate and relevant SNCBs</p> <p>In addition, the Applicant provides the draft ToR and relevant consultees review and agree the EPP ToR with the Applicant.</p> <p>The Evidence Plan will evolve as the project develops. It will identify the topic where evidence gathering is required, how this evidence will be collected and analysed, and how the evidence is shared and presented. Where there are multiple stakeholders involved for a given topic, a lead stakeholder will be agreed for negotiating the Evidence Plan.</p> | <p>The Applicant held an EPP Steering Group meeting in November 2021 in order to agree the ToR. The ToR were reviewed by stakeholders and finalised in January 2022.</p> <p>The plan was agreed initially and then updated throughout the EPP as the Project developed and evidence was collected and analysed. Examples of how the EPP adapted to fit the Project requirements were the structure changed to include the derogation and compensation discussions within the relevant ETG topic meetings, rather than a separate meeting. Additionally, within the final stages ETG topics such as Marine Mammals were retired as the Applicant and SNCBs agreed further discussions were not required.</p> |
| <p>3 Gathering evidence, analysis and feedback</p> | <p>The applicant gathers and analyses the evidence to present to the Planning Inspectorate, other consenting bodies, and where appropriate, environmental NGOs fThis stage is an iterative process which will involve ongoing review of evidence as it is collected and analysed. Throughout the pre-application period there will be regular planned engagement, aligning with key stages of the EIA process or the availability of new information. This approach allows the applicant and relevant consultees to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify if there is sufficient information to inform the DCO application; | <p>This is demonstrated throughout the schedule of ETG meetings. The discussions and agreements are captured within the ETG meeting minutes (Annex B Meeting Minutes) and the consultation logs (Annex C Consultation Logs)</p> |

| Stage | Description | Compliance |
|----------------------|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine whether to continue or halt specific survey work and/or analysis; ▪ Agree to change the evidence requirements and collect additional evidence, including how this should be collected and analysed, updating the EPP and timetable as necessary; ▪ Identify any potentially adverse effects and agree steps to assess the potential efficacy of potential mitigation measures; and ▪ Formally agree that specific matters have been resolved for inclusion in the Statement(s) of Common Ground (e.g. refinement of the Rochdale envelope to allow design features and techniques to be removed; impacts can be scoped out; agreed mitigation measures mean that residual impacts are not considered significant). | |
| 4 Finalising the EPP | <p>The EPP is considered finalised when the evidence has been collected, analysed using agreed methodologies, reviewed and agreed by both the Applicant and the SNCBs during the pre-application stage.</p> <p>The aim is that on the completion of the discussions have started in the mitigation proposals and progressed as far as possible. Additionally, there has been agreement on as much as possible between the Applicant and SNCBs, and where appropriate these have been agreed in written statements such as consultation logs.</p> | <p>The Evidence Plan document and associated annexes is submitted alongside the DCO application. Annex C Consultation Logs provides records of key decisions and agreements.</p> |

6.2 The Project Evidence Plan

6.2.1 EPP Stakeholders

10. Table 6.2 provides a list of parties involved in the EPP. Organisational representative(s) on the Steering Group or ETG were intended to have sufficient authority that, so far as possible, their agreed positions within the EPP represented the position of the organisation they represented and not the advice of the representative only.

Table 6.2 Parties involved in the EPP

| |
|--|
| Organisation |
| Applicant |
| Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| GoBe Consultants |
| SLR Consulting |
| Public Bodies |
| The Planning Inspectorate |
| Marine Management Organisation (MMO) |
| Cefas (providing advise as requested by the MMO) |
| Natural England |
| Historic England |
| Environment Agency |
| East Lindsey District Council |
| Lincolnshire County Council |
| South Holland District Council |
| Boston Borough Council |
| Water Management Alliance |
| Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board |
| Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board |
| Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board |
| National Highways |
| Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (EIFCA) |
| Non Government Organisations |
| RSPB |
| Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust |

6.2.2 EPP Steering Group

11. An EPP Steering Group was established in order to monitor the evidence requirements and processes for reaching agreement. The role of the Steering Group was to:

- Oversee progress of the Evidence Plan and processes and ensure that schedules are met;
- Resolve all issues that emerge from the Expert Topic Groups (ETGs) and, where resolution cannot be reached, agree approaches that will be taken;
- Clarify and agree how to address key HRA, MCZA and EIA matters, on receipt of advice from the ETGs.

12. The EPP Steering Group Members were selected to support the aims of the Steering Group. The members invited were chosen to ensure that the onshore and offshore ETG topics had relevant representation and allow consultation over the whole Evidence Plan and Project processes. The members are provided below:

- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind; Supporting the Applicant:
 - GoBe Consultants;
 - SLR Consulting;
 - WSP; and
 - Amos Ellis Consulting (Chairing the meetings).
- Attendees:
 - The Planning Inspectorate;
 - Marine Management Organisation;
 - Natural England;
 - Historic England;
 - Environment Agency;
 - East Lindsey District Council;
 - Lincolnshire County Council;
 - South Holland District Council; and
 - Boston Borough Council.

6.2.3 Expert Topic Groups (ETGs)

13. ETGs for the topics listed in Table 6.2 below have been held on an approximately quarterly basis, with additional meetings held at key stages within the Project such as post scoping and post Section 42. . Each ETG is comprised of relevant members of the EPP including experts within the topic. The ETGs had the following functions:

- Agree the relevance, appropriateness and sufficiency of baseline data for the specific assessment(s), including both site specific and contextual data, and agree the scope of any project-specific surveys;
- Agree the methods for data analysis;
- Agree worst-case parameters for the assessment(s);
- Agree methods for assessment (including where possible interpretation of impact and levels of significance);
- Agree the in-combination/cumulative impact assessment details, which projects to scope in and which evidence can be used;
- Agree key focus areas for post consent monitoring and mitigation;
- Agree how to deal with new emerging evidence (e.g. whether and when to change the evidence requirements, updating the plan and timetable as necessary); and
- Identify and prioritise key HRA, MCZA and EIA matters and communicate these to the Steering Group. If there are matters unable to be agreed then the reasoning for differences will be presented within the Consultation Logs (Annex C Consultation Logs).

14. Discussions were recorded within the meeting minutes (Annex B Meeting Minutes) and outcomes in the Consultation Logs (Annex C Consultation Logs).

6.2.3.1 Expert Topic Group Members

15. The ETG members are experts from relevant organisations with a clear statutory role or non-statutory interest in the topics. All members had the following roles and responsibilities:.

- Agree the final scope of the EIA and the impacts to be considered;
- Agree scope of and methods for data collection where necessary;
- Following collection of data, discuss and agree the appropriateness and sufficiency of data for the assessments to be undertaken;
- Agree realistic worst-case parameters (Maximum Design Scenario (MDS)) for assessment;
- Discuss and agree the assessment and analysis methods for the EIA, and RIAA if relevant, including agreement on appropriate thresholds, and agreeing terms for interpretation of impact and levels of significance; and
- If significant effects are identified following assessment, discuss and agree the mitigation or management requirements to avoid or reduce adverse effects Table 6.3 sets out the ETG meeting topic and the meeting members.

Table 6.3 ETG topics and Members

| ETG Meeting | ETG Members |
|---|--|
| Marine Ecology, Coastal Processes and Derogation & Compensation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind ▪ GoBe Consultants ▪ WSP ▪ Marine Management Organisation ▪ Natural England ▪ Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust ▪ Environment Agency |
| Offshore Ornithology and Derogation & Compensation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind ▪ GoBe Consultants ▪ WSP ▪ Marine Management Organisation ▪ Natural England ▪ RSPB |
| Marine Mammals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind ▪ GoBe Consultants ▪ SMRU Consulting |

| ETG Meeting | ETG Members |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marine Management Organisation ▪ Natural England ▪ Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust |
| Seascape and Landscape Visual Impact Assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind ▪ GoBe Consultants ▪ SLR Consulting ▪ OPEN ▪ Marine Management Organisation ▪ Natural England ▪ East Lindsey District ▪ Lincolnshire County Council ▪ South Holland District Council ▪ Boston Borough Council ▪ South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership |
| Marine and Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind ▪ GoBe Consultants ▪ SLR Consulting ▪ Maritime Archaeology ▪ Historic England ▪ Marine Management Organisation ▪ East Lindsey District ▪ Lincolnshire County Council ▪ South Holland District Council ▪ Boston Borough Council ▪ South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership |
| Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Health and Socio-economics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind ▪ GoBe Consultants ▪ SLR Consulting ▪ BiGGAR Economics ▪ East Lindsey District ▪ Lincolnshire County Council ▪ South Holland District Council ▪ Boston Borough Council |

| ETG Meeting | ETG Members |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Natural England ▪ National Highways ▪ South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership |
| Onshore Ecology, Hydrology, Geology & Ground Conditions and Land Use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind ▪ GoBe Consultants ▪ SLR Consulting ▪ Natural England ▪ Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust ▪ Environment Agency ▪ Water Management Alliance ▪ Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board ▪ Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board ▪ Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board ▪ East Lindsey District ▪ Lincolnshire County Council ▪ South Holland District Council ▪ Boston Borough Council ▪ RSPB ▪ Welland IDB ▪ South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership |

6.3 The Project Evidence Plan – Roles and Responsibilities

6.3.1 Introduction

16. The roles and responsibilities of the organisations included in the Evidence Plan Process for the Project were agreed through the ToR for the Steering Group and the ETGs. The main roles and responsibilities of the EPP members are set out in the sections below.

17. The structure of the Project EPP is summarised below in Plate 6.1.

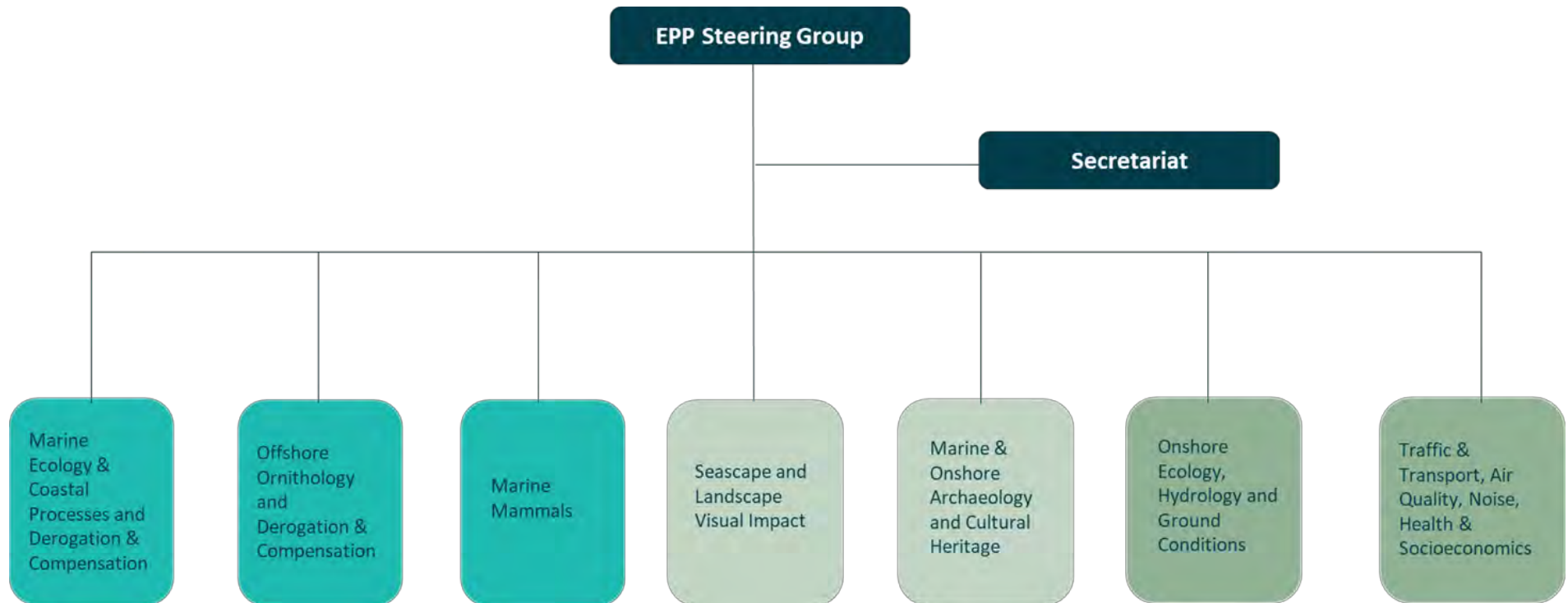


Plate 6.1: The Project EPP meeting structure.

6.3.2 The Development Team

18. The development team is comprised of the Applicant and its appointed lead EIA consultants. It is the Applicant that has the overall responsibility for the DCO application and ensuring that the information required to support the application has been obtained and consulted upon. The development team has overseen the EPP.
19. In relation to the EPP, the role of the development team can be summarised as follows:
- Draft and maintain the Evidence Plan throughout the process;
 - Provide all required evidence and documentation to facilitate discussions including the Evidence Plan itself and all other technical documents prior to meetings;
 - Provide documentation to be discussed at meetings at least two weeks in advance for circulation to all parties;
 - Work with the other Plan participants to resolve as many issues as possible at the pre-application stage and set out the issues agreed, or not agreed, in the consultation logs, using the Plan as a mechanism to do this; and
 - Finalise the Plan and use it to inform the DCO application.

6.3.3 Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies

20. The Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs) engaged with the Applicant at the Pre-application stage to discuss the Project, any charged services, potential likely impacts on a European site(s) and their conservation objectives, and any potential EIA impacts.
21. The SNCBs agreed a time period for the evidence demands within the EPP, ensuring it was proportionate to the potential impacts of the proposed NSIP.
22. The SNCBs assessed and reviewed evidence provided by the Applicant and proposed changes to the evidence requirements where appropriate.
23. The SNCBs also worked with the Applicant to resolve issues throughout the pre-application phase and provided, as part of the Inspectorate's Trial Early Adopters Scheme, a Principle Areas of Disagreement Statement (PADS).

6.3.4 The Planning Inspectorate

24. The Planning Inspectorate where possible, reviewed and commented on the draft Evidence Plan.
25. The Planning Inspectorate reviewed and assessed the evidence provided by the Applicant and provided advice on the evidence requirements in a timely manner as requested.
26. The Inspectorate was asked to provide Section 51 advice as and when appropriate. If the Inspectorate was unable to do this at the time due to the complexity of the request, the Inspectorate was asked to provide a response within an appropriate timeframe.

6.3.5 The Consenting and Other Regulatory Authorities

27. The decision-maker for the DCO application under the 2008 Act is the SoS for Energy Security and Net Zero. The SoS is also the competent authority for the Appropriate Assessment.

28. The National Infrastructure Directorate of the Inspectorate is the UK government agency responsible for dealing with procedural aspects of NSIP applications on behalf of the relevant SoS. The Planning Inspectorate are responsible for informing the SoS of the progress of the Project and also documenting any unresolved issues throughout the EPP. The Inspectorate have been invited to all Steering Group meetings.
29. The MMO is the statutory body responsible for advising the Planning Inspectorate on marine licensing in relation to DCO applications that include deemed Marine Licenses (dMLs). The MMO were invited to be part of the main Steering Group and were represented on relevant ETGs along with their advisors (Cefas) where the MMO thought appropriate.

6.3.6 Environmental NGOs

30. The Applicant has engaged with NGOs and ensured positive working relations throughout the EPP. The RSPB and the Wildlife Trust have been invited to the ETGs and bilateral consultation has been undertaken to engage with NGOs where appropriate.

6.4 EPP Reporting

6.4.1 Consultation Logs

31. The meeting minutes and consultation logs were updated and recorded for ETG and Steering Group minutes, and have been included within an Annex to this document. Together these form the Evidence Plan which is being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate alongside the Chapter 6 (document reference 6.1.6) as part of the DCO application.
32. Consultation logs provided in Annex C provide records of the key decisions, agreements and areas where agreement was not able to be achieved along with the reasoning. The consultation logs present the Project's understanding of the discussions held throughout the EPP. This is an iterative approach and may form the basis of any subsequent SoCGs. At the point of application most SoCG from SNCBs will not be produced but may be requested by the Examining Authority during examination .

6.4.2 Outputs of the Project Evidence Plan

33. The outputs of the EPP are intended to make an important contribution to and to help inform many aspects of the Project. These are listed below:
- The evidence for the final ES and RIAA to accompany the Applicant's application;
 - Where likely significant effects are identified, the Evidence Plan is used to agree mitigation and/or monitoring that may be required;
 - Under the Habitats Regulations the consideration of a derogation case, including the need for derogation where there is potential for adverse effects on integrity for any particular site/feature, and any compensatory measures required;
 - Through the Consultation Logs areas of disagreement with each statutory and non statutory stakeholder involved in the EPP about the sufficiency of evidence provided and assessment methodology undertaken is identified;
 - The examination of the application by the Inspectorate for the topics and issues addressed by the EPP; and

- The final determination of the application, including any appropriate assessment undertaken by the Secretary of State (SoS) as the competent authority.

6.5 EPP Approach to Completing the Evidence Plan

6.5.1 Introduction

34. This section presents the working arrangements and the timeline for drafting and finalising the Evidence Plan and the relevant consultation. The Applicant sought to reach agreement with all key parties on the EPP in line with agreed project milestones.

6.5.2 The Project Evidence Plan

35. Plate 6.1 Summarises the EPP Timeline and Table 6.3 sets out the key stages and milestones involved in developing and completing the Evidence Plan. Within Table 1 of Annex A, all EPP meetings undertaken by the Project have been detailed with their agenda.

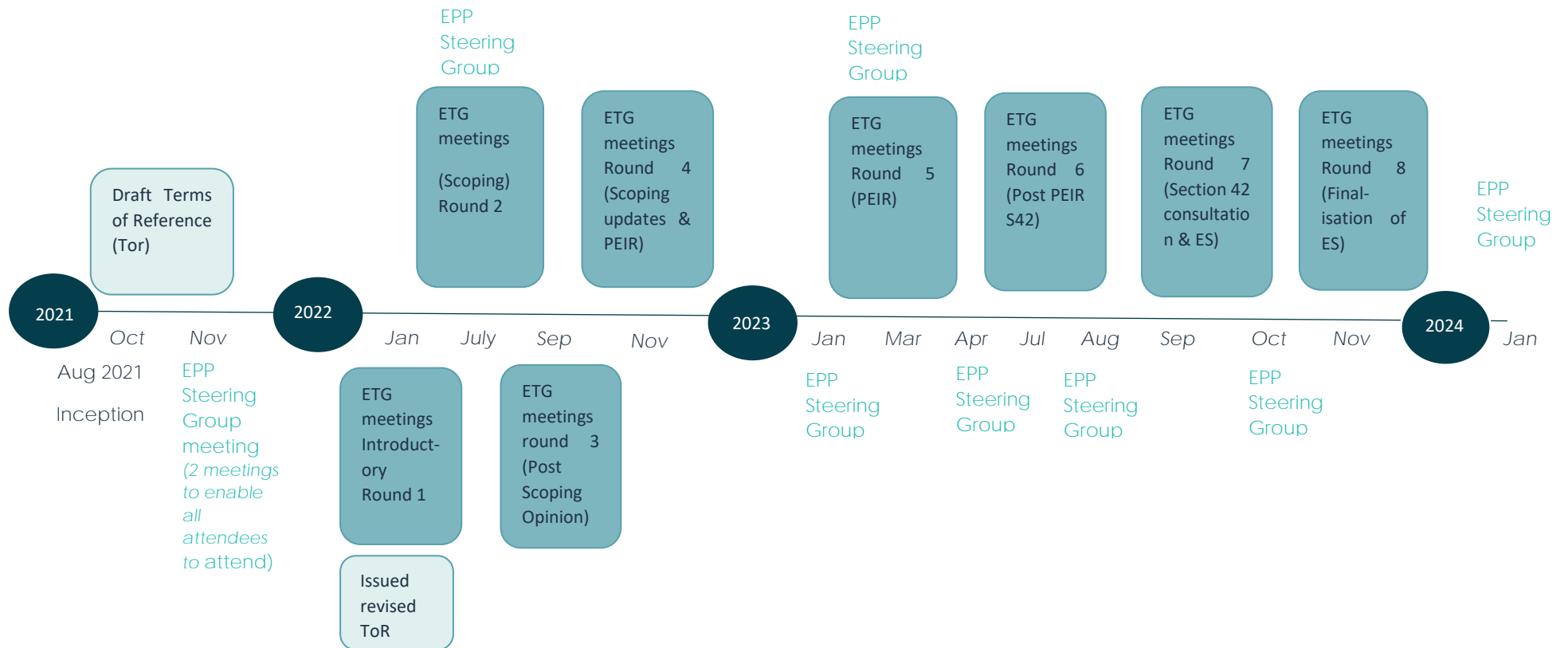


Plate 6.2: Timeline of EPP

Table 6.4 An Overview of the EPP

| Date | Overview |
|----------------|---|
| August 2021 | Inception meeting held with the Inspectorate to request an Evidence Plan. |
| October 2021 | Drafting the EPP ToR |
| November 2021 | First EPP Steering Group meeting held to agree EPP ToR. |
| January 2022 | Issued revised ToR to the Steering Group, following kick off meeting feedback. |
| January 2022 | ETGs held to discuss the additional information required and any outstanding issues to agree (where possible) the sufficiency of data, key impacts to be addressed, methodologies and scoping out of impacts. |
| July 2022 | ETGs held to discuss the additional information required and any outstanding issues to agree (where possible) the sufficiency of data, key impacts to be addressed, methodologies and scoping out of impacts. |
| September 2022 | ETGs held Post Scoping Report to discuss the additional information required and any outstanding issues to agree (where possible) the sufficiency of data, key impacts to be addressed, methodologies and scoping out of impacts. |
| November 2022 | ETGs held to discuss the Scoping Opinion and the additional information required and any outstanding issues to agree (where possible) the sufficiency of data, key impacts to be addressed, methodologies and scoping out of impacts. |
| March 2023 | ETGs held to provide update on how the PEIR is progressing and to discuss providing additional information required and any outstanding issues to agree (where possible) the sufficiency of data, key impacts to be addressed, Premethodologies and scoping out of impacts. |
| July 2023 | ETGs held to discuss the initial comments raised in formal consultation under Section 42 and Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 informed by the production of the PEIR, further Steering Group and ETG meetings as required to review and discuss the PEIR and draft RIAA. |
| September 2023 | ETGs held to discuss any outstanding comments raised in formal consultation under Section 42 and Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 informed by the production of the PEIR, further Steering Group and ETG meetings as required to review and discuss the PEIR and draft RIAA. |
| November 2023 | ETGs held to consult on the feedback received in the additional Section 42 autumn consultation and any topics of outstanding disagreements prior to DCO submission. |
| February 2024 | Finalisation of the EPP prior to the DCO application being made. |

36. Throughout the EPP, the consultation logs have been updated to highlight the matters that have been discussed and where agreements have been reached, and where relevant, any outstanding areas that remain under discussion.

6.5.3 Recording the Evidence Plan Process

37. As outlined in the PINS Advice Note 11 – Annex H: Evidence Plans for Habitats Regulations Assessments of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (the Inspectorate 2022a), the EPP has been a live document throughout the pre-application period. A record has been maintained of all Evidence Plan consultation that has been undertaken during its drafting with the Evidence Plan members incorporating consenting bodies, statutory and non-statutory stakeholders. In addition, consultation logs for each topic area were developed to document areas of agreement and disagreement and these logs have been updated as the EPP progressed.
38. The consultation logs are intended to subsequently be used as a basis for the SoCG with consultees as required by PINS enabling a clear audit trail of discussions and decision making with the intention that this should negate the need for any reiteration of previous discussion on issues considered and agreed during the EPP. SoCG may not be provided by the SNCBs at the point of application and may be requested by Examining Authority during examination. The offshore and onshore logs for the Project are presented as Consultation Log Appendix XX of this document.
39. The ETG members and Project team have been responsible for agreeing the meeting records (Annex B Meeting Minutes) which form the basis of the Evidence Plan logs, with participants required to comment on, and approve these records.

6.5.4 Presenting the Evidence

40. The reports and draft documents issued as part of the EPP were supplied to the Steering Group and relevant ETG members as electronic copies via email.

6.6 Evidence Plan Status and Progress

41. The status of issues relevant to each of the topic areas discussed by the ETG members and informed by the information provided by the Applicant, are set out in detail in the consultation logs (consultation log appendix) as maintained throughout the EPP. As part of the Inspectorate's Trial Early Adopters Scheme the Project trialled PADS, which are statements owned and created by the stakeholders that reflect the EPP and highlight the areas of disagreement that they have at that point in time. The PADS have been submitted alongside the application (Appendix 5.1.18 of the Consultation Report)
42. Additionally, to the PADS, the Project have trialled the multipartite meeting element of the Early Adopter Programme. A meeting was held in January 2024 with Natural England, and facilitated by the Planning Inspectorate, to discuss potential 'without prejudice' compensation and derogation. This was to progress discussions from the ETGs and reach agreement of methodologies, compensation quantum and ratios, and proposed measures.

7 References

Defra (2012). Habitats Regulations – Evidence Plans for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, September 2012. [Online]. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a798194e5274a3864fd7928/pb13825-habitats-evidence-plans.pdf> [Accessed: November 2023].

The Inspectorate (2022a) Advice Note Ten: Habitats Regulations Assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure project [Online]. Available at: [Advice Note Ten: Habitats Regulations Assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/advice-note-ten-habitats-regulations-assessment-relevant-to-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects/) [Accessed: November 2023].

The Inspectorate (2022b) Advice Note Eleven: Working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process [Online]. Available at: [Advice Note Eleven: Working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/advice-note-eleven-working-with-public-bodies-in-the-infrastructure-planning-process/) [Accessed: November 2023].

Annex A ETG and EPP Steering Group Minutes

Table 1 The agenda of all the Evidence Plan meetings held by the Project

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|----------------|---|--|
| Steering Group | November 2021 (two meetings to allow all attendees to attend) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project team introductions ▪ Project introduction and updates ▪ Overview of the site selection, preliminary details, National Grid connection and Project programme. ▪ Overview of the EPP ▪ Next steps for the Project |
| | July 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project team introduction and updates ▪ Project updates ▪ EPP introduction and ETG overview ▪ Scoping report update ▪ Updates on the scoping report cumulative and transboundary impacts ▪ Updates and overview on HRA considerations for the Project ▪ Next steps for the Project |
| | January 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Onshore routing updates ▪ Updates from the scoping project phase to PEIR ▪ Updates on Project compensation and derogation work ▪ Next steps for the Project |
| | March 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|--------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Updates on consultation ▪ Updates on Project compensation and derogation work ▪ Overview of the Project evidence base ▪ Next steps for the project |
| | April 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Updates from the round of ETGs ▪ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement from ETGs ▪ Next steps for the Project |
| | August 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ EPP progress update ▪ PINS Early Adopter Programme overview ▪ Updates from the round of ETGs ▪ Next steps for the Project |
| | October 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ EPP progress updates ▪ PINS Early Adopter Programme overview and updates ▪ Updates from the round of ETGs ▪ Next steps for the Project |
| | January 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Update ▪ EPP Progress and Consultation Logs ▪ Next Steps for the Project ▪ AOB |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|---|--------------|--|
| Derogation and Compensation (this topic after September 2022 was combined within the Offshore Ornithology and the Marine Ecology and Coastal Processes as relevant) | January 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project team introductions ▪ Project introduction and updates ▪ Evidence Plan introduction ▪ Ongoing and planned survey overview ▪ Overview of the Project approach to derogation and compensation ▪ Overview of the initial works on derogation and compensation ▪ Overview of the preliminary Project compensation options ▪ Next steps for the Project |
| | March 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Overview of the Project proposed approach ▪ Overview of the initial works on derogation and compensation ▪ Overview of the preliminary shortlist of compensation measures being proposed by the Project ▪ Overview of additional data acquisition ▪ Next steps for the Project |
| | July 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Overview of Offshore Ornithology data collection ▪ Overview of Offshore Ornithology proposed assessment methodology ▪ Overview of the Project approach to derogation and compensation ▪ Overview of the Project initial compensation works ▪ Overview of the Project’s proposed compensation measures |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|---|----------------|---|
| | September 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Next steps for the Project <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Offshore Ornithology approach to compensation overview ▪ Overview of Offshore Ornithology compensation measures ▪ Overview of Offshore Ornithology next steps ▪ Benthic Ecology approach to compensation overview ▪ Overview of Benthic Ecology longlist compensation measures ▪ Overview of preliminary shortlist of benthic ecology compensation measures methods ▪ Overview of the Project commitment to Marine Net Gain ▪ Overview of Benthic Ecology next steps |
| Marine Ecology, Coastal Processes and Compensation & Derogation | January 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project team introductions ▪ Project introduction and updates ▪ Evidence Plan introduction ▪ Overview of relevant ongoing and planned surveys ▪ Overview of marine physical processes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline characterisation ▪ Proposed approach to EIA and significant effects ▪ Next steps and further data collection ▪ Overview of benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline characterisation ▪ Proposed approach to EIA and significant effects ▪ Next steps and further data collection ▪ Overview of fish and shellfish ecology; |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|--------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline characterisation ▪ Proposed approach to EIA and significant effects ▪ Next steps and further data collection |
| | July 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project team introductions ▪ Evidence Plan overview ▪ Project updates ▪ Overview of ongoing and planned surveys ▪ Overview of marine processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline characterisation ▪ Proposed approach to EIA and significant effects ▪ Proposed embedded mitigation ▪ Next steps and further data collection ▪ Discussion points ▪ Overview of fish and shellfish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline characterisation ▪ Proposed approach to EIA and significant effects ▪ Next steps and further data collection ▪ Discussion points ▪ Overview of benthic ecology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline characterisation ▪ Proposed approach to EIA and significant effects ▪ Next steps and further data collection ▪ Discussion points ▪ Overview of benthic derogation and compensation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of the benthic derogation |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|---------------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of the benthic longlist ▪ Overview of the benthic compensation next steps ▪ Discussion points |
| | October 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Offshore Project updates ▪ Scoping report boundary updates ▪ Overview of ongoing and planned surveys ▪ Overview of offshore PEIR boundary ▪ Marine Processes overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of key scoping opinion comments ▪ Next steps ▪ Benthic Ecology overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of key scoping opinion comments ▪ Site specific survey updates ▪ Overview of impacts scoped out ▪ Next steps ▪ Fish and shellfish overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of key scoping opinion comments ▪ Next steps ▪ Overview of Project next steps |
| | December 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Offshore Project updates ▪ Overview of marine physical processes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scope of assessment |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|--------------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of data sources ▪ Overview of site specific surveys ▪ Overview of proposed methodology ▪ Overview of data gaps and uncertainties ▪ Overview of the areas of disagreement and key topics for discussion ▪ Overview of benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of the areas of disagreement and key topics for discussion ▪ Overview of fish and shellfish ecology; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of the areas of disagreement and key topics for discussion ▪ |
| | March 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Overview of the evidence base ▪ Overview of topic updates since the previous ETG ▪ Overview of updates on the compensation work |
| | August 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Offshore Project updates ▪ PINS Early Adopter Programme update ▪ Overview of marine physical processes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of the areas of disagreement and key topics for discussion ▪ Overview of benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of the areas of disagreement and key topics for discussion |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|----------------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Overview of fish and shellfish ecology; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Topic updates ■ Overview of the areas of disagreement and key topics for discussion |
| | September 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Overview of ongoing actions from previous meetings ■ Project update ■ Confirmation of National Grid substation area of search and onshore route ■ Benthic ecology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Topic updates ■ Overview of areas of disagreement and Key Topics for Discussion from Section 42 comments ■ Development of the Inner Dowsing Race Bank and North Ridge (IDRBNR) SAC Mitigation Hierarchy ■ Overview of the feasibility and development of the ‘without prejudice’ compensation strategy ■ Fish and shellfish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Topic updates ■ Refinement of Project parameters from PEIR to ES ■ Overview of areas of disagreement and Key Topics for Discussion from Section 42 comments ■ Marine Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Topic updates ■ Refinement of Project parameters from PEIR to ES ■ Overview of areas of disagreement and Key Topics for Discussion from Section 42 comments |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|--|---------------|--|
| | November 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Programme updates ■ Updates on the Autumn Consultation ■ Project updates ■ Marine Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic specific updates ■ Benthic Ecology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic specific updates ▪ Updates on ‘without prejudice’ compensation strategy ▪ Updates on the mitigation hierarchy ■ Fish and Shellfish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Updates on the underwater noise assessment ▪ Topic specific updates |
| Offshore Ornithology and Compensation & Derogation | January 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Project team introductions ■ Project introduction and updates ■ Evidence Plan introduction ■ Overview of ongoing and upcoming surveys ■ Summary of the scoping report chapter ■ Next steps for the Project |
| | July 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Project updates ■ Overview of offshore ornithology data collection ■ Overview of offshore ornithology assessment methodology ■ Overview of the Projects approach to derogation and compensation work ■ Overview of the Project initial works and the protected sites identified |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|----------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of the Project’s proposed compensation measures ▪ Next steps for the Project |
| | September 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Overview of offshore ornithology data collection ▪ Overview of scoping opinion comments ▪ Overview of offshore ornithology assessment methodology updates for PEIR ▪ Next steps for the Project |
| | November 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates and recap ▪ Offshore Project updates ▪ Update on the ongoing and planned surveys ▪ Overview of site specific surveys ▪ Overview of assessment methodology ▪ Overview of compensation work and proposed approach ▪ Overview of short list compensation measures ▪ Next steps for the Project |
| | March 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Offshore Project updates ▪ Evidence base overview and consultation logs ▪ Offshore ornithology points of agreement ▪ Overview of the derogation and compensation work |
| | August 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Offshore Project updates |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|----------------|----------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PINS Early Adopter Programme update ▪ Updates on offshore ornithology ▪ Overview of areas of disagreement and Key Topics for Discussion from Section 42 comments ▪ Overviews of the Project parameters and updates from PEIR to ES ▪ Overview of the compensation methodology and calculations |
| | September 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Overview of previous ETG actions ▪ Update on the refinement of Project parameters ▪ Updated assessments and changes from PEIR to ES ▪ Updates on the section 42 responses received and the Project response ▪ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement |
| | November 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Programme updates ▪ Updates on the Autumn Consultation ▪ Project updates ▪ Updates on proposed methodology and assessments ▪ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement ▪ Update on proposed ‘without prejudice’ compensation measure |
| Marine Mammals | January 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project team introductions ▪ Project introduction and updates ▪ Evidence Plan introduction ▪ Overview of ongoing and planned surveys |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|----------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summary of scoping report chapter ▪ Next steps for the Project |
| | September 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Overview of scoping opinion and comments ▪ Overview of refinement from Scoping to PEIR ▪ Next steps for the Project |
| | January 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Overview of the scope of assessments ▪ Overview of the baseline characterisation ▪ Overview of proposed assessment methodology ▪ Overview of assessment results ▪ Overview of proposed mitigation ▪ Next steps for the Project |
| | April 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Offshore Project updates ▪ Evidence base overview and consultation logs ▪ Summary of significance of impacts |
| | August 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Offshore Project updates ▪ PINS Early Adopter Programme update ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of areas of disagreement and Key Topics for Discussion from Section 42 comments |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|--|----------------|---|
| | September 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Overview of outstanding actions ▪ Evidence Plan overview ▪ Update on the refinement of Project parameters ▪ Updated assessments and changes from PEIR to ES; ▪ Updates on the section 42 responses received ▪ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement |
| Combined Seascape and Landscape Visual Impact, and Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | July 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project team introductions ▪ Project introduction and updates ▪ EPP introduction ▪ Overview of scoping report boundary ▪ Overview of the onshore landscape and visual impact assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of proposed methodology ▪ Next steps ▪ Discussion points ▪ Overview of the seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of proposed methodology ▪ Next steps ▪ Discussion points ▪ Offshore archaeology & cultural heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of proposed methodology ▪ Next steps ▪ Discussion points ▪ Onshore archaeology & cultural heritage |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|--------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of proposed methodology ▪ Next steps ▪ Discussion points |
| | October 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Overview of ongoing and planned surveys ▪ Overview of the onshore landscape and visual impact assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of scoping opinion comments ▪ Overview of PEIR boundary ▪ Next steps ▪ Overview of the seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of scoping opinion comments ▪ Overview of PEIR boundary ▪ Next steps ▪ Offshore archaeology & cultural heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic survey updates ▪ Overview of scoping opinion comments ▪ Overview of PEIR boundary ▪ Next steps ▪ Onshore archaeology & cultural heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of scoping opinion comments ▪ Overview of PEIR boundary and updates from scoping to PEIR ▪ Next steps |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|---|---------------|---|
| Seascape and Landscape Visual Impact Assessment | December 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Project updates ■ Scoping report overview ■ Seascape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Topic assessment methodology update ■ Key data sources overview ■ Study area overview ■ Site specific survey updates ■ Overview of initial findings ■ Overview of proposed embedded mitigation ■ Next steps ■ Landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Topic assessment methodology update ■ Key data sources overview ■ Study area overview ■ Site specific survey updates ■ Overview of initial findings ■ Overview of proposed embedded mitigation ■ Next steps |
| | March 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Project updates ■ Evidence base overview and consultation logs ■ Seascape |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|--------------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic assessment methodology update ▪ Key data sources overview ▪ Study area overview ▪ Site specific survey updates ▪ Overview of initial findings ▪ Overview of proposed embedded mitigation ▪ Next steps ▪ Landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic assessment methodology update ▪ Key data sources overview ▪ Study area overview ▪ Site specific survey updates ▪ Overview of initial findings ▪ Overview of proposed embedded mitigation ▪ Next steps |
| | July 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Offshore Project updates ▪ PINS Early Adopter Programme update ▪ Seascape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement and key topics for discussion ▪ Overview of Section 42 comments ▪ Overview of proposed assessment methodology and approach ▪ Landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement and key topics for discussion |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of Section 42 comments ▪ Overview of proposed assessment methodology and approach |
| | September 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Offshore Project updates ▪ Evidence Plan update ▪ Seascape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on the refinement of Project parameters ▪ Updated assessments and changes from PEIR to ES ▪ Updates on section 42 responses received ▪ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement ▪ Landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on the refinement of Project parameters ▪ Updated assessments and changes from PEIR to ES ▪ Updates on section 42 responses received ▪ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement |
| Landscape Visual Impact Assessment | November 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Programme updates ▪ Updates on the Autumn Consultation ▪ Project updates ▪ Updated impact assessment work ▪ Updates viewpoints ▪ Updates cumulative effects ▪ Next steps |
| Marine and Onshore | January 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates and recap ▪ Overview of complete, ongoing and planned surveys |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Onshore update ■ Offshore update ■ Marine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of scope of assessments ▪ Overview of study area ▪ Overview of key data sources ▪ Overview of site specific surveys ▪ Overview of the proposed methodology and assessment approach ▪ Next steps ■ Onshore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of scope of assessments ▪ Overview of study area ▪ Overview of key data sources ▪ Overview of site specific surveys ▪ Overview of the proposed methodology and assessment approach ▪ Next steps |
| | March 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Project updates and recap ■ Evidence base updates and consultation logs ■ Marine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of scope of assessments ▪ Overview of study area ▪ Overview of key data sources |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|--------------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of site specific surveys ▪ Overview of the proposed methodology and assessment approach ▪ Next steps ▪ Onshore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of site specific surveys ▪ Updates of the proposed methodology and assessment approach |
| | July 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates and recap ▪ Overview of PINS Early Adopter Programme ▪ Onshore update ▪ Offshore update ▪ Marine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of scope of assessments ▪ Overview of study area ▪ Overview of site specific surveys ▪ Overview of areas of outstanding disagreement and Section 42 comments ▪ Overview of the proposed methodology and assessment approach ▪ Next steps ▪ Onshore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of scope of assessments ▪ Overview of study area ▪ Overview of site specific surveys ▪ Overview of areas of outstanding disagreement and Section 42 comments |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|----------------|---|
| | September 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Project updates and recap ■ Overview of PINS Early Adopter Programme ■ Onshore update ■ Offshore update ■ Marine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Update on the refinement of project parameters ■ Updated assessments and changes from PEIR to ES ■ Updates on the section 42 responses received and how the Project will respond to these ■ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement ■ Next steps ■ Onshore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Update on the refinement of project parameters ■ Updated assessments and changes from PEIR to ES ■ Updates on the section 42 responses received and how the Project will respond to these ■ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement ■ Next steps |
| | November 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Programme updates ■ Updates on the Autumn Consultation ■ Project updates ■ Marine Archaeology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Topic specific updates ■ Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Updates on cumulative effects assessment |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|--|------------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Updates on surveys ▪ Updates on impact assessment |
| <p>Onshore Ecology, Hydrology & Ground Conditions (Land use added to this ETG meeting from January 2023, previously discussed in Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Health & Socio-ec ETG)</p> | <p>July 2022</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project team introductions ▪ Project introduction and updates ▪ Evidence Plan introduction ▪ Scoping report boundary overview ▪ Onshore ecology and ornithology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of proposed assessment methodology ▪ Overview of proposed study area ▪ Overview of baseline environment ▪ Overview of designated assets ▪ Overview of relevant Important Plant Areas, RSPB Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites and Ancient Woodland ▪ Overview of flora, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds, bats and other mammals/non-invasive plant species ▪ Overview of impacts scoped in/out ▪ Next Steps ▪ Hydrology and flood risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of proposed assessment methodology ▪ Overview of proposed study area ▪ Overview of baseline environment ▪ Overview of designated assets ▪ Overview of impacts scoped in/out ▪ Next Steps ▪ Geology and ground conditions |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|--------------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of proposed assessment methodology ▪ Overview of proposed study area ▪ Overview of proposed mitigation measures ▪ Overview of impacts scoped in/out ▪ Next Steps |
| | October 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates ▪ Overview of surveys ▪ Onshore proposal update from scoping to PEIR ▪ Onshore ornithology and ecology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key scoping opinion comments ▪ Updates to PEIR ▪ Next steps ▪ Hydrology and flood risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key scoping opinion comments ▪ Updates to PEIR ▪ Next steps ▪ Geology and ground conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key scoping opinion comments ▪ Updates to PEIR ▪ Next steps ▪ Next steps for the Project |
| | January 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates and recap ▪ Overview of surveys ▪ Onshore proposal update ▪ Onshore ornithology and ecology |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|--------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of scope of assessment ▪ Overview of study area ▪ Overview of key data sources ▪ Overview of site specific surveys ▪ Overview of proposed assessment methodology ▪ Overview of data gap ▪ Overview of proposed embedded mitigation ▪ Next steps ▪ Hydrology, hydrogeology and floodrisk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of scope of assessment ▪ Overview of study area ▪ Overview of key data sources ▪ Overview of site specific surveys ▪ Overview of proposed assessment methodology ▪ Overview of data gap ▪ Overview of proposed embedded mitigation ▪ Next steps ▪ Land use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of scope of assessment ▪ Overview of study area ▪ Overview of key data sources ▪ Overview of site specific surveys ▪ Overview of proposed assessment methodology ▪ Overview of data gap ▪ Overview of proposed embedded mitigation ▪ Next steps |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|----------------|--|
| | March 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Project updates ■ Onshore and offshore proposal updates ■ Evidence base updates and consultation logs ■ Topic updates from last ETG |
| | August 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Project updates ■ Onshore proposal updates ■ Overview of PINS Early Adopter Programme ■ Onshore ornithology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates from last ETG ▪ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement and Section 42 comments ■ Onshore ecology updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates from last ETG ▪ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement and Section 42 comments ■ Hydrology, hydrogeology and floodrisk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates from last ETG ▪ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement and Section 42 comments ■ Land use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates from last ETG ▪ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement and Section 42 comments |
| | September 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Project update ■ Onshore and offshore update ■ Onshore ecology and ornithology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Update on the refinement of project parameters |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|---|---------------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Updated assessments and changes from PEIR to ES ▪ Updates on the section 42 responses received ▪ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement ▪ Mitigation updates ▪ Hydrology and flood risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Update on the refinement of project parameters ▪ Updated assessments and changes from PEIR to ES ▪ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement ▪ Updates on the section 42 responses received ▪ Geology and ground conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Update on the refinement of project parameters ▪ Updated assessments and changes from PEIR to ES ▪ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement ▪ Land use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Update on the refinement of project parameters ▪ Overview of outstanding areas of disagreement |
| Onshore Ecology, Hydrology and Land Use | November 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Programme updates ▪ Updates on the Autumn Consultation ▪ Project updates ▪ Updates on approach to cumulative impact assessments ▪ Onshore Ecology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|--|--------------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protected species licenses updates ▪ Update on Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Strategy (OLEMS) ▪ Onshore Ornithology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Modelling updates ▪ Hydrology and Flood Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic update ▪ Land Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic update |
| Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Health & Socio-ec (Land use discussed in this ETG meeting until January 2023, then moved to Onshore Ecology, Hydrology & Ground Conditions ETG) | July 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project introduction ▪ Project team introduction ▪ Evidence Plan introduction ▪ Scoping report boundary overview ▪ Traffic and Transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of proposed assessment methodology ▪ Overview of the study area ▪ Overview of proposed mitigation measures ▪ Impacts Scoped In/Out ▪ Next Steps ▪ Discussion ▪ Air quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of proposed assessment methodology ▪ Overview of the study area ▪ Overview of proposed mitigation measures ▪ Impacts Scoped In/Out |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|--------------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Next Steps ▪ Discussion ▪ Noise and vibration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of proposed assessment methodology ▪ Overview of the study area ▪ Existing Environment and Key Receptors ▪ Overview of proposed mitigation measures ▪ Overview of impacts scoped in/out ▪ Next Steps ▪ Discussion ▪ Land use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of proposed assessment methodology ▪ Overview of the study area ▪ Overview of proposed mitigation measures ▪ Overview of impacts scoped in/out ▪ Next Steps ▪ Discussion ▪ Human Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of proposed assessment methodology ▪ Overview of the study area ▪ Overview of proposed mitigation measures ▪ Overview of impacts scoped in/out ▪ Major Accidents and Disasters ▪ Next Steps ▪ Discussion ▪ Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|--------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of proposed assessment methodology ▪ Overview of the study area ▪ Baseline (LTRA and LEA) ▪ Summary of Impacts ▪ Discussion |
| | October 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project overview and update ▪ Scoping report update ▪ Scoping boundary and PEIR update ▪ Update on ongoing and planned surveys ▪ Traffic and transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key scoping opinion comments ▪ PEIR updates ▪ Next steps ▪ Air Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key scoping opinion comments ▪ PEIR updates ▪ Next steps ▪ Noise and vibration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key scoping opinion comments ▪ PEIR updates ▪ Next steps ▪ Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key scoping opinion comments ▪ PEIR updates ▪ Next steps |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|--------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Socio Economics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Key scoping opinion comments ■ PEIR updates ■ Next steps ■ Land use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Key scoping opinion comments ■ PEIR updates ■ Next steps |
| | January 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Project recap and update ■ Overview of ongoing and planned surveys ■ Introduction of the alternative onshore route ■ Traffic and Transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Scope of assessment overview ■ Site specific survey results ■ Proposed assessment methodology overview ■ Data gaps overview ■ Overview of proposed embedded mitigation ■ Project next steps ■ Air quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Scope of assessment overview ■ Site specific survey results ■ Proposed assessment methodology overview ■ Data gaps overview ■ Overview of proposed embedded mitigation ■ Project next steps |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|--------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Noise and vibration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Scope of assessment overview ■ Site specific survey results ■ Proposed assessment methodology overview ■ Data gaps overview ■ Overview of proposed embedded mitigation ■ Project next steps ■ Socio-Economics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Scope of assessment overview ■ Site specific survey results ■ Proposed assessment methodology overview ■ Data gaps overview ■ Overview of proposed embedded mitigation ■ Project next steps |
| | March 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Project Update ■ Evidence plan and consultation log update ■ Traffic & Transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Topic updates ■ Air Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Topic updates ■ Noise & Vibration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Topic updates ■ Human Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Topic updates ■ Socio-Economics |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|--------------|--|
| | August 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project update ▪ Onshore and offshore updates ▪ Overview of PINS - Early Adopters Programme ▪ Traffic & Transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of areas of disagreement / key topics for discussion and Section 42 comments ▪ Air Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of areas of disagreement / key topics for discussion and Section 42 comments ▪ Noise & Vibration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of areas of disagreement / key topics for discussion and Section 42 comments ▪ Human Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of areas of disagreement / key topics for discussion and Section 42 comments ▪ Socio-Economics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Overview of approach to ES assessment ▪ Overview of PEIR findings |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|---------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of areas of disagreement / key topics for discussion and Section 42 comments |
| | October 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project update ▪ Evidence plan update ▪ Onshore update – route and substation confirmation ▪ Traffic and transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Air quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Outstanding Section 42 discussion points and areas of disagreement ▪ Refined Project parameters from PEIR to ES ▪ Noise and vibration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Refined Project parameters from PEIR to ES ▪ Human health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Outstanding Section 42 discussion points and areas of disagreement ▪ Socio-Economics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic updates ▪ Approach to ES assessment overview ▪ PEIR findings ▪ Outstanding Section 42 discussion points and areas of disagreement |
| | November 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Programme updates ▪ Updates on the Autumn Consultation ▪ Project updates |

| Panel | Meeting Date | Key Discussion Points |
|-------|--------------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Updates on cumulative effects assessment approach ■ Traffic and Transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic update ▪ Public right of way updates ■ Human Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic update ▪ Public right of way updates ■ Noise and Vibrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic update ▪ Assessment and model updates ■ Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic update |

Annex B ETG & EPP Steering Group Minutes

Annex C EPP Consultation Logs

A photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, a narrow, winding path made of light-colored sand or silt cuts through a marshy area. The path is flanked by tall, dry, golden-brown grasses and some darker, scrubby vegetation. The path leads towards a flat, open area that appears to be a beach or a tidal flat, with some shallow water or wet sand visible. The horizon is low, and the sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, suggesting an overcast day. The overall tone is somewhat somber due to the cloudy sky.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex B Part 1 of 11

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024


Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex B – Part 1 of 11

Marine and Onshore Archaeology & Cultural Heritage Expert Topic Group Minutes

| | |
|---|--|
|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Marine and Onshore Archaeology & Cultural Heritage ETG |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000365-01 |
| Date: | 25 th January 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Chris Jenner (CJ) – ODOW Rachel Furlong (RF) – ODOW Phil New (PN) – ODOW Andy Gregory (AG) – ODOW Laura Vickery (LV) – ODOW Lauren Nagler (LN) – ODOW Christin Heamagi (CH) – ODOW Charlotte Dawson (CD) – ODOW Emma Shore (ES) – MMO – attended until 1445 Adam Tillotson (AT) – MMO – attended until 1445 Jan Allen (JA) – Lincolnshire County Council Matthew Nicholas (MN) – Historic England |
| Apologies: | None |
| Circulation: | External |

Programme

- ODOW provided an update on the Project progress to date.
- The programme is anticipating PEIR submission Q2 2023 and DCO submission Q4 2023.
- Post meeting note received from Historic England on 31st January 2023: *Historic England request that an ETG is convened for post PEIR consultation to discuss matters as relevant for preparation of any Environmental Statement (ES) and associated documentation as might accompany a Development Consent Order (DCO) application.*
- Post meeting note from ODOW: *This has been noted and invites will be sent out shortly.*

Surveys – Offshore

- ODOW provided an overview on the completed and upcoming surveys.
- There are additional Geotechnical survey campaigns planned for 2023 and 2024. It was noted that the 2023 survey is primarily for engineering purposes but the samples will be analysed for archaeological features. The 2024 campaign sampling locations will be developed in conjunction with the archaeologists.
- Post meeting note received from Historic England on 31st January 2023: *Historic England queried if the “lab testing” was conducted so that any recommended geo-archaeological analysis was conducted on viable samples and if the write-up of this work will be included in the PEIR?*
- Post meeting note from ODOW: *Geotechnical cores collected to date and scheduled for this year, 2023, have been collected for engineering purposes. Core logs from these campaigns along with the analysis of 2022 geophysical data will be used to advise on archaeologically specific core locations in 2024 in line with relevant guidance ((COWRIE (2011). Offshore*

Geotechnical Investigation and Historic Environment Analysis: Guidance for the Offshore Renewable Energy Sector)) and the outline WSI. All geotechnical analysis will be completed and submitted via staged reports post-consent (should consent be awarded).

- Post meeting note received from Historic England on 31st January 2023: *Historic England noted that in 2022 the “Potential ECC geophysical” survey was completed. It would be helpful to know if those data generated will be subject to archaeological analysis and interpretation for inclusion in the PEIR?*
- Post meeting note from ODOW: *ECC data will not be included in PEIR, but will be fully assessed ahead of the ES submission. The mitigation strategies presented at PEIR will reflect this.*

Surveys Onshore

- ODOW provided an overview on the completed and upcoming surveys.

Onshore Update

- ODOW provided an update on the onshore aspects of the Project.
- The Project is expecting the Grid offer by the end of March, both options to Lincolnshire Node and Weston Marsh are still under consideration by National Grid at this time. With this uncertainty, both possible connection options will be assessed in PEIR, with one of the options and associated onshore cable route dropped after a connection point for the project is confirmed.
- The Project would either connect into the existing overhead lines circuits at Weston Marsh or a new National Grid Substation Lincolnshire Node.

Public Consultation Event Feedback

- ODOW provided an overview of the four in-person public consultation events that have been undertaken in November 2022 with an attendance of over 500 people.
- Three significant issues which came out for the route identified:
 - 1) land on the original Weston Marsh route is some of the most productive crop growing land in the UK;
 - 2) Geological concerns raised with regard to groundwater and stability of the ground in that area, potential for “running sands”, which could make engineering more difficult; and
 - 3) General concern on damage to existing drainage networks.
- A number of alternative routes were therefore assessed that seeks to avoid the above issues, with the proposed alternative route also undergoing consultation alongside the original route.

Preferred Alternative Route

- ODOW provided an overview of the alternative route (Rev1a), outlining the process of consideration when determining a series of alternative routes.
 - The preferred alternative route is being surveyed and consulted upon, to allow for all the possible routes to be compared at PEIR, Phase 2 consultation and Section 42 consultation.

Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

Scope of assessment

- ODOW provided an overview of the scope of assessment.
 - As a result of the Scoping Opinion the assessments have separated penetration and compression effects.

Study area

- ODOW provided an overview of the updated study area following project refinement.

Key data sources

- ODOW provided an overview of the data sources.
- Post meeting note received from Historic England on 31st January 2023: *The attention given to “Key Data Sources” are relevant to the desk-based assessment necessary to produce an environmental assessment. However, reference to North Sea Prehistory Research and Management Framework (NSPRMF) requires clarification. The NSPRMF, is not a “large-scale systematic study”; what it represents is the collation of research questions and suggested delivery strategies which is supported by the research community. It is relevant and applicable to all activities as might encounter palaeo-environmental features, whether linked to development assessment obligations or pure research. This same comment is applicable to how the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (EMHERF) should be used to inform production of the PEIR.*
- Post meeting note from ODOW: *this has been noted and the Project will look at including this in the PEIR assessments.*
- Post meeting note received from Historic England on 31st January 2023: *England’s Historic Seascapes Marine HSC Pilot Study: Withernsea to Skegness (produced in 2010) is superseded by the National Historic Seascape Characterisation Consolidation exercise¹, which should be applied when producing the PEIR.*
- Post meeting note from ODOW: *this has been noted and the Project will seek to include this at PEIR.*

Site specific survey

- ODOW provided an overview of the site-specific surveys that have been undertaken and are planned.
- Post meeting note received from Historic England on 31st January 2023: *The detail provided about a geotechnical Investigation in 2021 (i.e. fifty 6m vibro-cores) and geophysical Investigation in 2022 is important to demonstrate the action taken to corroborate desk-based sources of information with dedicated survey work commissioned specifically for this proposed development. Historic England therefore expect to see geo-archaeological interpretation of these data included at PEIR.*
- Post meeting note from ODOW: *this has been noted by the Project will seek to address this at PEIR.*
- Post meeting note received from Historic England on 31st January 2023: *Regarding the geotechnical investigations to be conducted in the array area during 2023. The use of a “toolbox talk” is useful to explain procedures if finds of potential archaeological interest are*

¹ [National Historic Seascape Characterisation Consolidation: Introduction \(archaeologydataservice.ac.uk\)](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk)

encountered. Historic England understand that processing of geotechnical material and conducting of geo-archaeological investigations will not be in time for the proposed PEIR consultation. However, Historic England hope that the planning of this survey allows for a coring methodology that safeguards samples in the best condition to optimise geo-archaeological investigation. Such an approach should follow published guidance and agreed objectives as set out in a method statement produced in consultation with Historic England. Historic England recommend that it is a survey objective that the output of the work conducted in 2023 informs the “larger scale” geotechnical survey to be conducted in 2024, but to be clear, the obtaining of “Archaeological input” is to be in accordance with a programme of investigation, discussed with Historic England, and which is conducted by accredited, experienced and professional geoarchaeological consultants.

- Post meeting note from ODOW: *this has been noted by the Project and consultation has taken place to ensure that all the surveys are conducted in the best methods for archaeological analysis.*

Site specific surveys results

- ODOW provided examples of results of the geophysical survey, demonstrating the data quality for the assessment, showing a previously unrecorded wreck and a known wreck found within the array area.
- Post meeting note received from Historic England on 31st January 2023: *Historic England queried if a UK Hydrographic Office wreck report has been submitted for the anomaly encountered (unreferenced in the accompanying slide pack). Historic England note your confirmation of known wreck location of Basto (undated) and that you will want to explain within the PEIR the strategy adopted to avoid these locations.*
- Post meeting note from ODOW: *this has been noted and the Project will seek to address this at PEIR.*

Designated sites and key receptors

- ODOW provided an overview that of the key receptors and that there are no designated sites currently known.
- Post meeting note received from Historic England on 31st January 2023: *Historic England highlight that all military aircraft crash sites are automatically designated under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. Regarding “Structural remains other than watercraft”, Historic England add that there are important elements of historic landscape continuity and use that exist between the present terrestrial area and the intertidal area of the Wash embayment in recognition of historic land claim which may encompass marine archaeological and cultural heritage.*
- Post meeting note from ODOW: *this has been noted by the Project.*

EIA methodology

- ODOW provided an overview of the EIA methodology and the assessments that will be carried out for the receptors.

Data Gaps and uncertainties

- ODOW provided an overview of the data gaps and uncertainties, with the methods and how any assumptions will be made to inform on these.

- Post meeting note received from Historic England on 31st January 2023: *Historic England note that the archaeological analysis and assessment of geophysical data collected for the array area will be presented in the PEIR. It is therefore relevant that the PEIR also sets out the mitigation strategy to be adopted by this project in consideration of “key receptors” presently identified, which should also qualify other anomalies of possible archaeological interest.*
- Post meeting note from ODOW: *this has been noted and the Project will seek to address this at PEIR.*
- Post meeting note received from Historic England on 31st January 2023: *Historic England are concerned to see that the archaeological assessment of geophysical data collected for the Offshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) will not be included in the PEIR and therefore we will not be in a position to offer advice regarding mitigation strategies. It is therefore very important that post PEIR data analysis is adequately completed to inform the content of any ES subsequently produced.*
- Post meeting note from ODOW: *this has been noted by the Project.*
- Post meeting note received from Historic England on 31st January 2023: *The comment provided that for “...both the array area and Offshore ECC” assessment of geotechnical data “...is likely to be undertaken post-consent” appears to contradict other slides in the pack that imply that some geo-archaeological analysis will be presented at PEIR and other data will inform the ES. However, it is a very important matter that all parties understand that all subsequent work will be in accordance with an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and specified as a condition within any draft deemed Marine Licence and not through any separate “commitments register process”.*
- Post meeting note from ODOW: *this has been noted and the Project will ensure all work is in accordance with the WSI.*

Embedded mitigation

- ODOW provided an overview of the embedded mitigation to be included and the commitments made.
- Post meeting note received from Historic England on 31st January 2023: *Historic England appreciate the attention given to the production of WSIs as relevant to different stages of project delivery, inclusive of project-critical periods as may occur post-consent and pre-construction (should consent be obtained), as relevant to Embedded Mitigation ID 1. An important matter is highlighted in Embedded Mitigation ID 2 regarding “Areas with geoarchaeological potential will be targeted during the geotechnical sampling campaigns and results published...” It is therefore essential that WSIs are produced to effectively inform this process at exactly the correct stages of project planning and delivery (should consent be forthcoming). We concur with Embedded Mitigation ID 3 and the application of Archaeological Exclusion Zones (AEZs). For Embedded Mitigation ID 4, while a protocol system should be designed and employed to facilitate information exchange and decision-making should potential archaeological discoveries occur, it is relevant to allow for the design and application of additional AEZs. Embedded Mitigation ID 5 and the use of a post-construction monitoring plan in accordance with an agreed WSI is a matter Historic England look forward to discussing with you further.*
- Post meeting note from ODOW: *this has been noted by the Project.*

Next steps

- ODOW provided a summary of the next steps.
- Post meeting note received from Historic England on 31st January 2023: *Historic England appreciate the next “Key Steps” identified and Historic England take this opportunity to explain the relevance of differentiating between embedded and adaptive mitigation. Historic England see the inclusion and identification of adaptive mitigation as a crucial means to deal with presently unknown elements of the historic environment (i.e. sensitive receptors) as are likely to be encountered by the proposed project. It is therefore directly relevant to assess residual significant impact (in EIA terms) and how mitigation measures (such as WSIs) will inform the planning, design and delivery of this proposed project.*
- Post meeting note from ODOW: *this has been noted by the Project.*

Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

Scope of assessment

- ODOW provided a summary of the scope of assessment.
 - It was confirmed all impacts will have cumulative effects considered and no transboundary effects considered.

Study area

- ODOW provided a summary of the PEIR boundary.
 - This was updated to add the new Rev1a route to the study area.

Key data sources

- ODOW provided an overview of the key data sources.

Site Specific Survey Undertaken to Date

- ODOW provided an overview of the surveys completed.

Site specific survey results

- ODOW provided an overview of the site specific survey results.
 - The PEIR boundary is being changed due to the results to go around the Multon Scheduled Monument.
 - A further change is expected due to the Rev1a boundary encroaching on this so it is expected the boundary will change to go around it.
 - There have been potential settlements found that may require design modifications/refinements.

AOC deposit model

- ODOW provided an overview of the results from the AOC deposit model.

Designated sites and key receptors

- ODOW provided an overview of the designated site and key receptor areas.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- ODOW provided an overview of the data gaps and uncertainties and plans to consolidate knowledge and how assumptions have been made.

Geophysical survey

- ODOW provided an overview of the ongoing geophysical surveys.

EIA methodology

- ODOW gave an overview on the steps of how the EIA assessments will be undertaken, describing how the sensitivity, magnitude and significance of the impact are determined.

Embedded mitigation

- ODOW provided an overview of the embedded mitigation and commitments for onshore archaeology.

Heritage

Potential in direct impact through setting change

- ODOW provided an overview of designated assets along the cable route and grid connection sites that need to be considered in relation to the Project.
 - The assessments have been carried out for both routes and are currently undergoing for Rev1a.
- ODOW gave an overview on non-designated assets being investigated.

Embedded mitigation

- ODOW provided an overview of the embedded mitigation.

Next steps

- ODOW provided an overview to progress the heritage assessments.
 - The Project confirmed it is looking to agree assets for photomontages with Stakeholders (Historic England and JA)

ACTION: ODOW to seek agreement with stakeholders for the assets to be included within the photomontages

AOB

- JA asked what are the next steps for archaeology for evaluation phase?
- It was confirmed the Project are undertaking Geophys surveys for section 6 and above and Lidar for the southern sections. Any anomalies found from this will then be investigated through channel trenching.
- JA added that within the scoping opinion a full suite and full Geophys survey of the area and it was recommended to be required for all areas that haven't been previously fully evaluated.
- ODOW added that south of Section 6 (Steeping River to Ivy House Farm/Marsh Yard) the land was underwater from the Mesolithic period, so the potential for archaeology is reduced. As such, it is considered that a combination of LiDAR and targeted Geophys should be sufficient. However, they will investigate if a Geophys of the whole area should also be completed.
- JA explained this needs to be laid out and justified and suggested that post med archaeology should be considered in Geophys surveys.
- JA asked will there be archaeological presence at GI?


- It was confirmed that site investigation works at launch pits will have archaeological investigations.
- JA welcomed ongoing dialogue and results to be shared as they come.
 - The Project appreciate this and will share results as they become available.
- Action (ODOW) to send Geophys WSI to JA**
- JA queried is the plan to do full width Geophys surveys across the whole ECC search area (300m).
 - It was confirmed that the full width is being assessed.
- JA asked whether one Geophys company was completing all the surveys and if multiple were being used then there should be a quality control check for the data
 - This was acknowledged by the Project and agreed
- MN suggested that for the Geophys surveys deposit modelling be used to inform selection of techniques. The Project are also welcome to utilise Geophys experts within Historic England.
- MN made the project aware that when using arch mapping explorer – HE mapping stops south of Skegness due to budget cuts.
- MN suggested that regarding route ways and boundary moving, for water dependent heritage assets that temporary or French drains be looked into how they would affect hydrology and condition of remains.
- MN added that, as part of the onshore used to be underwater, effort should be made between the offshore and onshore reports to ensure they are overlapping and complimentary to eachother. It was suggested that the Project seek opportunity for synergies for ground investigations for geo arch to avoid repetition of data collection
 - ODOW agree and have looked at GI contracts and confirm that archaeology is present where appropriate for all the engineering surveys.
- MN encouraged the deposit modelling approach.
- JA suggested that regarding the AP resource air photo lidar assessment would be really useful.
- JA asked whether the Project had been in contact with Denise Drury? (Local Authority Curator at East Lindsey).
 - It was confirmed the Project have been in contact with Denise.
- JA also raised that earth work restoration needs surveys to be before any work on a site-specific basis and directional drilling needs to be assessed at the earliest opportunity.
 - ODOW confirmed this would be done before and would be conditioned. An outline WSI will inform what will be done and there will be a commitment to mitigate as necessary.
 - JA added that their recommendation for the approach remains consistent with scoping opinion that it needs to be site specific.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--|-----------------|--------|
| 10/10/22 | The Project confirmed the data sources used for archaeology will be shared with Historic England prior to submission of the PEIR. | ODOW | y |
| 10/10/22 | Natural England to confirm the potential for significant effects likely to occur on receptors located over 54 km from the array area? The Project array area is also located | Natural England | y |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|---|-----------------|--------|
| | behind a baseline of other windfarms, so the addition of the array area is unlikely to be significant. Note: The Inspectorate has agreed to scope out aviation lighting effect at this distance. | | |
| 10/10/22 | Natural England to confirm if a 'light-touch' approach is acceptable for the PEIR for the visual effects on offshore receptors? What receptors are present and are significant effects likely to occur? | Natural England | y |
| 10/10/22 | Natural England to confirm if the proposed heritage coast north of Mablethorpe is not approved and is 'likely to be formally defined in the early part of 2023', how should it be considered in the project design and should the potential impacts be considered when it is not formally defined? At what stage should it be considered –for PEIR or ES? | Natural England | y |
| 10/10/22 | The Project to contact Lincolnshire County Council planner to obtain advice on who to contact regarding SVIA. | ODOW | y |
| 10/10/22 | Natural England to confirm if they have any recommendations for viewpoints for LVIA. | Natural England | y |
| 25/1/23 | ODOW to send Geophys WSI to JA | ODOW | |
| 25/1/23 | ODOW to seek agreement with stakeholders for the assets to be included within the photomontages | ODOW | |

/End

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|---|---|
|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine & Onshore Archaeology & Cultural Heritage Expert Topic Group |
| Document Number: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0012 |
| Revision: | 01 |
| Revision Status: | Issued for Information |
| Date: | 25 th July 2023 |
| Time: | 1000hrs to 1130hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <p>Greg Tomlinson (GT)– Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Roisin Alldis (RA) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Hugh Morris (HM) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Sam Dewar (SD) - DPA Planning (on behalf of the S&ELCP) Jan Allen (JA) – Lincolnshire County Council Eloise Shieber (ES) – Lincolnshire County Council Tim Allen (TA) – Historic England Matthew Nicholas (MN) – Historic England Niamh Workman (NW) – GoBe (on behalf of ODOW) Andy Gregory (AG) – SLR Consulting (on behalf of ODOW) Charlotte Dawson (CD) – SLR Consulting (on behalf of ODOW) Christin Heamagi (CH) – Maritime Archaeology (on behalf of ODOW) Brandon Mason (BM) – Maritime Archaeology (on behalf of ODOW) Lowri Roberts (LB) – Maritime Archaeology (on behalf of ODOW)</p> |
| Apologies: | <p>Emma Shore (ES) – Marine Management Organisation Karen Schnetler (KS) - Marine Management Organisation Andrew Booth (AB) – East Lindsey District Council Neil McBride (NM) – Lincolnshire County Council Alexandra Stewart (AS) – SLR Consulting Chris Jenner (CJ) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Rachel Furlong (RF) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Phil New (PN) – GoBe Neil McBride (NM) – Lincolnshire County Council Julia Bolton (JB) – GoBe Chris Pater (CP) – Historic England Jacob Laws (JL) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Phil Norman (PN) – South Holland District Council Mark Simmonds (MS)– South Holland District Council Abbie Marwood (AM) – Boston Borough Council</p> |
| Circulation: | External |

Introductions

Evidence plan schedule

- ODOW confirmed the next Archaeology and Cultural Heritage ETG will be on the 19th of September 2023.
- A further ETG will be scheduled for October/November
 - **ACTION: ODOW to confirm date of next ETG**

Programme

- ODOW provided an update on the Project's progression and programme:
 - It was confirmed the Project is expecting a grid connection offer August 2023 and stakeholders will be notified.
 - RA outlines the recent close of the Phase 2 (Section 42) consultation on July 21st, noted that relevant comments from consultees have been included at a high level within the ETG.

Onshore cable route

- ODOW provided an overview of the Project's ECC's and advised these remain as per the Project's PEIR. Once a connection point is confirmed, the route will be refined and work is ongoing to inform the decision around route "north of the A52" or "south of the A52" toward the Weston Marsh connection option should this be the adopted grid connection point.

Onshore substation

- ODOW advised that three onshore substation search zones as outlined in the PEIR are still being considered. Once a grid connection point is confirmed, ODOW will work with the National Grid to inform the specific siting of the Project should Weston Marsh be confirmed, specific site selection work is ongoing.

Offshore proposals

- ODOW provided an overview of the offshore aspects of the Project.
- ODOW confirmed that the array area at PEIR was 500km² and technical work is ongoing to reduce the array area for ES and DCO submission to approximately 300km².
- ODOW explained that areas for Artificial Nesting Structures (ANS) compensation and benthic compensation have been included at this stage and it is the intention to seek to consent these elements as part of the DCO.

PINS -Early Adopter's Programme

- ODOW confirmed the Project has been selected to participate in the PINS Early Adopter Programme. A programme designed to trial elements of a future refined and streamlined consenting process.
- The Project confirm they have been selected to trial 7 components:
 - Component 1: Use of Programme Planning
 - Component 2: Use of Evidence Plans (subject to clarification about intended/potential Inspectorate role in existing Evidence Plan process)
 - Component 3: Use of issues tracking (Referenced by ODOW as "Agreement Logs", new template has been drafted following stakeholder feedback. The Agreement Logs will be updated following these ETGs and issued to stakeholders for comment.

- Component 4: Use of Pre-application Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements (PADS)
- Component 5: Production of Policy Compliance Document
- Component 7: Production of Design Approach Document
- Component 10: Use of multipartite meetings
- ODOW highlight that only component 3 and 4 are likely to be different to what stakeholders are already doing:
- For Component 3 agreement logs are already being used but have been updated based on stakeholder feedback.
- For Component 4 stakeholders will create Principle Areas Of Disagreement (PADS). These are stakeholder owned documents and will be submitted by the Project at the point of DCO application.

Marine Archaeology

Areas of Disagreement/ Key Topics for Discussion

- ODOW provided an overview of the main areas of concern and topics of discussion from Section 42 feedback.

Offshore ECC Geophysical Assessment

- The Project explained that bathymetry data received was extremely high quality, allowing the Project to fully understand receptors and implement mitigation measures.
 - Examples were displayed on screen.

Assessment methodology

- The Project agrees with Historic England that the study area is appropriate and will be further defined in all future Project stages and associated Project documents.
- The Project confirmed that the study area and subsequent baseline assessment will be amended in line with the newly established export cable corridor.
- The Project agreed that impacts from penetration will be separately assessed from compression impacts and will be explained in the ES.
- The Project confirmed its view that the EIA methodology is appropriate, with no comments received.

Impact Assessment Methodology

- The Project agreed with comments made by Historic England regarding data gaps and uncertainties.
 - Geophysical data was not available at the time of PEIR, thus ECC data was based upon desk-based data.
- The Project confirmed that geophysical data is currently being assessed for ES and WSI.

S42 Comments

- ODOW confirm that all relevant S42 consultation and topic specific comments will be considered any necessary amendments within the documents will be made ahead of DCO submission.
- The Project agreed the Legislation and Policy table was extensive and will look at other thematic chapters and amend the table as necessary.
- The Project agreed to revisit and amend paragraph wording in line with NPS documents.

- The Project confirmed that all areas relating to Historic Seascape Characterisation within this chapter will be revisited and amended.
- The Project confirm that the deposit model will be revisited and amended and the Geotechnical campaign will have a method statement that will include archaeology.
- The Project confirmed it will revisit wording surrounding archaeological interest and significance.
- The Project acknowledges the number of comments on the WSI and agrees to revisit and consider all comments for ES.

- TA requests the slide pack to be circulated so a written response can be made, and methodology/wording can be confirmed.
- RA confirms that the slide pack will be circulated alongside meeting minutes and proposed revisions to be circulated to ensure correctness before work continues.

Onshore Archeology and Cultural Heritage

Evaluation

- The Project confirm that Evaluation has commenced.
 - AOC have been watching brief and monitoring SI. Results will be used to update the archaeological deposit model and outline WSI for ES submission.
- ODOW confirmed that the Geophysical Surveys commenced on 10th July and is due to continue until September/October
 - JA queries whether the surveys are being undertaken in identified sections or within the impact zone.
 - CD confirms the survey locations are based on the deposit model with the majority in a 100m corridor. However, in certain areas (e.g adjacent to scheduled monuments) survey areas are wider at 300m for a greater search.
 - TA raises concern regarding deposit modeling giving confidence in fully understanding the wider landscape.
 - CD confirms a letter was sent to Historic England in which areas were highlighted by LIDAR. CD confirms that these have been included and survey areas are being targeted.
- The Project confirmed that geophysical results are coming back therefore there will be opportunities to revisit any anomalies.

- ODOW explained that the Project is aiming to start Trial Trenching Prior to Submission where possible.
 - ODOW added that this will be targeted on High-risk areas identified through baseline and determined by known assets, significant geophysical anomalies, and the selected substation.
- The Project anticipates an Earthwork Survey Prior to Submission will be required to understand the impact on Slackholme DMV.
- JA requests a submission date and AG confirms submission is anticipated for Christmas 2023.

Post Consent Works

- The Project explains that multiple post consent works will be set out within an outline WSI for archaeological mitigation to be agreed during examination. These include Earthwork surveys, Trial Trenching, Geoarchaeological Bore holing, Excavation and Watching Briefs.
- JA raises concern regarding the potential for unevaluated/ unexpected archaeological assets appearing later.
- CD confirms that post trenching there will be a period to work out whether anything needs to be done prior to construction.

- The Project confirms that the intention to start trail trenching prior to ES submission, however, results will not be available at ES stage.
- AG queries whether HDD at Slackholme would be an acceptable mitigation strategy from historic England's perspective.
 - AT would need to understand logistical parameters but confirms HDD or going around could be an option. AT queries why room in PEIR boundary was not allowed to go around.
- RA confirmed other constraints were likely to be the reason; but will look into this further.
ACTION: ODOW to confirm where the ECC will sit within the 300m PEIR boundary and if avoidance is possible and/ or mitigation proposed.

Areas of Disagreement and Key topics for discussion

Baseline Environment

- The Project confirms that the PEIR omitted certain baseline exercises until route selection. Historic aerial photography is being considered, LiDAR was included at PEIR, and non-intrusive field surveys (geophysical) are currently ongoing. Historic map regression will be considered for targeted areas and Issues over aerial photography and historic mapping are still not agreed.
- Geophysical Surveys are targeting the cable corridor and has been extended out at certain points in reference to larger footprints of disturbance, as well as areas with possible higher potential (e.g. the OnSS footprints).
- The Project is expecting a geophysical survey of the whole footprint of potential impact to be included with the ES.
- The Project confirmed that they agree with Historic England's request of a nuanced approach to the deployment of survey techniques, regarding areas of dry land assessed through geomorphological methods.
- The Project anticipates limitations in the amount of data from the trenching works (if any) that can be included in the submission due to the Project timeline, however the intention is to get the trenching started as soon as possible.
- ODOW explained that the results of the geophysical survey will inform an outline WSI/archaeological strategy for trial trenching to be undertaken at the predetermination stage.
- Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer requests trial trenching of full footprint of impact at the pre-determination stage. Whilst Historic England requests trial trenching as soon as possible.
 - In response the Project proposes a reduced scope of predetermination trenching – of high-risk areas with other trial trenching undertaken as a condition of consent.

Mitigation strategy

- ODOW explain that a full outline WSI for mitigation could not be supplied at PEIR as the Project was awaiting results of necessary evaluation. However, an outline WSI for archaeological evaluation was submitted with PEIR and will be updated with geophysical survey results to reference trenching to be undertaken during determination period. The outline WSI for mitigation will be submitted prior to determination.
- ODOW added that an Outline WSI for mitigation would be prepared separately for reference at determination, in order to reference results of trial trenching and necessary mitigation works post consent.

- LCC confirm they did not review the outline WSI submitted with PEIR.
- RA provided a link in the chat and confirmed that this was submitted as part of the “other documents” section of the submission.
- LCC would require a WSI for mitigation to be submitted prior to determination.
- Historic England welcomes the WSI for archaeological mitigation to be approved during the DCO process.

Assessment Methodology: Approach to Archaeological Assessment

- **Historic Air Photo Assessment**
- The Project confirms it was previously agreed that a sample area should be reviewed to determine the necessity for full assessment. The agreement of this sample area has been delayed until route selection, therefore agreement will be forthcoming.
- ODOW confirmed that a suggested sample area will be circulated to Historic England and LCC. This is Likely to be the substation footprint or other area of extended disturbance.

ACTION: ODOW to confirm a sample area for air photo assessment

Full Historic Map Regression


- The Project explained that map regression was omitted from PEIR as the Project was awaiting route selection. However, the Project confirms that on route selection historic Ordnance Survey will be reviewed within the ES chapter.
- ODOE added that targeted assessment of earlier maps is planned for areas of greatest disturbance/potential.
- LCC requests a full map regression for impact footprint.
- The Project proposes a broad assessment with historic Ordnance Survey and HLC with targeted assessment as appropriate based on time depth and potential. The NPPF references appropriate desk-based assessment. A targeted approach would not be non-compliant with policy.
 - The Project acknowledges response to this approach and will have further correspondence with consultees regarding areas that are proposed to be targeted in this way.
- **Photomontages**
 - The Project recognises that this action stems from previous discussions on use of appropriate visualisations to understand the level of any impact in the final settings assessment.
 - ODOW confirm that visualisations will be developed at EIA as part of the design freeze.
 - ODOW confirm that once the substation location has been confirmed, any required visualisations will be prepared as necessary in consultation with Historic England and the local planning authority conservation officer.
 - The Project requests if there are any assets that were highlighted in the PEIR that members have concerns about. None were highlighted, but discussions will continue once cable route location is confirmed.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed | Update |
|-------------|---|----------------|--------|---------|
| 25/01/2023 | Once the substation location is confirmed ODOW will continue discussion with stakeholders in order to seek agreement on the assets to be included within the photomontages included in the ES | ODOW | | Ongoing |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed | Update |
|-------------|---|----------------|--------|--------|
| 23/03/2023 | ODOW to provide ETG members with a more accurate PEIR submission date to enable them to line up internal resources. | ODOW | y | Closed |
| 23/03/2023 | ODOW to set up a post ETG call with LCC to clarify the need for a WSI for the site investigation watching brief. | ODOW | y | Closed |
| 23/03/2023 | ODOW to provide LCC and HE with images of the targets in their LiDAR context with the proposed geophysical approach overlaid to inform further discussion on the geophysical footprint of 'Area of Potential A1'. | ODOW | y | Closed |
| 25/07/2023 | ODOW to confirm Date of next ETG | ODOW | | |
| 25/07/2023 | ODOW to confirm a sample area for air photo assessment | ODOW | | |
| 25/07/2023 | ODOW to confirm mitigation proposed for Slackholme | ODOW | | |

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Marine & Onshore Archaeology & Cultural Heritage ETG |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000417-01 |
| Date: | 23 rd March 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1530hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Emma Shore (ES) Marine Management Organisation Karen Schnetler (KS) Marine Management Organisation Jan Allen (JA) Lincolnshire County Council Tim Allen (TA) Historic England Chris Pater (CP) Historic England Matthew Nicholas (MN) Historic England Chris Jenner (CJ) Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Roisin Alldis (RA) Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind David Wright (DW) Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Lauren Nagler (LN) Maritime Archaeology Ltd Christin Heamagi (CH) Maritime Archaeology Ltd Phil New (PN) GoBe Andy Gregory (AG) SLR Charlotte Dawson (CD) SLR Holly Brown (HB) SLR |
| Apologies: | Neil McBride (NM) Lincolnshire County Council Eloise Sheiber (ES) Lincolnshire County Council Matt Adams (MA) Lincolnshire County Council Andrew Booth (AB) East Lindsey District Council Abbie Marwood (AM) Boston Borough Council Richard Fidler (RF) South Holland District Council Phil Norman (PN) South Holland District Council Mark Simmonds (MS) South Holland District Council Julia Bolton (JB) GoBe Laura Vickery (LV) GoBe Hugh Morris (HM) Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Rachel Furlong (RF) Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Ali Stewart (AS) SLR |
| Circulation: | External |
| Attachments: | 123-ODO-CON-K-IP-000073-01 Marine Onshore Archaeology Cultural Heritage ETG Presentation_20230313_v1.0DRAFT ODOW_Marine_Archaeology_Agreement_Log_300323_V1.0DRAFT ODOW_Onshore_Archaeology_&_CH_Agreement_Log_300323_V1.0DRAFT |

Project Update

- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) gave an overview of key topics and completed actions from the previous ETG meeting.
 - Photomontage locations continues to remain an ongoing action.
- ODOW confirmed that all attendees had received invitations to the two final ETGs post PEIR.

Programme

- ODOW provided a programme update.
 - Consultation phase 1A is now closed.
 - Anticipate issuing PEIR in June.
 - **Action: ODOW to provide ETG members with a more accurate date to facilitate resourcing.**
 - ODOW clarified that PEIR presents route options to both Lincolnshire Node and Weston Marsh whilst awaiting an offer from National Grid.
 - Target submission of December.

Evidence Base

- ODOW briefly explained the evidence based and the purpose of the agreement logs.
 - Clarified that the agreement logs will not be submitted at PEIR but will inform the Statements of Common Ground at application.
- ODOW clarified the offshore surveys programme.

Marine Archaeology

- LN, Maritime Archaeology ran through the four items (Issue ID 2, 3, 17 and 18 in the Marine Archaeology Agreement Log) in the Marine Archaeology agreement log that were awaiting data or not yet agreed.
 - A study area with a 1km buffer was agreed in response to comments received in the Scoping Opinion.
- LN, Maritime Archaeology provided a summary of the archaeological methodology and how archaeological significance and potential is assessed and advised that it is fully outlined in PEIR.
 - CH, Maritime Archaeology clarified that while Agreement Log Issue ID 17 refers to agreement on EIA methodology, this presentation focuses on the archaeological methodology as requested by HE ahead of this meeting. Both methodologies will be clearly outlined in the PEIR documentation which HE has not yet seen and therefore cannot agree.
 - Adaptive mitigation will be applied and outlined in the Project's WSI. Risks associated with not assessing the cable route data will be outlined. CP advised that HE is paying more time and attention to categories of archaeology such as modern fishing vessels.
 - Maritime Archaeology assured HE that the geoarchaeological campaign will be underpinned by other data resources to optimise where samples are taken.
- ODOW confirmed that only data from the array will be assessed at PEIR. The assessment of export cable corridor geophysical data will however be included in the ES.
 - Discussion was had about inclusion of mitigation in the PEIR.
 - HE advised that it should be made absolutely clear that all known items of archaeological potential will be considered for Archaeological Exclusion Zone (AEZ) and geophysical anomalies assessed as having archaeological potential will also be considered for AEZs.
- Following discussions Issue ID 2, 3 and 18 in the Marine Archaeology Agreement Log have been updated to 'agreed' and Issue ID 17 has been updated to 'awaiting data'.

Onshore Archaeology & Cultural Heritage

- ODOW confirmed that Caitlin Green’s ‘Land on the Edge’ has been incorporated into the baseline following Historic England’s suggestion.
- ODOW provided an update on the survey programme and a brief summary of key findings.
- Discussion was focused on the agreement log ID points that have not yet been agreed.
- Discussion between Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and ODOW on the usefulness of an air photo assessment and methodological approach if deemed necessary.
 - LCC understood that an air photo assessment would not be included in the PEIR, but is keen to have air photos of the full impact area for the ES.
 - ODOW is keen to avoid abortive work.
 - ODOW and LCC to continue discussions about inclusion of air photos in the ES.
- ODOW clarified that full map regression would not be included in the PEIR. A targeted map regression will be completed once a substation location is confirmed, with further discussion thereafter with LCC on its extrapolation to the ECC.
- LCC is expecting a robust assessment of standard archaeological evaluation for the area of impact, the substation and all other impacts.
- Discussion between Historic England (HE), LCC and ODOW about the field work approach, notably the justification for targeted geophysical survey in locations where there was deemed to be archaeological potential.
- ODOW informed LCC that the start date for the proposed onshore geotechnical borehole site investigations has been postponed from 10th April to 10th May. Archaeology input will be provided during this survey activity.
- Photomontages are still subject to further discussion to be confirmed during EIA.
- **Action: ODOW to provide LCC and HE targets with LiDAR context overlaid with proposed geophysical approach.**
- ODOW provided a brief update on geophysical survey programme and trial trenching approach.
 - JA advised she would take some time to review all the documents provided by CD including the need for WSIs for launch pit watching briefs and then get back to CD.
 - **Action: LCC and ODOW to set up a post ETG call for further discussion**
- ODOW clarified that some archaeological trial trenching works will have to be done post submission.
- LCC queried inclusion of archaeological mitigation in the method statement to be submitted with the PEIR.
 - ODOW confirmed no actions relating to strip map and sample which would be undertaken as a condition to consent have been included within this method statement which references methods for evaluation works only.
- HE raised concerns about the secondary impacts of mitigation and alternations to hydrology.
 - ODOW advised that drainage is a high priority issue and will be referenced where necessary as a potential indirect impact.

AOB


- No additional comments were raised from stakeholders.

Summary of Actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| 25/01/2023 | ODOW to send Geophys WSI to JA | ODOW | Closed |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|---|----------------|--------|
| 25/01/2023 | ODOW to continue discussion with stakeholders in order to seek agreement on the assets to be included within the photomontages included in the ES. | ODOW | Open |
| 23/03/23 | ODOW to provide ETG members with a more accurate PEIR submission date to enable them to line up internal resources. | ODOW | Open |
| 23/03/2023 | ODOW to set up a post ETG call with LCC to clarify the need for a WSI for the site investigation watching brief. | ODOW | Open |
| 23/03/2023 | ODOW to provide LCC and HE with images of the targets in their LiDAR context with the proposed geophysical approach overlaid to inform further discussion on the geophys footprint of 'Area of Potential A1'. | ODOW | Open |

/End

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Marine and Onshore Archaeology ETG |
| ODOW Ref: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0015 ODOW |
| Date: | 30 th November 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1530hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Greg Tomlinson (GT) – ODOW Roisin Alldis (RA) - ODOW Phil New (PN) – GoBe Consultants (on behalf of ODOW) Niamh Workman (NW) – GoBe Consultants (on behalf of ODOW) Charlotte Dawson (CD) – SLR Consulting (on behalf of ODOW) Matthew Hemming - SLR Consulting (on behalf of ODOW) Alexandra Stewart - SLR Consulting (on behalf of ODOW) Lowri Robers (LR) – Maritime Archaeology (on behalf of ODOW) Christin Heamagi (CH) – Maritime Archaeology (on behalf of ODOW) Chris Pater (CP)– Historic England Karrie Schnetler (KS)- Marine Management Organisation Emma Shore (ES) – Marine Management Organisation Eloise Shieber – Lincolnshire County Council Jan Allen (JA) – Lincolnshire County Council Sam Dewar (SD) - DPA Planning (on behalf of the S&ELCP) |
| Apologies: | Andy Gregroy- SLR Consulting (on behalf of ODOW) Denise Drury – Heritage Lincolnshire |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Updates

- The Project held a Section 42 Autumn Consultation (20th October to 24th November).
- This consultation was on both onshore and offshore refinements.
- The Offshore Project refinements are confirmation of:
 - a minimum blade tip height of 40m (up from 30m);
 - the maximum number of WTG as 100 (increase from 93), to account for a 15MW turbine option);
 - reduction of number of GBS foundations to a maximum of 50% of foundation structures; and;
 - the ORCP area has been moved further offshore to the closest distance to shore of 12km.
- Historic England questioned that the reduction of GBS to a maximum of 50% is a large commitment.
 - ODOW explained that this is a commitment that no more than 50% of foundations will be GBS, therefore retaining the flexibility on types of foundation used post consent but reducing the impact from GBSs.
- ODOW confirmed the DCO application is on track for submission in February 2024.
- ODOW confirmed that this is the last ETG scheduled in 2023. A further ETG will be scheduled for January if it is determined to be beneficial to discussion.

Onshore updates

- ODOW reiterated that the Project substation is at Surfleet Marsh. This will be connected to a National Grid substation by 400kV cables.

Offshore updates

- ODOW presented the revised array area boundary, compared with the PEIR boundary. It was explained that the western border reduction was primarily to resolve shipping and navigation issues. The northern boundary reduction was a reduction influenced by the impact on birds, particularly the displacement of guillemot, and the sloping of the boundary was to reduce the impact on shipping and navigation.
- Historic England raised concern that the smaller boundary and increase of turbines would result in more turbines in a smaller space.
 - ODOW explained that the Project must meet minimum power density requirements set out by The Crown Estate that must be complied with post-consent, as such the change in boundary does not change the spacing of turbines within the Project's maximum design scenario.

Marine Archaeology

Updates

- ODOW confirmed that ES authoring for first round has concluded, accommodating the S42 feedback, and feedback received in the last ETG.
- The Project have made minor changes to the export cable corridor. This is a change in the magnitude of a few meters to ensure no overlap with other Projects.
- The Project explained that following refinements of the array area, the data used at PEIR has been revisited, with 30 data points removed from the gazetteer as they now fall outside the 1km buffer, including one unknown wreck. The remaining points removed are geophysical anomalies; with two rated as being of "medium" significance and the remaining 27 being "low".
- ODOW explained that final refinements to the ECC are being made for the purposes of application. Once the final boundary is confirmed, the data will be updated accordingly and incorporated into the ES.
- The Project explained that geophysical data (side scan/mag/bathy) has been provided since PIER to fill data gaps.
- Confirmed geophysical assessment has been assessed for the ECC.

Geotechnical

- The Project confirmed that a geotechnical survey is planned for 2024, post-application during examination. This will include boreholes for archaeological investigation and paleo landscapes. This will be post DCO –application submission..
- Historic England questioned whether the Project will be submitting a method statement to outline the strategy. The Project confirmed that a method statement will be written and submitted before works commence.
- ODOW confirmed that the Project will be submitting an outline WSI for archeological investigation at DCO submission.
- Confirmed that geotechnical data (not collected for archaeological purposes) has been looked at and the results detailed in the two geotechnical reports submitted with the DCO application.

Approach to Cumulative effects Assessment

Long list of other developments

- The Project have revised the long list of other developments within the Project's Zone of Influence (Zol) (± 570) post PEIR, using the end of September 2023 as a cut-off.

Short list

The Project have undergone the following for the cumulative short list:

- Screened other developments based on location, scope and temporal relationship (± 150).
- Included some substantive developments outside of the Zol.
- Screened into the assessment where a potential interaction was identified (total of 59).
- Interactions reviewed per technical aspect for potential contribution to cumulative effects.
- Developments/aspect scoped in where a cumulative contribution was likely (total of 15).

Cumulative Effects Assessment

- The Project have undergone a research/estimation of 'project envelope' for each approach.
- ODOW have adopted a realistic worst-case approach (e.g. maximum design scenario & temporal overlap).
- The Project explained that this is a largely qualitative/indicative assessment approach.
- ODOW explained that the Project have determined effects and receptors common to the Project and the other developments.

Onshore Archaeology

Geophysical survey

- ODOW confirmed that Geophysical surveying is ongoing.
- The Project has undergone a geophysical survey of 73% (at the time of writing) of planned survey area to date (30/11/2023).
- The Project explained that the results have not shown a busy archaeological landscape but show some areas of archaeological potential, both previously known and unknown.
- ODOW added that archaeological anomalies are limited, but some significant anomalies are present.

Historic Aerial Photographic Review

- ODOW displayed the ECC2 sample area of the Projects Slackholme assessment which references the historic aerial photographs held by Historic England in Swindon. ODOW explained that the geophysical survey provided more detailed evidence of activity at the sample location than was visible on the aerial photographs. ODOW also introduced that another sample area for historic review was being considered to include the parts of the project south of Boston. These are areas that had not been subject to wholesale geophysical survey. It would offer some comparison with the geophysical that has been undertaken but also some coverage of areas not surveyed by geophysical. By way of an update post ETG this area was completed in December 2023. Aside from palaeochannels and field boundaries concurring with those visible on historic maps, no cropmarks were observed.

General Order Limits

- The Project explained that the geophysical survey has confirmed anomalies at 5 out of 7 assets recorded through the NMP (with 1 asset not surveyed). In the 6 instances where correlation was confirmed the geophysical anomalies stood up well.
- ODOW confirmed that where the geophysical survey has not verified NMP data, the assets have related to medieval or post medieval activity which is either not extensive or indicative of the presence of significant remains.
- The Project explained that geophysical survey is a reliable prospection technique for significant extensive archaeological remains, therefore the Project do not feel that historic aerial photographic assessment is necessary to supplement the geophysical survey.

- Lincolnshire County Council raised concern with the Project regarding the use of geophysical surveys instead of aerial surveys. Lincolnshire County Council explained that it would be beneficial to use both techniques together to provide more information.
- The Project acknowledged these concerns and explained that a full LIDAR assessment has been conducted to support geophysical data. The LIDAR assessment reviewed GoogleEarth imagery and a recent aerial survey conducted by ODOW such that aside of historic photographs, the Project footprint has been subject to some aerial photographic assessment
- ODOW remain of the opinion that the Project does not require both geophysical survey and aerial surveys, based on what is already known.

Archaeological evaluation


- The Project confirmed that discussions are on-going with consultees from Lincolnshire County Council and Historic England, adding that the Project recently met virtually with LCC on Wednesday 15th and 22nd November.
- The Project confirmed the following commitments:
 - Completion of geophysical survey (as much as practicable) within the Examination Period
 - Geoarchaeological boreholes to test potential of peat and Pleistocene land surfaces within the Examination Period
 - Targeted trial trenching within the Examination Period
 - Directional Drilling at Slackholme
- ODOW confirmed that post consent decision the Project will complete additional trial trenching to test blank areas.
- The Project confirmed that excavations and watching briefs will be completed for Archaeological Mitigation post consent.
- For clarification post ETG these works will be set out within an Outline WSI.

AOB

- Historic England acknowledged that the Project will be busy during the examination period, therefore requests whether the Project will have a written plan to how adequate resourcing during examination will continue.
 - The Project explained they will reflect on this
- ODOW confirmed that the Project will be updating the approach to Agreement Logs. Agreement logs will be separated into specific agreements, rather than the consultation logs presented previously.
- The Project confirmed that a steering group meeting will be held in due course.
- ACTION:** ODOW to confirm date of next steering group meeting.

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|---|----------------|--------|
| 30/11/2023 | Confirm date of next steering group meeting | ODOW | |

/End

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine and Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0025 |
| Date: | 19/09/23 |
| Time: | 10.00hrs -12.00hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Roisin Alldis (RA) - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Charlotte Dawson (CD) – SLR Consulting Chris Pater (CP)– Historic England Karen Schnetler (KS)- Marine Management Organisation Phil New (PN) – GoBe Consultants (on behalf of ODOW) Gareth Hughs (GH) – SLR Consulting (on behalf of ODOW) Lowri Robers (LR) – Maritime Archaeology (on behalf of ODOW) Emma Shore (ES) – Marine Management Organisation Jan Allen (JA) – Lincolnshire County Council Sam Dewar (SD) - DPA Planning (on behalf of the S&ELCP) Christin Heamagi (CH) – Maritime Archaeology (on behalf of ODOW) Eloise Shieber – Lincolnshire County Council |
| Apologies: | Greg Tomlinson (GT) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Chris Jenner (CJ) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Neil McBride (NM) – Lincolnshire County Council Jacob Laws (JL) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Phil Norman (PN) – South Holland District Council Mark Simmonds (MS)– South Holland District Council Abbie Marwood (AM) – Boston Borough Council |
| Circulation: | External |

Evidence Plan Schedule

- It was confirmed that a round of November ETGs are being planned. These are targeted to topics with outstanding areas of discussion. The Project confirmed both onshore and offshore archaeology will be included in the next round of ETGs.

Programme

- It was confirmed that the Project are still aiming for DCO submission by the end of 2023.
- The Project are holding a targeted autumn consultation which will focus primarily on onshore amendments but will also cover the offshore refinements.

Onshore

- It was confirmed on the 10th August that the grid connection for the Project will be Weston Marsh.
- The Project confirmed that the onshore cable route will be the route North of the A52.
- Work is ongoing for onshore substation selection and the two search areas as presented at PEIR (Surfleet Marsh and Weston Marsh) are still being considered.

Offshore

- It was confirmed that work is ongoing to reduce the array area from the 500km² at PEIR to meet the requirements The Crown Estate's Minimum Power Density Requirements.
- Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) maximum number is increased to 100 at ES from 93 previously used at PEIR due following a supply chain review and the need to maintain the option of 15MW WTGs.
- GBS are being retained as an option due to ground condition restraints, this is being refined and the WCS is being reduced from 100%.
- The minimum tip height is confirmed at 40m.

Marine Archaeology

Updates

- The Project confirmed that magnetometer data for the ECC has been fully reviewed.
- The Project explained that missing SBP data for the ECC has now been received and will be assessed in the ES.
- The ES chapter, WSI and technical reports are being updated and considering S42 comments.
- ODOW advised that marine archaeology and onshore archaeology have discussed the boundary cross over at landfall confirming that there will be no data gaps.

Outstanding Section 42 Discussion Points and Areas of Disagreement

The Project presented and responded to comments received during S42 consultation:

MDS table

- The Project disagreed that the use of Gravity Base Foundations would appear to represent the "Realistic Worst-Case Scenario" based on the numbers provided by the Project for other foundation types. Reiterating that Suction Bucket Jackets (SBJ) represent the realistic worst-case scenario.
- Historic England raised the concern that SBJ does not represent the option for greatest physical disturbance of seabed.
- The Project acknowledged this concern and will consider as necessary.

Technical Report – Known Wrecks.

- The Project explained that the sum of the heritage interests that a heritage asset holds is referred to as its significance, the significance derives from physical presence as well as its setting.
- Historic England (CP) questioned whether sites being determined as assets are of archaeological significance. Historic England encourages the Project to establish a tangible way to identify significant heritage assets.

Onshore Archaeology

Updates

- The Project confirmed that the archaeological watching brief of site investigations is complete, with the report ongoing. The results will be used to update the Archaeological Deposit Model for ES submission.

- ODOW explained that the geophysical survey is ongoing, however they have encountered slow progress (31% complete on 01/09/23) due to access restrictions.

Geophysical Survey

- The project displayed example areas of potential archaeology in the revised project footprint.
 - These included Slackholme, enclosures and field systems east of Croft, an area west of Wainfleet St Mary, an enclosure between Freiston and Butterwick and various Palaeochannels representative of natural channels across the survey output.
- The Project recalled the question of why the PEIR ECC route did not avoid Slackholme as raised in a previous ETG.
 - The Project explained that Slackholme avoidance was not considered due to concerns raised over fitting a construction area between the Triton Knoll cables and an existing property.
- The Project outlined their proposal to adopt a trenchless crossing method at Slackholme, such as a directional drill to cross underneath the asset.
 - The launch and receive pit will be micro-sited based on the results of the geophysical survey and an earthwork survey (if necessary) which if required would be undertaken post-submission.
 - The ES would reference a commitment for the launch and receive pits to avoid significant archaeological remains with no vehicle access permitted.
 - This was broadly acknowledged by LCC (JA).

Trial trench evaluation

- ODOW explained that bad weather and the late harvest have affected the timescales for receiving the geophysical survey results. Results will therefore not be available in time to undertake any intrusive evaluation prior to submission.
- As a solution the Project proposed to undertake the first campaign of archaeological trial trenching and any geoarchaeological boreholes following submission in early spring 2024.
 - The Project confirmed this will be set out within an Outline WSI for evaluation to be submitted with the ES and agreed with consultees.
 - The Project highlighted that this approach will target high risk areas identified through baseline and areas of greatest disturbance - the OnSS.
 - The Project noted that this intrusive phase will inform determination and post consent work to be set out within an Outline WSI for mitigation to be prepared during examination.
- Post Consent the Project proposed trial trenching of other areas not targeted in the first campaign.
- This approach was acknowledged by LCC (JA) as an approach that has been undertaken by other NSIPs but it was suggested that a rolling trenching programme could commence sooner. The Project advised that a full baseline from geophysical survey was the preferred basis on which to commence intrusive works and that works over the Winter should be avoided due to adverse ground conditions. LCC (JA) acknowledged the difficulties of Winter working and confirmed that this approach would be acceptable subject to the Inspector's agreement.

Refined project Parameters

Historic Air Photo Assessment

- The Project acknowledge that LCC are of the opinion that the desk-based assessment should include a full aerial photographic assessment.
- ODOW explained that NMP data did not discover any data additional to the geophysical surveys (thus far). The Project are therefore not proposing to complete a full aerial photo assessment as the geophysical survey should make this not necessary.
- The Project and LCC discussed a sample area to test this method. A sample area at Slackholme was suggested.

ACTION: The Project (CD) will liaise with stakeholders to agree a sample area for historic air photo assessment.

- LCC (JA) do not agree with this approach and encouraged the project to complete a full air photo assessment but acknowledged that a sample area as discussed may move this disagreement forwards.

Map regression

- The Project are making progress in referencing pre-Ordnance Survey mapping as necessary. This will comply with the requirements of LCC.

Next steps

The project provided an overview of the next steps regarding archaeological fieldwork for the project from present until post consent.

AOB

- The project reiterated that aerial photo assessments is the only outstanding disagreement.
- LCC (JA) questioned how evaluation and assessment will look regarding the grid connection.
 - The Project explained that because of its location geophysical assessments were ruled out as unsuitable on the grounds of deposit modelling.
 - ODOW advised that project are considering the implementation of 10m geoarchaeological boreholes at the OnSS to understand the geoarchaeological/ paleoenvironmental potential of deposits.
 - JA proposed an additional meeting with CD, MN to discuss these possibilities.
 - JA explained Denise Drury (SHDC) would be valuable to discussion and encouraged the project to involve **Denise Drury in the process.**
 - **ACTION: ODOW (CD) to reach out to Denise Drury for their expertise.**
- The Project explained that the exact OnSS site will be defined, and offshore RLB updates will be complete in time for the November ETG, therefore the Project intend to update consultees on these developments and associated EIA progress.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--|----------------|--------|
| 19/09/23 | The Project (CD) will liaise with LCC & HE to agree a sample area for historic air photo assessment. | CD | |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--|----------------|--------|
| 19/09/23 | ODOW (CD) to reach out to Denise Drury for their expertise and invite to the next ETG round. | CD | |

/End

A coastal landscape featuring a path of white sand and dunes covered in tall, dry grasses. The path leads towards a beach and the ocean under a cloudy sky.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex B Part 2 of 11

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024

Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex B – Part 2 of 11

Derogation and Compensation Expert Topic Group Minutes

| | |
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|    | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Derogation and Compensation Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000114-01 |
| Date: | 11 January 2022 |
| Time: | 1100hrs to 1230hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | ODOW: Chris Jenner (CJ); Rachel Furlong (RF); Jean-Côme Sol (JCS) GoBe: Steve Bellew (SB); Julia Bolton (JB); Phil New (PN); Fraser Carter (FC); James Miles (JM); Glen Gillespie (GG); Darcy Brady (DB) Marine Management Organisation (MMO): Paul Stephenson (PS); Pete Cosgrove (PG); Adam Tillotson (AT); Emma Shore (ES) Natural England: Martin Kerby (MK); Deanna Atkins (DA) Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB): Aly McCluskie (AM); Andrew Dodd (AD) |
| Apologies: | None |
| Circulation: | External |

Introductions:

- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) asked if recording was okay, with no objections received, introductions were made for all attendees.
- ODOW provided an overview of the project team and highlighted key contacts.

Project Introduction

- ODOW gave an overview of project location and Round 4 process to determine project array area.
- Note of the known constraints within the wider area.
- Project boundary size reduction will occur from 500km² to 300km²:
 - Must occur prior to construction, timescales to be confirmed.
- Discussion around the minimum tip height to be used:
 - 22m min (MCA requirement) used as basis for assessment start point, will work up from there to a maximum of 40m which is an indication of where may reach as mitigation but this is all subject to assessment.
- Scoping values are still being refined and may slightly change from presentation.
- Cable route to be confirmed as subject to Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) process.
- Scoping report planned to be submitted in February 2022.
- Digital Aerial Surveys (DAS) for offshore ornithology and marine mammal surveys commenced in March 2021.
- Geophysical survey of array area (and buffer) completed early Jan 2022.
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) submission targeted for Q1 2023.
- Environmental Statement submission targeted for Q4 2023.
- All based around project award in 2025 to allow construction for 2030.
- There was a discussion around the detail of advice which is possible at scoping with large study areas for cables. MK raised concerns around the usefulness of feedback by issuing a

scoping report without a confirmed grid connection location, (noting that the RWE experience was not useful).

- ODOW confirmed that a different approach was being taken to RWE. The ODOW scoping report will be broken down into modular areas, for both onshore and offshore.
- ODOW understood that stakeholders comments on the scoping report would be general.
- **ACTION: MK to send Natural England's advice on Dogger Bank South's Scoping Report to ODOW**

(Post-meeting note: advice provided via email on 12/01/21).

Evidence Plan Process (EPP) Introduction:

- Brief overview of the EPP was given.
- Gideon Amos will be chairing the steering group. This will facilitate the raising and escalating of topics as a forum for raising key issues.

Relevant Ongoing and Planned Surveys:

- Overview of the current and planned surveys was provided, including note of DAS started in March 2021 – almost full year data collected to date.
- 2021 geophysical survey campaign data to be analysed to feed into geophysical export cable survey.
- All of the above will feed into the EIA and HRA assessments, and if required an 'in principle derogation and compensation requirements.
- Focus of this Expert Topic Group (ETG) meeting is to consider known ornithological issues from previous assessments, with an acknowledgement of possible impacts on benthic habitat Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) from cable route (depending on route) which would follow the same broad strategy as discussed today if applicable.
- Current expectation is to progress 'without prejudice' derogation case to be able to facilitate conversations and formulate a robust compensation case if needed.
- ODOW will target a project-specific approach in absence of strategic options although will keep involved in development of strategic options via OWIC and engagement with Defra/TCE etc
- **ACTION: Question to ETG attendees - how is it best to deal with net gain? Should this be kept within individual ETG's? Any feedback is welcome on this.**

Approach to Derogation and Compensation:

- The planned approach for ODOW was discussed.
- It was noted that part of the review of other projects includes consideration of stakeholder responses to other project's to feed into the long/short list.

Initial Works on Derogation and Compensation

Work to Date:

- 10-point plan for guidance – review of compensation measures has formulated this list.
- Will be discussed with stakeholders and within this ETGs moving forward to refine long list into a short list.
- AD questioned whether the review included the concerns/criticisms of stakeholders raised with regards to other proposals/projects to date in order to address those concerns from the outset.

- ODOW confirm that the process is still not complete, but will seek to analyse and address comments from stakeholders on other projects compensation proposals

Compensation Rating Criteria:

- Based on DEFRA guidance with slight tweaks to make it relevant to the project. Proposed ratings take taking into consideration the lessons learned from other projects
- AD noted that RSPB have concerns with Defra guidance, particularly rankings for options.
 - **ACTION: AD to check if RSPB can share response to Defra guidance with ODOW.**
- MK noted that Defra will be releasing overview of responses and will be updating guidance in due course.
- ODOW noted NE's concerns and preferences around non-like for like options.

Preliminary Compensation Options

Overview of early stage thinking for a number of key ornithological species.

- Artificial structures:
 - ODOW discussed options for on- and offshore structures and evidence reviews for other projects.
 - Discussion around potential limitations and evidence gaps with MK questioning the longevity of the measures as the number of structures that are provided and when is the benefit effectively 'used up'.
 - ODOW confirmed it is important that the key challenges are highlighted early to predict where further evidence is required. ODOW will be developing a evidence base in due course.
 - **Action: FC to send paper on Baltic nesting structures for guillemot to all ETG attendees.**
- Supplementary feeding:
 - Potential novel measure - acknowledged lower evidence availability for this.
 - Some evidence from southern hemisphere.
 - Noted that options for individual developers at Flamborough and Filey Coast (FFC) Special Protection Area (SPA) are extremely limited, but this is possible option for consideration
 - MK queried whether any impacts on this may occur from discard bans.
 - AM queried potential issues associated with attraction of non-target species to the colony.
 - ODOW noted that these would be considered within the short-listing process.
- Bycatch mitigation:
 - Developing area of inquiry - ongoing studies and commercial development in this area.
- Predator eradication:
 - Focus on auks, considered low impact on kittiwakes/gannets (for mammalian predators).
 - Also looking at avian predator impacts.
- Further options:
 - Strategic options.
 - Further site-specific measures (e.g. human disturbance).
 - Supporting measures:
 - Potentially for a package-based approach.
 - Seagrass restoration or removal of ghost gear.

- Discussion around "harmful gear removal" - specifically aimed at removal of plastic pollution or ghost gear which may catch seabirds.
- MK noted Natural England are producing a guidance document on seabird compensation options which is due to be published in January 2022.


Next Steps:

- ODOW will continue to consider and refine possible compensation options along with development of 'in principle' derogation case – Through the ETG, ODOW will continue to engage stakeholders in refining these options and, where appropriate collecting additional data to support evidence base.
- Suggested dates for next ETG is the w/c 28th of Feb or w/c 7th March for 2 hours.
- MK confirmed Natural England's resources are very stretched now, as are those of RSPB as confirmed by AM.
- **Action: ODOW to send doodle poll to be sent out for arrangement of next ETG meeting.**
(Post meeting note: Doodle poll issue to all attendees on 23rd January 2022 for w/c 7th March 2022. W/c 28th February deemed unsuitable).
- MK noted the lack of site-specific options available and the need for increased focus on the avoid, reduce mitigate hierarchy and expectation that SoS may start to require more focus on this at an early stage.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|---|----------------------|--------|
| 11/01/2022 | MK to send Natural England's advice on Dogger Bank South's Scoping Report to ODOW <i>(Post-meeting note: advice provided via email on 12/01/21).</i> | MK (Natural England) | Yes |
| 11/01/2022 | Question to ETG attendees - how is it best to deal with net gain? Should this be kept within individual ETG's? Any feedback is welcome on this. | All | |
| 11/01/2022 | AD to check if RSPB can share response to Defra compensation guidance with ODOW. | AD (RSPB) | |
| 11/01/2022 | FC to send paper on Baltic nesting structures for guillemot to all ETG attendees. | FC (GoBe) | |
| 11/01/2022 | ODOW to send doodle poll to be sent out for arrangement of next ETG meeting. <i>(Post meeting note: Doodle poll issue to all attendees on 23rd January 2022 for w/c 7th March 2022. W/c 28th February deemed unsuitable).</i> | JB (GoBe) | Yes |

/End

| | |
|---|--|
|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Offshore Ornithology, Derogation and Compensation Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000288-01 |
| Date: | 12 July 2022 |
| Time: | 1000hrs to 1200hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Rachel Furlong (RF), ODOW, Stakeholder and Consents Manager Roisin Alldis (RA), ODOW, Onshore Consents Manger Beth Travis (BT), ODOW, Consents Co-ordinator Jean-Come Sol (JCS), ODOW, Interface Manager Steve Bellew (SB), GoBe, Director Julia Bolton (JB), GoBe, Project Manager Phil New (PN), GoBe, Offshore Project Manager Fraser Carter (FC), GoBe, Senior Ornithology and lead tech author James Miles (JM), GoBe, Senior Ornithology Consultant Adam Tillotson (AT), MMO, Case Manager Emma Shore (ES), MMO, Case Officer Paul Stevenson (PS), MMO, Senior Case Officer Pete Cosgrove (PCo), MMO, Strategic Renewables Unit Ruth Cantrell (PCa), Natural England, Senior Advisor Northumbria Paul Lane (PL), Natural England, Case Officer Yorks and North Lincs Martin Kirby (ML), Natural England, Senior Advisor |
| Apologies: | Helen Rowell, Natural England Ali McCluskie, RSPB Andrew Dodd, RSPB |
| Circulation: | External |

Introductions:

- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) sought permission to record the meeting for the purposes of assisting minute taking. With no objections received, introductions were made for all attendees.
- ODOW provided an overview of the project team and highlighted key points of contact.

Project Introduction

- ODOW gave an overview of project location and Round 4 process to determine project array area.
- ODOW noted that The Crown Estate (TCE) Plan Level Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is ongoing.

Evidence Plan Process (EPP) Introduction:

- A summary of the EPP aims and objectives and Expert Topic Group (ETG) structure was provided.
- ODOW consider the EPP as a key engagement forum where we can discuss and seek agreement on key aspects of the project so when we do come to submit our DCO application, stakeholders are familiar with our project application and that you feel you understand and where possible support our approach.

- We are also aware of the Govt driving a reduced consenting timeline, and so we would like to make the most of our early consultation ensure we are being as effective as possible in our consultation.

NOTE: We will not hold an additional MM ETG currently as there are minimal changes to date, so at this stage we aim to be considerate of time and availability and will cover updates when appropriate

Appraisal of Connection Options

- ODOW provided an overview of the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) process, which is being led by National grid in conjunction with Ofgem and BEIS.
- The OTNR will confirm the final grid connection location for ODOW as is expected to report September 2022 (noting this has been previously delayed).
- At present 2 possible grid connection options:
 - Lincs Node (previously known as East Midlands) connection would link in at Lincolnshire. This would rely on the Lincolnshire Green grid reinforcement project being developed by NG and would connect in 2031 at the earliest.
 - Weston Marsh connection point to the south, would connect in 2028/2029.
- The Offshore cable route has been defined on the basis of a Lincolnshire connection point with proposed routing to the north of Triton Knoll (via Silver Pit – significant engineering challenge and proposed HMPA) and the South (with potential overlap with SAC and multiple cable crossing).

Q: Natural England - is the landfall the same for both? Yes, proposed landfall offers options for both Lincs Green and Weston Marsh.

Programme

- **ODOW provided an overview of the project programme (slide 9), including intention to submit the Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate at the end of July.**

ACTION: ODOW to inform ETG Members once scoping has been submitted

- Natural England noted that it was difficult to provide detailed comments on broad scoping boundaries and queried why ODOW has not waited for confirmed grid connection post Sept. Natural England noted that scoping response would be relatively high level and to manage expectations.
- The offshore scoping boundary and a separate slide showing the onshore scoping boundary was shared. A decision taken to commence engagement with stakeholders on broader scoping boundary to allow early engagement which can be used to inform cable route selection (eg route around towns, villages, etc)
- ODOW noted that the OTNR process has experienced delays and therefore intention is to capture stakeholder feedback to allow further refinement of options ahead of PEIR.

Relevant Ongoing and Planned Surveys:

- An overview of the current and planned surveys was provided, including note of Digital Aerial Surveys (DAS) started in March 2021 – all monthly surveys completed to date with additional surveys during breeding season to help build robust evidence base for assessment

Ornithology:

- GoBe provided an overview of the offshore ornithology baseline and the approach to Scoping (slides 9-10), which is all included in further detail in the scoping report.
- Natural England queried whether disturbance effects for O&M were scoped out and GoBe confirmed this was the case within the Export Cable Corridor (ECC). Natural England noted that they may ask that this is scoped back in as associated boat traffic can be significant
- Natural England also noted that lighting may need to be scoped in, clarifying that this was mainly in regards to seabirds and water birds, but that this is unlikely to be a significant issue.
- GoBe queried whether Natural England would be happy to scope out Red Throated Diver for disturbance and displacement from O&M activities.
- ~~FC – you mentioned the RTD protocol there, is there a point at which you'd be happy to scope it out~~
- Natural England clarified that it would depend on size of impact, but the focus is whether it can be scoped out now. As the O&M port is not yet confirmed, unable to know the level of traffic so it might be premature to scope out now
- Natural England noted the interrelationship between disturbance and barrier effects. This would be for transiting and for those residing in the area. ODOW confirmed further information is included within the Scoping Report.
-
- GoBe confirmed that SPAs and Ramsars were identified and then followed the four site selection criteria. Key sites screened in or out as detailed on slideshow (INCLUDE SLIDE NUMBERS)
- MK – impacts on colonies in non-breeding season, will breeding season be used as proxy? Could you use any of the newer tracking info from the likes of Buckingham et al. Is there a medium way (not screening all in or out) looking at the tracking data to see whether anything should be included to make it appropriate?
- FC – we are working to stay abreast of all the ongoing changes at the moment, and will include as appropriate. Hopefully when you read the SR you'll feel we have provided a medium approach

Natural England queried how migratory water birds (eg transiting water birds from the wash) were considered. ODOW noted that The Wash has not been screened in and this stage and further information on the approach will be presented in briefing notes to follow. Natural England will consider and provide further advice where required.

- Natural England queried where Fulmer from Flamborough and Filey Coast (FFC) SPA were scoped in, noting that the Planning Inspectorate will want to know why Fulmer is screened out, urging ODOW to present rationale.
- ODOW noted that further justification is included that in our evidence for the screening report, building on how this has been dealt with in other projects.

Survey Data.

- Natural England noted that Triton Knoll had a lot of Little Gull in their surveys suggested ODOW may need to include for in-combination assessments. In the autumn period you may get quite a flux in numbers through your site. Suggest further discussion at future ETG.

Assessment Methodology / CRM

- GoBe provided an overview of the detailed approach: stochastic deterministic modelling based on density of birds within the array, which you'll receive in detail when we send out the briefing note
- Natural England noted that JNCC is working on avoidance rates at the moment but timing is unclear.

ACTION: ODOW to share methodology briefing note and signposting document with ETG Members

ACTION: Natural England to share updated re updated avoidance rate guidance

Assessment Methodology (slide 16)

- Natural England noted that they have some reservation re use of NatureScot apportioning south of the boarder as Scotland has multiple colonies who may be experiencing pressures, but in the SNS its almost just Flamborough so it may be better to use site specific data.

Approach to Compensation

- ODOW dedicating a lot of time and effort into strategic and collaborative approaches. Steps ongoing are detailed on slide 18, including development of a road map will detail our approach.
- The project has worked to identify a long list of potential compensation options, which have been appraised against criteria including ecological, like-for like, deliverability, etc to provide a shortlist for each relevant species.
- Very difficult to deliver meaningful comp at a project level so we are looking to develop an approach which is evidenced appropriately and robustly and provides effective compensation
- ODOW is also actively engaging in industry wide initiatives, via OWIC to consider strategic compensation options

Artificial Nesting (slides 23-26)

- Nesting is being considered as part of a suite of measures for kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill
- Challenges of reusing old infrastructure as artificial nesting structures and the OSPAR Convention were discussed and Defra are currently working to understand how we can progress and address challenges
- ODOW noted that census and tagging work was planned to help understand how birds currently use offshore O&G platforms.

ACTION: Natural England to share update on OWSMURF initiatives re capturing kittiwake at sea and tracking

Bycatch reduction

Gannet (slides 27-28)

- ODOW have been exploring this as mitigation and how this links with our project as a form of compensation.
- Recent evidence from Portugal has highlighted concerns around bycatch of gannet from longlining
- Furness et al. shows clear connectivity between UK birds and other countries
- Natural England noted challenges in:
 - Governance outside UK jurisdiction
 - Additionality and what the EU has planned for bycatch reduction in those areas (which should form part of the baseline)

- Specific fisheries which are causing the impact and what might work with those specific fisheries as success is very fisheries specific.
- Natural England noted that in principle, they are this could be a viable compensation options but requires approval of approach from Defra and BEIS

Guillemot and Razorbill (slide 28)

- GoBe noted this would be delivered as part of a suite of measures and the project are keeping abreast of other work and examples and discussing future potential.
- Natural England queried whether the opportunity to buy out fisheries to reduce effort instead of trying to mitigate against effort. GoBe confirmed this is something that is being explored but has considerable challenges.

ACTION: GoBe to provide update at next ETG regarding the most suitable locations for bycatch reduction and mechanisms

Predator Eradication (Slide 29)

- GoBe noted this is effective and has been done widely. Guillemot and Razorbill do benefit from predator removal. We are currently in the early stages of identifying locations
- Natural England noted that project must consider whether BEIS would be confident committing to regions outwith their control. Natural England recommended recent SOWC report by CMS on additionality.

Fisheries Management

- Natural England noted that the most appropriate measure for compensation (subject to additionality) may be improving the availability of forage fish, but recognise that may not be within the gift of an individual project level as needs Government intervention

ODOW agreed and suggested that this may be something Defra would consider and enable developers to take forward

Next Steps

- Overview provided (Slide 32)

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|--------------|--|------------------|--------|
| 12 July 2022 | ODOW to share methodology briefing note and signposting document with ETG Members | Julia / Rona | |
| 12 July 2022 | MK to share when the new guidance will be delivered | Martin | |
| 12 July 2022 | MK to check OSMOUTH initiatives re capturing kittiwake at sea and tracking | Martin | |
| 12 July 2022 | FC to update Paul at the next ETG meeting regarding the most suitable location for bycatch reduction and potential mechanism | Fraser | |
| 12 July 2022 | FC/JM to read the SOIC/ZOWEC report as mentioned by Martin Kirby | Fraser and James | |

/End

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Derogation and Compensation Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000199-01 |
| Date: | 7 th March 2022 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | RSPB: Andrew Dodd (AD), Aly McCluskie (AM) Natural England: Martin Kerby (MK), Deanna Atkins (DA) Marine Management Organisation (MMO): Emma Shore (ES), Paul Stephenson (PS), Pete Cosgrove (PS) ODOW: Chris Jenner (CJ), Rachel Furlong (RF) GoBe: Julia Bolton (JB), Phil New (PN), James Miles (JM), Rona McCann (RM) |
| Apologies: | Steve Bellew, Fraser Carter, Jean-Come SOL, Glen Gillespie, Adam Tillotson, Louise Burton, Emma Brown, Alan Gibson |
| Circulation: | External |

See PowerPoint presentation (as attached)



ODOW_ETG002_Derogation & Compensation

Project & Programme Update

- ODOU noted ongoing uncertainty surrounding grid connection location with delays to ongoing Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) process.
- In terms of programme, the planned submission of the ODOU scoping report has been delayed from Q1 to Q2 2022. This is not anticipated to alter the rest of the ODOU programme.
- The 2022 campaign for geophysical and geotechnical surveys is planned to be mobilized in March 2022.
- ODOU have been accepted onto the Flamborough and Filey Coast Seabird Monitoring group and ODOU will be joining the next meeting on the 28th March 2022.

Cable Optioneering

- ODOU presented the proposed offshore Area of Search (AoS), alongside the offshore/coastal SACs, SPAs, MCZS, SSSIs and Ramsar sites. ODOU anticipate that by early April, the project will have more detail on where the project's grid connection location will be. At this stage Norfolk is not considered to be within the mix due to environmental constraints within the area.
- ODOU has offered meetings with each stakeholder to discuss cable optioneering.

Post meeting note: Meeting arranged with Natural England on 23rd March and MMO on 24th March to discuss cable optioneering.

Surveys

- First year of marine mammal and bird surveys has been completed.
- An exemption application has been submitted to the MMO for the 2022 geophysical and geotechnical survey campaign commencing in March. This has also been shared with NE.
- There is ongoing analysis of recent geophysical survey data to determine the benthic sampling locations for the upcoming 2022 survey campaign. ODOW confirmed that the sampling locations will be shared with Natural England and MMO prior to the survey commencing.
- Intertidal ornithological surveys are ongoing and survey effort is being doubled for the aerial seabird surveys providing an additional 7 surveys. There will be two surveys undertaken each month between March and September 2022 inclusive. RSPB confirmed that this was a good approach.
- FLiDAR to be deployed April 2022.
- Marine traffic surveys to begin in summer 2022.
- RSPB noted that FLiDAR surveys usually have the ability to also collect barometric data which would be considered useful to verify altitude data from tags.

Post meeting note: Confirmed by ODOW that barometric pressure will be collected as part of the data from the FLiDAR.

General Approach to Development of Compensation Options:

- Via discussion with the Derogation ETG, ODOW plan to develop proposals for possible compensation measures to support a “without prejudice” derogation case.
- A longlist of compensation measures was developed and using criteria to assess the effectiveness, deliverability, conservation value, delivery lag and scale to the measures, ODOW have reduced the longlist to produce a shortlist.
- For Kittiwake the shortlist presented included offshore artificial nesting structures, onshore artificial nesting structures and supplementary feeding.
- For Gannet the shortlist presented included offshore artificial nesting structures, establishing a new onshore colony, bycatch mitigation and removal of plastic/fishing debris.
- For Guillemot & Razorbill the shortlist presented included bycatch mitigation, offshore artificial nesting structures, onshore artificial nesting structures and predator eradication.
- RSPB and NE agreed that the options on the shortlists were reasonable options for further exploration, noting a number of potential data gaps surrounding the various measures which were recommended to be considered as part of any evaluation of the feasibility of the listed measures.

Strategic Research and Collaboration:

- RSPB expressed the importance of interlinkages with strategic research and collaboration.
- RSPB would like to see a focus on identifying and agreeing on the critical research in order to generate a robust evidence base for each seabird species.
- ODOW noted that they are involved in a number of industry groups which are exploring strategic and collaborative compensatory measures.

Artificial Nesting Structures:

- RSPB and Natural England noted that for creation of artificial nest sites, there needs to be consideration of nesting preferences to ensure that non-target species will not exclude the target species from the structure.
- Natural England expressed an interest in knowing more about the nesting preferences of large auks on offshore structures.
- RSPB advised that the Birds Directive does not allow for the designation of new SPAs as a compensation measure, unlike the Habitats Directive.

Removal of Plastic:

- RSPB provided an example from Grassholm where the majority of gannet nests are structurally dependent on plastics and removal of plastic from the SPAs could be detrimental. It was noted that removal of plastics from the sea may not be effective without control of the terrestrial sources of plastic.

Fisheries Management:

- Natural England explained that fishery exclusion zones are potentially only effective when the fishing quota is also reduced, so that pressure is not simply displaced. Need to implement both measures together however -Natural England and RSPB acknowledged that fisheries management measures were not in the gift of individual developers and would require Government intervention to implement.

Additional data acquisition:

- ODOW identified two planned survey activities for the 2022 season:
 - A census of some offshore platforms within the area surrounding ODOW; and
 - A trial of catching and tagging kittiwake from these platforms.
- These datasets are intended to aid in informing the assessments to be undertaken for ODOW, attempting to reduce uncertainty in the assessments.
- RSPB and Natural England were broadly supportive of the planned survey work.
- RSPB noted that it would be important to consider what makes some structures more appealing than others. ODOW confirmed that this was part of the data planned for collection.
- RSPB had reservations about how the data could be used within the assessment process.
- Natural England communicated that collaboration would benefit this type of work and recommended a discussion with JNCC to discuss the census planned for this year.
- **ACTION:** Natural England (MK) to provide contact details for JNCC specialists to GoBe to discuss collaborative work further.
- **ACTION:** GoBe (RM) to set up a meeting to discuss further once a tagging team has been established.


AoB

- N/A.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|---|----------------------|--------|
| 11/01/2022 | Question to ETG attendees - how is it best to deal with net gain? Should this be kept within individual ETG's? Any feedback is welcome on this. | All | |
| 11/01/2022 | AD to check if RSPB can share response to Defra compensation guidance with ODOW. | RSPB (AD) | |
| 11/01/2022 | FC to send paper on Baltic nesting structures for guillemot to all ETG attendees. | GoBe (FC) | |
| 07/03/2022 | Natural England (MK) to provide contact details for JNCC specialists to GoBe to discuss collaborative work further. | Natural England (MK) | |
| 07/03/2022 | GoBe (RM) to set up a meeting to discuss additional data acquisition once a tagging team has been established. | GoBe (RM) | |

/End

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|---|--|
|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Derogation and Compensation Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000332-02 |
| Date: | 29 th September 2022 |
| Time: | 1300hrs to 1500hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | MMO: Adam Tillotson (AT), Emma Shore (ES) RSPB: Aly McCluskie (AM), Andrew Dodd (AD) Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust: Kieran McCloskey (KM) Environment Agency: Rachel Hudson (RH) ODOW: Rachel Furlong (RF) GoBe: Julia Bolton (JB), Phil New (PN), James Miles (JM), Angie de Burgh (AdB), Claire Hinton (CH) |
| Apologies: | ODOW: Beth Travis (BT), Chris Jenner (CJ), Roisin Alldis (RA) Natural England: Lou Burton (LB); Deanna Atkins (DA) MMO: Pete Cosgrove (PG), Paul Stephenson (PS) Environment Agency: Annette Hewitson (AH) |
| Circulation: | External |

Outstanding Actions

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|---|----------------|---------|
| 11 Jan 2022 | Question to ETG attendees - how is it best to deal with net gain? Should this be kept within individual ETG's? Any feedback is welcome on this. | All | Ongoing |
| 11 Jan 2022 | AD to check if RSPB can share response to Defra compensation guidance with ODOW. | RSPB (AD) | |

Project Update

Apologies

- Due to resourcing constraints, Natural England have confirmed they are unable to attend this round of Expert Topic Groups (ETGs). Meeting minutes and presentations will be issued to Natural England for comment and written input.

Project Update

- A single Development Consent Order (DCO) application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (The Inspectorate).
- The Project's grid connection location subject to the ongoing Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR).
- The OTNR is being led by BEIS alongside National Grid and relevant stakeholders.
- OTNR considering an efficient approach to network connections.
- The final Holistic Network Design report, issued in July 2022, recommended two possible connection points be considered for the Project; Lincolnshire Coastal Node (Lincs Node) and Weston Marsh.
- Final decision still pending with an update on the Project's connection offer expected in Autumn 2022.

Programme

- Scoping Report was submitted to The Inspectorate on 29th July with the Project receiving the Scoping Opinion from The Inspectorate on 9th September 2022.
- Ongoing reviews and analysis of responses are being undertaken by the Project and technical teams.
- The Project will work with stakeholders through the Evidence Plan Process (EPP), ETGs and bilateral discussions to assist in informing Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).
- The PEIR will be submitted Q1 2023.
- The Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report was submitted to relevant stakeholders on 3rd August.
- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) underwent an initial consultation in August, with a revised version issued in September. Comments are due from stakeholder by 13th October.
- Phase 1 Public Information Days (PIDs) will be held in November 2022 and Spring 2023.
- Targeting DCO application submission in Q4 2023.

Surveys

- A summary of ongoing, completed and planned surveys was provided.
- Of specific interest to this ETG, monthly Digital Aerial Surveys for offshore ornithology and marine mammals commenced in February 2021 and are continuing.
- Two survey per month have been undertaken via 2022 summer period (March to September).
- First year report received, and species as expected.
- 2022 Offshore Campaign included array benthic sampling, geophysical along the export cable corridor (ECC) and offshore ECC benthic sampling.
- FliDAR deployed in April 2022.
- Marine Traffic Surveys for summer 2022 period are complete.
- Additional data collection census surveys complete in August 2022, as well as exploring potential tagging surveys in 2023.

PEIR boundary

- The offshore ECC boundary has been refined post-scoping, with landfall being at Wolla Bank, Lincolnshire.
- The route has been designed to minimise, in so far as possible, environmental constraints.
- The offshore ECC now avoids any landfall Special Protection Areas (SPA), but does pass through the Greater Wash SPA.
- The offshore ECC does pass through the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is designated for sandbanks and Sabellaria reef.
- The Project has avoided Silver Pit Highly Protected Marine Areas (HMPA) just is located north of the offshore ECC.
- Optionality in the inshore area of the cable has been retained for PEIR whilst commercial discussions ongoing with potential aggregates site.

Ornithology

Approach to Compensation

- Progressed from longlist to shortlist which has previously been presented.

- For PEIR, the Project will provide evidence and a roadmap plan for each compensation option in an overall compensation strategy document which will outline the longlist and shortlist process.
- Towards application submission, the Project will implement monitoring plans for each measure once compensation measures are further defined.
- Results from the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) will feed back in the derogation and compensation loop in order to understand the impacts.

Shortlist

- Focusing compensation on four key species: kittiwake, gannet, guillemot and razorbill.
- Offshore artificial nesting structures are being considered for kittiwake, gannet, guillemot and razorbill.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advises that ANS design takes opportunities to reduce disease spread, e.g., through incorporating separators between nest spaces, as seen in some kittiwake ANS designs.*
- For kittiwake, the Project are also considering adaptive management options, such as supplement feeding which may potentially compliment the offshore nesting structures. This could be fed into the design.
- Also for kittiwake, a new novel idea is in the early stages of concept by the Project, which takes into consideration the potential impact of avian influenza on populations, is urban deterrents. It is understood that artificial nesting structures rely on non-breeders of a population to 'move in' and occupy breeding sites on structures.
- For gannet, guillemot and razorbill, bycatch mitigation is also being considered. The Project understand there is a lot of bycatch in areas around the UK and wider in Europe.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England refer the applicant to previous ETG comments regarding bycatch.*
- For guillemot and razorbill, predator eradication is also being considered.

Ornithology Compensation Measures

Offshore Artificial Structures

- The Project is proposing to measure for kittiwake, gannet, guillemot & razorbill.
- With avian influenza, the Project's strategy may need to be reviewed.
- The plan would be to install a new structure or modify existing rigs to provide offshore artificial nesting structures.
- There is a wealth of evidence indication the success of onshore nesting kittiwake.
- There is a lot of evidence to suggest 1000+ kittiwake are breeding offshore in the Southern North Sea (Orsted, 2021; Christensen-Dalsgaard *et al.*, 2018; 2020).
- The productivity is estimated to be considerably higher than onshore natural colonies (Christensen-Dalsgaard, 2020).
- There are various pieces of evidence for gannet, guillemot and razorbill that indicate nesting on artificial structures.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England note the emerging evidence on large auk usage of rigs, and RSPBs reservations regarding them. At this stage Natural England are broadly content for ANS to be considered for this species, although as part of a package of measures given this would be a novel approach and effectiveness is largely unknown. Natural England is not persuaded that offshore ANS will be*

an effective compensation measure for gannet, and in the light of HPAI it seems even less likely that nest space availability will be an issue for gannet.

Industry and Strategic Engagement

- The Project recognise opportunities to work to deliver strategic options for compensation for the full suite of compensation measures, not only offshore artificial structures.
- The Project are working proactively through Offshore Wind Industry Council (OWIC) to investigate strategic options through the derogation and strategic subgroup.
- The Project are encouraged and activity looking for opportunities to enter a collaborative approach and are keen to investigate this further.
- The Project are ready to work with The Crown Estate (TCE) as recommended by the Plan Level HRA.

- RSPB recommended reviewing their comments on the latest draft of the OWIC case study and their Hornsea 4 Deadline 6 submission on the assessment of the various compensation measures for information¹.
- For gannet, RSPB do not consider there to be any viable evidence available for artificial nesting structures.
- For guillemot and razorbill, RSPB are aware of the information presented for Hornsea Four but RSPB would like to see a lot more evidence on the usage. RSPB are aware from the OWIC case study that there is reference to Swedish example, also detailed within the ODOW Project briefing notes. This would need to be carefully considered as it appeared that the growth in the use of the artificial structure was very slow out of a colony of approx. 10,000 pairs.
- The Project noted RSPB's comments and confirmed that artificial structures are not the primary method of compensation being considered by the Project for any of the mentioned species in which RSPB have concerns over.
- RSPB's level of support, for strategic or project level compensation, depend on the level of evidence available and have reasonable confidence the measures will work.

Additional Data Acquisition

- Two areas of additional data acquisition that are either underway or in progress are the census of breeding birds on offshore platforms and the tracking of kittiwake breeding offshore. The census work aims to determine the number of breeding seabirds on offshore platforms in proximity to the ODOW array. The tracking of kittiwake aims to determine the ranges, activity and connectivity of kittiwake breeding on offshore platforms.
- The census was completed at the end of July 2022 using boat-based census of 19 platforms within 20km proximity of the Project's array area. Kittiwake were recorded on six platforms with three platforms having over 100 kittiwakes on the platforms, and, at least, 250 nests were counted on the six platforms. The Project is aiming to collaborate with other offshore windfarm projects to increase the sample size and cover more platforms where possible. The Project is aiming to repeat the survey in more detail in summer 2023. The data is not expected to be used within PEIR, but it will be used throughout the compensation process.

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010098/EN010098-001917-Royal%20Society%20for%20the%20Protection%20of%20Birds%20-%20Comments%20on%20any%20other%20submissions%20received%20at%20Deadline%205a%202.pdf>

- RSPB queried if the project had obtained any measures of productivity and nest success, and whether any patterns (such as which platforms, the type of platform structure and where on the platforms) were identified.
- The Project confirmed that data on productivity had not been collected in 2022 due to time constraints however the 2023 survey will be more in depth. The Project will seek to undertake an in-depth analysis and are awaiting the final report from the survey contractor to determine any patterns arising.
- The tracking of kittiwake were delayed due to licensing and avian influenza has made it not possible to tag birds in 2022. The tags will be GPS / VHF tracking devices. The preliminary methodology was to catch and tag birds at sea, rather than catching and tagging the birds on the platforms. The Project are investigating options to trial catching birds at sea, not tagging, before the end of 2022 to ensure the feasibility for the 2023 breeding season.
- RSPB queried the methodology for catching and tagging the birds, including who will do the catching and tagging, identified the type of tags to be used, how the tags will be attached and when this will be done).
- The Project confirmed that the methodology was written by the licenced contractor undertaking the works. The BTO have not yet responded to the licence application, however the Project suspect that the delay is due to avian influenza. The Project are seeking confirmation from the BTO on the reasoning for the delay and whether any further detail is required on the methodology.
- **ACTION: The Project are to share a summary of the proposed methodology for the tagging of kittiwake with the ETG members for comment prior to the 2023 survey.**
- RSPB confirmed all tagging work in Scotland was halted due to the advice provided on avian influenza by the statutory bodies. The impact of avian influenza was not as severe in England but still of concern.
- RSPB confirmed with normal catching methods for kittiwake the time to catch the birds is restricted to the incubation or early hatching period. However, due to the novel approach being proposed by the Project, RSPB confirmed that the Project would have the ability to catch throughout the season and therefore stagger the tagging which would provide a wider window for data.

Site Selection and Design

- The Project's plan to include initial site selection and design at application submission. A very preliminary site selection methodology will be provided with PEIR. The design will follow a similar approach to other projects, such as Hornsea Three and Four.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England's view is that sufficient detail on location and design – with a location specified - is required during the Examination so that the SoS can have confidence that the compensation is secured, and that appropriate public consultation has been carried out. Natural England are finding that securing locations post-consent for ANS is proving highly challenging for those developers not committing to specific locations, albeit this is principally relating to onshore issues.*
- Four main selection criteria included outside of core foraging range from Flamborough and Filey Coast (FFC) SPA, connectivity with FFC SPA, avoiding all constraints (SPAs, SACs, pipelines etc.) and overlay the foraging hotspots and/or prey habitat.
- Further detail will be provided in the PEIR and discussed at the next expert topic group (ETG) meeting.

- **ACTION: RSPB and Natural England to confirm agreement on the Project's approach to site selection criteria.**
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England do not feel enough information has been provided at this stage given Natural England were unable to attend this meeting, and await further info at next ETG and in PEIR.*

Kittiwake - Urban Deterrent Improvement

- The Project are aware that avian influenza has changed the outlook of the breeding population and the available nesting habitat for the breeders, so the Project has come up with a novel idea for kittiwake.
- Urban deterrent improvements will improve the mortality rates caused by badly maintained netting or inappropriate deterrents in urban areas.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England notes that badly-maintained netting in the Newcastle Gateshead colony has been a well-publicised issue and remedial action has been taken in a number of instances. There is therefore a high level of awareness in this location. It is unclear whether there are colonies that would provide the opportunity for a significant 'uplift' by improving deterrents.*
- There are several less impactful alternatives (e.g. AviShock) but they are generally more expensive than cheaper options such as netting.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advise speaking to the Tyne Kittiwake Partnership regarding their position on and experience of AviShock and other alternative deterrents.*
- The Project are looking at funding to maintain deterrents and/or funding to supplement organisations using deterrents to upgrade to a less invasive option.
- Some challenges the Project foresee include determining the current mortalities from deterrents, as well as support from stakeholders.
- The Project are keen to understand what stakeholders initial thoughts are on this as a measure and what information/evidence would stakeholders require to have confidence in the measure.
- RSPB would like to discuss this measure with their RSPB technical colleagues that deal with urban gulls, as well as their legal team.
- The Project are still considering this option as an appropriate measure and would appreciate stakeholders' comments.
- **ACTION: RSPB and Natural England to provide comments on the novel measure of urban deterrent improvement for kittiwake.**
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: As already suggested by the Applicant, the level of mortality currently present would need to be quantified, which may be tricky given that any current methods being used should not in theory be causing mortality? Also, there are concerns over value of this measure given the number of new onshore ANS proposed by other projects.*

Gannet - Bycatch Reduction

- The primary option for gannet, especially with avian influenza, is bycatch reduction.
- It is known that there are significant numbers of gannet bycaught in UK waters.
- The UK and Portugal have the most robust dataset at the present time.
- Annual gannet bycatch from longlines (individuals) in the UK is approximately 300 birds per year, whilst in Portugal this is over 2000 birds per year.

- Furness et al (2018) shows clear connectivity of UK breeding gannet with most coastal areas in eastern Atlantic.
- There are a variety of different vessel types operating out of Portugal. Most of the bycatch is occurring in the smaller fleets (i.e. less than 10m).
- There are a variety of effective mitigation methods, such as scary bird and hook pods. However, none of these are considered fully effective at this time and further trials are required in order to determine the best option.
- The Project queried if stakeholders consider it feasible to conduct compensation outside of UK waters and if this is viable going forward, as well as what information/evidence would stakeholders require to have confidence in the measure.
- RSPB confirmed consideration needs to be given to connectivity and the evidence of effective measures against the relevant fleet/vessel types, and secondly how receptive other countries (such as the Portuguese) authorities would be. RSPB referred the Project to their Hornsea Four submission in which RSPB's bycatch experts fed in, although noting this is a different species. Hornsea Four's predator eradication measure is outside of the UK, therefore if the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) decide Hornsea Four's submission is an appropriate way forward, then BEIS will need to form an opinion on the proposed use of waters outside of the UK. Although Hornsea Four is a different measure, RSPB would expect the principle will remain the same.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England suggest Defra and BEIS are the best organisations to speak to regarding any concerns around governance and enforceability.*
- The Environment Agency queried if trials would be proposed outside of UK waters and if there would a measure for the duration of the impact on the SAC.
- The Project confirmed that the evidence base would need to prove the measure was effective, and this may be via trials. The Project does not yet know the full impact it will have on gannet, although this is not expected to be a big impact. If there is a lack of connectivity, then the Project would need to increase the ration for which the Project is providing compensation. A benefit of bycatch is it does not need to be rolled out four seasons prior to the start of construction.
- **ACTION: RSPB and Natural England to confirm if it is feasible to conduct compensation outside of UK waters and if this is viable going forward, as well as what information/evidence would stakeholders require to have confidence in the bycatch reduction measure.**
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advise that it is theoretically feasible but as stated previously, there would need to be consideration for both the degree of connectivity and whether it is practically feasible to undertake the measure, and whether it could be shown to be secured. Regarding the information/evidence needed to have confidence in the bycatch method, the Applicant would need to quantify the level of bycatch in a fishery, and reliably quantify the effectiveness of the proposed method of reducing it.*

Guillemot & Razorbill - Bycatch Reduction

- All comments issued on Hornsea four have been reviewed.
- The trials being undertaken by Hornsea Four and RSPB will be followed carefully, as well as the outcome of the Hornsea Four examination process.

- The project queried is any stakeholders are aware of any further bycatch mitigation trails in the UK.
- RSPB confirmed they were not aware of any further trials in the UK. There is a further trial in Iceland. It is understood the trails will report through peer review.
- **ACTION: RSPB and Natural England to confirm if they are aware of any further bycatch mitigation trails in the UK.**
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England understand that Hornsea Four propose to conduct a further year of bycatch mitigation trials, however, Natural England are unaware of any other trials taking place in the UK.*
- **ACTION: RSPB to confirm availability of their bycatch team for a meeting with the Project.**

Guillemot & Razorbill - Predator Eradication

- There is considerable evidence that predator eradication is effective throughout the UK.
- The Project are staying abreast of other developer's progress, including the outcomes of the Hornsea Four examination.
- The Project are involved in progressing collaborative working through strategic OWIC workstreams.
- The Project are at the early stages of determining locations which have not been used by other developers. The potential to move into Scotland is being considered.
- Predator eradication will be included as part of a suite of measures for guillemot and razorbill.

Ornithology Next Steps

- The Project is aiming to deliver as much as possible at PEIR, including a Compensation Strategy Report detailing a shortlist for each species including ranking criteria and an Ecological Evidence and Roadmap Report.
- The Project will continue to progress workstreams for all compensation measures at both a strategic level and project specific.
- The site selection and design will continue for an artificial nesting structure for kittiwake.

Benthic Ecology

- The offshore ECC is likely to pass through the IDRBNR SAC and therefore a benthic compensation case will most likely be necessary.
- The IDRBNR SAC encompasses a wide range of sandbank types and biogenic reef
- The key cause of concern for the Project is the sandbank features. The Project is currently reviewing the benthic survey data collected in 2022 in order to identify possible presence of biogenic reef which will inform options for mitigation, if required.
- The proposed route may pass across two of the designated sandbank features within the SAC; the North Ridge sandbank and the Inner Dowsing sandbank. If the route crosses these sandbanks, a risk of an Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEoI) of the SAC may be concluded.
- As part of the HRA process, the Project is identifying potential benthic compensation measures for the sandbank features to inform a potential derogation case.

Approach to Compensation

- Benthic compensation is taking a very similar approach to compensation as offshore ornithology.
- The Project has submitted a longlist of compensation measure to stakeholders for comment.
- The Project has created a ranking criteria in order to reduce the longlist of options to a shortlist.

- The Project are closely following strategic approaches, particularly those being delivered by the Marine Recovery Fund (MRF).
- **ACTION: Stakeholders to provide an update, if available, on strategic compensation approaches or the Marine Recovery Fund (MRF).**
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England confirm there is currently no update.*

Longlist Compensation Measures

- Longlist options presented. The Project acknowledge that some of the options on the longlist will not be appropriate and therefore not taken forward to the shortlist, however if they have been presented for deliberation through the ranking criteria and to encourage discussion.
- **ACTION: Stakeholders to respond to the Project's longlist of benthic compensation measures, particularly noting if stakeholders consider the Project to have missed any options. MMO to consult Cefas as required.**
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England refer the Applicant to the attached document detailing Natural England's comments on the Project's longlist of benthic compensation measures.*
- The following measures are those the Project currently consider to be most appropriate at this stage.
- More detail on the measures will be provided within the project shortlisting approach.

Reserve Creation – Extend SAC Sandbanks

- There is the potential to extend the IDRBNR SAC boundary to include additional sandbank features outside the current boundary, including the Docking Shoal.
- The sandbank habitat loss is offset, or compensated for, by increasing the area of designated sandbanks within the region. This will ensure that legal protection is afforded to the newly designated area thereby maintaining the ecological coherence of the sandbank network in the region.
- This could be achieved strategically through development of a case to extend the site.

Threat Reduction – Redundant Infrastructure Removal

- The removal of redundant infrastructure within the area, such as pipelines no longer in use but which are laid on the sandbank. This will reinstate areas which were previously lost.
- The Project needs to identify if there is enough redundant infrastructure to be removed which will have a beneficial impact to that habitat type.
- The Project will need to understand ownership rights and legal requirements or restrictions on its removal.

Threat Reduction – Marine Debris Removal

- The removal of marine litter within the boundary of the IDRBNR SAC, such as discarded/lost fish nets.
- This would have a wider and more holistic environmental benefit by removing the waste.
- The Project would need to identify how much debris is within the area and how much is impacting the sandbank features in order to understand if this measure would be a beneficial approach to improving the quality of the habitat.

Preliminary Shortlist of Benthic Ecology Compensation Measures Methods

- A red, amber and green (RAG) assessment will be used to score compensation measures against criteria.
- Each ranking criteria will be assessed out of five, to give a total maximum score of 35.
- Green options will then be taken forward to the shortlist (red = 7 to 15; amber = 16 to 25; green 26 to 35).
- Ranking criteria to be used includes specificity, effectiveness, technical feasibility, extent, timing, environmental value and long-term planning.
- The Project note some of the criteria can be subjective and will provide as much evidence as possible to support the decisions.
- Example of how the RAG assessment would work.
- A shortlist compensation report will be provided detail each shortlisted option, provide a conclusion on the findings from the shortlisting RAG assessment and outline the next steps in the development of compensation options.
- The Environment Agency confirmed they would be working closely with Natural England on compensation. The Environment Agency queried if all longlist options would be further investigated in order to appraise the benefits before compiling the shortlist.
- The Project confirmed that the shortlisting report will identify any measures which require further investigation. The Project will undertake the appraisal alongside the shortlist report.

Marine Net Gain (MNG)

- The Project are currently exploring options to deliver MNG.
- ODOW and GoBe Consultants have been actively involvement in the MNG consultation process and will continue to feed back into the Project team as appropriate.
- The compensation options presented might be transferable to MNG. The Project will look to explore this further.

Benthic Next Steps

- The Project are progressing desk-based workstreams for all compensation measures and would appreciate written feedback on the longlist measures. The Project will then compile shortlist compensation report.
- The Project are aiming to deliver as much as possible at PEIR.
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust asked the Project to explain further assessment of quality of benthic habitats of what is being lost and what is being compensated for. With specific areas compensation it will not always be like-for-like.
- The Project have already collected a lot of benthic ecology data across the offshore ECC, including detailed geophysical data and ground truthing data. The Project have a good understanding of biogenic reef within the offshore ECC. To date not a great amount has been seen. With regards to the sandbanks, these will be understood from the geophysical data and any historic data for the SAC. This will give the Project an understanding of the features the Project will impact and where those impacts will occur due to cable routing, the appraisal will then assess how the features will be impacted. In terms of the lost habitat the Project will have a very good understanding of how this will be impacted, if at all, and following the appraisal, depending on the chosen strategy for benthic compensation if required, the Project will look into the availability of data, the availability of research and how this can be applied to any measures being considered going forward.

AoB:

- Next ETG is anticipated for late November or early December 2022 with the Project issuing Doodle Polls in the coming weeks.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|--------------|---|------------------------|--------|
| 11 Jan 2022 | Question to ETG attendees - how is it best to deal with net gain? Should this be kept within individual ETG's? Any feedback is welcome on this. | All | |
| 11 Jan 2022 | AD to check if RSPB can share response to Defra compensation guidance with ODOW. | RSPB (AD) | |
| 11 Jan 2022 | FC to send paper on Baltic nesting structures for guillemot to all ETG attendees. <i>CLOSED: Paper issued to attendees.</i> | GoBe (FC) | Yes |
| 07 Mar 2022 | GoBe to set up a meeting to discuss additional data acquisition once a tagging team has been established. <i>CLOSED: Tagging licence delayed potentially due to avian flu.</i> | GoBe | Yes |
| 12 July 2022 | GoBe to update stakeholders at the next ETG meeting regarding the most suitable location for bycatch reduction and potential mechanism. <i>CLOSED: Discussed on 29 September.</i> | GoBe | Yes |
| 12 July 2022 | ODOW to inform ETG Members once scoping has been submitted <i>CLOSED: Scoping Report issued on 29th July, and Scoping Opinion received on 9th September.</i> | ODOW | Yes |
| 12 July 2022 | ODOW to share methodology briefing note and signposting document with ETG Members. <i>CLOSED: Briefing notes issued 12th August 2022.</i> | GoBe | Yes |
| 12 July 2022 | Natural England to share when the new guidance will be delivered | Natural England | Yes |
| 12 July 2022 | GoBe to read the SOWEC report as mentioned by Natural England. <i>CLOSED: SOWEC report received and read.</i> | GoBe | Yes |
| 29 Sept 2022 | The Project are to share a summary of the proposed methodology for the tagging of kittiwake with RSPB for comment prior to the 2023 survey. | ODOW | |
| 29 Sept 2022 | RSPB and Natural England to confirm agreement on the Project's approach to site selection criteria. <i>Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England do not feel enough information has been provided at this stage given Natural England were unable to attend this meeting, and await further info at next ETG and in PEIR.</i> | RSPB & Natural England | |
| 29 Sept 2022 | RSPB and Natural England to provide comments on the novel measure of urban deterrent improvement for kittiwake. <i>Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: As already suggested by the</i> | RSPB & Natural England | |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|--------------|---|------------------------|--------|
| | <i>Applicant, the level of mortality currently present would need to be quantified, which may be tricky given that any current methods being used should not in theory be causing mortality? Also, there are concerns over value of this measure given the number of new onshore ANS proposed by other projects.</i> | | |
| 29 Sept 2022 | RSPB and Natural England to confirm if it is feasible to conduct compensation outside of UK waters and if this is viable going forward, as well as what information/evidence would stakeholders require to have confidence in the bycatch reduction measure. <i>Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advise that it is theoretically feasible but as stated previously, there would need to be consideration for both the degree of connectivity and whether it is practically feasible to undertake the measure, and whether it could be shown to be secured. Regarding the information/evidence needed to have confidence in the bycatch method, the Applicant would need to quantify the level of bycatch in a fishery, and reliably quantify the effectiveness of the proposed method of reducing it.</i> | RSPB & Natural England | |
| 29 Sept 2022 | RSPB and Natural England to confirm if they are aware of any further bycatch mitigation trials in the UK. <i>Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England understand that Hornsea Four propose to conduct a further year of bycatch mitigation trials, however, Natural England are unaware of any other trials taking place in the UK.</i> | RSPB & Natural England | |
| 29 Sept 2022 | RSPB to confirm availability of their bycatch team for a meeting with the Project. | RSPB | |
| 29 Sept 2022 | Stakeholders to provide an update, if available, on strategic compensation approaches or the Marine Recovery Fund (MRF). <i>Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England confirm there is currently no update.</i> | All | Yes |
| 29 Sept 2022 | Stakeholders to respond to the Project's longlist of benthic compensation measures, particularly noting if stakeholders consider the Project to have missed and options. MMO to consult Cefas. <i>Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England refer the Applicant to the attached document detailing Natural England's comments on the Project's longlist of benthic compensation measures.</i> | All | |

/End

References

Orsted. (2021a). Compensation measures for FFC SPA Offshore Artificial Nesting Ecological Evidence. Planning Inspectorate. <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010098/EN010098-000504-B2.7.1%20RP%20Volume%20B2%20Annex%207.1%20Compensation%20measures%20for%20FFC%20SPA%20Offshore%20Artificial%20Nesting%20Ecological%20Evidence.pdf>

Christensen-Dalsgaard, S., Langset, M. and Anker-Nilssen, T. (2020). Offshore oil rigs—a breeding refuge for Norwegian Black-legged Kittiwakes *Rissa tridactyla*?

Christensen-Dalsgaard, S., May, R., Barrett, R., Langset, M., Sandercock, B. and Lorentsen, S. (2018), 'Prevailing weather conditions and diet composition affect chick growth and survival in the black-legged kittiwake'. Marine Ecology Progress Series, 604: 237-249.

A photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, a narrow, winding path made of light-colored sand or silt cuts through a field of tall, dry, golden-brown grasses. The path leads towards a flat, open area that appears to be a beach or a tidal flat, with some shallow water or wet sand visible. The horizon is low, and the sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, suggesting an overcast day. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex B Part 3 of 11

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024


Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex B – Part 3 of 11

Marine Ecology & Coastal Processes Expert Topic Group Minutes

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|    | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Marine Ecology & Coastal Processes Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000115-01 |
| Date: | 11 January 2022 |
| Time: | 1330hrs to 1500hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | ODOW: Chris Jenner (CJ); Rachel Furlong (RF); Jean-Côme Sol (JCS) GoBe: Steve Bellew (SB); Julia Bolton (JB); Phil New (PN); Darcy Brady (DB) Marine Management Organisation (MMO): Adam Tillotson (AT); Emma Shore (ES) Cefas: Georgina Eastley (GE); Maria Gamaza (MG); David Clare (DC) Natural England: Deanna Atkins (DA); Louise Burton (LB); Magnus Axelsson (MA) Environment Agency: Rachel Hudson (RH) |
| Apologies: | None |
| Circulation: | External |

Introductions:

- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) asked if recording was okay, with no objections received, introductions were made for all attendees.
- ODOW provided an overview of the project team and highlighted key contacts.

Project Introduction

- ODOW gave an overview of project location and Round 4 process to determine project array area.
- Note of the known constraints within the wider area.
- Project boundary size reduction will occur from 500km² to 300km²:
 - Must occur prior to construction, timescales to be confirmed.
- Changes in minimum tip height mentioned.
- Scoping values are still being refined and may slightly change from presentation.
- Cable route to be confirmed as subject to Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) process.
- Scoping report planned to be submitted in February 2022.
- Geophysical survey of array area (and buffer) completed early Jan 2022.
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) submission targeted for Q1 2023.
- Environmental Statement submission targeted for Q4 2023.
- All based around project award in 2025 to allow construction for 2030.
- There was a discussion around the detail of advice which is possible at scoping with large study areas for export cable corridor, both onshore and offshore, with LB raising concerns around the usefulness of feedback by issuing a scoping report within a grid connection location.
- ODOW acknowledged the challenges and confirmed that a different approach was being taken to RWE. The ODOW scoping report will be broken down into modular areas, for both onshore and offshore.

Evidence Plan Process (EPP) Introduction:

- Brief overview of the EPP was given.
- Gideon Amos will be chairing the steering group. This will facilitate the raising and escalating of topics as a forum for raising key issues.

Relevant Ongoing and Planned Surveys:

- 2021 geophysical survey campaign data to be analysed to feed into geophysical export cable survey.
- 2022 campaign expected to begin along the export cable corridor (ECC).

Marine Physical Processes:

- ODOW provided an overview of the marine physical processes baseline, the proposed approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), suggested embedded mitigation and the next steps.
- DC stated all impacts and plans seem sensible so far from a Benthic Ecology perspective.

Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology

- ODOW provided an overview of the benthic and intertidal ecology baseline, the proposed approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), suggested embedded mitigation and the next steps.
- LB confirmed that electromagnetic field (EMF) is being raised as a concern more frequently.
- DC queried if the surveys would happen before or after the Export Cable Corridor (ECC) site selection.
- ODOW confirmed that the ECC surveys will be conducted once potential ECC(s) have been defined.
- DC stated that consideration of the possibility of the introduction of non-native species (NNS) should be given and suggested more evidence would be required to state there will not be a negative effect.
- ODOW confirmed that more evidence will be sought to support that this will not result in a significant effect.
- MA raised concerns surrounding the ability to detect natural change from development and queried if there are enough sample stations. Raised concern that there must be a need to establish if natural changes occur before work started.
- ODOW noted this concern and stated other surveys and data sets can provide this information to support this.
- LB queried whether ODOW could access data from other developer's pre-construction surveys and suggested it would be good to look at the most recent information. LB also flagged Natural England has provided comments on Viking Link for a reef, which Viking Link were unable to avoid, which has caused considerable concern as this is a priority habitat, although noted it is not designated.

Fish & Shellfish Ecology

- ODOW provided an overview of the fish and shellfish ecology baseline, the proposed approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), suggested embedded mitigation and the next steps.
- GE noted there were no proposed fisheries surveys, and queried what data are is being used. GE confirmed that the age of data from Triton Knoll is becoming outdated for fisheries. GE confirmed ODOW should be mindful that some data is becoming outdated and may no longer be robust.

- ODOW noted this point and stated other developer surveys which overlapped with some of the study area for this project will be used as well as other side data.
- ODOW confirmed the Scoping Report will have a full list of resources, including age of data, being used.
- GE noted that there is a localised spawning ground, identified by Triton Knoll, and ODOW might partially overlap that area. The grab sites and coverage should be over those herring spawning areas to see if it even suitable for herring spawning.
- GE confirmed Cefas is not comfortable with the scoping out of the direct damage impacts due to herring and sand eel. GE requested these are scoped in for the Scoping Report phase.


Next Steps:

- GE noted that Cefas' coastal processes representative was not part of the Expert Topic Group (ETG).
- ODOW confirmed the minutes and presentation will be issued and available for wider distribution within the Cefas team. ODOW confirmed that invites will be issued and can be forwarded onto other representatives as appropriate.
- Suggested dates for next ETG are the w/c 9th of May and 16th May
- AT confirmed he is on annual leave w/c 9th May but another MMO representative could attend in his place if required.
- **Action: ODOW to send doodle poll to be sent out for arrangement of next ETG meeting.**
(Post meeting note: Doodle poll issue to all attendees on 11th January 2022 for w/c 9th May and w/c 16th May).

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--|----------------|--------|
| 11/01/2021 | ODOW to send doodle poll to be sent out for arrangement of next ETG meeting. <i>(Post meeting note: Doodle poll issue to all attendees on 11th January 2022 for w/c 9th May and w/c 16th May).</i> | JB (GoBe) | Yes |

/End

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Ecology & Coastal Processes and Derogation & Compensation (Benthic focus) ETG |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000271-01 |
| Date: | 11 th July 2022 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | MMO: Emma Shore (ES), Adam Tillotson (AT) Cefas: Charlotte Reeve (CR), Georgina Eastley (GE), Jacqueline Eggleton (JE), Isobel Barnes (IB) ODOW: Rachel Furlong (RF), Beth Travis (BT), Roisin Alldis (RA), Jean-Côme Sol (JC) GoBe: Julia Bolton (JB), Phil New (PN), Sammy Sheldon (SS), Anna Luff (AL), Kimberly Lloyd (KL), Anna Kalish (AK), Rona McCann (RM) |
| Apologies: | ODOW: Chris Jenner (CJ) GoBe: Steve Bellew (SB) Cefas: Jon Rees (JR) |
| Circulation: | External |

Introductions

A brief introduction from each attendee was given followed by a short introduction to the ODOW project.

Relevant Ongoing and Planned Surveys

- Geophysical surveys of a potential export cable corridor (ECC) and environmental surveys of both the windfarm array and ECC
 - Array benthic sampling complete (80 faunal grabs, 30 contaminants, 30 DDV, 8 epibenthic trawls, sediment eDNA samples)
 - Cable route geophysical complete
 - Cable route geotechnical ongoing
 - Cable route benthic sampling to commence mid-July 2022 (60 faunal grabs, 30 contaminants, 30 DDV, 7 epibenthic trawls)
- It is anticipated that fish eDNA samples will be collected within the array and cable route
- Floating LiDAR was deployed in April 2022

Project Update - Programme

- Preferred Bidder status awarded in February 2021.
- Submission of scoping is anticipated before the end of July 2022.
- The Planning Inspectorate expected is to commence consultation with stakeholders on the Scoping Report early August.
- Onshore surveys to commence August/September 2022.

- EPP meetings have been arranged, these meetings will be used to engage with stakeholders on approach to scoping identification of scoping boundary and proposed consultation feedback.
- Public Information Days are set to commence in Autumn.
- DCO submission is currently scheduled for Q4 2023.

Project Update – Offshore Scoping Report Boundary

- Scoping boundary has been refined from outcomes of the OTNR and has been deliberately left wide to allow for micrositing.
- The geophysical and geotechnical surveys have commenced at risk, to proactively begin baseline characterisation.
- The final cable route chosen will fully take into account the outcomes of the Scoping Opinion and stakeholder engagement.
- Connection has been narrowed down to Lincolnshire Node (previously known as East Midlands) (which is expected to have a connection in 2031) and Weston Marsh (which would provide an earlier connection in 2028/29). The final decision on the grid connection location for ODOW will be taken by National Grid with a decision expected in Sept 2022.

Baseline Characterisation - Benthic

- A summary of the known baseline characterization was presented.
- Sampling locations within the ECC were selected to concentrate on the SAC and all benthic sampling locations have been chosen at risk in order to progress baseline data collection and consideration to adjacent SAC as soon as possible.
- ODOW are aware of the ongoing consultation for Highly Protected Marine Areas (HMPAs) including the Inner Silver Pit, which could add a significant constraint in this area, (in addition to significant engineering challenges).
- Cefas enquired about which layers ODOW are using to produce the baseline characterisation maps. After it was confirmed that JNCC data layers were displayed on the map in the slides, it was recommended that Natural England and MMO data layers are also used going into PEIR stage to incorporate additional areas of management. ODOW confirmed that these had been used in the benthic sampling location planning.
- It was confirmed that environmental risk assessments were used as well as consideration of engineering constraints to ensure the ECC area has been defined to minimise cable crossings and overlap with SACs.

Action: GoBe to incorporate MMO and Natural England data layers for baseline characterization at PEIR stage.

Proposed Approach to EIA - Benthic

- The Project is seeking to scope out accidental pollution for construction, O&M and decommissioning phases and changes in physical processes resulting from the presence of the windfarm subsea infrastructure, EMF and INNS during the construction phase.
- A combination of site-specific surveys and publicly available data will be used to provide robust baseline characterisation.
- Habitat maps will be created using geophysical data and physical processes modelling.

- Design Envelope Approach will be used for holistic understanding of installation methodologies, development programmes, project structures and geographic footprint.
- Cefas queried whether INNS and EMF should be scoped out, as there are studies to show that both elements have presented themselves with similar projects and subsea cables. Cefas advised that despite INNS already being present, additional species could still be introduced.
- ODOW acknowledge that INNS are already present in the area, and the Project have scoped INNS out on the bases that the Project would not increase this spread. Recent studies in EMF are 10-fold higher as they are not shielded cables, whereas the project would be using shielded cables and would not expect significant exposures to EMFs.

Derogation and Compensation - Benthic

- A 'long list' of strategic and project level compensation measures are being put together and will be circulated asap in order to consult and create a short list.
- Debris removal has been the focus of most recent projects, however ODOW are aware of both the benefits and complications so the Project welcome other suggestions for benthic compensation measures.
- Cefas confirmed that Derogation and Compensation falls within Natural England's area of expertise, and debris removal is not typically regarded as a compensation measure. Cefas recommended that discussions around compensation and derogation take place as early as possible.
- ODOW agreed and expressed that they want to encourage these discussions as early as possible, should the Project be required to enter a derogation case, with the primary aim to avoid risk of impacts to protected features altogether.

Action: GoBe to provide longlist of possible compensation measures to stakeholders for consultation

Baseline Characterisation - Marine Physical Processes

- Water depths are fairly shallow and sediments typical of the wider southern North Sea
- Sandbanks run in a northwest/southeast orientation through the west half of the site
- Key bathymetric feature within the ECC AoS is Silver Pit
- Sediment transport
 - Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) provides an indication of turbidity and is highly variable according to water depth and the marine physical processes in the area
 - During the summer months, for example July, offshore max values ~5 mg/l; nearshore ECC ~12 mg/l
- Hydrodynamics
 - Tide and wave values from MetOcean Works (2021) and the presence of the Flamborough Front outside AoS has been noted.

Proposed Approach to EIA - Marine Physical Processes

- A combination of site-specific surveys (geophysical, geotechnical, benthic and metocean) and publicly available scientific data will provide baseline characterisation and a data set for future hydrodynamic and sediment plume modelling.

- Potential effects to be scoped out (for operation and maintenance phase) include: Seabed scouring and cumulative and in-combination modifications to wave and tidal regimes.
- Identified Embedded Mitigation includes scour protection and cable protection.
- Next steps include building baseline information, undertaking physical processes modelling, considering the design scenarios, identifying likely significant effects and considering the magnitude, duration, reversibility and frequency of each impact.

Baseline Characterisation – Fish and Shellfish

- ODOW note that Triton Knoll has been identified as a localised herring spawning ground, and international herring larval survey (ICES) data will be utilized. Site specific PSA data will also be used to identify active herring spawning grounds within the vicinity of the project.
- Sandeel spawning grounds have been identified to the northeast of the project. Site specific PSA data will also be used to groundtruth these sandeel habitats, by identifying the presence of preferred habitat types (sandy substrates).
- Data from various developer surveys which overlap the study area have been used to inform the baseline.
- The Scoping Report will have a full list of all data source references, including the age of the data being used.
- ODOW are proposing to undertake a limited eDNA survey for fish to provide site specific information on the fish communities present.
- No fisheries surveys are planned, as the evidence base is robust enough to establish a comprehensive baseline. PSA data from site specific surveys will be used to identify suitable spawning substrates for herring and sandeel.

Proposed Approach to EIA – Fish and Shellfish

- Accidental pollution has been scoped out of all stages of the assessment (Implementation of PEMMP (Project Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan) will be used to mitigate and manage any potential pollution events.)
- Following discussion at the last ETG in January 2022, direct disturbance impacts has been scoped in for the Scoping Report stage as requested.
- Baseline characterisation will be done as with Benthic and Physical Processes, combing site-specific survey data with a detailed literature review.
- Cefas expressed that a formal response will be given in their Scoping Opinion. For herring, it will be difficult to gain information south of Triton Knoll and there is spawning in this area but a lack of data surrounding the Wash. It was also recommended to caveat the age of the data and consider this when building the baseline. Cefas enquired about how eDNA will be implemented and which species will be included.
- ODOW explained that water samples will be taken to identify all fish species and compared with the trawl data, using Natural England's recent studies and methods for eDNA and trawl data.

Action: Cefas to provide as much data as possible particularly around herring spawning going forward for PEIR stage.

Action: ODOW to inform stakeholders as soon as scoping has been submitted.

- ODOW explained that another round of ETGs is due to commence in September/October depending on the outcomes of the Scoping Opinion.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------|
| 11 July 2022 | Incorporate MMO and Natural England data layers for baseline characterization at PEIR stage. | GoBe | |
| 11 July 2022 | Provide longlist for possible compensation measures to stakeholders for consultation. | GoBe | |
| 11 July 2022 | Provide as much data as possible particularly around herring spawning for PEIR stage. | Cefas | |
| 11 July 2022 | Provide notification to stakeholders on Scoping Report submission. | ODOW | |

/End

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Ecology & Coastal Processes ETG |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000338-02 |
| Date: | 12 th October 2022 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | MMO: Emma Shore (ES), Adam Tillotson (AT) Cefas: Charlotte Reeve (CR), Georgina Eastley (GE), David Clare (DC), Steven Wallbridge (SW), Charlie Hobbs (CH) Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust: Kieran McCloskey (KM) Environment Agency: Rachel Hudson (RH), Jeremy Pile (JP) ODOW: Chris Jenner (CJ), Rachel Furlong (RF) GoBe: Julia Bolton (JB), Phil New (PN), Claire Hinton (CH), Angie De Burgh (AdB), Anna Luff (AL) |
| Apologies: | ODOW: Roisin Alldis (RA), Beth Travis (BT) Natural England: Louise Burton (LB), Deanna Atkins (DA) Cefas: Isobel Barnes (IB), Jon Rees (JR), Paul McIlwaine (PM), Jacqueline Eggleton (JE) Environment Agency: Annette Hewitson (AH) |
| Circulation: | External |

Introductions

- ODO: CJ – Development Manager; RF – Stakeholder & Consents Manager
- GoBe: JB – Lead Environment Manager; PN – Offshore Environment Manager; CH – Physical Processes Lead; AdB – Benthic Subtidal & Intertidal Ecology Lead; AL – Fish & Shellfish Lead
- MMO: ES – Case Officer; AT – Case Manager
- Cefas: CR – Shellfish Advisor; GE – Fisheries Advisor; DC – Benthic Ecology Advisor; SW – Coastal Processes Advisor; CH – Fisheries Advisor
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust: KM – Marine Conservation Officer
- Environment Agency: RH – Marine Ecology Advisor; JP – Coastal Geomorphologist Advisor

Project Update

Apologies

- Due to resourcing constraints, Natural England have confirmed they are unable to attend this round of Expert Topic Groups (ETGs). Meeting minutes and presentations will be issued to Natural England for comment and written input.

Project Update

- A single Development Consent Order (DCO) application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (The Inspectorate).
- The Project's grid connection location subject to the ongoing Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR).
- The OTNR is being led by BEIS alongside National Grid and relevant stakeholders.
- OTNR considering an efficient approach to network connections.

- The final Holistic Network Design report, issued in July 2022, recommended two possible connection points be considered for the Project; Lincolnshire Coastal Node (Lincs Node) and Weston Marsh.
- Final decision still pending with an update on the Project's connection offer expected in Autumn 2022.

Programme

- Scoping Report was submitted to The Inspectorate on 29th July with the Project receiving the Scoping Opinion from The Inspectorate on 9th September 2022.
- Ongoing reviews and analysis of responses are being undertaken by the Project and technical teams.
- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will be submitted Q1 2023.
- The Project will work with stakeholders through the Evidence Plan Process (EPP), ETGs and bilateral discussions to assist in informing PEIR.
- The Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report was submitted to relevant stakeholders on 3rd August.
- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) underwent an initial consultation in August, with a revised version issued in September. Comments are due from stakeholders by 13th October.
- Public information Days (PIDs) will be held in November 2022 and Spring 2023.
- Targeting DCO application submission in Q4 2023.

Surveys

- A summary of ongoing, completed and planned surveys was provided.

PEIR boundary

- The offshore ECC boundary has been refined post-scoping, with landfall being at Wolla Bank, Lincolnshire.
- The route has been designed to minimise, in so far as possible, environmental constraints.
- The offshore ECC now avoids any landfall Special Protection Areas (SPA), but does pass through the Greater Wash SPA.
- The offshore ECC does pass through the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is designated for sandbanks and Sabellaria reef. Details will be provided in the PEIR for details of the alternatives assessment.
- Optionality in the inshore area of the cable has been retained for PEIR whilst commercial discussions ongoing with potential aggregates site.

Marine Physical Processes

Key Scoping Opinion Comments

- The Project will include historic and contemporary coastal behaviour relevant to the landfall location at Wolla Bank.
- The Project will include the new NCERM2 and queried if any stakeholders could confirm when the launch date for NCERM2 may be.
- **ACTION: If any stakeholders are aware of the launch date for NCERM2, please advise the Project.**
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advised the Project to contact the Environment Agency.*

- Numerical modelling will be undertaken between PEIR and ES and the Project would welcome feedback once this becomes available.
- The Project confirmed full coverage within both the array and ECC will be available.
- On the basis of comments received in the Scoping Opinion, the Project will be scoping in seabed scouring. The PEIR will include information such as the location, timeframes, anticipated quantities and volumes of scour protection.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advise that secondary scour around the edge of scour and cable protection should also be considered and assessed.*
- The Project acknowledges the agreement to scope out transboundary and cumulative effects to waves & tides.
- Within PEIR, the Project will clearly present the maximum design scenario and mitigation measures.
- A technical report on numerical modelling will accompany the PEIR.
- Cefas queried if the qualitative effects of cumulative approach will be based on numerical modelling of the specific sites.
- The Project confirmed modelling of the hydrodynamics of the specific project site will be undertaken, but modelling of other offshore windfarm projects will not be undertaken.
- The Project can confirm the Source:pathway:receptor model will be used to assess potential effects both alone and in-combination.
- With regards to designated sites, marine process receptors will be considered. The outputs of the assessment will be used within Benthic Ecology, HRA, Ornithology, Fish.
- With regards to landfall, the Project will take into consideration the historic and contemporary rates of coastal change. The Project will also consider the different method applied to landfall and any future importance this may have on the behaviour of the coast.
- Due consideration will be given to cofferdams and coastal access ramps. Ramps to be considered if located below MHWS. Ramps which fall above MHWS fall outside of the remit of the marine physical processes assessment.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advises that any infrastructure used during construction below MHWS but could impact on those features of designated sites above MHWS are considered in both offshore and onshore as any mitigation may be found onshore/offshore.*
- For embedded mitigation, the Project will present the relevant details within the PEIR.
- Where possible, the Project will provide spatial maps of the sediment plume and consequential deposition resulting from the Project's activities.
- The Project does not consider that an assessment of the effects of installation vessels, such as jack-up rigs, is appropriate and in-keeping with best practice in relation to the hydrodynamics effects of such vessels, and therefore this is proposed to be scoped out.
- The Flamborough Front is proposed to be scoped out given it is over 50km away from the Projects away and therefore any wake effects resulting from the structures are localised.
- The Project propose to scope out features located above MHWS in the Marine Physical Processes assessment.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advise that some supratidal features (e.g., dunes, cliff faces), may be present at landfall which could be affected by construction or operation of the development. Therefore, supratidal coastal features should remain scoped in.*

Next Steps

- The Project will continue to develop the modelling plan.
- A baseline characterisation technical report is being prepared for submission with PEIR, as well as assessment technical reports which will include a numerical modelling document.
- The Project will incorporate project specific survey outputs as they become available.
- The Project will continue to engage with stakeholders via submissions to ETG for comment and input as pre-application phase progresses.

Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology

Key Scoping Opinion Comments

- The Project's export cable corridor (ECC) passes through some designated sites, including the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge (IDRBNR) SAC. The Project has progressed discussions within the Derogation and Compensation ETG. A long list report of compensation measures has been issued and the Project are working alongside stakeholders to ensure the process provides relevant compensation if required.
- The Project is collecting site-specific data.
- The Project acknowledges the comment within the Scoping Opinion that further datasets may be available from those which were presented within the Scoping Report.
- Alongside Project site specific datasets, existing data sets to be assessed include:
 - Lynn and Inner Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm (various datasets);
 - Lincs Offshore Wind Farm;
 - Triton Knoll Electrical System;
 - Humber Gateway;
 - Hornsea Zonal Characterisation Study (2010);
 - Hornsea Project One Array Survey (2010 – 2011);
 - Hornsea Project Two Array Survey (2012);
 - Dogger Bank Creyke Beck A and B (2013); and
 - Westermost Rough datasets and studies.
- **ACTION: Natural England to confirm data sets they consider to be missing from the existing project data we are proposing to use.**
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England confirmed all post construction monitoring reports are missing.*
- The Project can confirm that a Cable Burial Risk Assessment will be undertaken with this to be submitted alongside the ES – it is likely that some preliminary data will be available for PEIR.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England confirmed this is welcomed.*
- It was requested within the Scoping Opinion that cumulative effects of sediment disturbance are included. The Project can confirm Cumulative temporary increases in Suspended Sediment Concentration (SSC) and associated deposition effects will be included within the assessment.
- The Scoping Opinion confirmed that data that are less than ten years old should be used. The Project confirmed that the Project's site-specific data will be the primary data used to inform the characterisation. The Project included the historic datasets to provide further understanding of the wider environment and these datasets assist in the temporal understanding of the region although will not be relied on as the primary source of information for characterisation of the site.

Site Specific Surveys

- To date the Project has collected the following:
 - The array area surveys, undertaken in 2021, positioning of benthic ground-truth sample locations were informed by geophysical data, through an iterative process ensuring there was a good coverage of sample locations over representative habitats and in areas of interest / potential conservation. This included 80 grab samples (analysed for faunal and PSA composition; including total carbon content); 30 drop down video (DDV); 30 samples for contaminant analysis; and eight epibenthic trawls.
 - The ECC survey, undertaken in Q3 2022, comprised 60 grab sample stations; 30 DDV; 30 samples for contaminant analysis; and seven epibenthic trawls.
 - Intertidal phase 1 and 2 surveys will be conducted in 2022.
 - eDNA samples have also be gathered.
- Cefas queried if a map for ECC, as with the array, would be available.
- The Project confirm this should be available for the next ETG and will be presented within the PEIR. Up to 60 grabs were taken along a 70km route to ensure good coverage. These were also focused around the sensitive areas of the SAC, particularly on sandbank and any areas of interest which were identified from the geophysical review.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advises that further information and assessment is required before we can provide comment of the sufficiency of the of surveys.*

Impacts Scoped Out

- The following impacts have been scoped out on the basis of providing embedded mitigation to remove or reduce the effect and are not considered to be significant based on the evidence (including that of previous offshore windfarm projects).
- For all embedded mitigation the PEIR and ES will outline how such measures will be secured.
- During construction and operation, accidental pollution is proposed to be scoped out, the ES will provide details of embedded mitigation in the Project Environmental Monitoring Plan (PEMP) and its constituent Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (MPCP).
- During operation, changes in physical processes resulting from the presence of the subsea infrastructure, such as scour effects, changes in wave/ tidal current regimes, are due to be scoped out. A discussion has been held with the Physical Processes team to ensure that the mitigation will ensure a significant impact will not occur. Physical process modelling on adjacent projects has demonstrated small, local impacts on benthic communities from disturbance of this nature.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England is unable to advise further until Natural England have seen the relevant evidence.*
- *Post meeting note from the Project: After consideration and further discussion, the Project can confirm that changes in physical processes resulting from the presence of the subsea infrastructure, such as scour effects, changes in wave/ tidal current regimes, will be scoped into the PEIR.*
- With regards to Marine Invasive Non Native Species (MINNS), embedded mitigation and control of invasive species measures in line with IMO (2019) have been incorporated and will be included in the PEMP to ensure that no significant effects will arise from INNS.

- Embedded mitigation measures, such as the preference of cable burial, will be implemented to increase the distance between any sensitive species and the source of electro-magnetic field (EMF), reducing the likelihood of behavioural responses from species.
- Cefas confirmed they have no comments on accidental pollution or EMF. However with regards to the change in Physical Processes, the Scoping Report indicated that 5% of array area would be affected, working out to be approximately 15km². This is considered a large area of disturbance. Cefas queried if the affected 5% would be reduced with scour protection. Cefas also questioned whether features of conservation interest can be avoided. Cefas confirmed if the footprint is 15km², this impact should not be scoped out.
- Once the benthic data has been appraised, any sensitive features or where infrastructure is proposed to be laid, the Project will attempt to mitigate where possible. With regards to the size of the area affected, the Benthic and Physical Processes teams will discuss this further. The Project can confirm that any sensitive areas, particularly biogenic reef, will be identified and Annex 1 guidance will be followed.
- **ACTION: GoBe's technical teams (Benthic Ecology and Physical Processes) to discuss if 5% of array area would be affected and whether this would be reduced with scour protection.**
- With regards to MINNS, Cefas accepted the measures in place to prevent introduction of MINNS. However, Cefas confirm the installation of infrastructure would create hard habitats which would act as steppingstone to facilitate MINNS. Cefas requested the Project consider the potential for infrastructure to be colonized by MINNS and consider connection between structures.
- The Project noted Cefas' concerns and confirmed the consideration of including an appraisal of the impact with the PEIR assessment. The Project acknowledge that all stakeholders agree embedded mitigation will significantly reduce impacts from MINNS and further appraisal will provide reassurance.

Next Steps

- The Project will complete detailed characterisation baseline of benthic subtidal and intertidal resources and incorporate project specific survey outputs as they become available.
- There will be continued engagement with stakeholders via submissions to ETG for comment as the Project progresses, along with continued engagement regarding compensation workstreams and Marine Net Gain.

Fish and Shellfish Ecology

- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England is concerned about the reliance on the existing fisheries data in particular when there are wider ecosystem concerns in relation to potential impacts to prey availability and foraging ability. This is something which is becoming an increasing concern for projects within the Greater Wash and being flagged in Application responses.*

Key Scoping Opinion Comments

- The Project acknowledge agreement to scope out accidental pollution. The ES will provide details of mitigation in the PEMP, and the MPCP.
- It has also been agreed to scope out both the impacts on fishing pressure due to displacement and cumulative effects.
- Cefas queried if all cumulative effects are being scoped out or ones specific to particular impact.

- The Project confirmed that the cumulative impacts related to underwater noise, and increases in suspended sediments and deposition will be assessed. All other cumulative impacts have been agreed within the Scoping Opinion to be scoped out.
- The Project acknowledge that direct disturbance resulting from operational activities and transboundary effects will be scoped in.
- The Project welcome the agreement that there is no requirement for new fish characterisation surveys to be undertaken.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England referenced the above comments in particular in relation to the export cable through habitats important for sandeels and Herring Spawning due to wider ecosystem impacts to Annex I birds. Something Natural England have discussed with CEFAS subsequent to the ETG.*
- The Project confirm that site-specific data (sediment grabs, epibenthic trawls and eDNA) will be primarily used to inform the baseline characterisation and any historic data sets will be used to inform the temporal understanding of the region.
- The limitations of the characterisation surveys will be acknowledged within the Fish and Shellfish PEIR Technical Report and Chapter.
- The fisheries data will be presented as standardised units, such as catch per unit effort.
- The Project note that shellfish data from epibenthic beam trawls should be considered as indicative of presence/absence only, and the Project confirms that the shellfish data will be presented as indicative of presence/absence only.
- The Project has collected site-specific data across the site to inform the fish and shellfish baseline characterisation and the assessment, including sediment grabs, epibenthic trawls and eDNA.
- With regards to the nursery and spawning ground assessments, specifically potential herring spawning habitat, the Project confirms that the assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the Marine Space (2013) methodologies.
- Ten years of IHLS data will be used to inform the assessment of impacts on spawning herring, specifically noting ten years of actual data will be used and not a ten year period, ensuring this accounts for data gaps.
- Cefas welcome a full ten year dataset being assessed.
- Regarding the underwater noise assessment, the Project confirms that impact ranges for receptors will be presented for both fleeing and stationary scenarios to ensure that a range of responses are provided.
- The Project confirms that the noise assessment will take into account appropriate spatiotemporal scales, seasonality and a range of receptor responses to underwater noise.
- Regarding the potential impacts to prey availability for the Greater Wash (GW) and Flamborough & Filey Coast (F&FC) SPAs, the Project confirm that this will be considered in the assessment.
- Cefas noted that all of their key comments have been addressed.

Next Steps

- The next step for the Project is to complete the detailed characterisation baseline of fish and shellfish resources.
- Specific survey outputs will be incorporated as they become available.
- The Project will continue to engage with stakeholders via the ETG process.


AoB

- The next ETG is anticipated for late November 2022 with Doodle polls being issued within the coming weeks.
- DC noted w/c 21st November is not suitable for him but that other colleagues should be available if required.
- The Project suggested for the next round of ETGs that the Derogation and Compensation ETG is split and combined with topic specific areas. This ETG will in future consist of Marine Physical Processes, Fish and Shellfish, Benthic Subtidal and intertidal Ecology and Derogation and Compensation for Benthic.
- MMO agreed this was a suitable approach going forward.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|--------------|---|-----------------|--------|
| 11 July 2022 | Incorporate MMO and Natural England data layers for baseline characterization. <i>CLOSED: Noted.</i> | GoBe | Y |
| 11 July 2022 | Provide as much data as possible particularly around herring spawning. <i>CLOSED.</i> | Cefas | Y |
| 11 July 2022 | Provide notification to stakeholders on Scoping Report submission. <i>CLOSED: Scoping Report issued on 29th July, and Scoping Opinion received on 9th September.</i> | ODOW | Y |
| 12 Oct 2022 | If any stakeholders are aware of the launch date for NCERM2, please advise the Project. <i>Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advised the Project to contact the Environment Agency.</i> | All | |
| 12 Oct 2022 | Natural England to confirm data sets they consider to be missing from the existing project data we are proposing to use. <i>Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England confirmed all post construction monitoring reports are missing.</i> | Natural England | Y |
| 12 Oct 2022 | GoBe's technical teams (Benthic Ecology and Physical Processes) to discuss if 5% of array area would be affected and whether this would be reduced with scour protection. | GoBe | |

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Marine Ecology & Coastal Processes ETG |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000362-02 |
| Date: | 2 December 2022 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Kieran McCloskey (KM) – Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Louise Burton (LB) – Natural England (14:00 to 15:00) Emma Preston (EP) – Natural England (14:00 to 15:00) Paul Stephenson (PS) – MMO Isobel Barnes (IB) – CEFAS David Clare (DC) – CEFAS Georgina Eastley (GE) – CEFAS Rachel Hudson (RH) – Environment Agency Jeremy Piles (JP) – Environmental Agency Chris Jenner (CJ) – ODOW Rachel Furlong (RF) – ODOW Anna Luff (AL) – ODOW Angie de Burgh (AdB) – ODOW Claire Hinton (CH) – ODOW Phil New (PN) – ODOW Laura Vickery (LV) – ODOW |
| Apologies: | None |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

- ODOW provided a Project update and outlined the current expected timelines for the key consultation periods going forward

Benthic Surveys

- ODOW provided an update on the benthic related survey effort to date

Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology

- ODOW presented the outputs of the current survey effort and the proposed designated sites for assessment, and key receptors
- ODOW provided an update following scoping, stating that long term habitat loss has changed to permanent habitat loss for benthic assessment, reflecting stakeholder feedback
Post meeting note from Natural England received 06 January 2023: The only impact to be considered cumulatively is temporary increase in suspended sediment and sediment deposition. Consideration may need to be given to other cumulative impacts such as permanent habitat loss
- ODOW confirmed that the following operation and maintenance phase impacts will be included within the assessment (1) Changes to seabed habitats arising from effects on physical processes, including scour effects and changes in the sediment transport and wave

regimes resulting in potential effects on benthic communities; (2) Increased risk of introduction or spread of Marine INNS due to presence of infrastructure and vessel movements (e.g. the discharge of ballast water) may affect benthic ecology and biodiversity

- DC – agreed with scoping in INNS and queried if this could be considered within the cumulative assessments in consideration with other projects
- ODOW – confirmed this impact would be considered for inclusion in the cumulative effects assessment if the project alone effect is deemed higher than a negligible magnitude (as per the guidance on cumulative assessment)

Study area

- ODOW gave an update of the study area which is based on the area over which suspended sediments may travel following disturbance as a result of Proposed Development activities

Site specific surveys

- ODOW provided updated that characterisation and site specific have been carried out
- ODOW showed the site specific survey results and habitat classification results
- ODOW showed the array area site specific survey results
- **Post meeting note from Natural England received 06 January 2023:** Natural England may have further comments on this when they have had sight of the full benthic survey reporting. Natural England assume that this will be included in the PEIR consultation. **Post meeting note from ODOW:** ODOW note Natural England's comment for further comment. ODOW can confirm that the full benthic survey results to date will be included within PEIR

Methodology

- ODOW provided an overview of the methodology

Designated sites

- ODOW showed the designated sites identified in the project area

Embedded mitigation

- ODOW provided an overview of the embedded mitigation measures adopted
- **Post meeting note from Natural England received 06 January 2023:** Natural England noted it is useful to understand the reports that will be produced, but it will be important to see what these reports include to understand their effectiveness as mitigation measures

Next steps

- ODOW asked could consultees advise of any data sources that would be useful?
 - DC – suggested One Benthic data should be appraised
 - ODOW – confirmed the project are using one benthic data for analysis
- ODOW asked could consultees raise any issues with the proposed approach?
 - DC – agrees that the methods has good coverage and sample collection for habitat identification
 - LB – with regard to EIA matrices the comments from Natural England at Scoping remain valid and Natural England recommend looking at comments made during the Examination for Hornsea Four

Benthic derogation and compensation

- ODOW provided an update that they have submitted shortlist report and ask for feedback

- ODOW provided an update on the current ECC, confirming it will go through Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge (IDRBNR) SAC and it is looking at compensation measures of the sandbank features
- ODOW provided update that they are in the process of receiving feedback and undertaking feasibility assessments for possible compensation measures
- ODOW summarised RAG assessment and asked for feedback
 - LB – Natural England comments haven't changed from those Natural England submitted on the long list
 - DC – CEFAS have commented on longlist, shortlist and accompanying matrix
- ODOW provided overview of the green mitigation measures
- **ACTION: LB – asked ODOW to send shortlist to her due to staff sickness (as previously requested) and will provide feedback by 16/12 – complete**
- **Post meeting note - this was issued on 2 Dec following the meeting**
- **Post meeting note from Natural England received 06 January 2023:** Natural England added it was also suggested that a cable burial risk assessment would be delivered in Jan/Feb to further understand the potential need for rock protection
- **Post meeting notes from ODOW:** ODOW confirm that a cable burial risk assessment will be carried out on the section of the cable route that covers the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SAC
- ODOW – queried if participant has any insights into government workstreams for strategic compensation measures for benthic
 - LB – confirmed that meetings are only just commencing, with the first meeting mid-December. Information is expected to be released Autumn 2023. Hoping to release mechanism for Round 4 projects
 - ODOW – Asked if any information available could be shared as it is discussed
 - LB – Confirmed Natural England will share if possible

Marine net gain

- ODOW gave update on the marine net gain and their commitment to developing MNG with evolving policy
 - ODOW - queried if there was further update from stakeholders on expectations or requirements
 - LB – confirmed no update on the progression
 - ODOW – confirmed that ODOW are meeting regularly with industry groups to develop proposals looking at contributions approach and delivering over and above the impact

Next steps

- ODOW gave an overview of next steps

Physical processes

- ODOW gave an updated on the scope of assessment and study area
- ODOW provided an update that the impacts scoped in and out have not changed from last ETG

Data sources

- ODOW confirmed that they have undertaken site specific surveys in addition to previously used data sources
- ODOW presented high level results of the data undertaken

Methodology

- ODOW presented an overview of their planned EIA methodology
- **Post meeting note from Natural England received 06 January 2023:** Natural England suggested where numerical modelling is presented in the PEIR, it would be helpful to also include visual representation on a map, particularly in relation to the sediment plume modelling. This would also be useful to include for the benthic chapter
-

Data gaps

- ODOW confirmed that there is no longer concern of data gaps due to point sediment samples interpretation providing comprehensive cover
- **Post meeting note from Natural England received 06 January 2023:** Natural England added it is important that if there are any gaps/limitations in the data, or where data is extrapolated this is clearly acknowledged in the PEIR

Embedded mitigation

- ODOW provided an overview of mitigation measures they are adopting

Next steps

- ODOW provided update on the next steps

Fish and shellfish ecology

- ODOW provided an update on the scope of assessment
- **Post meeting note from Natural England received 06 January 2023:** Natural England were not present past this point within the meeting

Site specific surveys

- ODOW provided an update on the surveys that have been completed
- ODOW provided an overview of epi-benthic trawl survey results and fish community characterisation
- ODOW noted the occurrence of sandeel in the data and stated this would be included as a key species for consideration due to its importance as a forage species for other species
- ODOW provided an overview of the site-specific PSA data, classified to identify suitable spawning substrates for herring and sandeel
- ODOW provided an overview of underwater noise contours within the project area
 - GE – queried if the Project would be modelling and presenting the 135dB SEL contour from Hawkins *et al.* (2014)
 - ODOW – confirmed this has not been included to date but the Project are happy to discuss. ODOW noted that ambient noise data is being collected from array area that will be presented post PEIR
 - **Post meeting note from Natural England received 06 January 2023: Natural England would support this being included in the PEIR**
 - GE – agreed a discussion once this data is complete would be helpful
- ODOW provided an overview of designated sites in or in close proximity to the Project

Methodology

- ODOW provided an overview of the EIA methodology

Next steps

- ODOW Provided an overview of the next steps

Additional questions


- GE- queried how the epi-benthic trawl survey data was being used for sandeels and when the data was collected
 - ODOW – confirmed they are recent and are being used for present/absence not abundance
 - GE – agreed with approach and advised that the Project look at commercial fishery data within the area to strengthen sandeel data
 - ODOW – confirmed that currently sandeel are not fished commercially within the area but would look for updates

ODOW – confirmed that there are no further ETGs planned prior to PEIR submission but welcomes any additional feedback and comments from the shortlist

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| 2/12/22 | ODOW to send shortlist to LB for review | ODOW | Yes |
| 2/12/22 | Natural England to review shortlist and provide comments by 16/12 | Natural England | Yes |
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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Ecology and Coastal Processes Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000416-01 |
| Date: | 17 th March 2023 |
| Time: | 1000hrs to 1200hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Rachel Furlong (RF) - ODOW Debbie Nickless (DN) – WSP Phil New (PN) – GoBe Angie De Burgh (AdB)– GoBe Anna Luff (AL) – GoBe Anna Kalish (AK) – GoBe Laura Vickery (LV) – GoBe Helen Mann (HM) -Natural England Lou Burton (LB) – Natural England Jeremy Pile (JP) – Environmental Agency Georgina Eastley (GE) – Cefas David Clare (DC) – Cefas Charlotte reeve (CR) – Cefas Bella Voak (BV) – Cefas Isobel Barnes (IB) – Cefas Emma Shore (ES) – MMO Karen Schnetler (KS) – MMO |
| Apologies: | Claire Hinton (CH) – GoBe |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

- ODOW provided an update of the evidence plan and scheduled meetings.

Programme

- ODOW provided an update that the programme is still on track from the last ETG, progressing the two possible grid locations and expecting a grid offer April 2023. PEIR submission is expected late spring 2023 and DCO application Q4 2024.
 - An Alternative route has been identified and consultation is ongoing on this option.

Evidence Base

- ODOW provided an overview on the evidence plan created as a result of the last steering group meeting.
 - Evidence base plans and agreement logs have been drafted and shared with stakeholders.

Evidence base

- ODOW provided an update on the surveys and data that has been undertaken and ongoing, including at what point this will feed into assessments.
- LB questioned whether the next borehole campaign is for engineering purposes and will this feed into the cable burial risk assessment.

- ODOW confirmed that surveys taken in 2022 were gravity cores (across the array area and offshore ECC) that have informed the cable burial risk assessment. The upcoming campaign is deeper cores to inform the ground conditions for the foundations within the array area only.
- LB asked whether the outline cable burial risk assessment will be included at PEIR.
- ODOW explained this won't be finalised at PEIR but the information will be captured. The information will then be finalised and published within the outline Cable Specification and Installation Plan at DCO application.
- ODOW confirmed that agreement logs have been created based on the consultation to date. These are live documents and will be updated as the consultation progresses and will help inform the Statement of Common Grounds (SoCG).

Updates

- ODOW provided an update on the marine ecology assessments progress.
 - It was confirmed that baseline characterisation has been developed.
 - eDNA data has been able to be used to inform assessments and the PEIR chapters.
- ODOW provided an update on the coastal processes assessments progress.
 - It was confirmed that baseline characterisation has incorporated all survey results and included in all PEIR chapters and technical reports.
 - Numerical modelling is complete and will be submitted within PEIR.

Agreement logs

- ODOW welcomed comments within the meeting and any comments provided post meeting.
- ODOW noted that some comments state 'agree' at the point of PEIR submission and are open to relooking at these points once stakeholders have seen the PEIR and the data.

Marine Processes

- ODOW showed the agreement logs, raising areas of current disagreement.
- ODOW raised the disagreed topic that the Project proposed supratidal features to be scoped out. It was explained that the Project are committing to the use of trenchless cable installation methodology to not impact this feature.
 - LB confirmed that at this point Natural England cannot agree and would like to take this away and provide comments post meeting.
- JP raised that the Project should consider historic rates of erosion due to siting of the directional drilling rig and infrastructure for landfall. Site launch points should be far enough onshore to allow for the depth below the features and not be impacted by coastal erosion. It was added that more discussion on this topic is welcomed and this could be moved from an area of disagreement to awaiting data or seeking agreement.
 - ODOW confirmed discussions are ongoing with engineers and they are taking into consideration the factors, hoping to provide information at PEIR and further clarity at ES.
 - LB confirmed Natural England will provide comments post meeting.

Benthic Ecology

- ODOW provided an update on benthic ecology and the compensation work streams.
 - ODOW asked whether there was an update on the SNCB marine debris removal report status and it was confirmed that this was discussed within the steering group and is expected at the end of the month.

- HM confirmed that is also Natural England's understanding.
- ODOW confirmed that post construction data has been included and once PEIR is published will be consulted to see if this can be agreed.
- ODOW confirmed that through the compensation workstreams comments have been taken onboard through the consultation and the Project agrees with the approaches suggested by stakeholders.
- HM asked whether the benthic survey reports will be included at PEIR.
 - ODOW confirmed these will as appendices.
- DC noted that debris removal may be not a suitable compensation for habitat loss, noting this is ultimately a decision for NE.

Agreement log feedback

- HM questioned how the agreement log feedback is best to be received.
 - ODOW welcomes feedback and is open to looking at whether issuing as a word document or excel sheet would be more appropriate.
ODOW added that each agreement has a ref ID and notes that this could be used to track all the changes from the stakeholders.
 - HM suggested adding a comments column/
 - LB explained that word is a suitable option as these will be used to inform the SoCG, and therefore recommends that the logs be made into word at this stage.
 - ODOW noted this and confirmed that the approach to agreement logs will be refined. It was also confirmed that the SoCG will be in word format.
 - HM suggested look at how best to split the logs, suggesting across organisations may make them easier to use by the stakeholders.
 - ODOW confirmed this feedback will be taken away and looked at how best to refine.
 - HM added that it was worth noting the Annex 1 ETG agreement log table format. Interested party position can be included within respective column as well as agreement status. Route to Agreement can replace the notes column. [Draft SoCG Natural England \(Offshore\) \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

Fish and shellfish

- ODOW gave an overview of the agreement logs and areas of disagreement currently.
- Regarding using Hawkins et al. 2014) behavioural threshold, the Project are still in the position of not using this threshold due to the difference in ambient noise levels in the southern North Sea compared to the quiet loch in which the Hawkins study was undertaken. It was confirmed that further justification will be provided in PEIR.
 - GE confirmed that the Cefas stance is that they still disagree. 135dB should be presented due to the herring at Flamborough head, they are aware of limitations of the data but it is the best available evidence. Alternative evidence is welcomed but at the current point this remains the position.
 - ODOW asked if there were suggestions on how to contextualise with the issues associated with the reactions of the fish to noise in this location and the variability and response of the fish to the receptors to different sound level with factors such as Mackerel present.
 - GE explained that limitations should be included and the contours will be taken as subjective and proportionate. If there is a significant overlap with spawning ground then this is the main concern. ODOW is further south, Triton Knoll had restrictions due to the spawning ground. It was suggested modelling will help as the location of ODOW has uncertainty with the proximity to the spawning grounds.
 - ODOW noted this and asked whether 5dB increments could be presented and then discussed with Cefas.

- GE welcomed this and would like to consult on this. Noting it would allow overlaps to be identified and suggest whether restrictions would be needed. Further adding new noise abatement methods are also being developed and this should also be looked into for the Project.
- This was noted by the Project and if this cannot be provided at PEIR, will be something that further they seek further consultation on.

Derogation and Compensation

- ODOW provided an update on the progress on compensation measures from the last ETG.
- ODOW asked whether there is feedback on the extension of the sandbank feature within the SAC.
 - ODOW confirmed they have been in consultation with Defra and it was advised that this is not supported as project alone measure, however there was support to progress this through COWSC groups for strategic measures.
- ODOW confirmed another measure that the project are proposing is biogenic reef creation and the offshore PEIR boundary will encompass the proposed areas for the biogenic reef creation
- It was also added that roadmaps and compensation measures will be included at PEIR to allow for section 42 consultation
- ODOW welcomed feedback and recommendations for areas to avoid or target for creation of biogenic reef.
 - LB asked what type of reef the project was proposing?
 - The Project confirmed they are proposing native oyster and blue mussel.
 - LB explained that this is an SAC so the Project would need to present that the features were historically there and therefore this effort would be restoration. Adding that the introduction of oysters and mussels could hinder Sabellaria developing within that area. It was highlighted that this is not a like for like measure.
 - LB also added that the whole SAC could not be added as a compensation area.
 - ODOW confirmed that the whole area has been included at this time to allow for consultation and recommendations to refine the area from consultation.
 - LB added that the SEP and DEP reef creation is different as this is within an MCZ and not an SAC that has specific features.
 - LB further added that the impact that is affecting Sabellaria is fishing pressures and bylaws are being put in place to stop bottom tow trawling so recovery may start happening. Restoration may happen and then when the compensation measures are going to be delivered this may not be appropriate.


AOB

- ODOW requested that the agreement logs are reviewed, and feedback will be taken on how to refine and issue with the next round of ETGs.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Marine Ecology and Coastal Processes ETG |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-XXX |
| Date: | 7 th August 2023 |
| Time: | 09:00 – 11:00 |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Greg Tomlinson (GT) - ODOW Phil New (PN) - GoBe Laura Vickery (LV) - GoBe Anna Luff (AL) - GoBe Claire Hinton (CH) - GoBe Anna Kalish (AK) - GoBe Karen Schnetler (KS) - MMO Jon Rees (JR) - Cefas David Clare (DC) - Cefas Georgina Eastley (GE) – Cefas Charlotte Reeves (CR) - Cefas |
| Apologies: | Isobel Barnes (IB) - Cefas Angie de Burgh (AdB) - GoBe Julia Bolton (JB) - GoBe Jake Laws (JL) - ODOW |
| Circulation: | External |

Introductions and apologies

- Within the Project team Greg Tomlinson (GT) has joined as Offshore Consents Manager and Jake Lawes (JL) has joined as HRA Manager.
- It was noted that Natural England gave their apologies for not being able to attend in advance of the meeting, noting they will add any comments as post meeting notes.

Project Update

- ODOW provided an overview of the programme.
 - The Project are still working towards first power in 2030.
 - It was confirmed the next ETG will be held on the 14th September and invites have been issued. The Project are looking to hold an additional round in October/November before DCO submission.
 - It was confirmed the Project are expecting a Grid Connection to be confirmed in August 2023. **Post meeting note received from ODOW 10/8/23: now confirmed see [Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Grid Connection Update \(10/08/23\) - Outer Dowsing](#)**
 - It was explained that Section 42 consultation closed on the 21st July and public consultation events were held and well attended.
 - ODOW confirmed the Project are still on track for DCO submission by the end of 2023.

Onshore Cable Route

- ODOW provided an overview of the onshore aspects of the Project.

- It was noted that three routes are still being considered as the Project are still awaiting a final Grid Connection from the National Grid.

Offshore Proposals

- ODOW provided an overview of the offshore elements of the Project.
 - It was confirmed that the array area is being reduced from 500km² to approximately 300km². Refinement is ongoing and it was noted that this will be undertaken before DCO submission.
 - It was added that areas for the delivery of potential compensation measures were also included into the PEIR Boundary and the Project will seek to consent compensatory measures through the DCO where relevant.

PINS Early Adopter Programme

- It was confirmed that the Project has been selected to trial elements of the Inspectorate's Early Adopter Programme
- ODOW explained that most of the components can be built from existing processes that are being undertaken by the Project already.
- ODOW explained for Component 3 (Uses of issues tracking) the agreement log templates have been updated based on stakeholder feedback and will be issued post meeting.
- It was highlighted that the element that requires stakeholder input will be Component 4 (Use of Pre-application Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements (PADS))
 - It was explained that the PADs will be consultee owned and are intended to set out key areas of disagreement between the consultee and the Project to highlight them at the start of the examination.
 - ODOW noted how the PADS can be built from the existing agreement logs and the Project will assist in populating them with the stakeholders.
 - The Project provided an example of the PADS template.
- DC asked whether the project are aware of the other trials and which projects have been selected?
 - GT explained that only two offshore wind projects have been selected, with Five Estuaries as the other.
 - GT provided the link [Planning Inspectorate launches pre-application trial with 7 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/planning-inspectorate-launches-pre-application-trial-with-7-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects) for details of the other projects.

Fish and Shellfish

Updates

- ODOW provided an update for fish and shellfish
 - It was confirmed that the underwater noise and physical processing modelling will be updated once the Project design refinement process is complete. The ES chapter conclusions will be amended accordingly.

Areas of Disagreement/Key Topics for Discussion

- ODOW provided an overview of the key areas of disagreement and discussion topics from the Section 42 responses.

Underwater noise

- ODOW explained that the MMO requested that additional noise modelling was presented at Banks herring spawning ground based on the 135 decibel (dB) (SELs) startle response (as per Hawkins *et al.* (2014)).
 - ODOW explained they still believe this is overly precautionary. They propose presenting the potential behavioural impact ranges as 5dB increments from the piling source alongside a literature review of impacts from underwater noise to fish species.
 - GE explained that as long as a 135db increment is presented then this is an acceptable method.
- ODOW explained that the MMO highlighted that with the large scale of developments of offshore wind in the North Sea, it is vital discussions are held regarding noise abatement.
 - It was confirmed that the Project will take this into consideration. The requirement for mitigation measures will be considered following completion of the assessment as appropriate.
 - It was noted that the Project have committed to considering the use of noise abatement in the MMMP, which whilst not focused on fish, would therefore still provide benefits if implemented.
- GE explained that Cefas will wait until they see the noise modelling to comment.
 - PN added that the Project are proposing that post design refinement, a meeting will be set up to discuss the noise modelling with stakeholders to agree on final modelling locations and address any queries with the model.
 - GE agreed that this would be welcomed, noting they are undertaking survey work in September but could find a colleague to cover.

Habitat Disturbance

- ODOW explained that the MMO recommended that further consideration and clarification is provided in the ES chapter regarding habitat disturbance impacts on herring and sandeel.
 - It was confirmed that the physical processing modelling of sediment dispersion and deposition will be updated to help inform the assessments for herring and sandeel once the final project design is available.
 - The Project noted that any additional data sources stakeholders are aware of that could be used to inform the assessments would be welcomed.

Increased SSC and deposition assessment

- ODOW explained that Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust raised concerns about the increased redeposition of sediments on sandeel populations, particularly over the sandbanks within the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SAC.
 - It was confirmed the Project are updating physical processes modelling and that engineering work is ongoing to refine the Worst Case Scenario. These will be used to inform the assessments and conclusions within the ES chapter.
 - JR noted that the approach is suitable, the Project need to ensure that the models calibration and validation is included.
 - JR recommended that the Project look at sediment climatology and provided the link - [Monthly average non-algal Suspended Particulate Matter concentrations - Cefas \(Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science\)](#). Noting that this data is only for the surface, but gives an idea of the variability within the area.
- ODOW noted that this comment from LWT, whilst raised in relation to sandeel, has implications for commitments made to mitigate impacts to the features of the SAC around the retention of sediment within the system. It was asked whether any stakeholders could talk about their views on deposition of sediment across the SAC?

- DC explained that Cefas will defer to Natural England, unless there is effect on benthic species.

Potential Impacts to Prey Species of Annex 1 Species

- ODOW explained that through the feedback the MMO and Natural England noted the ecological importance of sandeels to support marine predators in the study area and recommended that the Project gives due consideration to potential impacts to Annex I species.
 - The Project confirmed that assessments will be updated to address the potential for these impacts to occur and the data sources recommended will be utilised accordingly.
- PN noted that a comment from the MMO noted the high occurrence of sandeels recorded in the drop down videos. The Project will look to map the populations in time to present them at the next ETG, so the regional scale impacts can be assessed.
 - GE explained that whilst the PEIR was right to look at population scale impacts, it is also necessary to consider regional scale impacts and so effects on these populations are important to understand and they are pleased that the Project are addressing this and taking the comments on board.

Benthic Ecology

Updates

- The Project are preparing to start drafting the ES.

Areas of Disagreement/ Key Topics of Discussion

- The Project gave an overview of the key areas raised from section 42 comments.

Project Parameters

- ODOW explained that Natural England raised that there is a lack of quantitative assessment in the MDS for UXO detonation.
 - It was explained that the Project have not undertaken any surveys and are not planning on licensing UXO detonation within the DCO/ deemed marine licences at this stage. Therefore, there is a lack of certainty to enable a quantitative assessment of this impact. The worst case, in terms of charge sizes was based on Sofia and Hornsea Two and it is expected that the Project will be within these. At this stage it is proposed that qualitative assessment to the benthic features is undertaken. It was noted that the MMO and Natural England have agreed within the section 42 responses with the approach to not licence UXO clearance at this stage.
 - DC noted that Cefas believe this sounds reasonable but cannot comment on Natural England's behalf.
 - KS added that the MMO also agree but defer the comment to Natural England.

Baseline Data

- ODOW explained that Natural England noted in the Scoping Opinion that post construction monitoring reports are missing and suggested OneBenthic data should be appraised.
 - ODOW confirmed that the data highlighted was added to the relevant assessments within PEIR.
 - PN asked if data from Projects such as Hornsea One will be on the MMOs MCMS system.

ACTION: MMO (KS) – to liaise with post consent team for HOW01 to check all the data is on the register.

- ODOW explained that Natural England advised that to be able to conclude that the sites with hard substrate do not constitute Annex I reef/NERC Priority Habitats, further ground truthing investigation would be required.
 - It was confirmed the Project have committed to pre-construction surveys of the proposed development in order to determine the location, extent and composition of any Annex I reef/NERC Priority Habitats. The Project have also committed to micro-siting infrastructure where practicable.

Environmental Impact Assessment

- ODOW explained that Natural England noted it is unclear how the impacts of temporary disturbance from construction activities within the sandbanks features in the IDRBNR SAC and the Greater Wash SPA has been considered separately from those of non-designated sandbanks.
 - It was explained that the Project considered the designation status of sandbanks in the assessment but for brevity combined the overall assessments into a single section. The Project are content to provide separate assessments under separate subheadings for these impacts.
 - The Project asked whether this approach is acceptable to resolve this concern.
 - DC explained that they do not have any issues or concern with this approach but would defer to Natural England to confirm their position.
- ODOW explained that the MMO spotted a miscalculation of the impact of colonisation on Project infrastructure.
 - It was explained that this will be updated for ES, but is not considered to impact on the conclusions drawn within the PEIR.

Potential *Sabellaria* reef

- ODOW explained that the MMO and Natural England advised that the benthic characterisation surveys were unable to delineate Annex I biogenic reef features from the acquired acoustic data. Therefore, more information is required to inform these assessments.
 - It was confirmed that the data has identified no clear areas of reef and shows no signs of well-established reef. The reef found within the ground truthing has been low grade.
 - It was explained that the Project undertook a high sampling strategy for the baseline characterisation ground-truthing campaign. This found some areas of low grade reef, supporting the geophysical data results.
- ODOW confirmed that the Project have committed to pre-construction surveys and micrositing of infrastructure.
 - DC noted that the results have to be accurate or precautionary, if you can achieve one of these then they believe the methodology is satisfactory. They added that the quality of reef may not determine the conservation value and would have to defer to Natural England for this.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- ODOW explained that Natural England and LWT advised that there is insufficient evidence to conclude no adverse effect to the IDRBNR SAC.
 - It was confirmed that the Project are looking to refine assessments and make them robust with additional supporting evidence.
 - It was added that updated supplementary advice has been released since the assessments were undertaken and this will be considered within the updated assessments.

'Without Prejudice' Compensation Strategy

- ODOW noted that Natural England asked for more specific details on how the Project will facilitate the extension of the IDRBNR SAC including further details on how this would be undertaken and attributed to the Project.
 - It was confirmed that the Project is progressing road mapping for this strategy and are meeting with Defra regularly (6 weekly) to discuss this and other matters. It was noted that the extension of the SAC is not within the power of the developer and can only be undertaken by the government.
- ODOW noted that Natural England asked for evidence that the recreation of biogenic reef would not impact on the conservation objectives of the existing features of the IDRBNR SAC.
 - The Project confirmed that work is being undertaken to refine potential areas for the establishment of reef. They plan to consult stakeholders to find areas which are considered suitable.
 - DC noted that this sounds like an appropriate approach but defer to Natural England.
 - PN asked whether any stakeholders could provide technical advice about the biology of reef that may be beneficial.
 - DC added that at this stage there are no additional comments.
- DC added that they believe Natural England would want to make sure that restoration doesn't compromise conservation features. They asked which type of reef is being suggested for this biogenic reef recreation.
 - It was explained *Mytilus edulis* or native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) is being proposed.
 - DC agrees *Sabellaria* reef establishment has not been successful. Natural England are concerned that the creation of new reef will take up areas of potential *Sabellaria* reef. It was recommended the Project undertake a habitat suitability study focusing on areas only suitable for mussels and oysters and not for *Sabellaria*. Noting if this is feasible it may help resolve this issue.
 - This was welcomed by the Project and it was noted that this would be explored.
- ODOW explained that for removal of redundant infrastructure removal as a potential compensation measure, Natural England advised that oil and gas is unlikely to be an option for Offshore Windfarms as this should be a responsibility of oil and gas industry.
 - The Project noted this and are looking to discuss with Natural England potential options for this measure.
- ODOW explained that Natural England advised that marine debris removal is an ineffective compensation method.
 - It was explained that the Project are consideration their position in relation to this measure due to this advice and based on the difficulties other projects are experiencing.

Marine Processes

Updates

- ODOW confirmed that the numerical modelling updated to reflect section 42 responses and design refinement.
 - It was added that plume modelling from sandwave clearance and cable trenching are likely to be included into the suite of assessments.

Areas of Disagreement/Topics of Discussion

- ODOW provided an overview of the main topics raised through section 42.

Scope Consultation

- It was explained that Natural England and MMO advised that features above MHWS should be included within assessments.
 - It was confirmed that the dunes noted by Natural England to be included in the assessments have been included in the onshore assessments. It was added that the Project have committed to trenchless cable techniques at landfall.
- It was noted that the beach also undergoes annual beach replenishment by the Environmental Agency (EA).
 - JR explained that due to the dynamic system and the beach nourishment Impact 3 (littoral transport and coastal behaviour at landfall during construction); Impact 8 (littoral transport and coastal behaviour at landfall during decommissioning) should be investigated. JR added that they advise the Project to look to how the Project would affect the beach nourishment that the EA have committed to. They advised investigating what triggers the nourishment and whether if the case is the Project speeds up the process, will this mean the EA replenish rapidly?
- ODOW asked could the MMO (and Natural England) advise on the proposed assessment on impacts above MHWS given the presence of annual beach nourishment?

Assessment Methodology

- ODOW explained that Natural England advised there are a number of mitigation measures not being considered.
 - The Project explained the considering of mitigation measures is ongoing and the project evolves. The engineers are refining the project design and this includes the use of mitigation measures.
 - JR noted this seems like an appropriate approach.
- ODOW explained that Natural England want further clarification and evidence for predicted impacts and proposed mitigation measures to address them.
 - The Project have noted this and will be providing further evidence within the ES.
 - JR agreed that evidence-based assessments were preferable to value-based assessment where possible.
 - The Project confirmed that assessments have used all publicly available data and have included a suite of geophysical and benthic surveys.

Impacts on Sandbank and Sandwave System

- ODOW explained that Natural England have commented on how the data has been used to determine the recoverability of the sandbank system.
 - JR explained that due to the form and function of sandbanks it is very difficult to demonstrate that there has not been an impact and the natural dynamics will not be impacted. They recommended the Project look at sediment mobility and the rate before and after construction. If the Project can demonstrate the impact is within the natural variability of sandbank then this is as far as you can conclude.
 - JR recommended data from the ORE catapult funded study (Partrac) be investigated. Noting he is working on the study.
 - It was confirmed the Project are aware of this data for the assessments.

- ODOW explained that Natural England stated uncertainty on using the data from Race Bank OWF to support sandwave recoverability.
 - It was noted the Project could not find the Relevant Representation to Norfolk Boreas where this uncertainty has been expressed on the PINS site and will ask if this can be shared by Natural England.
 - JR noted that they did see wave bathymetry of the sandbanks reestablishing after Race Bank OWF cabling work. They did note there should have been surveys post construction and this was missing.

- ODOW explained that Natural England expressed uncertainty of how they assess and monitor the sandbanks function in previous submissions. The Project are asking if they can advised how Natural England and other stakeholders best perceive to assess the impact on sandbank function.
 - It was noted the Project are undergoing engineering refinement and work to understand how best to refine the MDS for sandwave clearance.
 - JR noted the importance of sandwaves and assessing the impacts on them is key.

Scour protection

- ODOW explained that the MMO noted scour protection is proposed in areas where scour would be predicted to occur, adding that secondary scour can occur and needs to be fully assessed.
 - The Project confirmed this will be fully assessed in ES. This will use evidence from other OWFs.
 - JR explained the interface between scour protection and structure and the scour protection and the substrate need to be assessed. Noting other Projects including some by Orsted have struggled with this so taking this into account will be key.


Nearshore and Landfall Works

- ODOW explained that EA would like to avoid cable protection in shallow nearshore. JR explained they agree with the view. this has been looked at before with cable protection and the risk of bentonite slurry blow outs. This should be considered in the worst case scenarios.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--|----------------|--------|
| 2/12/22 | ODOW to send shortlist to LB for review | ODOW | Closed |
| 2/12/22 | NE to review shortlist and provide comments by 16/12 | NE | Closed |
| 7/8/23 | MMO (KS) – to liaise with post consent team for HOW01 to check all the data is on the register. | MMO | New |

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Ecology and Coastal Processes Expert Topic Group |
| Document Number: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0027 |
| Revision: | 01 |
| Revision Status: | Issued for Information |
| Date: | 14/9/23 |
| Time: | 14.00hrs-16.00hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <p>Greg Tomlinson (GT) – ODOW Jake Laws (JL) - ODOW Phil New (PN) – ODOW (GoBe) Laura Vickery (LV) – ODOW (GoBe) Angie de Burgh (AdB) – ODOW (GoBe) Anna Luff (AL) – ODOW (GoBe) Anna Kalish (AK) – ODOW (GoBe) Glen Gillespie (GG) – ODOW (GoBe) Ben Jones (BJ) – ODOW (GoBe) Adam Chambers (AC) – Natural England Paul Lane (PL) – Natural England Yolanda Foote (YF) – Natural England Lou Burton (LB) – Natural England Emma Shore (ES) – MMO Karen Schnetler (KS) – MMO David Clare (DC) – Cefas Isobel Barnes (IB) – Cefas Charlie Hobbs (CH) – Cefas Samantha Stott (SS) – Cefas Bella Voak (BV) – Cefas Rachel Hudson (RH) – Environmental Agency Elena Jaxtheimer (EJ) – Eastern IFCA</p> |
| Apologies: | <p>Claire Hinton (CH) – ODOW (GoBe) Georgina Eastley (GE) - Cefas</p> |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

Outstanding Actions

- ODOW confirmed the Project have shared details of the other Projects within the PINS early adopters trial so this action is now closed.
- Regarding the action ‘MMO to liaise with post consent team for HOW01 to check all data is on the register’ KS explained there is a new case officer on the project and the request has been given to the team. An update will be provided by MMO in due course.

Project Update

- ODOW explained the Project are going to hold another ETG round in October/November . This round will be targeted on the topics with outstanding disagreements, ongoing discussions or with further updates needing to be provided. It is anticipated that the Marine Ecology and Coastal Processes ETG will be continued.
- ODOW confirmed Doodle polls will be sent out shortly to arrange potential dates.

Programme

- ODOW confirmed the programme remains progressing towards the EIA / consent application being completed by Christmas. ***Post meeting note from the Project 20/10/23: This Project now intends to submit its application for Development Consent in Q1 2024.***
- ODOW added there is an additional targeted consultation planned for autumn which will focus mostly on onshore elements of the Project.

Onshore

- ODOW confirmed that on the 10th August 2023 it was confirmed that Weston Marsh has been confirmed by the National Grid Electricity System Operator as the connection point for the Project.
- ODOW confirmed that following consideration of survey work and consultation feedback, the route north of the A52 will be taken onshore.
- ODOW explained the Project are still considering the two substation sites at Weston Marsh and work is ongoing.

Offshore

- ODOW confirmed the array area is being refined from the 500km² from PEIR to meet the terms of The Crown Estate's minimum power density requirements. This is being refined based technical and environmental considerations and consultation feedback.
- ODOW confirmed the number of WTGs (wind turbine generators) to be assessed for application submission is increasing to 100 from the 93 assessed at PEIR. This is due to supply chain considerations meaning the Project needs to include a 15MW turbine.
- ODOW confirmed the Project has undergone refinement regarding the possible use of GBS. Based on ground condition constraints, the Project need to keep GBS within the design envelope but are looking to refine the number of GBS required.
- ODOW confirmed the Project have committed to 40m above MSL as minimum tip height for the WTG.

Benthic Ecology

Updates

- ODOW provided updates that Section 42 comments being processed, and ES updated as appropriate the assessments are being updated due to the changes in Project parameters.
- ODOW confirmed the Project are working through the mitigation hierarchy provided by Natural England for the impacts to the Inner Dowsing Race Bank and North Ridge (IDRBNR) SAC.
- ODOW confirmed the Project are continuing with further feasibility analysis and development of the 'without prejudice' compensation strategy for the IDRBNR SAC.

Areas of Disagreement/Key Topics for Discussion

UXO Detonation

- ODOW explained that Natural England raised in Section 42 that there was no indication of UXO detonation within MDS
 - ODOW explained the Project are not looking to include UXO detonation at this stage, a separate marine license will be sought post consent and so do not intend to present a quantitative assessment.
 - LB explained this strategy is not consistent with recent projects and Natural England would like this considered as part of the application and the effects on benthic ecology. ***Post meeting note received from ODOW: ODOW have reviewed recent applications and the approaching being taken by ODOW is consistent with that taken on recent OWF project application to PINS including Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects and Hornsea Project Four. Post meeting note received from Natural England 20/10/23: The SEP and DEP Offshore SoCG agreement was: UXO clearance will be a separate Marine Licence and not part of DCO submission. However, assessments based on potential worst-case for UXO will be provided for information in the ES, Information for the HRA report, and draft MMMP for UXO. Therefore Natural England advise this information is also included in the Project application. SEP and DEP provided an assessment of potential sea bed disturbance impacts from UXO clearance within Cromer MCZ. We advise a similar document is also included within the ODOW application***
 - ODOW noted that the data for quantitative assessment are not available at this stage. The number of UXO and sizes will be estimates so at this stage it is proposed that the assessment is qualitative. A separate marine license will be applied for when the numbers are known and then the Project can commit to those numbers.
 - LB explained that there has to be rationale to the potential UXO numbers, estimates need to be made based on evidence from surrounding projects and the assessments need to show a range of possible impacts.
 - ODOW explained this has been done and in the area there is a wide range of UXO numbers across the projects so this will be taken into account for the qualitative assessments.

Baseline Data

- ODOW explained that Natural England pre PEIR asked for post construction monitoring reports and OneBenthic data, the Project confirmed this was provided within PEIR documentation.
- ODOW explained that Natural England and the MMO raised in Section 42 that ground truthing is advised to conclude hard substrate as not Annex 1/NERC Priority Habitats such as Annex 1 Stony Reef.
 - ODOW explained the Project have undertaken detailed characterization study and detailed areas of low grade stony reef.
 - ODOW confirmed the Project also have committed to pre-construction surveys in order to determine the location, extent and composition of any Annex I reef/NERC Priority Habitats.

- ODOW added that the Project have additionally committed to micro-siting infrastructure where practicable.

Sabellaria spinulosa

- ODOW explained that Natural England and MMO advised that that the benthic characterisation surveys were unable to delineate Annex I biogenic reef features from the acquired acoustic data and more information is required to inform the assessments.
 - ODOW explained that geophysical data often shows that well established high grade 'reef' is often evident as irregular ridges within the data. It was found that low grade *S. spinulosa* within mixed sediment is increasingly difficult to delineate within this data. The Project undertook a high sampling strategy for the baseline characterisation ground-truth campaign. *S. spinulosa* that were found during these surveys was low-grade and patchy in nature, supporting the geophysical results.
 - ODOW confirmed the Project have also committed to pre-construction surveys to identify the quality and extent of *S. spinulosa* reef and enable robust micro-siting of infrastructure to occur.
 - AC explained Natural England's concern is that the project is struggling to delineate reef from the geophysical data and the reef found has been from the ground truthing campaign. Therefore the project cannot confirm whether it's proposed mitigation strategy of micro siting is viable because it doesn't know the extent of the reef within the areas it intends to develop as extent and distribution cannot be determined from ground truthing only.
- ODOW explained that high grade reef would be shown through undulating results on the geophysical data and this was not seen in the results. The high grade reef would also have been seen in the drop down video. The Project have discussed with survey contractors and higher resolution geophysical surveys would likely show the same result. This has been seen across all projects.
- ODOW explained the ground truthing was for characterization purposes. For the pre-construction surveys, additional drop down video and geophysical data would be used to delineate the reef, particularly as these features are ephemeral.
- LB explained that other projects such as Norfolk Boreas and Vanguard were able to determine where Annex 1 *S. spinulosa* were present pre-consent. Due to the area being in unfavorable condition Natural England require the locations of the reef to determine extent of impact. It was noted that low, medium and high grade of *S. spinulosa* reef is all protected as Annex I habitat within the boundary of the IDRBNR SAC and under the Section 41 NERC Act 2006. **Post meeting note from Natural England received 20/10/23: Natural England require the locations of reef extent to be able to ensure that the proposed micro siting mitigation measures are viable in the specific locations.**
 - ODOW explained the Project have used geophysical surveys and drop down videos and transects to make a robust baseline for data.
 - The Project asked whether there are specifics that Natural England would want the Project to consider for pre-consent surveys?
 - LB explained that Natural England need more certainty. It was suggested the Project mark out areas of biogenic reef and demonstrate the reefs can be avoided with the cable installation.
- DC asked, due to the challenge to separate the signature of the reef, could the Project take a more conservative approach such as avoiding areas of mixed sediment?

- ODOW explained that the sediments in the area would not really allow this. The Project are revisiting the data.

Identified Impacts

- ODOW explained that Natural England advised in Section 42 PEIR it was unclear how the impacts of temporary disturbance associated with construction activity on Annex I sandbanks feature within the IDRBNR SAC and the Greater Wash SPA have been assessed.
 - ODOW confirmed that the IDRBNR SAC and Greater Wash SPA will be separated through subheadings to make the impacts clearer,
 - AC explained Natural England raised the point on the summarisation of impacts as this impact was measured on two receptors which were aggregates of each of the specific receptors. These were, all subtidal benthic ecology receptors and Annex 1 biogenic reef. Natural England would therefore like clarity on what this aggregated “all subtidal benthic receptors” comprised? **Post meeting note from Natural England received 20/10/23:** *This is a specific example but Natural England noted this aggregation of receptors occurring for other impacts too. Natural England advise that the project should check the summary of all impacts to ensure that it is clear which habitats they are stating the impact for when aggregating receptors.*
 - ODOW have noted this and will make this clearer in ES./
- ODOW explained that the MMO Identified a miscalculation of the impact of colonisation on Project infrastructure. This was welcomed by the Project and this has been amended for ES. It was confirmed that this does not impact the Project conclusions drawn within the PEIR.

HRA

- ODOW explained that Natural England and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust advised that there was insufficient evidence to conclude no AEoI.
 - ODOW confirmed the Project are working hard to provide the justification and supporting evidence that has been highlighted in consultation and Section 42 comments. The Project are also following the mitigation hierarchy for impacts to the IDRBNR SAC.

Mitigation Hierarchy

- ODOW explained that, as advised by Natural England, the Project are working with engineers to work through mitigation hierarchy and demonstrate and evidence the mitigations.
- ODOW explained that this is a generic list of mitigation, are there any targeted ones for the Project?
 - LB explained that Natural England are looking at a process for strategic benthic compensation. For Projects the focus should be ensuring the mitigation hierarchy is followed and showing evidence/justification of how measures have been considered and will be implemented where appropriate to do so. . Projects need to make sure that the impacts have been reduced as far as possible due to limited measures for benthic compensation.
 - ODOW confirmed that all the measures are being considered and most are potentially feasible, in cases where they are not clear justification will be provided.
- LB explained that an additional measure of bundling cables should be considered by the Project. **Post meeting note from Natural England received 20/10/23:** *Natural England*

provided an example of the Dogger Bank projects during the meeting. The Norfolk projects are doing similar. Natural England advise that if the Project engineers find that this is not feasible for HVAC cables then under the mitigation hierarchy consideration should be given to having fewer HVDC cables and the bundling thereof.

- RH requested more information on sandwave levelling: could data be provided to describe how far offshore etc., and how this could have an impact to wave and shore erosion.
- ODOW advised that this will be appropriately assessed in the Physical Processes assessment, which in turn will feed into the benthic assessment.

- ODOW asked, regarding the mitigation measure of using ‘rock armour to mirror the structure and structure of geogenic reef’, would it be appropriate to implement reef cubes in areas where there is not geogenic reef found, to increase biodiversity? The Project is mostly within areas of mixed or coarse sediment so would this be suitable?
 - LB explained that this measure is for areas where the reef is present.
 - The Project asked if the geogenic reef cubes would be preferred to standard cable protection measures. This would not be a natural habitat but could be of ecological benefit. **Post meeting note from Natural England received 20/10/23:** *Natural England further advised that they would need more information on the specifics of applying this measure within the site before we can provide a comment. The Project stated that they were "Road Mapping" this strategy. Natural England awaits further information before being able to provide advice on the suitability.*
 - LB explained that this would need to be discussed more widely within NE.. Especially as there will be engineering aspects to think about and also questions such as removal methods and volumes required. If it is going to be progressed the Project is advised to provide all information and assessment pre consent
 - DC added that the introduction of a hard sediment into soft sediment risks becoming a stepping stone for INNS species. It was clarified that the risk may be greater for material designed to facilitate colonization compared to standard rock protection.

Feasibility and Development of the ‘without prejudice’ Compensation Strategy

Extending the IDRBNR SAC

- ODOW confirmed they are progressing road mapping this strategy. They are also working with Defra as a key stakeholder. This measure is difficult to deliver as a project alone measure so a collaboration with other projects to deliver this strategically is being investigated.
- ODOW explained that previously Natural England has agreed that this measure has ecological merit but it requires ministerial approval of MPA/SAC extensions.
- LB added that Natural England has no further comments and this measure still has ecological merits. Defra will provide advice on their policy position.

Recreation of Biogenic Reef

- ODOW confirmed the recreation of biogenic reef as a compensation measure is being road mapped. Refinement of the potential areas is being undertaken through habitat suitability

mapping. Historical evidence has also been found within the SAC to demonstrate that *S. spinulosa* and other biogenic reef features can naturally co-exist.

- ODOW explained that Natural England raised previously that evidence was needed that the creation of the reef would not impact on conservation objectives of the SAC. **Post meeting note from Natural England received 20/10/23:** *In particular, Natural England advise further information is required on the interactions between Blue Mussel and Sabellaria spinulosa reef habitat. Natural England need to understand, where these habitats can co-exist or utilise the same underlying substrate, what are the limiting and promoting factors that lead to dominance of one habitat over another. Additionally, Natural England would need to understand the conclusions of the above in the context of the specific conditions present within the proposed sites. Natural England's current position is that whilst the installation of biogenic reef might be suitable as compensation, we need to understand that the introduction of other biogenic reef forming species at any proposed site will not impact either on the existing Annex I Biogenic reef or any habitat where Annex I Sab reef may develop within the SAC in the future. Natural England also advise that the restoration of subtidal mussel beds would not compensate for impacts to Annex I sandbanks. And that any reef restoration should not be located on the Annex I sandbank features.*
- ODOW detailed that habitat suitability modelling is being undertaken for the protected species and biogenic reef species to show where would have lesser impact on areas of potential Annex 1 reef. **Post meeting note from Natural England received 20/10/23:** *Natural England advise that compensatory measures should have no impact on existing features by definition of what they are intended to achieve.*
- ODOW confirmed the Project have been engaging with EIFCA. They agreed with the historical evidence of blue mussel beds in the SAC and support the measure. The Project propose a reef for compensation within the SAC and an additional reef outside of SAC to replace any lost area for fishing from the compensatory measure. A potential to support an intertidal study conducted by EIFCA on biogenic reef creation was also discussed.
 - **Post meeting note from Natural England received 20/10/23:** *Natural England advises that any reef creation for fisheries and within intertidal couldn't be considered as compensation. Equally the creation of the mussel beds if they were to be in The Wash and North Norfolk Coast would need to have Natural England input to ensure that any proposals were not to the detrimental to other Annex I habitats*
- ODOW explained that known areas of reef within the SAC are protected by bylaws, could the MMO advise if it would be possible to extend these laws?
 - ES explained this is thought to be the case and the MMO have had discussions and will advise the Project after consulting the team.
- **ACTION: MMO to consult with teams about the extension of the SAC bylaws the to the recreated biogenic reef**

Removal of Redundant Infrastructure

- ODOW explained that this potential compensation measure has inherent difficulties. A lot of infrastructure such as oil and gas pipelines are being reinstated for CCS, so there are limited feasible options.

- ODOW explained the Project are proposing to keep this as a potential measure but looking at reviewing the removal of other anthropogenic impacts and pressures such as aggregate activities and fishing. The Project will continue to monitor progress in through the COWSC expert group.
- LB added that the infrastructure does not have to be within this particular SAC.

Fish and Shellfish

Refined Project Parameters

- ODOW showed the proposed updated underwater noise modelling locations and asked for feedback if stakeholders agreed they were suitable.
 - CH explained that the underwater noise modelling has to include the MDS and the WCS. Cefas Fisheries were discussing comments made in PEIR advice from Cefas Fisheries advisors. It is beyond the remit of a fisheries advisor to discuss the technical specifications of UWN modelling and comments made in advice provided by UWN advisors should be clarified with them. They requested the locations to be sent to the Cefas underwater team.
 - **ACTION: MMO to pass on the modelling locations for the underwater assessments to Cefas underwater team.**
 - CH added that as long as the modelling took into account MDS, WCS and mean water depth then seems suitable from a fisheries perspective.
 - ODOW confirmed the bathymetry, MDS, WCS and sensitive receptors such as herring spawning ground have been considered.
 - ODOW added that the ANS modelling locations are central due to this area undergoing refinement so the modelling location is representative.

Outstanding Section 42 Discussion Points and Areas of Disagreement

Underwater Noise Assessment

- ODOW explained that the MMO requested that the Project models and presents additional underwater noise modelling at the Banks herring spawning grounds based on the 135 decibel (dB) (SELs) startle response (as per Hawkins *et al.* (2014)) to predict the impact ranges for behavioural responses of herring.
- ODOW confirmed the Project agree to present 135dB threshold, alongside 5dB increments and a literature review of the response of fish to underwater noise at various noise levels. The Project remain of the view that this is highly precautionary.
 - CH explained Cefas fisheries team were content with the Projects's approach to presenting updated UWN modelling of the 135dB threshold for behavioural response in clupeid fish, in that the Cefas Fisheries team are content for them to present the noise contours for the 135dB clearly, and that if the Project wished to include contours for 5dB increments and incorporate a literature review that would be acceptable – providing the 135dB contour was clear. The MMO would like this text adjusted to reflect that Cefas Fisheries were content with the proposed approach to modelling.

Mitigation Measure

- ODOW explained that the MMO advised that the Project should discuss the utilization of noise abatement measures during the piling operations due to the wider scale activities within the North Sea. The Project explained that through the revised noise modelling, if significant effects are identified then noise abatement will be investigated.
 - CH agreed this is a suitable approach as long as scenarios modelled are realistic and clarification is clear. The Cefas position is a temporal restriction for herring is likely to be needed, subject to updated modelling and mitigation measures. It was also added that the 135dB threshold to spawning herring would be good to model with noise abatement too to see the different measures.

Habitat disturbance assessment

- ODOW explained that the MMO recommended that further consideration and clarification is provided in the ES chapter regarding habitat disturbance impacts on herring and sandeel. The Project confirmed that further consideration and clarification will be provided. Sandeel was recorded in the site specific surveys and this will be taken into account within assessments.
 - CH agreed that sandeel data should be included in the data points and modelling.

Prey of Annex 1 species

- ODOW explained that the MMO and Natural England advised that the impact of prey for Annex 1 species be considered as a potential impact. The Project confirmed the assessments are being updated and additional data sources with sandeel data are being added accordingly.

Marine Processes

Outstanding Section 42 Discussion Points and Areas of Disagreement

Dune Features Located Above MHWS

- ODOW confirmed the Project agree to scope in features above MHWS to the assessments.
 - YF explained that dunes form part of the coastal defenses. Over 2000 rock structures are being proposed along that coastline so it is advised the Project consult with the Environmental Agency about the potential effect.
 - ODOW confirmed that consultation is planned to be conducted with the Environmental Agency.
 - RH raised that regarding the dunes and features about MHWS, the Environment Agency would like to see more detail of the impacts and also the impact on flooding.

Sandwave: Sandbank System

- ODOW explained that Natural England raised in Section 42 that Race Bank OWF has already hindered site integrity on the IDRBNR SAC. Therefore, the Project must apply the mitigation hierarchy to avoid an adverse effect.
- ODOW asked whether Natural England could provide the evidence of the impact of Race Bank OWF during the installation phase on the Annex 1 sandbank? The Project further asked if Natural England could advise if it was the installation or the operational and maintenance phase that has resulted in these effects.
 - LB advised that this is set out in the conservation advice package published in May 2023.

Sandwave Recovery

- ODOW explained that Natural England advised that the supporting evidence provided by the Project should not be based on evidence collected by Race Bank OWF and a project specific approach should be taken.
- ODOW explained that they looked for the advice referenced (Natural England Relevant Representations to Norfolk Boreas, 2019) but it was not available on the PINS website. It was asked if Natural England could provide a copy to the Project.
- PL asked that the questions to be presented within the slide are sent across and they will seek the relevant representation from Boreas team to get the answers.

ACTION: Natural England to respond to the questions provided by the Project:

Questions provided below:

- **Does Natural England agree with the approach and conclusions presented in the Norfolk Boreas Appendix 7.1 ABPmer Sandwave Study? *Post meeting note from Natural England received 20/10/23: This was provided on 20/10/23***
- Could they also advise on the recommended approach on establishing the likelihood of sandwave recovery as an alternative to monitoring data from Race Bank OWF? ***Post meeting note from Natural England received 20/10/23: High-resolution bathymetry surveys should be used pre- and post-installation to ensure total seabed coverage of the areas where it is proposed to dredge or partially dredge sandwaves, including a buffer area. This should be carried out to an appropriate standard. This would enable a full site comparison of seabed topography, gradient and seabed mobility and features. In addition, it would be useful to carry out sandwave migration analysis for specific sites. It is important to try to monitor changes in sandwave shape and height (including neighbouring sandwaves) and sandwave migration speed and direction, before and after sandwave levelling/lowering. Cefas may have further information or advice to add on this. Natural England also point you a study conducted on the Dudgeon OWF on sandwave recovery.***

Larsen. S.M , Roulund. A and McIntyre. D.L (2019). Regeneration of partially dredged sandwaves . Coastal Sediments 2019, pp. 3026-3039

MMT. 2018. Dudgeon OWF – ST18692. Sand wave migration analysis North Sea, September-October 2018. Report to Equinor, November 2018.

Nearshore And Landfall Works

- ODOW explained that Natural England in Section 42 asked for further detail regarding cable protection in the near shore.
- ODOW asked, whilst acknowledging that Natural England would advise cable protection to be avoided within the depth of closure, are there other methods of cable protection which would be preferred by Natural England within the nearshore?
 - YF explained the Project need to attempt cable burial. Natural England would need specific detail on locations of proposed rock protection before they can comment further.

AOB

- Agreement logs will be issued alongside the draft minutes for review.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|---|-----------------|---------|
| 7/8/23 | ODOW to send across the details of the other trial projects involved in the PINS Early Adopter Programme to DC | ODOW | Closed |
| 7/8/23 | MMO (KS) – to liaise with post consent team for HOW01 to check all the data is on the register. | MMO | Ongoing |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| 14/9/23 | MMO to consult with teams about the extension of the SAC bylaws the to the recreated biogenic reef. | MMO | New |
| 14/9/23 | MMO to pass on the modelling locations for the underwater assessments to Cefas underwater team. | MMO | New |
| 14/9/23 | Action: Natural England to respond to the questions provided by the Project: Questions provided below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does Natural England agree with the approach and conclusions presented in the Norfolk Boreas Appendix 7.1 ABPmer Sandwave Study? • Could they also advise on the recommended approach on establishing the likelihood of sandwave recovery as an alternative to monitoring data from Race Bank OWF? | Natural England | Closed |

/End



| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Ecology and Coastal Processes Expert Topic Group |
| Document Number: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0036 |
| Revision: | 01 |
| Revision Status: | Issued for Information |
| Date: | 08/11/23 |
| Time: | 14.00hrs-16.00hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Greg Tomlinson (GT) - ODOW Jake Laws (JL) – ODOW Debbie Nickless (DN) – ODOW (WSP) Sophie Brown (SB) - ODOW Phil New (PN) – ODOW (GoBe) Laura Vickery (LV) – ODOW (GoBe) Angie de Burgh (AdB) - ODOW (GoBe) Claire Hinton (CH) - ODOW (GoBe) Anna Kalish (AK) - ODOW (GoBe) Adam Chambers (AC) – Natural England Helen Mann (HM) – Natural England Louise Burton (LB) – Natural England David Clare (DC) - Cefas Georgina Eastley (GE) - Cefas Isobel Barnes (IB) – Cefas Rosalyn Seddon (RS) - Cefas Samantha Stott (SS) - Cefas Rachel Hudson (RH) – Environmental Agency Karrie Schnetler (KS) – MMO Emma Shore (ES) – MMO |
| Apologies: | Anna Luff (GoBe) Jeremy Pile (Environmental Agency) |
| Circulation: | External |

Project updates

Key actions

- KS regarding the action ‘MMO to consult with teams about the extension of the SAC bylaws to the recreated biogenic reef’ provided the update the discussions are ongoing so this action is closed.
- KS regarding the action ‘MMO to pass on the modelling locations for the underwater assessments to Cefas underwater team’ explained that the Cefas noise team have been invited to this meeting and the information from the last ETG will be shared.

Programme Updates

- ODOW explained the Project is currently holding an additional Section 42 consultation. This autumn consultation is running 20th October to the 24th November. The main focus of this consultation is the changes to onshore project design.

- The autumn consultation includes the offshore updates that the minimum tip height has been increased to 40m above MSL. The maximum number of WTG has increased to 100 due to the need to retain flexibility in relation to turbine classes expected to be available to the Project. The number of GBS foundations have been reduced to a maximum of 50% of structures but need to be retained in part due to ground condition constraints. It has been confirmed that the ORCP will be a minimum of 12km from the shore.
- ODOW confirmed that the Project are progressing towards submitting the DCO application in February 2024. To meet this deadline the Project will be finalising the majority of assessments in December 2023.

Onshore Updates

- ODOW confirmed that the Project substation is at Surfleet Marsh. This will be connected to a National Grid substation through underground cables.

Offshore Updates

- ODOW confirmed that the Project have undergone an array area reduction from PEIR. This is required as part of The Crown Estate minimum power density requirements and has taken into account the reduction of potential impacts from environmental receptors, particularly offshore ornithology, and other receptors such as shipping and navigation.

Marine Processes

Topic updates

- ODOW confirmed that ES authoring has started, taking into account Section 42 comments and previous ETG discussions.
- ODOW confirmed that dune features are being included in assessments for coastal form change. LiDAR characterization of the beach and dunes is being progressed to assess potential for morphological change.
- ODOW confirmed that numerical modelling has been updated to include two wave directions in the blockage modelling. ANS, ORCPs and the updated array have also been included within the modelling.
- ODOW confirmed time-series outputs from numerical modelling are being used to assess changes in sediment mobility across the study area.
- ODOW asked the following questions:
 - In the previous ETG Natural England advised that the Race Bank data is not used for the Project to investigate sandwave recoverability. Natural England suggested that Larson (2019) was used but this literature utilises the Race Bank data. Therefore the Project would like clarification if this paper or the data is suitable to be used?
 - Natural England advised that the Project also use a document from Dudgeon OWF (MMT. 2018. Dudgeon OWF – ST18692. Sand wave migration analysis North Sea, September-October 2018. Report to Equinor, November 2018.) but the Project are unable to find this online. Therefore, they request if this could be shared.
- The Project explained they had some questions regarding beach replenishment for the Environment Agency.
 - RH requested these be added to the minutes and they would respond in post meeting notes.

- *Post meeting note added by ODOW 16/11/23: The questions for the Environment Agency are:*
 - *Is the current shoreline management plan which includes beach nourishment on its own, still planned to continue until 2024?*
 - *For any future years of beach nourishment, are volumes of introduced sediment expected to be of the same order of magnitude as 2022/ 2023 and is this volume expected to be placed at the same locations?*
 - *Could you please clarify these volumes and locations?*
 - *Will the programming of nourishment during the year remain the same for any future years, and could this please be clarified?*
 - *Does the intent remain to undertake nourishment alongside the installation of rock structures from 2025 until 2050?*
 - *With respect to the proposed rock structures, are any/ all of the following details available to ODOW:*
 - *Form of structures, including width, height, slope*
 - *Location of structures, both longshore and cross-shore*
 - *Programme of planned installation, duration of works per year and timing*
- **Action: Natural England to advise if the Larson (2019) data is suitable for the Project to use for sandwave recoverability investigations.**
 - **Action: Natural England to check if recommended Dudgeon OWF document can be sent to ODOW as unable to find online – request to be sent**
 - **Action: Environment Agency to respond to the questions within the meeting minutes from ODOW.**

Benthic Ecology

***Sabellaria spinulosa* Evidence Review**

- ODOW confirmed they are undertaking a *Sabellaria spinulosa* evidence review.
- ODOW explained that Envision has been contracted to undertake review of geophysical and available site specific evidence collected. Envision are being used to analyse the data and compare against other relevant datasets to help definitively identify areas of reef with increased confidence.
- ODOW explained the results of the analysis will inform a targeted Annex 1 *Sabellaria spinulosa* sampling programme which is planned for next year.

Mitigation Hierarchy

- ODOW explained that Natural England provided a mitigation hierarchy for the Inner Dowsing Race Bank and North Ridge (IDRBNR) SAC. The Project is working through the measures with Project engineers and will evidence the measures the Project can and cannot undertake.
- ODOW confirmed the Project are looking to commit to all measures that are possible. The Project has committed to HVAC so the use of HVDC is the only measure not able to be used at this stage.
- ODOW explained that the Project is working to limit cable protection in so far as is possible within the SAC and sandbanks as far as possible with engineers.
- ODOW added that the list is a starting point for mitigation options and the Project is developing options in addition to these measures.

- HM asked whether the data collected for the mitigation hierarchy measures will be provided prior to ES submission?
 - ODOW explained that the Project are planning additional meetings focusing on derogation and compensation which cover the mitigation hierarchy. It was added that work is ongoing and some measures will progress past the point of application.
- LB asked when the cut off to the ES assessments is and at what point stakeholder input will not be able to be updated within the application and make meaningful input?
 - ODOW explained that the deadlines will vary for each topic. Any additional workshops and requests will be held with time to allow the advice to be included in the ES.
- HM asked whether the site specific data for *Sabellaria* will be added into the ES?
 - ODOW confirmed this data will not be collected in time to feed into the ES.

Development of the 'Without Prejudice' Compensation Strategy

SAC Extension

- ODOW explained that Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge (IDRBNR) SAC and Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton (HHW) SAC are being progressed as potential sites for the SAC extension (as well as others with the same features within the southern North Sea). The Project provided mapping of the SACs and surrounding areas, showing sandbank features that have the potential to be suitable for the extension.
- ODOW confirmed they are consulting with Defra for this measure. It was explained that Natural England have previously stated that this measure has ecological merit but it requires ministerial approval.
- ODOW mentioned that previously Natural England have obtained evidence on some of the SAC extensions and asked whether this is publicly available?
 - LB explained that some of the data is publicly available data. They recommended that data from the Docking Shoal ES, and IFCA and JNCC data relating to HHW would be helpful. It was added that Vattenfall may also have useful information.
 - **Action: Natural England to review to see if they have reports to support potential extensions.**

Removal of Redundant Infrastructure

- ODOW explained that from previous discussions oil and gas infrastructure is not able to be explored as an option for this measure. Telecoms cables are being investigated as an option, however it has been explained by Natural England that the cables have to be exposed. The Project explained that the nature of the cables in the dynamic features changes between exposed and covered so this is being investigated.
- ODOW explained they are reassessing anthropogenic pressure removal. The Project are investigating fishing pressures but based on the evidence currently this is not looking like a measure to progress.
- ODOW explained they are also investigating the removal of aggregate pressure within the SAC. When reading some of the active licences within the SAC the aggregate activities have conditions to not cause AEoI on the SAC. Therefore, the Project are looking to understand whether this could be a compensation measure if the actions are not causing AEoI.
 - Natural England noted that they would provide advice separately on this matter.

Recreation of biogenic reef

- ODOW confirmed work is ongoing for this measure and they are progressing road mapping this strategy, including refinement of the proposed areas for the re-creation of biogenic reef that would limit the impact to availability for natural *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef creation, based on habitat suitability.
- ODOW confirmed there is historic evidence of biogenic reefs other than *Sabellaria* within the SAC such as native oyster and blue mussel.
- ODOW explained that the Project are favouring native oyster as this species has more evidence of success subtidally in reef creation.
- ODOW asked could SNCB's detail why native oyster is not regarded as Annex 1 habitat in the UK given its historic presence and ecological importance and non-exclusion of this reef type within the Habitats Directive? Would re-creation of native oyster reef habitat be accepted as a compensatory measure?
 - LB explained that native oysters were not found in the area so therefore were not listed. However, the annex 1 feature is biogenic reef so oyster reef is included as they are native and biogenic reef. They recommended that the Project look at COWSC as native oysters are being listed as an option. It was added that *Sabellaria* are a priority habitat under NERC.
 - ODOW explained that they have undertaken habitat suitability model looking at mussel and oyster and *Sabellaria* to find suitable areas for the creation of reef. The Project confirmed they plan to add fishing pressures and historical evidence to further find suitable areas. All habitat mapping and methodology will be included in compensation documents.

Seagrass Creation/ Restoration

- ODOW explained that the creation/restoration of intertidal and shallow subtidal seagrass is being investigated as a non 'like for like' compensation measures for the sandbanks.
 - LB explained that intertidal seagrass is not classed as compensation by Natural England.

Fish and Shellfish

Underwater Noise Modelling

- ODOW confirmed the 135dB threshold (Hawkins *et al.*, 2014) will be presented in the ES alongside the literature review previously discussed.
- New modelling is being undertaken for the revised array area; if significant effects are identified appropriate mitigation measures will be considered, including noise abatement.
- ODOW showed the noise modelling using the interim array area. This showed no overlap with the main spawning ground around Flamborough Head site.
- ODOW added that the modelling has also been undertaken for the ANS and ORCP. Due to the bathymetry the impact ranges are higher but the modelling shows no overlap with Flamborough Head. ODOW noted that the images shared used the full 10-year data set so does not identify the inter-annual variation in the precise location of the hotspot.
 - RS explained the maps will need to be looked at further post meeting to comment and it would be beneficial to see alongside the tables at ES stage.
 - **Action: Cefas to respond to the noise modelling presented post meeting**

- GE noted the comment regarding the inter-annual variability which will not show in 10 year dataset used for the modelling presented and proposes using yearly maps to help show this in more resolution.
 - ODOW confirmed this will be undertaken for ES.

AOB

- HM explained that Natural England have concerns around the agreement logs. A discussion around the agreement logs was held between ODOW and Natural England. It was raised that the agreement logs are not able to be used to gain areas of agreement and was more of a consultation log. GT acknowledged the issues raised by HM and noted Natural England had already provided these comments by email. GT advised the Project will consider Natural England's feedback and discuss further in the Project's next monthly meeting with Natural England.
 - HM shared the link [Draft SoCG Natural England \(Offshore\) \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#) and advised the Project to refer to Annex I multi-party Agreement Logs. The template Natural England suggested follows the format as presented in this document capturing all agreements from Expert Topic Groups.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--|--------------------|--------|
| 14/9/23 | MMO to consult with teams about the extension of the SAC bylaws to the recreated biogenic reef ' | MMO | Closed |
| 14/9/23 | MMO to pass on the modelling locations for the underwater assessments to Cefas underwater team' | MMO | Closed |
| 8/11/23 | Natural England to advise if the Larson (2019) data is suitable for the Project to use for sandwave recoverability investigations. | Natural England | New |
| 8/11/23 | Natural England to check if recommended Dudgeon OWF document can be sent to ODOW as unable to find online – request to be sent | Natural England | New |
| 8/11/23 | Environment Agency to respond to the questions within the meeting minutes from ODOW. | Environment Agency | New |
| 8/11/23 | Natural England to review to see if they have reports to support potential extensions. | Natural England | New |
| 8/11/23 | Cefas to respond to the noise modelling presented post meeting | Cefas | New |

/End

A coastal landscape featuring a path of white sand and dunes covered in tall, dry grasses. The path leads towards a beach and the ocean under a cloudy sky.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex B Part 4 of 11

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024


Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex B – Part 4 of 11

Marine Mammals Topic Group Minutes

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|    | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Marine Mammals Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000123-01 |
| Date: | 19 January 2022 |
| Time: | 1000hrs to 1200hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Marine Management Organisation (MMO): Adam Tillotson (AT); Emma Shore (ES) Cefas: Rosalyn Putland (RP), Rebecca Falkner (RFa) Natural England: Deanna Atkins (DA), Maja Nimak-Wood (MNW) Ophelie Humphrey (OH) ODOW: Chris Jenner (CJ); Rachel Furlong (RF); Jean-Côme Sol (JCS) GoBe: Julia Bolton (JB); Phil New (PN); Darcy Brady (DB) SMRU: Rachel Sinclair (RS), Anna Stevens (AS) |
| Apologies: | The Wildlife Trusts: Tania Davey |
| Circulation: | External |

Introductions:

- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) sought permission to record in order to assist with minute taking. With no objections received, introductions were made for all attendees.
- ODOW provided an overview of the project team and highlighted key contacts.

Project Introduction:

- ODOW gave an overview of project location and Round 4 process to determine project array area.
- Note of the known constraints within the wider area.
- ODOW noted that The Crown Estate plan level HRA is ongoing.
- Project boundary size reduction will occur from 500km² to 300km²:
 - Must occur prior to construction, timescales to be confirmed.
- Changes in minimum tip height mentioned.
- Project design parameters presented in Slide 7 are preliminary and subject to change prior to issue of the ODOW Scoping Report.
- Cable route to be confirmed as subject to Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) process.

Evidence Plan Process (EPP) Introduction:

- Brief overview of the EPP was given.

Relevant Ongoing and Planned Surveys:

- Overview of the current and planned surveys was provided, including note of Digital Aerial Surveys started in March 2021 – almost full year data collected to date.
- Other ongoing data collection – MMO observations with geophysical campaign.

Baseline:

- ODOW provided an overview of the marine mammals baseline, embedded mitigation, impacts to be scoped in and scoped out, the proposed approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the next steps.
- ODOW gave an overview of the planned data sources to be used for characterisation.
- Noted the current uncertainty regarding bottlenose dolphin with the known expansion of the BND population into English waters from the established Scottish coastal population.
- CJ encouraged feedback from stakeholders on the proposed data sources:
 - OH noted that the list appeared appropriate and acknowledged the uncertainty around BND.
 - Recommended that ODOW keep an eye on new data which may be available including SCANS IV which is planned for 2022 - RS noted that the hope is some density estimates will be available to inform ES but not guaranteed.
 - JB noted that TWT are invited to the ETG but were unable to attend this time.
 - OH asked about the site specific data availability at PEIR and if 2 years would be available for PEIR - PN noted that this is unlikely but will have interim 1-year report with density estimates.

Embedded mitigation:

- ODOW listed the embedded mitigation measures proposed.
- RP asked whether the VMP would include O&M vessels - PN noted that this is still to be decided, but noted that may be need for separate VMPs for construction and O&M.
- *Post meeting note: Cefas queried whether an operational MMMP would be scoped into the assessment and embedded mitigation*
 - *ODOW note that operational noise impacts will be scoped into the impact assessment – the need or otherwise for an operational MMMP to manage the impacts of underwater noise will be determined based on the outcomes of the assessment.*

Impacts screened in for MM:

- ODOW summarised the proposed impacts to be scoped in and the assessment methodology:
 - Discussion on low order UXO clearance thresholds - OH noted that the 5km EDR is acceptable for established LO techniques where sufficient data is available (i.e. deflagration), other LO techniques would need further data to demonstrate equivalent sound levels to justify this EDR.

Impacts screened out:

- ODOW noted proposed impacts to be scoped out, noting connection to embedded mitigation measures.

Assessment methodology for underwater noise impacts:

- Noted proposed approach will follow recent NE guidance:
 - Will not define magnitude/sensitivity/significance for TTS due to inherent uncertainties for this impact
- Limitations of use of proxy dose response curves will be noted for species for which they are not specific:
 - RP queried how the seal DR curve will be used with the large error bars - RS confirmed that both the mean and 95% CI's will be presented.
 - OH queried which NE guidance was referred to - RF confirmed it was the NE Phase 1 - 3 draft guidance for EIAs.

- *Post meeting note: Natural England are currently producing the draft Phase III document providing best practice advice for the use of data and evidence at the application stage. This document is still in the production phase and is expected to be released in its first iteration in the coming weeks, at which point the document will be circulated and can be used to inform current Round 4 projects. The draft document provided to the stakeholder focus group in December 2021 is a working copy and should not be shared or used to inform applications at the present time. Natural England will circulate the document for use when published in its first iteration.*

Protected Areas:

- Noted the relevant SACs/SCIs which will be scoped in for the assessment - noting the wide range nature of marine mammals.

Next Steps:

- RS summarised the next steps, noting the need for noise modelling to occur to inform the assessments.
- RF welcomed thoughts/reflections on the presentation:
 - OH confirmed for NE that all looks as expected and any questions had been asked through the presentation.
 - Rfa and RP confirmed that all OK and as expected - RP queried about number of modelling locations and would expect minimum of two covering shallow and deep water. PN confirmed that this had not been defined yet but will be determined based on discussions with mammals and fish consultants and presented to relevant ETGs in due course.
- Arranged the doodle poll to schedule the next ETG.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility |
|-------------|--------|----------------|
| None | | |

/End

| | |
|---|--|
|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Marine Mammals Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000330-01 |
| Date: | 26 th September 2022 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | MMO: Adam Tillotson (AT), Emma Shore (ES), Gregg Smith (GS), Peter Ryalls (PR) Cefas: Rosalyn Putland (RP), Rebecca Faulkner (RF) Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust: Kieran McCloskey (KM) ODOW: Rachel Furlong (RF) GoBe: Julia Bolton (JB), Phil New (PN) SMRU Consulting: Rachael Sinclair (RS), Anna Stevens (AS) |
| Apologies: | ODOW: Chris Jenner (CJ), Roisin Alldis (RA), Beth Travis (BT) Natural England Wildlife Trust: Tania Davey (TD) |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

Apologies

- Due to resourcing constraints, Natural England have confirmed they are unable to attend this round of Expert Topic Groups (ETGs). Meeting minutes and presentations will be issued to Natural England for comment and written input.

Project Update

- A single Development Consent Order (DCO) application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (The Inspectorate).
- The Project's grid connection location subject to the ongoing Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR).
- The OTNR is being led by BEIS alongside National Grid and relevant stakeholders.
- OTNR considering an efficient approach to network connections.
- The final Holistic Network Design report, issued in July 2022, recommended two possible connection points be considered for the Project; Lincolnshire Coastal Node (Lincs Node) and Weston Marsh.
- Final decision still pending with an update on the Project's connection offer expected in Autumn 2022.

Programme

- Scoping Report was submitted to The Inspectorate on 29th July with the Project receiving the Scoping Opinion from The Inspectorate on 9th September 2022.
- Ongoing reviews and analysis of responses are being undertaken by the Project and technical teams.
- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will be submitted Q1 2023.

- The Project will work with stakeholders through the Evidence Plan Process (EPP), ETGs and bilateral discussions to assist in informing PEIR.
- The Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report was submitted to relevant stakeholders on 3rd August.
- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) underwent an initial consultation in August, with a revised version issued in September. Comments are due from stakeholder by 13th October.
- Public information Days (PIDs) will be held in November 2022 and Spring 2023.
- Targeting DCO application submission in Q4 2023.

Surveys

- A summary of ongoing, completed and planned surveys was provided.
- Of specific interest to this ETG, monthly Digital Aerial Surveys for Offshore ornithology and MMs commenced in February 2021 and are continuing.
- Two survey per month will be undertaken via 2022 summer period Mar – Sept.
- First year report received and species as expected for this part of Southern North Sea.

Marine Mammals – Scoping Opinion

Scoping Opinion confirm agreement to Scope Out:

- Accidental pollution
 - How the mitigation will be secured will be captured in the Project Environmental Monitoring Plan (PEMP) and its constituent Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (MPCP) or the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP).
 - *Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: It was agreed by the Marine Mammal ETG that accidental pollution, barrier effects during operation and electro-magnetic fields would be scoped out. It was confirmed by the MMO that details of mitigation for accidental pollution will be included in the project's Environmental Monitoring Plan and its constituent Marine Pollution Contingency Plan or the Code of Construction Practice. Based on the justification presented, Cefas confirms agreement for scoping out barrier effects and electro-magnetic fields, and the inclusion of accidental pollution with subsequent report documentation.*
- Barrier effects during operation; and
- Electro-Magnetic Fields.

Scoping Opinion confirms areas of disagreement:

- Construction activities resulting in disturbance to seal haul-out sites.
- The Project confirmed that the PEIR and subsequent Environmental Statement (ES) will include disturbance to seal haul outs.
- The Vessel Management Plan will consider measures to reduce disturbance to marine mammals including seals at haul-out sites.
- *Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: There was concern following the scoping report regarding the disturbance to seal haul-out sites during construction. It was confirmed by the Applicant that the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and subsequent Environmental Statement (ES) will now include disturbance to sea haul-outs, following feedback from Natural England. MMO confirmed they are content with this approach.*

Further Scoping Opinion comments:

- The Project confirmed that the Baseline Characterisation Report will be updated with more recent references.
- *Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: it was confirmed that the Baseline Characterisation Report will be updated with more recent references. MMO agree that the assessment should use the most current, peer-reviewed guidance available.*
- With regards to Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS), the Project will include TTS-onset ranges and number of animals within the impact ranges in both PEIR and ES.
- The PEIR and ES will not present assessment of TTS magnitude, sensitivity or significance of impact. This is in line with discussions with MMO, the Wildlife Trust and Cefas based on other offshore windfarms (OWFs) and is in line with the Natural England 2022 guidance¹.
- *Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: The MMO do not agree that assessment of TTS magnitude, sensitivity or significance is not included. The reasons for including TTS significance were set out in a Cefas Position Paper dated 13th February 2018. However, it was agreed that as a minimum, TTS impact ranges and the number of animals predicted to be at risk should be presented.*
- With regards to the Sea of Hebrides MPA, the Project will assess effects on minke whale where significant effects will occur.
- In their scoping response Natural England recommended using Natural England's suggested tiers for cumulative impact assessment (CIA)
- **ACTION: The Project formally requests Natural England issue a copy of Natural England's suggested tiers for cumulative impact assessment.**
- *Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: MMO agree that Natural England's suggested tiers for cumulative impact assessment be included in the PEIR and ES.*
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 19th October 2022: This is included within Natural England's 'Offshore Wind Marine Environmental Assessments: Best Practice Advice for Evidence and Data Standards'. Requests to access this document should be sent to NEOffshoreWindStrategicSolutions@naturalengland.org.uk. The Tiers can be found within Phase III Expectations for Data Analysis and Presentation at examination for OWF Applications Section 11 Cumulative and in-combination assessments p108 Table 11.1.*
- *Post meeting note from ODOW: The Project can confirm that the PEIR will use the recommended tiers.*

UXO disturbance assessment

- In the Scoping Report, the Project presented 26km Effective Deterrent Radius (EDR) for high-order for all species and 5km EDR for low-order on all species. In the scoping response, both MMO and Natural England agreed 26km EDR for high-order but recommended for 5km EDR for low-order is only used for porpoise and not other species. The Project queried why 5km was only to be used for porpoise?
- **ACTION: Natural England to confirm why 5km EDR for low-order was only to be used for porpoise.**
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 19th October 2022: Natural England agreed on the 5km for harbour porpoise within the SNS SAC as EDR for low-order during the*

¹ Natural England. 2022 (draft). Offshore Wind Marine Environmental Assessments: Best Practice Advice for Evidence and Data Standards Phase III: Expectations for data analysis and presentation at examination for offshore wind applications.

consultation process for a particular OWF. Thus, this advice was given for a specific case, and it was not the intention that this range is used widely and for other species. Hence, if the Applicant plans to apply the same range, we request further justification, evidence or modelling to be provided. We also refer to the Best Practice Advice (Phase III) document where we state that the applicability of the EDR ranges to other species and locations is unknown, and therefore its use is not recommended for other species.

- **Post meeting ACTION: The Project will assess the applicability of the 5km EDR and provide further justification. Natural England and MMO to confirm agreement with approach prior to the PEIR being submitted.**
- Cefas confirmed there was uncertainty over where 5km has come from.
- The Project understand JNCC 2020 guidance² only considers high-order detonations, not low-order. Sofia was the first Marine Licence application to propose low-order and based on discussions with MMO and JNCC, it was agreed 5km was appropriate for use in HRA assessments for Southern North Sea. Environmental impact assessments were not discussed. Since Sofia, a number of other OWFs have used 5km low-order detonations in Marine Licence applications.
- Cefas requested that it would be useful for the Project to include justification for numbers used, particularly if reference to other OWFs, in both PEIR and ES.
- Given there is no guidance for low-order detonations, the Project will provide justification in PEIR to explain logic used for 5km EDR.
- *Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: The Project proposes to use a 5km EDR (Effective Deterrent Radius) for UXO clearance using low order disposal. However, JNCC, Natural England and DAERA guidance (2020) on the assessment of impacts from underwater noise on harbour porpoise, does not provide any guidance on an EDR for low order disposal UXO clearance. An EDR of 5km may be reasonable but the applicant should provide more justification/ detail here. For example, underwater noise monitoring for low order clearance would provide some empirical data to confirming this EDR is appropriate. Cefas queried the use of a 5km EDR during the Marine Licence application for the Sofia OWF and did not receive a justification as to why this value was used. Therefore, full justification should be provided to support the use of this 5km EDR for low order.*
- There was disagreement in the Scoping Opinion on using of TTS-onset as proxy for disturbance from UXO clearance. MMO and Natural England outlined in their scoping responses why TTS is considered not appropriate. However, the Project are proposing to present 26km EDR for high-order all species alongside TTS-onset as a proxy and would prefer to include TTS-onset for additional context. Southall et al (2007) recommends the use of TTS-onset for single pulses (excluding multiple pulses for example piling). The Project acknowledges TTS is not technically a behavioural response but can be used as a proxy in the absence of a behavioural response threshold.
- *Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: MMO do not consider it appropriate to use the TTS-onset thresholds as a proxy for disturbance as initially stated in our previous response to the scoping report. The UXO blast signal (for high-order detonation) is a particularly loud signal, so applying caution is necessary in this case. The MMO acknowledge that the applicant will also be including the 26km EDR for high order disposal for all species. In the PEIR and ES a clear distinction needs to be made to ensure there is no misconceptions/misunderstandings in the use of PTS, TTS, and behavioural assessments.*

² JNCC. 2020. Guidance for assessing the significance of noise disturbance against Conservation Objectives of harbour porpoise SACs (England, Wales & Northern Ireland). Report No. 654, JNCC, Peterborough.

- Cefas agree to the Project using both 26km EDR and TTS-onset. Cefas also requested the Project refer to more recent references rather than Southall et al (2007).
- **ACTION: The Project requests Natural England confirmation on the proposal to present 26km EDR for high-order all species alongside TTS-onset as a proxy and include TTS-onset for additional context in the PEIR and ES.**
- *Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: As set out in MMO response to the scoping report, the MMO do not agree that there should be no requirement to assess the potential significance of temporary threshold shift (TTS), and the MMO have previously issued position statements on this matter. Nevertheless, in the interest of moving forward (during consultations for previous developments), it was agreed that as a minimum, assessments should include TTS impact ranges and the number of animals predicted to be at risk. The MMO are pleased to see that the project will include both TTS onset ranges and the number of animals within the impact range in both the PEIR and ES. On the question of significance of TTS for individuals and populations, this is no different than the same question for permanent threshold shift (PTS), except in the scale of severity – an animal has its primary sensory modality impaired for a temporary period, rather than permanently.*
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 19th October 2022: Natural England agree on the proposed approach to include TTS-onset for additional context. We also concur with Cefas that more recent references are to be used.*
- Cefas queried which species the Project will be tagging.
- The Project confirmed the tagging will be for ornithology only, with the particular species being targeted as kittiwake. However due to avian flu, there is a delay in the ability to obtain licences.

Marine Mammals – PEIR

- The Project presented the expected PEIR boundary, which has been refined from Scoping Report boundary.
- The PEIR will be informed by suite of data, including geophysical surveys and benthic surveys.
- An extensive landfall constraints analysis has been undertaken and the proposed landfall to be presented in PEIR is at Wolla Bank, which is optimal for both the Lincs Node and Weston Marsh grid connection locations.
- The offshore export cable corridor (ECC) avoids all Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and designated sites, exception Sothern North Sea SAC.
- The revised PEIR boundary means there is a greater distance from seal haul-out sites than there initially was from Scoping Report boundary.
- The offshore ECC does however pass through the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge (IDRBNR) SAC which is designated for benthic ecology. The Project are currently exploring engineering and environmental ways to minimise disturbance.
- The offshore ECC does allow for optionality where there is an existing aggregates site.
- The Project are having ongoing discussions with aggregates owner about feasibility of routing through site. The offshore ECC may be refined further for PEIR depending on outcome of the ongoing discussion.
- Cefas requested that detailed information about the temporal impacts as opposed to just spatial impacts are included in the PEIR and ES.

- The Project confirmed that a construction programme will be presented as part of PEIR. The Project boundary overlaps with the northern area of SAC only, not the southern area. Up to 100 turbines will be installed within array area and therefore piling will cover all seasons.
- *Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: The MMO are pleased that the project has confirmed that detailed information about the temporal aspects of the construction programme will be presented in the PEIR. Furthermore, regarding the inclusion of bottlenose dolphin within the PEIR and ES, the MMO agree with this inclusion as well as the justification of its density (numbers/km²).*
- The Baseline Characterisation Report is being finalised.
- Data has been processed from the first year of site specific surveys and will be presented in PEIR for the array area plus 4km buffer. To date the following species have been seen: harbour porpoise; white beaked dolphin; harbour seals; and grey seals.
- Communications have been sent to the Sea Watch Foundation and the Wildlife Trust in order to obtain local data, however no response has been received from either. The Project are hoping to feed the data into the Baseline Characterisation Report.
- **ACTION: KM to follow up on the Project's request for local data to be issued to feed into the Baseline Characterisation Report.**
- In the previous ETG, it was agreed that bottlenose dolphin would be included within the PEIR and ES, noting there is a lack of data in northern English waters.
- The site specific surveys have not identified any bottlenose dolphins within the year 1 surveys (noting year 2 data has not been analysed).
- It is understood that the presence of bottlenose dolphin has been seen in low densities from SCANS III and JCP III.
- The Project know sightings have occurred of individuals from the protected Moray Firth population in northern English waters, however how many individuals, distribution or density is unknown. Citizen Fins (SMRU and University of Aberdeen) works are ongoing to ID bottlenose dolphins in NE English waters. The population has expanded its range in recent years from core Moray Firth to down east coast of Scotland (Tay and Firth of Forth) and have now seen in English waters.
- The Project acknowledges connectivity between the Moray Firth population and the Project site.
- The issue the Project faces is that there is no information on the density estimate or distribution in English waters. Citizen Fins/SMRU are looking to potentially extend surveys south into northern English waters in the future.
- The Project acknowledges that bottlenose dolphin are to be included and have been considering how to undertake a quantitative assessment.
- The Project proposes the following position – using two different density estimates for PEIR: one a larger uniform density estimate from SCANS III block (which was the same results as JCP III) and secondly, assuming dolphins are distributed similarly in northern English waters as coastal Scottish waters, where the species are primarily seen within 2km of coast, using a density estimate of 0.110 dolphins per 1km².
- The map shown (slide 17) illustrates the blue area as the CES Management Unit, and the purple line is 2km from the coast where bottlenose dolphins are primarily sighted.

- Detail will be provided in the baseline explaining why the Project has selected the two options and the Project acknowledges this is not ideal, however with no site specific information, it appears to be the best option to take forward.
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust have no direct comments on the Project proposal and agree including both options sounds like the most sensible approach given lack of data.
- **ACTION: Natural England to confirm agreement with the Project’s proposal for using two different density estimates for PEIR to assess bottlenose dolphin.**
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 19th October 2022: Natural England agree on the proposed approach and the reasoning behind it.*

Marine Mammals – Next Steps

- The Project are currently finalising the Baseline Characterisation Report.
- Underwater noise modeling (UWM) results will be issue to the marine mammal technical team in the coming weeks in order to feed into PEIR.
- Next ETG meeting is anticipated to be prior to submission of PEIR with the Project proposing end November/early December. Doodle polls will be issued in the coming weeks to determine availability.
- Cefas would like to discuss the UNM at the next ETG and, as requested within their scoping response, would like to see detail behind noise modelling (criteria).
- The Project confirmed Subacoustech are undertaking the UWN so information will be as presented on a number of projects.

AOB

- Cefas confirmed they are unavailable week commencing 21st November/
- Stakeholder comments on the ETG minutes will be due within 2weeks of being issued by the Project.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|--------------|--|-----------------|--------|
| 26 Sept 2022 | The Project formally requests Natural England issue a copy of Natural England’s suggested tiers for cumulative impact assessment (CIA) <i>CLOSED - This is included within Natural England’s ‘Offshore Wind Marine Environmental Assessments: Best Practice Advice for Evidence and Data Standards’. Requests to access this document should be sent to NEOffshoreWindStrategicSolutions@naturalengland.org.uk. The Tiers can be found within Phase III Expectations for Data Analysis and Presentation at examination for OWF Applications Section 11 Cumulative and in-combination assessments p108 Table 11.1.</i> | Natural England | Y |
| 26 Sept 2022 | Natural England to confirm why 5km EDR for low-order was only to be used for porpoise. <i>CLOSED - Natural England agreed on the 5km for harbour porpoise within the SNS SAC as EDR for low-order during the consultation process for a particular OWF. Thus, this advice was given for a specific case, and it was not the intention that this range is used widely and for other</i> | Natural England | Y |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|--------------|--|----------------------------------|--------|
| | <i>species. Hence, if the Applicant plans to apply the same range, we request further justification, evidence or modelling to be provided. We also refer to the Best Practice Advice (Phase III) document where we state that the applicability of the EDR ranges to other species and locations is unknown, and therefore its use is not recommended for other species.</i> | | |
| 24 Oct 2022 | Post meeting ACTION: <i>The Project will assess the applicability of the 5km EDR and provide further justification. Natural England and MMO to confirm agreement with approach prior to the PEIR being submitted.</i> | Natural England and MMO | |
| 26 Sept 2022 | The Project requests Natural England confirmation on the proposal to present 26km EDR for high-order all species alongside TTS-onset as a proxy and include TTS-onset for additional context in the PEIR and ES. <i>CLOSED: Natural England agree on the proposed approach to include TTS-onset for additional context. We also concur with Cefas that more recent references are to be used.</i> | Natural England | Y |
| 26 Sept 2022 | KM to follow up on the Project's request for local data to be issued to feed into the Baseline Characterisation Report. | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (KM) | |
| 26 Sept 2022 | Natural England to confirm agreement with the Project's proposal for using two different density estimates for PEIR to assess bottlenose dolphin. <i>CLOSED: Natural England agree on the proposed approach and the reasoning behind it.</i> | Natural England | Y |

/End

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Marine Mammals ETG |
| ODOW Ref: | 23-ODO-CON-K-GM-000367-01 |
| Date: | 23 rd January 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs-1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Emma Shore (ES) – MMO Adam Tillotson (AT) – MMO Rosalyn Putland (RP) – Cefas Rebecca Faulkner (RFa) – CEFAS Martin Kerby (MK) – Natural England Paul Lane (PL) – Natural England Emma Milner (EM) – Natural England Adam Chambers (AC) - Natural England Rachael Sinclair (RS) – ODOW Rachel Furlong (RFu) – ODOW Phil New (PN) – ODOW Laura Vickery (LV) – ODOW Josie Brown (JB) – ODOW |
| Apologies: | |
| Circulation: | External |

Project update

- ODOW provided an update on the Project progress.
 - PEIR submission date is now planned for Q2 2023.
 - a grid connection offer is expected in Q1 2023.
 - a draft RIAA will be submitted alongside the PEIR.
- ODOW provided an explanation of the revised dates and stated that the delay from previous dates is due to change in the onshore route, arising following Phase 1 public consultation via the Public Information Days held in November 2022.
 - MK queried whether this change to the route was still within the Scoping boundary. It was confirmed that the new route was fully within the Scoping boundary.

Surveys

- ODOW provided an overview of the ongoing and completed surveys. It was confirmed that the aerial surveys will conclude in Feb 2023, completing the 24 month survey period and that PEIR will be informed from the one year annual report, along with any additional data that can be added.

Scope of assessment

- ODOW provided a summary of the scope of assessment
 - MK asked if the Project have any plans for any vessel transit routes and ports that will be used for construction and O&M.

It was explained that there is no confirmation as of yet. The expectation is the port will be within the Humber region and the likely port and the common routes will be used for assessments. For O&M bases it is likely to be Grimsby.

Study area

- ODOW provided an overview of the study area.

Key data sources

- ODOW provided overview of the key data sources and added that since the last ETG data from the Wildlife Trust has been added to the baseline data.

Values of quantitative assessment

- ODOW explained the process in which the quantitative assessments have been estimated.
 - the assessments have been based on one year of data and this will be updated for ES with the second year of data.
 -

Designated sites and key receptors

- ODOW provided an overview of the designated site and key receptors within proximity to the Project.
 - MK asked how close is the offshore cable route to inner silver pit south HMPA? It was confirmed the cable route at PEIR transits to the south and avoids the new designations.
 - MK asked does the Project anticipate any likely interactions from vessel routes? It was explained at this stage there has been no specific look into the routes.
 - ODOW asked if there are any thoughts/suggestions based on the specifics of the designation and restrictions?
MK suggested looking at the high level documentation from JNCC on the new silver pit south HMPA and provided link - [High-level Conservation Advice for Public Authorities on Highly Protected Marine Areas | JNCC Resource Hub](https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/d12633b1-b123-4738-a594-b53c183aee68) (https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/d12633b1-b123-4738-a594-b53c183aee68)
 - PL queried what the proximity to the cable route and Silver Pit South HMPA is expected to be?
It was confirmed the cable route is fully south of Triton Knoll and will be km away.

Methodology

- ODOW provided an overview of the methodology for underwater noise.
 - The Project explained that the 5 km EDR has been accepted for the projects including the Sofia project, Dogger Bank A, Dogger Bank B and Dogger Bank C, after scaling back the 26km EDR for high-order for low order detonation based on the difference between source levels from the different clearance methods.
 - This is considered precautionary as the 5km EDR is larger than TTS impact ranges predicted for LO, which are also used to provide an indication of behavioural impacts.
Post meeting note from MMO received 20th February 2023: Following from previous advice full justification should be provided to support the use of this 5km EDR for low order.

Post meeting note from ODOW: It is confirmed that the justification will be presented within the PEIR chapter.

- Sofia monitoring report has been submitted to MMO and is not public at this stage but hope to be available to include at ES.
- MK asked will 26km be used as worst case scenario for UXO?
It was confirmed this will be the case for high order and TTS will also be used for the assessments.
- RP queried will 26km for UXO be used for the assessment for all species?
It was confirmed this is the case in the absence of any guidance for other species.

Data Gaps and uncertainties

- ODOW provided an overview of the gaps and uncertainties within the assessments

Method – cumulative impact assessment for underwater noise

- ODOW provided the approach taken for the cumulative impact assessment and the long and shortlisting screening process.
 - PL queried whether the cumulative effects of non oil and gas preconstruction surveys are being captured within the assessments?
 - It was confirmed this hasn't currently been included in the cumulative impact assessments. PL suggested that this should be investigated and also recommended CCS be considered within the assessments.
It was added that the offshore construction schedules for the projects included in the assessments have been investigated using the publicly available information but there is lack of details as to when construction works will take place.
It was also confirmed that UXO has been assumed to be in the year prior to the piling. For the worst case scenario, the UXO has been assumed at any time, which will have a greater impact than the geophysical surveys. There is uncertainty where the geophysical surveys will be so this is captured in conservatism.
 - ODOW queried that there was an invitation to tender last year about the transmission of geophysical and geo technical equipment and asked if anyone knew if this is this likely to be published before ES submission?

Action – Natural England (MK) – investigate the progress of the report.

Action closed: Information provided about the progress of report 9th February 2023.

- RP asked whether the ICES noise registry had been reviewed to inform the assumptions.
It was confirmed this had not been consulted but the Project would look into whether this could be used to aid the assessments.
- RP added that UK data about military UXO and sonar noise has recently been added and could be considered.
- ODOW confirmed that the JNCC data is hoping to be used to refine and take a less precautionary approach at ES as the current PEIR approach is highly precautionary.

Results - UXO

- ODOW provided a summary of the results from the UXO assessments.

- The Project have committed to a UXO Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP) to make the effects Permanent Threshold Shift (PTS) of UXO negligible within the Project.
Post meeting note from Natural England received 9th February 2023: Natural England are pleased to see the project has committed to a UXO MMMP
- The Project will look at consenting UXO clearance post-DCO if the Project is granted consent.
- RP asked where did the one-off effect from an explosion quote on the slide come from?
It was confirmed it was from the JNCC guidance on assessing underwater noise impacts on harbour porpoise SACs (JNCC *et al.* 2020).

Results – piling

- ODOW confirmed the Project has committed to a piling MMMP to mitigate the effects of PTS from piling to negligible.
Post meeting note from Natural England received 9th February 2023: Natural England are pleased to see the project has committed to a piling MMMP
 - The assessment will be refined post consent to determine appropriate mitigation to allow for changes/advancements in mitigation methods and changes in the modelling.
- ODOW confirmed the Project are aware of the proposals to develop nature based designs standards but that details have not been shared with industry stakeholders as yet
 - MK replied at this stage there is not much more available.
 - RFa added DEFRA are looking at measures to manage underwater noise for pile drivers.
 - RP confirmed EU OSPAR are hopefully releasing chapter for piling and UXO in 2024.

Results – cumulative impact assessment – underwater noise

- ODOW provided an overview of the cumulative impact assessment
 - RP queried whether this has been done on an annual basis or has summer and winter variance (temporal) been taken into account?
It was explained that the level of information is not fine scale enough so assumptions have been made that the levels will be the same across the whole annual period.
PL added that poor weather for all projects may cause more activities within the summer months.
It was noted that for example, Scottish projects have not shown a specific preference for piling in summer as a greater limitation has been seen to be vessel availability
 - ODOW explained the approach is hugely precautionary, assuming all tier 1 to 3 projects are constructing at the same time.

Embedded mitigation

- ODOW provided an overview of the embedded mitigation the Project is utilising.
 - MK recommended looking at Hornsea Four documents for cumulative effects and the measures the project has committed to.
 - MK asked if there are any distributions patterns that will be used to reduce the array area?

It was explained for cetacean species there is limited knowledge so assuming a uniform density. The exceptions are that bottlenose dolphins that are assumed to be within 3km from coastline; and seal proximities to haul out sites and SACs have influenced the densities of these species.

- MK asked have areas of more ecological value been identified?

It was confirmed the data shows no indication of preferred areas and species have been found throughout the area all year round. The two year data report will be used to inform further on this once it is complete.

Next steps

- ODOW explained the Project’s next steps.
 - EM explained that Natural England are in the process of updating the conservation package for the Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC) due to the changes in harbour seal populations in recent years.
- ODOW asked for any further questions/ comments
 - MK asked on slide 19 for the seismic surveys, how precautionary is the maximum of four oil and gas surveys per day?
It was explained that the approach taken is for four large surveys taking place at exactly the same time. The Project will have another look at the noise register to re-evaluate this.
MK explained the Project should look at making the case that this is reasonable

ACTION – ODOW (RS) to use the noise register to re-evaluate the worst case scenario for seismic surveys within the cumulative assessment
- ODOW asked regarding the marine noise registry containing sonar information, is there any advice on impact ranges?
 - RP noted that JNCC should release the relevant guidance if it is made available.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------|
| 24 th October | The Project will assess the applicability of the 5km EDR and provide further justification. Natural England and MMO to confirm agreement with approach prior to the PEIR being submitted. | Natural England and MMO | Y |
| 26 th September | KM to follow upon the Project’s request for local data to be issued to feed into the Baseline Characterisation Report | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (KM) | Y |
| 23 rd January 2023 | Natural England (MK) – investigate the progress of the report on the transmission of geo physical and geo technical equipment and share with ODOW when available. | Natural England (MK) | Y |
| 23 rd January 2023 | ODOW (RS) to use the noise register to re-evaluate the worst-case scenario for seismic surveys within the cumulative assessment. | ODOW (RS) | |

/End

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Mammal Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000368-01 |
| Date: | 3 April 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Rachel Furlong (RFu) – ODOW Phil New (PN) – GoBe Josie Brown (JB) – GoBe Laura Vickery (LV) – GoBe Alexander Brown (AB) – SMRU Consulting Rebecca Faulkner (RFa) – Cefas Emma Shore (ES) – MMO Adam Chambers (AC) – Natural England Martin Kerby (MK) – Natural England Paul Lane (PL) – Natural England Emma Milner (EM) – Natural England |
| Apologies: | Rachael Sinclair (RS) – SMRU Consulting |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

- ODOW provided an overview of the outstanding actions.

Programme

- ODOW confirmed there were no updates and changes to programme since the last ETGs,
 - A grid connection offer is expected from National Grid in April and at PEIR both onshore routes (to Weston Marsh and Lincolnshire Node) have been scoped into PEIR.
 - A new alternative route has been created Weston Marsh and Phase 1a consultation held on this route.
 - It was confirmed that DCO submission is targeted December 2023.

Evidence base

- ODOW provided the evidence base, showing the data that has been and is planned on being collected and at what point these will input into assessments.
 - It was confirmed the DAS 18-month report is completed and at PEIR the marine mammal assessments will be based on the 12 months and then the full 24 months will feed into ES.
 - It was confirmed noise modelling was completed January 2023. This will be updated for ES due to changes in the array area through the reduction from 500km² to 300km². The Project will look to discuss the input parameters for these assessments in the July ETGs and in the September ETGs the new modeling can be presented.
 - ODOW will be a 42-day period using calendar days so the section 42 consultation period will end early July.

- ODOW confirm that where possible technical reports could be released before PEIR submission to allow for more time to review.

Summary of conclusions

- ODOW provided a summary of the impacts discussed in last ETG.
 - JB confirmed that the assessments have concluded no significant impacts for noise assessments for mammals.
 - AB explained that for the cumulative impacts, the Project and all tier 1-3 projects were used for the assessments in a highly precautionary approach. This showed that 2027 would be the year with the greatest effect.

Agreement log

- ODOW provided an overview of the areas that have not been agreed within the log.
- Agreement log ID 4 – PN confirmed at PEIR that a vessel management plan will be presented which will show the proximity of the vessels to the seal haul-out sites.
 - EM asked whether the Project are scoping in disturbance at seal haulout sites into the assessments.
 - PN confirmed that disturbance at seal haulouts has been scoped in. Since scoping the cable corridor has been refined and this has been assessed at PEIR.
- Agreement log ID 7 – PN confirmed that Project have scoped in minke whale in the assessments.
- Agreement log ID 9 and 13 – PN confirmed that for UXO clearance a low order assessment method will be used and this will not be licensed pre application submission.
 - PN explained to address the uncertainty for using the 5km effective deterrent range (EDR), the PEIR will provide justification for this and when more data will become available, it will be used to add further justification.
 - RF added that regarding the 5km EDR, the Project will assess the applicability and will seek consultation with Natural England and MMO to confirm if this is right approach.
- MK explained that with UXO clearance the position seems to be shifting throughout projects and recommends that the Project use high order within the worst case scenario.
 - PN confirmed that low order will be the primary method used but high order is expected to be needed for a discrete number of UXOs, so this will be assessed.
 - MK queried whether a scenario will be presented with the reasonable worst case scenario, assuming high order is needed.
 - PN explained that at PEIR the number of UXO is not presented. The Project will take the projects in the region to estimate numbers, however large variance is shown across the projects.
 - PL asked when the Project plan the magnetometry to take place to address the uncertainty.
 - PN confirmed this will be post-consent and pre-construction. At this point the marine license will be applied for.
- MK asked whether the MMO could provide any update of the progress of the evidence requirements for UXO license.
 - **ACTION: MMO to provide update of the progress of the evidence requirements for UXO license:** *Post Meeting Note from the MMO – received 24/04/23 -With regards to the submissions for UXO clearance, the process has changed slightly. Now, a marine licence application is made for UXO investigation activities first. Then, once potential UXOs are confirmed, a marine licence application is made*

which requests the clearance of the confirmed UXOs. This helps the management of the Southern North Sea SAC as it gives detailed knowledge of the exact amount of clearance activities that will take place.

At the short-term noise workshop in January, the MMO identified a series of actions to investigate implementing going forward.

2.3. Investigate the production of guidance on low-order technology evidence requirements.


- 3.3. Review the evidence required to demonstrate that developers are attempting to coordinate activities. MK explained that within recent cases there has been difficulty if there isn't detailed UXO work when the license comes in. This risks taking up a proportion of the Southern North Sea SAC threshold. It may be recommended in the future that assessments are undertaken pre-license application to allow for more evidence-based assessments.
- PN noted this and explained there are concerns from developers about timescales if this has to be provided pre-application.
- PL queried how much opportunity there has been to learn about the success of low order
 - PN explained that one project has used it but the report is not public yet.
 - AB added that there is a BEIS-funded (now DESNZ) offshore UXO study that have been looking at low-order UXO detonation (by deflagration) on historic UXO in Danish waters, with success on even highly degraded UXO, with results expected imminently. However, this has been done in collaboration with a specific very experienced UXO clearance contractor (EODEX) and so success rate may not be applicable across all such contractors. A further phase of the BEIS-funded project is allowing multiple contractors to prove their technology in a controlled (quarry) setting to increase confidence.
 - PL explained a balance there is a requirement to find a way to apply the studies findings to different contractors, technologies and real world situations.
- AB explained there was also uncertainty and difficulty with estimating how many UXO may be required for high- and low-order detonations.
 - PN explained that recently within other projects the MMO have limited high-order detonations to 10% and this has not been a problem for the projects.
 - MK noted that it will be worthwhile for the Project to look at any new data that emerges before ES submission.
 - PN explained that the Project are hoping that the information is available and can allow for discussions post PEIR and in the next ETGs in July and September.
- MK asked whether the data for marine mammals has shown any spatial patterns and whether this could inform the array reduction post PEIR.
 - PN explained that within the 12 months of data that has currently been assessed there are no obvious patterns. The data are very variable with no patterns seen. There has been one white-beaked dolphin seen, no minkes and no patterns shown in porpoise distribution.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed | Update |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|---------|---|
| 23 rd January 2023 | Natural England (MK) – investigate the progress of the report on the transmission of geo physical and geo technical equipment and share with ODOW when available. | Natural England (MK) | Ongoing | This has been looked into and has not been published yet. When it is available it will be shared. |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed | Update |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------|---------|---|
| 23 rd January 2023 | ODOW (RS) to use the noise register to re-evaluate the worst-case scenario for seismic surveys within the cumulative assessment. | ODOW (RS) | Ongoing | The cumulative assessment is ongoing and will be addressed at PEIR. |
| 3 rd April 2023 | MMO to provide update of the progress of the evidence requirements for UXO license | MMO (ES) | Closed | Response received 26/04/23 – added within meeting notes |

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Marine Mammal ETG |
| Document Number: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0015 ODOW / Expert Topic Group (ETG) - Marine Mammals Minutes of Meeting - Meeting Date 01-08-2023 |
| Revision: | 01 |
| Revision Status: | Issued for Information |
| Date: | 1 st August 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1500hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Greg Tomlinson (GT) – ODOW Jacob Lawes (JL) - ODOW Phil New (PN) – GoBe Laura Vickery (LV) – GoBe Josie Brown (JB) – GoBe Ben Jones (BJ) – GoBe Rachael Sinclair (RS) - SMRUC Karen Schnetler (KS) – MMO Rebecca Faulkner (RF) - Cefas |
| Apologies: | Emma Shore (ES) – MMO Paul Lane (PL) – Natural England Helen Mann (HM) – Natural England Adam Chambers (AC) – Natural England Tammy Smalley (TS) – Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust |
| Circulation: | External |

Introductions and Apologies

- The Outer Dowsing team introduced Greg Tomlinson as OffshoreConsents Manager and Jake Laws as HRA manager.
- It was confirmed Natural England had stated in advance that they will not be attending the meeting.

Project Update

- ODOW provided an update of the outstanding actions.
 - The one outstanding action is ‘Natural England (MK) – investigate the progress of the report on the transmission of geo physical and geo technical equipment and share with ODOW when available.’.
 - The Project received an update on this action that this is not published yet and will be shared once it is.
- It was confirmed the next ETG is 11th September and the invite has been sent to attendees.
- ODOW explained that the Project is looking to hold another round of ETGs before ES submission, this will be in October or November.

Programme

- ODOW provided an overview of the programme.
- PEIR was submitted on 7th June and section 42 closed 21st July.
 - The Project are currently processing the responses.
- Public consultation was held through in person and online events and these were well attended.
- It was confirmed the Project are still progressing towards a DCO application submission date at the end of 2023.

Onshore

- ODOW provided an overview of the onshore elements of the Project
 - It was confirmed they the Project is still awaiting confirmation of the Project's connection to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) from National Grid.

Offshore

- ODOW provided an overview of the offshore aspects of the Project.
 - It was noted that the Project included areas within the PEIR red line boundary for potential benthic and ornithology compensation measures.
- It was confirmed that technical work is ongoing to reduce the array area to approximately 300km² to conform with The Crown Estate Agreement for Lease requirements and this will be refined for the ES and DCO submission.
- It was added that the Project are also planning to consent any required compensatory measures, such as the artificial nesting structures for ornithology compensation, through the DCO. It was confirmed that underwater noise modelling will be undertaken and presented at ES for these locations. .

PINS Early Adopter Programme

- ODOW confirmed the Project has been selected to take part in the PINS Early Adopters Programme.
- The components the Project have been selected for are:
 - Component 1: Use of Programme Planning
 - Component 2: Use of Evidence Plans
 - Component 3: Use of issues tracking.
 - Component 4: Use of Pre-application Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements (PADS)
 - Component 5: Production of Policy Compliance Document
 - Component 7: Production of Design Approach Document
 - Component 10: Use of multipartite meetings
- It was confirmed that most components can be built from existing work that the Project are undertaking and adapting it to fit the PINS Early Adopters Programme.
 - Component 1 the Project confirmed the programme will be published shortly on the website.
 - Component 2 the Project are seeking clarification from PINS as to how the current ongoing evidence plan can be adapted to meet the requirement.
 - Component 3 the Project aims to use the ODOW agreement logs. These have been drafted into a new template as a result of feedback and will be updated and issued to stakeholders following this round of ETGs for comments.

- Component 4 is the component that will see involvement from stakeholders in the creation of the Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements (PADS). These have been trialed in several examinations so far and it is now being trialed that these are produced before application. These are stakeholder owned documents and will be submitted at the point of DCO application. The Project hopes to work with Stakeholders and use agreement logs to produce these.
- An example was provided of the PADS template.
- ODOW confirmed that Components 5 and 7 are unlikely to require stakeholder involvement for the production of the Policy Compliance Document and Design Approach Document. This also applies for Component 10

Marine Mammal Ecology

Areas of disagreement/ key topics for discussion

- ODOW provided an overview of areas that are considered to be the key areas of concern and topics for further discussion as a result of the section 42 feedback and ongoing consultation.
- It was noted that not all MMO comments regarding underwater noise modelling are not covered in this ETG, the Project are happy to take any comments away to the team for a discussion.
 - It was added that once the array area has been refined the Project will seek to engage stakeholders on the noise modelling, including the locations.

UXO Assessment methodology

- ODOW explained that Natural England does not agree the TTS onset thresholds should be used as a proxy for disturbance given that TTS occurs at higher sound exposures.
 - ODOW agrees that there is a lack of empirical data for both low and high order thresholds. However, there are currently no other recommended thresholds for low order, and this is why the Project presented a range of methods.
 - The Project explained they are seeking further consultation with stakeholders and welcome stakeholder feedback.
- ODOW explained that Natural England did not agree with the assigned magnitude and sensitivity used within the assessments.
 - ODOW explained they would like further consultation on this with stakeholders. Adding to that the scores align with other projects such as Hornsea Four that were recently accepted.
- ODOW explained that Natural England asked for justification as to why maximum 800 kg UXO size has been estimated in the Underwater Noise Assessment
 - ODOW explained that this came as a result of a review that was conducted and it found that Hornsea Two had consented up to this 800kg. ODOW therefore consider this a realistic worst-case scenario.
- ODOW explained that Natural England asked the Project to provide a draft UXO MMMP as part of the ES.
 - ODOW noted that the Project are currently not proposing to consent UXO clearance at DCO. A UXO MMMP will be drafted when the marine licence for UXO clearance using best practice at the time.

- KS explained that the MMO are having issues for MMMPs for already consented projects. It is being found that projects are stating they are too far down the development track to incorporate the changes requested by MMO and Cefas at the point of consultation on the MMMP. They added that having a draft MMMP at this stage would help reduce these problems later on.
- ODOW explained that the MMO welcomed the 26km Effective Deterrence Range (EDR), acknowledging this is likely to be conservative as this is recommended for harbour porpoise and not other marine mammal species.
- ODOW explained that the MMO believes similarly to Natural England that it is not appropriate to use TTS-onset thresholds as a proxy for disturbance from UXOs. They acknowledge there is a lack of empirical data available.
 - ODOW have noted this and provide a range of approaches in the absence of data to represent a range of thresholds.
- ODOW explained that the MMO recommended further evidence to justify using the 5km EDR for low order UXO clearance.
 - It was explained that there is currently no advised EDR for low order UXO clearance. The Project were hoping to have more data to inform the EDR disturbance but at the moment the Project believe it is best to keep assessing a range of thresholds
 - It was noted that Sofia data was published on MCMS recently but none of the low order UXO clearance were successful so this can only be used for noise of the detonation.
 - It was asked can the MMO make any recommendations on best disturbance thresholds to be used for low order UXO clearance?
 - RF noted this is a problem among projects and will take this to the team and discuss.

Action: MMO (KS) to ask the team at MMO and discuss the position on whether a UXO MMMP could be preferred for ES submission where the activity is not being licensed.

Action: Cefas (RF) to ask within the team to see if MMO/Cefas make any recommendations on best disturbance thresholds to be used for low order UXO clearance.

Piling Assessment

- ODOW explained that Natural England did not agree with the assigned 'Negligible' magnitude for PTS from piling.
 - It was explained that this magnitude score was assigned after the consideration of the UXO MMMP which will reduce the risk of PTS to negligible levels. Noting that the Project has committed to the implementation of a UXO MMMP (to minimize the risk of auditory injury to negligible levels) .
 - Natural Englands s42 comments stated that the mitigated magnitude should be low, however the Project believe this should be negligible as this is what they have committed to via the UXO MMMP.
- ODOW explained that Natural England does not agree with various magnitude and sensitivity scores within the assessment.
 - It was explained that scores (based on the magnitude and sensitivity definitions) align with projects, such as Hornsea Four, that had these values accepted previously so the Project seek clarification.
 - KS asked whether the scores have been agreed through the evidence plan or by PINS.

- RS explained that the magnitude and sensitivity scores were not raised in examination as an area that Natural England did not agree on.
- ODOW explained that Natural England raised concern about the proximity of the Offshore Reactive Compensation Platforms to the Wash SAC and that this has the potential for higher disturbance on harbour seals.
 - It was noted that the Project are taking this away and reviewing the conclusions for ES, taking into consideration the duration of piling as one of the potential factors needing to be assessed.

Cumulative

- ODOW explained that Natural England suggested that non oil and gas preconstruction surveys should be investigated and also recommended Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) be considered within the assessments.
 - The Project confirmed that CCS will be screened into the assessment.
 - The Project would like to discuss with Natural England to confirm what should be included in the non oil and gas pre construction surveys.
 - It was added that the Project confirms that the cumulative long list will be updated from PEIR and projects such as Scot Wind will be assessed at ES.
- ODOW confirmed Site Integrity Plan will be produced for ES submission.
- ODOW explained that underwater noise from pile driving will be the focus for the worst case scenarios for offshore wind farm projects and as the impacts from other activities (surveys, dredging, vessels, etc.) will be lower.
 - RF noted that Cefas largely defer to Natural England for comments on cumulative assessment.
- ODOW further confirmed that based on Natural England comments any changes to the magnitude and sensitivity will be carried throughout the assessments, including the cumulative assessment.
- ODOW added that any changes in prey will be considered based on the updated fish and shellfish assessments.
- It was confirmed that collision risk will also be considered, noting the commitment for a Vessel Management Plan (VMP) by the Project. Through the VMP the Project have committed to reducing the impact to negligible where possible.
- It was asked whether stakeholders can provide the Project with publicly available information regarding planned surveys.
 - Noise data in the noise registry is limited and does not show the number of surveys that occur concurrently.

Action: MMO (KS) MMO speak to MMO SRU and/or ORPED and provide any data on historical levels of geophysical/seismic surveys in the North Sea if possible.

Data Sources

- It was explained that Natural England agrees with the Project that using the latest versions of the IAMMWG report is used and the reference for seal MUs are included.
 - It was confirmed the Project will update the baseline for ES using the IAMMWG (2023) report and the seal MU size will be estimated using most recent SCOS report for August haul-out counts.

- It is noted the Scottish ministers have signed of SCOS report and this should be available on the SMRU website this week (w/c 31st July).
- ODOW explained that Natural England would like an updated baseline presented at ES, clearly presenting the mother-juvenile pairs.
 - It was also confirmed that the ES assessment will include a discussion on harbour porpoise calves and apportioning of unidentified sightings.


Appropriate impacts

- ODOW explained that Natural England agreed that the impacts assessed are appropriate but wanted more detail on vessel and collision risk on marine mammals.
 - It was confirmed this will be provided at ES. The collision risk assessment will be qualitative. It was also noted that the Project has committed to a VMP to reduce the impact to negligible levels as far as possible.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|--|
| 23 January 2023 | Investigate the progress of the report on the transmission of geo physical and geo technical equipment and share with ODOW when available. | Natural England (MK) | Ongoing - update received that this is not been published yet. When it is available it will be shared. |
| 1 August 2023 | Ask the team at MMO and discuss the position on whether a UXO MMMP could be preferred for ES submission where the activity is not being licensed. | MMO (KS) | New |
| 1 August 2023 | Ask within the team to see if MMO/Cefas make any recommendations on best disturbance thresholds to be used for low order UXO clearance. | Cefas (RF) | New |
| 1 August 2023 | MMO speak to MMO SRU and/or ORPED and provide any data on historical levels of geophysical/seismic surveys in the North Sea if possible. | MMO (KS) | New |

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Mammals Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0026 |
| Date: | 11/9/23 |
| Time: | 14.00hrs-15.30hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Greg Tomlinson (GT) – ODOW Julia Bolton (JBo) – ODOW (GoBe) Laura Vickery (LV) – ODOW (GoBe) Josie Brown (JBr) – ODOW (GoBe) Ben Jones (BJ) – ODOW (GoBe) Rachael Sinclair (RS) – ODOW (SMRUC) Rebecca Faulkner (RF) – Cefas Karen Schnetler (KS) - MMO Emma Shore (ES) - MMO Adam Chambers (AC) – Natural England Paul Lane (PL) – Natural England Martin Kerby (MK) – Natural England Emma Milner (EM) – Natural England Clare Owen (CO) – Natural England |
| Apologies: | Phil New (PN) – ODOW (GoBe) Helen Mann (HM) – Natural England |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

- Update on outstanding actions:
 - *Ask within the team to see if MMO/Cefas make any recommendations on best disturbance thresholds to be used for low order UXO clearance:*
 - RF confirmed Cefas are meeting with Natural England to discuss this action w/c 11th September 2023. It is still unclear where the evidence for the 5km EDR comes from.
 - *MMO speak to MMO SRU and/or ORPED and provide any data on historical levels of geophysical/seismic surveys in the North Sea if possible:*
 - KS confirmed the MMO have liaised with the MMO SRU team and could not provide any further information. This action is now closed.

Evidence Plan Schedule

- November ETGs are being considered and the Project will discuss with the Steering Group as to whether another round is required, and which topics would require more discussion.

Programme

- ODOW confirmed the programme is still on track with the DCO submission targeted for Q4 2023.

Onshore

- National Grid ESO confirmed on the 10th August 2023 that Weston Marsh will be the grid connection point for the Project.
- The Project have confirmed that the route north of the A52 will be progressed onshore based on consultation and survey work.

Offshore

- The array area is being refined from the 500km² at PEIR to meet The Crown Estate's minimum power density requirements. . This is being refined based on a number of considerations including technical and environmental factors.
 - MK asked whether ecological data has influenced the array area refinement.
 - ODOW confirmed ecological information has been considered, for example data from surveys undertaken by the Project.
- ODOW confirmed the number of WTGs (wind turbine generators) to be assessed for application submission is increasing to 100 from the 93 assessed at PEIR. This is due to the need to include a 15MW turbine *=as a result of recent feedback from the WTG supply chain. This type of turbines is now expected to be available on the market when the project enters the operational phase.*
- ODOW explained The Project has undergone refinement of the possible use of GBS. Based on ground conditions constraints, the Project need to keep GBS' within the design envelope but are refining the number of GBS' required
 - MK asked why GBS have come into scope and whether there have been patterns shown across the ground conditions.
 - ODOW confirmed GBS foundations were always in scope, and the Project is seeking to reduce the number of GBS foundations.
 - ODOW added the Project are aware that GBS is not recommended by Natural England. The use of GBS was included in PEIR and based on the current available data and knowledge of the ground conditions GBS cannot be removed as a possibility. The Project are committing to less than 100% GBS foundations and will confirm the figure to be taken forward in due course.
 - **ACTION: ODOW to provide Natural England with justification for the GBS numbers once confirmed.**
- ODOW confirmed that the minimum tip height has been increased to 40m.

Marine Mammals

Refined Project Parameters from PEIR to ES

- ODOW confirmed that updated noise modelling and assessments based on the refined ES array boundary are being undertaken.
 - ODOW explained three noise modelling locations within the array area have been selected and one location within each of the two ORCP search areas and one within each of the two potential ANS compensation areas.
- ODOW asked whether attendees could confirm if the updated locations were suitable for the noise modeling?
 - KS asked how the locations have been updated since the PEIR assessments?
 - The noise modelling locations have added the two potential ANS compensation areas since PEIR and the ORCP locations have been updated. The locations for the array area have moved to align with the potential refined boundary.

- RF added that as long as water depths have been taken into account, the modelling locations are suitable.
- ODOW explained the water depth has been taken into account, alongside the location to areas of high densities of harbour seals.
- **ACTION: MMO (KS) to confirm whether the updated noise modelling locations are suitable for the assessments.**
- EM asked whether the construction of the ANS will involve piling.
 - ODOW explained the WCS is piling, therefore the underwater noise modeling for ES will be updated.
- PL asked if the updated noise modeling locations are robust if the array area changes again.
 - ODOW explained the modelling is using a WCS in the assessments and this will allow the locations to be robust.

Updates

- The baseline is being updated using the SCOS report so the latest haul out counts for grey and harbour seals (up until 2021) will be included within the ES.
- The baseline will also be updated with the SCANS IV density estimates if these are available at the time of writing.
- Cumulative effects assessment will be updated.
- MMMP, VMP and SIP will be submitted alongside DCO application.

- MK asked whether density mapping will be provided within the ES.
 - ODOW explained that the baseline characterisation undertaken for Marine Mammals includes density maps of mammals within the area.
 - ODOW added that the wider scale densities are important to also consider alongside that within the array area. PEIR presented year one data and year two is currently being processed to be added to baseline for ES. Carter *et al.*, 2022 surface densities data for harbour and grey seals, have influenced the noise modelling as they have higher densities towards the coast. Density surfaces for cetaceans are also presented in the baseline, including the SCANS III density surfaces from lacey et al 2022.

Outstanding Areas of Disagreement and Section 42 Discussion Points

- ODOW confirmed comments regarding missing references have been noted and these will be added for ES.

UXO Assessment

Disturbance

- ODOW explained that previously Natural England commented that they do not agree that the TTS onset thresholds should be used as a proxy for disturbance.
 - ODOW explained there is a lack of set thresholds. The Project has taken a range of assessment methods forwards to address the lack of clarity with the thresholds.
 - ODOW confirmed the Project is using the JNCC guidelines for harbour porpoise (26km EDR for high-order UXO clearance) for all species.
 - ODOW confirmed TTS onset is being used as a proxy for disturbance (per Southall *et al.*, 2007) for both high and low order UXO clearance.

- 5km EDR for low order UXO clearance for all species.
- EM welcomes the Projects proposed methodology to provide a range of thresholds within the assessment They added that it is important to keep the evidence base under review and that low order UXO ongoing discussions are being held with the relevant bodies. **Post meeting note received 11/10/23 from Natural England:** *Natural England would like to also reiterate our comments in the PEIR that we will be considering the worst case scenario.*

800kg UXO Size

- ODOW were asked through Section 42 to provide clarification on the 800kg UXO size.
 - ODOW explained a review of marine licenses within the area (Sofia and Hornsea 4) found 800kg was the largest UXO within the area. Triton Knoll found considerably smaller UXO so 800kg is considered a realistic WCS.
 - MK asked if the evidence for this could be provided.
- **ACTION: ODOW to provide the evidence for the maximum 800kg UXO size**

UXO Assessment Methodology

- ODOW explained Natural England in the Section 42 comments raised they do not agree with the assigned 'Negligible' magnitude for PTS from piling and UXO clearance.
 - ODOW explained that where there are mitigation measures in place, magnitude will be presented before the measures and then the residual impact presented after the embedded mitigation measures.
 - ODOW added that the PTS for UXO was negligible based on the Project committing to an UXO MMMP, without this mitigation measure the Project agree it should be medium magnitude.
 - EM explains they think this approach sounds sensible, but without sight of MMMP could not agree for definite with the negligible magnitude. Natural England would like to see the magnitude presented before the mitigation measures and after the mitigation measures, as suggested by ODOW.
 - CO also agreed it was a good idea and would help add clarity, noting they would also like to see MMMP.

Sensitivity Scores

- ODOW explained that Natural England in the Section 42 comments raised they do not agree with various magnitude and sensitivity scores within the assessment.
 - ODOW explained that the Project sensitivity scores aligned with other OWF assessments (e.g. Hornsea 4) that have been recently consented and there were no issues raised. The sensitivity is based on the impact to the individual animal and not based on the scale of the impact. The Project are unsure why Natural England questions the current sensitivity scores. The Project acknowledges that as more is learnt then the sensitivity may change but there is uncertainty why Natural England felt the sensitivity scores were not justified given the lack of additional data since the scores were determined for Hornsea 4.
 - EM explained Natural England assesses each project on a case by case basis, therefore it is not appropriate for a like for like comparison. It is noted that HOW04 matrix has different levels that are considered significant and not significant. **Post meeting note received 11/10/23 from Natural England:** *With regards to the*

sensitivity scores used in Hornsea 4, Natural England notes that HOW4 used a 4 level scale: very high, high, medium and low. ODOW also uses a 4-level scale but calls the levels differently: high, medium, low and negligible. Such that Medium in HOW4 is the same as Low in ODOW.

Even if the definitions are the same, the terminology is different and this does downplay the impact. Having looked into the comparison further, our main concern is how sensitivity and magnitude are taken forward to the impact matrix. For example, in the Hornsea 4 impact matrix, a combination of a moderate magnitude and a medium sensitivity was assigned to be significant; however, in ODOW impact matrix, the equivalent combination (low sensitivity and medium magnitude) was assigned as not significant.

- **ACTION: ODOW to review the EIA significance matrix and the significant levels.**
- RS asked does the wording of High/med/low/neg vs very high/high/med/low matter if the definitions of sensitivity are the same?
- EM explained that the differing wording within the matrix level was causing discomfort but the main issue was the comparison between the Hornsea 4 impact matrix. **Post meeting note received 11/10/23 from Natural England:** *Regardless of the comparison to HOW4, Natural England still has concerns regarding the downplaying of impacts within this assessment (as outlined in the PEIR). We understand that ODOW will be reviewing the significance matrix and significance levels (as indicated by the previous action) and the sensitivity scores.*
- ODOW added that the animal sensitivity to an impact source is not project specific, the species will have a sensitivity score to each impact source, however it is the magnitude which will be highly Project specific.

Cumulative Effect Assessment

- Natural England in the Section 42 comments raised that non-oil and gas preconstruction surveys should be considered within cumulative assessments.
 - ODOW confirmed the CEA is being updated.
 - ODOW asked for clarification of which projects should be included for preconstruction surveys.
 - MK explained that there is a lot going on within the southern North Sea, including offshore windfarms and hydrogen interconnectors so Natural England wanted to make sure these are being considered.
 - ODOW confirmed CCUS, interlinks and cables have been screened in the longlist. The longlist included projects constructing at same time as the Project and projects constructing before are considered within the baseline. They raised that CCUS and offshore developments lack timelines in the publicly available information making it difficult to include quantitatively.
- AC asked whether it is possible to acknowledge which projects have been looked into but cannot be included due to a lack of timeline.
 - ODOW confirmed this information is within the longlist and the screening process that will be provided at ES.
- ODOW explained that Natural England in the Section 42 comments asked for justification for the number of geophysical surveys in the North Sea at one time.

- Previously it was suggested that the Project look at marine registry data to investigate the historic and future number of surveys at one time. However, this information could not be pulled from marine registry due to lack of resolution of the data.
- ODOW asked whether Natural England has any information that may help inform this.
 - PL explained that the regulator OPRED would be the best to get this information from. The MMO was also recommended to seek planned survey information. It was added that surveys tend to be short notice so this makes collecting this information difficult.
- ODOW added that within PEIR the WCS assessed four seismic air gun surveys occurring on the same day. This is thought to be precautionary and evidence will be provided at ES to justify this based on historical evidence.
 - PL agreed 4 is a sensible precautionary number.
 - **ACTION: Natural England (EM) to discuss with teams whether a realistic WCS to use for assessments for the number of seismic surveys within the area at the same time is 4.**

HRA

- Natural England in the Section 42 comments advises noise abatement measures to be considered.
 - ODOW welcome and will continue engagement. The Project are also aware of the RenewablesUK letter and MMO response.
- MK advised the Project to look at Hornsea 4 and SEP&DEP. Natural England are hoping projects will commit to include measures pre consent and then remove them if they are not necessary. The Project should look at future likely scenarios and incorporate noise abatement early, noting this is started to be seen for Round 3 projects.
- Natural England in the Section 42 comments raised that based on the updated conservation advice for the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC, the significance has been downplayed.
 - ODOW confirmed the new data of population figures will be included in the EIA assessments and RIAA assessments. Embedded mitigation will also used to help reduce key impacts to harbour seals.
- ODOW asked whether Natural England could advice on timescales of other projects within the Southern North sea for the in-combination assessment as there is a lack of information in the public domain.
 - PL explained Natural England could sign post information and provide informal information. Discussing with the regulator to remain informed was also recommended.

Underwater Noise

- ODOW explained that comments that have been raised by the MMO and Natural England will be addressed in the underwater noise appendix
 - RF added that there is a clarification request for Subacoustech report to add more information on the simultaneous piling.

- **ACTION: ODOW to provide MMO and Cefas justification and additional information for simultaneous piling assessment.** *POST MEETING NOTE from ODOW received 13/9/23: The difference in calculated areas is a consequence of rounding, and rounding is generally up. All ranges and areas presented are to two significant figures, and thus (as an example), if the SW area was modelled at 415 km² (rounded to 420) and the NE area was modelled at 1250 km² (rounded to 1300) then the actual area would be 1,665 km², which would be rounded to 1700 km².*
- ODOW confirmed that there is a need for precautions for the magnitude scores and the matrix will be revisited and further justification will be provided in the ES if the matrix is not adjusted.

AOB

- CO asked whether the Project has any more thoughts of observations of mother-juvenile pairs from the baseline, as there is not much known on porpoise nursery grounds.
 - ODOW confirmed the any additional information about the mother-juvenile pairs within the Southern North Sea will be included within the ES chapter. The presence of the pairs may not mean it is a nursery ground, however this is being investigated. The impact assessment considers PTS and is looking at calve survival rates.
 - CO explained they would like to see detail on locations and times of years for the calves. This can then be used to investigate how this would affect the piling schedule.
 - MK asked why this information has not been included for other projects.
 - ODOW explained SAS data is not included in other projects so it is not known if the surveys has this detail included.
- **ACTION: ODOW to talk to DAS survey providers to gain any additional information about harbour porpoise mother-calve pairs.**
- PL suggested that the agreement logs should be taken into account for whether there is a need for an additional ETG in November.
 - MK recommends setting a date and sending placeholders invites.
 - ODOW will discuss and send out Doodle polls with potential dates as soon as possible.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------------|--|----------------------|---|
| 23rd January 2023 | Investigate the progress of the report on the transmission of geophysical and geotechnical equipment and share with ODOW when available. | Natural England (MK) | Ongoing – Natural England updated ODOW confirming this is not published yet. When it is available Natural England will share with ODOW. |
| 1st August 2023 | Ask the team at MMO and discuss the position on whether a UXO MMMP could | MMO (KS) | Open |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| | be preferred for ES submission where the activity is not being licensed. | | |
| 1st August 2023 | Ask within the team to see if MMO/Cefas make any recommendations on best disturbance thresholds to be used for low order UXO clearance. | Cefas (RF) | Open |
| 1st August 2023 | MMO speak to MMO SRU and/or ORPED and provide any data on historical levels of geophysical/seismic surveys in the North Sea if possible. | MMO (KS) | Open |
| 11 th September 2023 | MMO (KS) to confirm whether the updated noise modelling locations are suitable for the assessments. | MMO (KS) | Closed – post meeting note provided within minutes |
| 11 th September 2023 | ODOW to provide the evidence for the maximum 800kg UXO size | ODOW | New |
| 11 th September 2023 | ODOW to review the EIA significance matrix and the significant levels. | ODOW | New |
| 11 th September 2023 | ODOW to review the EIA significance matrix and the significant levels. | ODOW | New |
| 11 th September 2023 | Natural England (EM) to discuss with teams whether a realistic WCS to use for assessments for the number of seismic surveys within the area at the same time is 4. | Natural England (EM) | New |
| 11 th September 2023 | ODOW to provide MMO and Cefas justification and additional information for simultaneous piling assessment | ODOW | New |
| 11 th September 2023 | ODOW to talk to DAS survey providers to gain any additional information about harbour porpoise mother-calve pairs. | | New |

/End

A coastal landscape featuring a path of white sand and sparse vegetation leading towards a beach. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, suggesting an overcast day. The foreground is dominated by tall, dry grasses and small shrubs, with a path of white sand and patches of water or wet sand leading towards the beach in the distance.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex B Part 5 of 11

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024

Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex B – Part 5 of 11

Offshore Ornithology and Derogation & Compensation Topic Group Minutes

| | |
|--|---|
|    | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Offshore Ornithology Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000122-01 |
| Date: | 18 January 2022 |
| Time: | 1500hrs to 1700hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Marine Management Organisation (MMO): Adam Tillotson (AT); Emma Shore (ES) Natural England: Deanna Atkins (DA), Paul Lane (PE), Ruth Cantrell (RC) Emma Brown (EB) RSPB: Aly McCluskie (AL), Andrew Dodd (AD) ODOW: Chris Jenner (CJ); Rachel Furlong (RF); Jean-Côme Sol (JCS) GoBe: Steve Bellew (SB); Julia Bolton (JB); Phil New (PN); Darcy Brady (DB); Fraser Carter (FC) |
| Apologies: | None |
| Circulation: | External |

Introductions:

- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) sought permission to record the meeting for the purposes of assisting minute taking. With no objections received, introductions were made for all attendees.
- ODOW provided an overview of the project team and highlighted key contacts.

Project Introduction

- ODOW gave an overview of project location and Round 4 process to determine project array area.
- ODOW noted that The Crown Estate (TCE) Plan Level Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is ongoing.
- Note of the known constraints within the wider area.
- Project boundary size reduction will occur from 500km² to 300km²:
 - Must occur prior to construction, timescales to be confirmed.
- Project design parameters presented in Slide 7 are preliminary and subject to change prior to issue of the ODOW Scoping Report.
- Changes in minimum tip height - ODOW engaging with supply change to better understand likely Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) parameters and noted needed for consistency with TCE Plan level HRA.
- Cable route to be confirmed as subject to Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) process.
- ODOW provided an overview of the project programme as presented in the slide pack (slide 9).

Evidence Plan Process (EPP) Introduction:

- Brief overview of the EPP was given as per slide 11.
- ODOW noted that the focus of the Offshore Ornithology would be on the approach to assessment and HRA whereas discussions around ‘without prejudice’ derogations and

possible compensation measures would be covered by the Derogations and Compensation ETG.

Relevant Ongoing and Planned Surveys:

- Overview of the current and planned surveys was provided, including note of Digital Aerial Surveys (DAS) started in March 2021 – all monthly surveys completed to date.

Baseline:

- ODOW provided an overview of the offshore ornithology baseline, the proposed approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), suggested embedded mitigation and the next steps.

Additional data:

- ODOW asked Natural England if there was an update on the project's request to join the Flamborough and Filey Coast (FCC) Seabird Monitoring Steering Group meetings.
- EB asked that the request was reissued and confirmed receipt of the request at the meeting.
- **Action: EB to follow up with FCC Seabird Monitoring Group and advise ODOW if the request to join has been accepted.**
- EB asked if ODOW was considering collecting additional data, to complement the DAS and to look at other aspects due to the ongoing discussions surrounding flight height and connectivity.
- ODOW confirmed the project was at an early stage and is considering how to deviate from the standard to ensure the project is synergizing the approach being taken with the wider industry level.

Assessment Techniques:

- ODOW asked whether there was an anticipated timescale for an update to the Natural England Collision Risk Modelling (CRM) avoidance rate paper. Natural England to follow up regarding timing but expect this is not imminent.
- **Action: Natural England to advise when update to CRM avoidance rate paper is expected.**


Next Steps:

- ODOW confirmed the minutes and presentation will be issued. ODOW confirmed that invites will be issued and can be forwarded onto other representatives as appropriate.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|--------|
| 18 January 2022 | EB to follow up with FCC Seabird Monitoring Group and advise ODOW if the request to join has been accepted | EB | |
| 18 January 2022 | Natural England to advise when update to CRM avoidance rate paper is expected | Natural England | |

/End

| | |
|---|---|
|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Offshore Ornithology, Derogation and Compensation Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000288-01 |
| Date: | 12 July 2022 |
| Time: | 1000hrs to 1200hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Rachel Furlong (RF), ODOW, Stakeholder and Consents Manager Roisin Alldis (RA), ODOW, Onshore Consents Manger Beth Travis (BT), ODOW, Consents Co-ordinator Julia Bolton (JB), GoBe, Project Manager Phil New (PN), GoBe, Offshore Project Manager Fraser Carter (FC), GoBe, Senior Ornithology and Lead Tech Author James Miles (JM), GoBe, Senior Ornithology Consultant Adam Tillotson (AT), MMO, Case Manager Emma Shore (ES), MMO, Case Officer Paul Stevenson (PS), MMO, Senior Case Officer Pete Cosgrove (PCo), MMO, Strategic Renewables Unit Ruth Cantrell (PCa), Natural England, Senior Advisor Northumbria Paul Lane (PL), Natural England, Case Officer Yorks and North Lincs Martin Kirby (MK), Natural England, Senior Advisor |
| Apologies: | Helen Rowell, Natural England Ali McCluskie, RSPB Andrew Dodd, RSPB |
| Circulation: | External |

Introductions:

- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) sought permission to record the meeting for the purposes of assisting minute taking. With no objections received, introductions were made by all attendees.
- ODOW provided an overview of the project team and highlighted key points of contact.

Project Introduction

- ODOW gave an overview of project location and Round 4 process to determine project array area.
- ODOW noted that The Crown Estate (TCE) Plan Level Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is ongoing.
-

Evidence Plan Process (EPP) Introduction:

- A summary of the EPP aims and objectives and the Expert Topic Group (ETG) structure was provided.
- ODOW consider the EPP as a key engagement forum to discuss and seek agreement on key aspects of the project, and so when the DCO application is submitted, stakeholders are familiar with the project application and feel they understand and where possible support our approach.
- ODOW noted they are also aware of the Govt driving a reduced consenting timeline, and so would like to make the most of our early consultation to ensure we are being as effective as possible in our consultation.

NOTE: ODOW noted they will not hold a secondary MM ETG at this time as there are minimal changes to date. In order to be considerate of time and availability, ODOW will cover updates when appropriate.

Appraisal of Connection Options

- ODOW provided an overview of the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) process, which is being led by National Grid ESO (NG) in conjunction with Ofgem and BEIS.
- The OTNR will confirm the final grid connection location for ODOW and is expected to report this in September 2022 (noting this has been previously delayed).
- At present there are two possible grid connection options:
 - Lincs Node (previously known as East Midlands) connection would link in at Lincolnshire. This would rely on the Lincolnshire Green grid reinforcement project being developed by NG and would connect in 2031 at the earliest.
 - Weston Marsh connection point to the south, would connect in 2028/2029.
- The Offshore cable corridor has been defined on the basis of a Lincolnshire landfall with proposed routing to the north of Triton Knoll (via Silver Pit – significant engineering challenge and proposed HMPA) and the South (with potential overlap with SAC and multiple cable crossing).
- **Q: Natural England** - is the landfall the same for both?
A: Yes, proposed landfall offers options for both Lincs Green and Weston Marsh.

Programme

- ODOW provided an overview of the project programme (slide 9), including their intention to submit the Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate at the end of July.

ACTION: ODOW to inform ETG Members once scoping has been submitted

- Natural England noted that it was difficult to provide detailed comments on broad scoping boundaries and queried why ODOW has not waited for confirmed grid connection post Sept. Natural England noted that scoping response would be relatively high level and to manage expectations.
- The offshore scoping boundary and a separate slide showing the onshore scoping boundary was shared. ODOW outlined that a decision was taken to commence engagement with stakeholders on a broader scoping boundary to allow early engagement which can be used to inform cable route selection (e.g. route around towns, villages, etc.)
- ODOW noted that the OTNR process has experienced delays and therefore their intention is to capture stakeholder feedback to allow further refinement of options ahead of PEIR.

Relevant Ongoing and Planned Surveys:

- An overview of the current and planned surveys was provided, including Digital Aerial Surveys (DAS) which commenced in March 2021. All monthly surveys completed to date with additional surveys during breeding season will be used to build a robust evidence base for assessment.

Ornithology:

- GoBe provided an overview of the offshore ornithology baseline and the approach to Scoping (slides 9-10), which is all included in further detail in the scoping report.

- **Q: Natural England** – Query whether disturbance effects for O&M are scoped out?
A: GoBe confirmed this was the case within the Export Cable Corridor (ECC).
- Natural England noted they may ask that this is scoped back in as associated boat traffic can be significant.
- Natural England also noted that lighting may need to be scoped in, clarifying that this was mainly in regards to seabirds and water birds, but that this is unlikely to be a significant issue.
- GoBe queried whether Natural England would be happy to scope out Red Throated Diver for disturbance and displacement from O&M activities.
- Natural England clarified that it would depend on size of impact, but the focus is whether it can be scoped out now. As the O&M port is not yet confirmed, unable to know the level of traffic so it might be premature to scope out now.
- Natural England noted the interrelationship between disturbance and barrier effects. This would be for all species transiting and for those residing in the area, with the emphasis on migratory waterbirds. ODOW confirmed further information is included withing the Scoping Report.
- GoBe confirmed that SPAs and Ramsar's were identified and then followed the four site selection criteria. Key sites screened in or out as detailed on slide 11.
- **Q: Natural England** - in relation to impacts on colonies in non-breeding season, will breeding season be used as proxy? Could ODOW use any of the newer tracking info from the likes of Buckingham et al. Is there a medium way (not screening all in or out) looking at the tracking data to see whether anything should be included to make it appropriate?
A: GoBe noted they are working to stay abreast of all the ongoing changes and will include as appropriate. When the SR is made available, they are hopeful that Natural England will see the work to date as having provided a medium approach.
- **Q: Natural England** - queried how migratory water birds (e.g. transiting water birds from the wash) were considered.
A: ODOW noted that The Wash has not been screened in at this stage and further information on the approach will be presented in briefing notes to follow.
- Natural England will consider the notes and provide further advice where required.
- **Q: Natural England** - query if Fulmer from Flamborough and Filey Coast (FFC) SPA scoped in, noting that the Planning Inspectorate will want to know why Fulmer is screened out, urging ODOW to present rationale.
A: ODOW noted that further justification is included in our evidence for the screening report, building on how this has been dealt with in other projects.

Survey Data

- Natural England noted that Triton Knoll had a lot of Little Gull in their surveys suggested ODOW may need to include for in-combination assessments. In the autumn period you may get quite a flux in numbers through your site. Suggest further discussion at future ETG.
1)

Assessment Methodology / CRM

- GoBe provided an overview of the detailed approach: stochastic deterministic modelling based on density of flying birds within the array, which you'll receive in detail when we send out the briefing note
- Natural England noted that JNCC is working on avoidance rates at the moment but timing is unclear.

ACTION: ODOW to share methodology briefing note and signposting document with ETG Members
ACTION: Natural England to share updated re updated avoidance rate guidance

Assessment Methodology (slide 16)

- Natural England noted that they have some reservation re use of NatureScot apportioning south of the boarder as Scotland has multiple colonies who may be experiencing pressures, but in the SNS its almost just Flamborough so it may be better to use site specific data.

Approach to Compensation

- ODOW are dedicating a lot of time and effort into strategic and collaborative approaches. Steps ongoing are detailed on slide 18, including development of a road map which will detail our approach.
- The project has worked to identify a long list of potential compensation options, which have been appraised against criteria including ecological, like-for like, deliverability, etc. to provide a shortlist for each relevant species.
- Very difficult to deliver meaningful comp at a project level so we are looking to develop an approach which is evidenced appropriately and robustly and provides effective compensation
- ODOW is also actively engaging in industry wide initiatives, via OWIC to consider strategic compensation options

Artificial Nesting (slides 23-26)

- Nesting is being considered as part of a suite of measures for kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill
- Challenges of reusing old infrastructure as artificial nesting structures and the OSPAR Convention were discussed and Defra are currently working to understand how we can progress and address challenges
- ODOW noted that census and tagging work was planned to help understand how birds currently use offshore O&G platforms.

ACTION: Natural England to share update on OWSMRF initiatives re capturing kittiwake at sea and tracking

Bycatch reduction, Gannet (slides 27-28)

- ODOW have been exploring this as mitigation and how this links with our project as a form of compensation.
- Recent evidence from Portugal has highlighted concerns around bycatch of gannet from longlining
- Furness et al. shows clear connectivity between UK birds and other countries
- Natural England noted challenges in:
 - Governance outside UK jurisdiction
 - Additionality and what the EU has planned for bycatch reduction in those areas (which should form part of the baseline)
 - Specific fisheries which are causing the impact and what might work with those specific fisheries as success is very fisheries specific.
 - Natural England noted that in principle, this could be a viable compensation option but requires approval of approach from Defra and BEIS

Bycatch reduction, Guillemot and Razorbill (slide 28)

- GoBe noted this would be delivered as part of a suite of measures and the project is keeping abreast of other work and examples and discussing future potential.
- Natural England queried whether the opportunity to buy out fisheries to reduce effort instead of trying to mitigate against effort. GoBe confirmed this is something that is being explored but has considerable challenges.

ACTION: GoBe to provide update at next ETG regarding the most suitable locations for bycatch reduction and mechanisms

Predator Eradication (Slide 29)

- GoBe noted this is effective and has been done widely. Guillemot and Razorbill do benefit from predator removal. We are currently in the early stages of identifying locations
- Natural England noted that project must consider whether BEIS would be confident committing to regions outwith their control. Natural England recommended recent SOWEC report by CMS on additionality.

Fisheries Management

- Natural England noted that the most appropriate measure for compensation (subject to additionality) may be improving the availability of forage fish, but recognise that may not be within the gift of an individual project level as needs Government intervention
- ODOW agreed and suggested that this may be something Defra would consider and enable developers to take forward


Next Steps

- Overview provided (Slide 32)
- Progress desk-based workstreams for all compensation measures
- Compile compensation documents for each measure:
 - Ecological evidence
 - Roadmap
 - Site selection & design
- Continued engagement with stakeholders
 - Submissions to ETG for comment/input and as we progress over pre-app phase
- Aim to deliver as much as possible at PEIR
- Date for next ETG: Proposed week beginning 26th September

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|--------------|--|-----------------|--------|
| 12 July 2022 | ODOW to inform ETG Members once scoping has been submitted | ODOW | |
| 12 July 2022 | ODOW to share methodology briefing note and signposting document with ETG Members | GoBe | |
| 12 July 2022 | Natural England to share when the new guidance will be delivered | Natural England | |
| 12 July 2022 | Natural England to check OSMOUTH initiatives re capturing kittiwake at sea and tracking | Natural England | |
| 12 July 2022 | GoBe to update stakeholders at the next ETG meeting regarding the most suitable location for bycatch reduction and potential mechanism | GoBe | |
| 12 July 2022 | GoBe to read the SOWEC report as mentioned by Natural England | GoBe | |

/End

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Offshore Ornithology Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000331-02 |
| Date: | 29 th September 2022 |
| Time: | 1000hrs to 1200hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | MMO: Adam Tillotson (AT), Emma Shore (ES), Peter Ryalls (PR) RSPB: Aly McCluskie (AM), Andrew Dodd (AD) ODOW: Chris Jenner (CJ), Rachel Furlong (RF) GoBe: Julia Bolton (JB), Phil New (PN), James Miles (JM) |
| Apologies: | ODOW: Roisin Alldis (RA), Beth Travis (BT) Natural England: Lou Burton (LB), Deanna Atkins (DA) |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

Apologies:

- Due to resourcing constraints, Natural England have confirmed they are unable to attend this round of Expert Topic Groups (ETGs). Meeting minutes and presentations will be issued to Natural England for comment and written input.

Project Update

- A single Development Consent Order (DCO) application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (The Inspectorate).
- The Project's grid connection location subject to the ongoing Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR).
- The OTNR is being led by BEIS alongside National Grid and relevant stakeholders.
- OTNR considering an efficient approach to network connections.
- The final Holistic Network Design report, issued in July 2022, recommended two possible connection points be considered for the Project; Lincolnshire Coastal Node (Lincs Node) and Weston Marsh.
- Final decision still pending with an update on the Project's connection offer expected in Autumn 2022.
- The Project will work with stakeholders through the Evidence Plan Process (EPP), ETGs and bilateral discussions to assist in informing Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).
- The Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report was submitted to relevant stakeholders on 3rd August.
- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) underwent an initial consultation in August, with a revised version issued in September. Comments are due from stakeholder by 13th October.
- Public information Days (PIDs) will be held in November 2022 and Spring 2023.
- Targeting DCO application submission in Q4 2023.

Programme

- Scoping Report was submitted to The Inspectorate on 29th July with the Project receiving the Scoping Opinion from The Inspectorate on 9th September 2022.
- Ongoing reviews and analysis of responses are being undertaken by the Project and technical teams.
- The PEIR will be submitted Q1 2023.
- Four public information events within Lincolnshire: 1st November in Anderby; 4th November in Wainfleet; 5th November in Fosdyke and 11th November in Butterwick.

Surveys

- A summary of ongoing, completed and planned surveys was provided.
- Of specific interest to this ETG, monthly Digital Aerial Surveys for offshore ornithology and marine mammals commenced in February 2021 and are continuing.
- Two survey per month have been undertaken via 2022 summer period (March to September).
- First year report received, and species as expected.
- FliDAR deployed in April 2022.
- RSPB queried if the FliDAR measures atmospheric pressure. If tagging works are undertaken, some tag type can measure barometric pressure as a surrogate for flight height. This is useful to calibrate with local atmospheric data.
- ODOW confirmed FliDAR is Floating Light Detection and Ranging system. The ODOW Flidar includes measurements for temperature (C), Pressure (hPa¹), Humidity (%) and Air density – measurements taken every 10 minutes at 0-10m Above Sea Level. Twelve-month monitoring period since 18th April 2022.
- Marine Traffic Surveys for summer 2022 period are complete.
- Additional data collection census surveys complete in August 2022, as well as exploring potential tagging surveys in 2023.

Offshore Ornithology: Data Collection

Scoping Boundary

- The boundary presented in the Scoping Report showed the array area with 4km buffer and offshore export cable corridor area of search.
- This boundary directly overlaps the Greater Wash Special Area of Protection (SPA) and abuts the Humber Estuary SPA. The North Norfolk Coast SPA is within the area.
- This boundary will be refined for the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

Scoped In Impacts

- Disturbance and displacement were scoped in under the construction phase for the array, offshore export cable corridor (ECC) and intertidal ECC, as well as for the array and offshore ECC within the operation and maintenance (O&M) phase.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England welcome this change, which we advise should also be scoped in for the decommissioning phase.*

¹ hPa is the abbreviated name for hectopascal (100 x 1 pascal) pressure units which are exactly equal to millibar pressure unit (mb or mbar).

- Collision risk was scoped in within the O&M phase for both breeding seabirds and migratory seabirds within the array.
- Indirect effects on Important Ornithological Features (IOFs) due to effects on prey species habitat loss was scoped in within the array under both the construction phase and O&M phase, as well as within the offshore ECC within the construction phase.

Screening

- Standard methodology was used considering all UK coastal SPAs.
- For any species within the array and offshore ECC, the mean-maximum foraging range + 1 SD was used.
- Sites screened in included, but not limited to:
 - The Greater Wash SPA for all features including red-throated diver and common scoter due to the direct overlap; and
 - *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advise the applicant clarify if all features of the Greater Wash have been screened in, including little gull, common tern, sandwich tern, little tern, as these were stated as having been scoped out in the EIA Scoping Report.*
 - Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA for Kittiwake, Gannet, Guillemot, Razorbill and Puffin which directly overlap due to their mean-maximum foraging range + 1 SD.
- Sites screened out included, but not limited to:
 - North Norfolk SPA as all features were outside of the mean-maximum foraging range + 1 SD;
 - *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: NNC SPA is within the MMF + 1SD for sandwich tern. They are (only just) outside the site specific maximum foraging range for Scolt Head, however, it is not clear what this figure is based on (how many studies, how many birds, etc.). Natural England therefore advise the applicant to consider scoping in Sandwich tern at this stage as per Natural England's previous advice and the Scoping Opinion, or provide further information on the evidence (site specific foraging range) to support screening them out at this stage.*
 - The Wash SPA & Ramsar for migratory bird species; and
 - *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: As previously advised, Natural England considers that The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SPA are likely sites where migratory waterbirds such as pink-footed geese potentially transit the ODOW area. Natural England understand that this screening-out will be reassessed following use of the SOSS tool, which Natural England welcome.*
 - Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA for Fulmar, Herring gull, European shag and Cormorant were outside of the mean-maximum foraging range + 1 SD.

Key Scoping Opinion Comments

- Key comments are below and the Project will include further evidence at PEIR and ES to scope out these impacts, or if there is no robust evidence, the Project will reconsider scoping the impacts in.
- Barrier effect:
 - The Project were considering scoping out due to one paper which details that energy expenditure of the birds to fly around a windfarm was less than 2%.

- For the PEIR and ES further detail will be included to determine the significance of barrier effects during construction and O&M.
- The Project do not envisage a full assessment will be necessary given the location of the array (over 50km offshore).
- Disturbance and displacement in the intertidal ECC during O&M:
 - Since Scoping Report, the offshore ECC no longer abuts the Humber Estuary SPA, however it still overlaps with the Greater Wash SPA.
 - Two monthly DAS surveys were undertaken between March and September 2022 which will inform whether an assessment will be required for O&M phase.
 - *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advise that the applicant explain the justification for using surveys carried out between March to September to inform the need for an assessment of disturbance and displacement in the intertidal ECC during O&M? Over-wintering birds would also be sensitive to disturbance and displacement in the intertidal zone during operation and maintenance, and the relevant period for red-throated diver and common scoter, features of the Greater Wash sensitive to disturbance, would be the winter season.*
 - *Post meeting note from the Project: The Project can confirm that the DAS will not inform whether an assessment will be required for O&M phase in the intertidal ECC.*
- Cumulative effects:
 - The Scoping Opinion confirmed effects on prey species needs to be considered.
 - The Project will reassess this impact when evidence is available from Physical Processes, Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology, and Fish and Shellfish assessments.
- Sandwich tern at North Norfolk Coast SPA:
 - Very low numbers recorded in array during DAS.
 - The Project will reassess the necessity to include Sandwich tern and other gull species after two years of DAS data has been collected.
 - *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advise that Sandwich tern at NNC SPA should not be scoped out at this stage, as stated in Natural England's previous responses. Natural England notes that the Scoping Opinion states, "The ES should also assess any likely significant effects to the North Norfolk Coast SPA on the basis of the proximity of the Proposed Development and the presence of breeding sandwich tern at the SPA." Nonetheless, Natural England note the Applicant's plan to reassess when two years of DAS data is available.*
- DAS commenced in March 2021 and will be complete in February 2023.
- Kittiwake, little gull, greater black-backed gull and common tern are collision risk species.
- Guillemot, razorbill, puffin and red-throated diver are displacement and disturbance species.
- Fulmar and gannet are considered to be both collision risk and displacement and disturbance species.
- Results are as expected.
- Great black backed gull and fulmar, both with low sightings, have been scoped out.
- RSPB note the Project is not considering displacement of kittiwake. RSPB understand Natural England are considering changing their position on this advice. Qualitative information being included in the assessment is useful to demonstrate that it is clear why that an impact has been scoped out.

- **ACTION: Natural England to confirm position on displacement of kittiwake.**
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England do not currently consider the evidence base on kittiwake displacement sufficient, and until that evidence is convincing, Natural England will not be advising it is assessed.*
- There is evidence to suggest that due to the large foraging range of kittiwake and therefore they have a lot of other foraging habitat to explore. Therefore, the Project does not anticipate that this site will have a substantial effect on the species.
- It is difficult to understand the mortality rates associated with displacement for kittiwake especially when in combination with the collision risk assessment, which will then potentially dilute the effects of collision risk.
- There seems to be a lack of macro avoidance of kittiwake information, as there is with gannet. It is being accepted that a full assessment for displacement and full collision risk assessment should not be undertaken at same time for gannet. It is assumed the same will happen with kittiwake.
- RSPB confirmed that the evidence for macro avoidance for kittiwake is much more limited than for gannet. There is evidence that using tracking data shows the species are strongly affected in terms of productivity particularly by barrier effects. However, it is not direct evidence for all displacement analysis.
- Given current standard advice is that displacement of kittiwake does not need to be considered, the Project do not anticipate including this in PEIR given the timing of publication of the PEIR in early 2023. The Project will update, if required, for the final ES.

Offshore Ornithology: Assessment Methodology

- PEIR boundary:
 - The offshore ECC boundary has been refined post-scoping, with landfall being at Wolla Bank, Lincolnshire.
 - The route has been designed to minimise, in so far as possible, environmental constraints.
 - Optionality in the inshore area of the cable has been retained for PEIR whilst commercial discussions ongoing with potential aggregates site.
- Collision Risk Modelling:
 - The Project are proposing to use the sCRM (collision risk model) model (shiny app) deterministically.
 - Maximum design scenario will be used with a mean, minimum and maximum estimate. This will incorporate various parameters for seabird avoidance, as well as pitch and rotation speed of the turbines.
 - *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: As stated in Natural England's comments on the Scoping Report, the applicant has yet to confirm the draught height/air gap of the WTGs. This parameter is needed for the assessment of collision risk. Please refer to Natural England's comments on the Scoping Report regarding our previous advice to Outer Dowsing and other OWF projects regarding raising the draught height as much as possible above 22m.*
 - Density of flying birds within the array area will be used.
- At PEIR the Project propose assessing kittiwake and gannet, as well as little gull and common terns.
 - Little gull and common tern were noted in the DAS in September & October, i.e. post-breeding migration.

- The Project queried whether it might be more appropriate to perform a migratory CRM for little gull and common tern, as opposed to standard CRM due to high densities only within September and October. The migratory CRM within the band model would be considered more appropriate.
- RSPB confirmed the migratory CRM within the band model has not been used for a while. Marine Scotland Science commissioned BTO to update the sCRM for migratory species, although unsure when the report is due to be published. This would be considered the most appropriate method. In the absence of the BTO report, RSPB confirm agreement that the migratory CRM within the band model would be the most appropriate to use.
- **ACTION: RSPB to consider the use of the migratory CRM within the band model and provide a response to the Project.**
- The Project confirmed that, although the numbers are high for one or two months, the overall impact is low from an initial assessment. For PEIR, the Project are likely to use the standard sCRM as if the species are using the area for foraging and the Project will reassess for the final ES.
- The Project propose not assessing great black-backed gull, herring gull, sandwich tern or fulmar for collision risk within the PEIR. This will be reassessed once the full two-year DAS data is obtained. Densities from the first year DAS results will be included within the PEIR.
- RSPB confirmed agreement with the Project's proposed approach.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England's general advice on large gulls is that information is needed to populate ongoing in-combination assessments, and therefore CRM should be carried out unless agreed otherwise. This is particularly the case for great black-backed gull, where Natural England consider there are already significant impacts at a biogeographic scale from collision. Natural England welcome the proposed reassessment following 2 years data collection. However, Natural England highlight that Natural England may not be able to provide useful comments at PEIR due to only one year of data being presented.*
- The Project will present option 2 of the CRM using generic flight height data from Johnston et al. Kittiwake is the only species in which the Project have enough flight height data, therefore option 1 will be used for kittiwake.
- The Project are not assessing large gulls at this stage, therefore option 3 will not be used.
- RSPB confirmed there is still uncertainty around HiDef's method for determining flight height. HiDef have assured RSPB the validations have been carried out, however RSPB are yet to see the full validation, therefore the Project should rely on option 2 until RSPB are fully confident in HiDef's flight height data.
- The Project confirmed that option 2 would be option most relied on within the PEIR.
- CRM preliminary parameters presented:
 - Species biometrics - Robinson (2005) and BTO Birdfacts data is used.
 - Avoidance rates – standard data is used as per JNCC et al (2014). At this stage, extended avoidance rates are not required.
 - Flight speed – Alerstam (2007) is predominately used, however the Project have used Skov et al (2018) for gannet and kittiwake as there Skov has a larger sample size.
 - Nocturnal activity - standard rates are used.
 - *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: There is a forthcoming update to the joint SNCB CRM guidance note. This new guidance is still*

in draft, and unlikely to be agreed, adopted and published for some time. However, Natural England are fairly confident that the parameters that will be recommended are now unlikely to change. So, please find attached those parameters to enable the applicant to undertake CRM. Note also that Natural England now recommend using the stochastic model. However Natural England do caveat the attached as not representing joint SNCB guidance, and therefore the parameters supplied remain subject to change. However, the attached currently represent Natural England's preferred parameters to undertake the applicant's CRM with. Presumably the applicant are looking to run CRM for the PEIR, in which case it may be that in case of any further changes to parameters (hopefully unlikely) these could just be reflected in the applicant's ES.

- RSPB confirmed with regards to flight speed, there were a number of issues with Skov et al data. In examinations up to date, both data sets have been presented (generic and Skov et al). It is anticipated that Natural England will be issuing a revised guidance note with the preferred values. The Project should present reasoning for the use of its preferred values. Although Skov has a larger sample size, however there are questions over which is the most appropriate measure of flight speed in terms of instantaneous flight speed and tracked flight speed. It may be advisable to use one for the calculation of flux and a different calculation for the measurement of pi-cal. Emerging
- With regards to gannet, RSPB's position is that there is a different avoidance rate for the breeding season and non-breeding season. This is because of the constraints around central placed foraging. Hornsea Project Four presented evidence to support this position within their enquiry documents, although this was not used.
- RSPB are content with the Furness et al (2018) percentage rates for nocturnal activity. The MacArthur Green (2015) the evidence for kittiwake is considered patchy, so RSPB recommend the Project do not rely on this data.
- The Project and RSPB agree the parameters shown for kittiwake is conservative.
- For displacement analysis, the Project propose to use a matrix approach which is standard as detailed within guidance.
- The mean seasonal peak numbers of birds will be averaged over the two years of DAS data for ES. The mean seasonal peak will be used for PEIR due to having only one year of data.
- The species, as standard across most assessments, will include gannet, guillemot, razorbill, puffin and red-throated diver. The Project propose not to include kittiwake within the PEIR.
- The Project will present displacement rates from 30% to 60%, and up to 10% mortality rates for guillemot, razorbill and puffin and between 60% and 80% for gannet.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: This [30% to 60%] appears to depart from SNCB guidance, which refers to a range of 30-70%. Natural England advises displacement assessments should be based on this guidance.*
- For apportioning, the project propose to use the best practice interim guidance from NatureScot (2018).
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advises that the apportioning assessment should also draw on and reflect the findings of any colony-specific tracking data e.g., from FFC SPA.*
- This will include all SPAs & colonies within mean-maximum foraging (MMF) range of the Project and SPAs within MMF + 1 standard deviation. Since a lot of species, such as guillemot

and razorbill, the Project is beyond the MMF range so this will apportion impacts back to the SPAs.

- The Project do not intend to include population viability analysis (PVA) as part of the analysis at PEIR. The assessment will give the Project an indication of the quantified impacts, as well as giving an idea for compensation and what species may be a concern going forward.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advise that it might be useful for the PEIR to take an initial view on which species are likely to be subject to PVA, so stakeholders can consider this.*
- The migratory non-seabirds and seabirds will be assessed using the BTO's SOSS approach.
- RSPB confirmed NatureScot guidance includes a provision proposing that where available the Project should use local colony specific tracking data. Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA has a lot of tracking data available, including kittiwake from 2022 (prior to avian influenza). This data would need to be requested formally and may not be available in time for PEIR. Historic data will be publicly available.
- The Project, for the breeding season, will apportion back to all the kittiwake colonies on the east coast. The tracking data may be useful for guillemot for the non-breeding season to know which SPAs they are migrating from.
- RSPB confirmed, on Hornsea Project Four, the key outputs for both the counterfactual population size and counterfactual population growth rate were presented. Both outputs were included within the Project's briefing notes.
- The Project confirmed that at the time of assessment both outputs will be presented.
- RSPB confirmed the Natural England PVA tool has the ability to easily transfer the outputs.
- All assessment methods will be undertaken following an evidence-led process, and current industry best-practice and guidance. The Project will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout the process to agree with the planned approach.

Next Steps

- Full assessment using one-year of DAS data at PEIR.
- CRM & displacement assessments will be apportioned to SPAs to understand the impact.
- The Project is not planning on doing any PVA at this stage until the Project have the full two-years of DAS and understand the full impact.
- The DAS are ongoing and intertidal surveys will be undertaking over the 2022 winter period.

AOB

- Next ETG is anticipated for late November 2022 to discuss the results and implications of PEIR.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|--------|
| 18 January 2022 | EB to follow up with FFC Seabird Monitoring Group and advise ODOW if the request to join has been accepted <i>CLOSED – The Project are now part of the FFC Seabird Monitoring Group.</i> | Natural England (EB) | Yes |
| 18 January 2022 | Natural England to advise when update to CRM avoidance rate paper is expected <i>CLOSED – information provided.</i> | Natural England | Yes |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------|--------|
| 29 September 2022 | Natural England to confirm position on displacement of kittiwake. <i>Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England do not currently consider the evidence base on kittiwake displacement sufficient, and until that evidence is convincing, Natural England will not be advising it is assessed.</i> | Natural England | Yes |
| 29 September 2022 | RSPB to consider the use of the migratory CRM within the band model and provide a response to the Project. | RSPB (AM) | |

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Offshore Ornithology and Derogation & Compensation ETG |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-IP-000051-01 |
| Date: | 28 th November 2022 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Martin Kerby (MK) - NE Rebecca Hodgkiss (RH) - NE Yolanda Foote (YF) - NE Adam Tillotson (AT) - MMO Emma Shore (ES) - MMO ODOW: Rachel Furlong (RF) GoBe: Phil New (PN), James Miles (JM), Laura Vickery (LV) |
| Apologies: | RSPB: Andrew Dodd, Aly McCluskie |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

- ODOW provided a Project update and outlined the current expected timelines for the key consultation periods going forward, including submission of PEIR in late Q1 2023

Site specific surveys

- ODOW provided an update on the ornithology related survey effort to date
 - MK queried whether the census survey for 2023 would be a full repeat of the 2022 survey
 - ODOW confirmed that the survey design wasn't fixed at this stage and invited input from stakeholders on plans and proposals for the 2023 surveys
 - ODOW confirm that an application had been submitted to the BTO for the appropriate license for the kittiwake tagging work, and that it was currently being reviewed by the Special Methods Committee.

Screening responses update

- ODOW presented the raw outputs of the current survey effort and the proposed designated sites and key receptors
 - MK noted that puffin and herring gull are part of the assemblage for FFC SPA, and should be assessed as such
 - MK noted that Forth Islands SPA may need to be assessed
 - MK advised that justifications for screening out Fulmar should be clear, whether screened out as no LSE or if screened in and concluded as no AEol
 - RH confirmed that NE were content Sandwich tern are screened in for collision but not for displacement
- **ACTION: Natural England to confirm that Little Gull and Common Tern should only be considered for migratory collision risk.**

- **Post Meeting Natural England Response:** Natural England confirm they are happy for little gull and common tern to only be considered for migratory collision risk.

Assessment methodology

- ODOW queried if Natural England were happy for the project to retrospectively apply the new avoidance rates to previous projects for the cumulative impact assessment
 - MK noted that Natural England were working on this at the moment but initially think this would be appropriate though with some caveats for certain projects and species
 - **Action: RH and MK to provide advice after the meeting re. the use of the stochastic model and whether to apply variance within the flight height distributions from Johnston *et al.* (2014)**
- **Post Meeting Natural England Response:** Natural England now support the use of the stochastic CRM (sCRM, McGregor *et al* 2018) as per the Natural England draft updated Collision Risk Modelling parameters. With regards to applying variance within the flight height distributions, we would advise Outer Dowsing to use the default option within the application, which uses the Johnston (2014) bootstrap samples to draw from in the simulation.
- RH queried the minimum tip height which the project may be using for PEIR
 - ODOW confirmed that the minimum tip height would be 30m for PEIR, with the final tip height for ES being evidence driven by a combination of environmental assessment, survey data (including ground conditions) and engineering factors to drive the final identified tip height, noting that this may vary between different turbine sizes
- Following a discussion around the most appropriate guidance to be used for assessments on gannets, RH advised to used interim avoidance rate guidance for collision risk and published NE advice for the displacement analysis
 - **Action: NE to confirm the above approach**
 - **Post Meeting Natural England Response:** Natural England can confirm the approach is suitable
- RTD methodology - MK noted that Lawson *et al* 2016 data is quite old now and that a resurvey was undertaken this winter - unsure when the data will be available
 - MK suggested that stated approach is OK for PEIR, though maybe look at the HOW04 approach which was slightly varied
 - MK noted concerns re. vessel based disturbance
 - Discussion around how impacts from this can be mitigated - suggestion that more effort is put into providing clarity on vessel types and how those may impact on the features of the Greater Wash SPA as this can help to identify activity based mitigation measures or exclude specific vessels from needing to be considered from impact
- Apportioning - MK acknowledged that even for FFC, some kittiwake could be attributed to non-SPA colonies
 - NE confirmed to have impact from compensated project be considered as zero
- MK queried whether design-based or model-based distributions would be presented
 - ODOW confirmed that current expectation was for design-based.
 - MK noted that model-based may aid in identifying high risk areas when considering the array area reduction.

Compensation

- ODOW confirmed that based on revised guidance from Natural England macro-avoidance, the project no longer consider there will be risk that the project may need to provide compensation for gannet
- MK queried the interplay between project-specific and strategic compensation workstreams - ODOW confirmed that the project was progressing both project-alone options and actively engaging in collaborative/strategic measures equally rather than solely relying on the strategic measures.

- The initial data from the '22 census survey was presented, noting the data are being shared in confidence with stakeholders
- The presence of platforms within the ODOW array area was noted - ODOW confirmed that the expectation is that those platforms are due to be decommissioning prior to construction but this is subject to commercial needs of those operators, separate to ODOW

- Natural England confirmed that nearshore area identified in mapping as "green" for ANS site selection between Middleborough and Newcastle is unlikely to be supported due to existing nesting sites and colonies. MK arbitrarily suggested a minimum distance of 10-20km distance from shore for new offshore platforms.

- Urban deterrent improvement
 - Natural England advised that timescale wise may be challenging to maintain this as a primary measure for compensation so better to be followed as an adaptive management measure
 - NE noted that this measure could help to reduce any compensation debt built up in the early years of a project

- Gannets
 - ODOW are proposing to not consider gannet as a species at risk of needing compensation
 - Natural England agreed the revised avoidance rates are likely to reduce the need to provide compensation but unable to confirm at this stage due to data from the Round 4 projects not yet available
 - Natural England requested if ODOW could share any contacts regarding gannet bycatch with Defra/OWEAP as may be progressed at a different level
 - **ACTION: ODOW to consider whether contacts can be shared with Defra/OWEAP**

- Predator control
 - NE noted that they may be open to some contribution of non-like-to-like to the necessary quantum of compensation but it would be dependent on the species and overall measure and proportions potentially

- Defra Compensation Guidance
 - ODOW noted that publication of Defra Compensation Guidance had been delayed by 12 months to Q4 2023
- **Action: Natural England to provide copy of consultation response to Defra's Compensation Measures consultation (held in July 2021)**

- **Post Meeting Natural England Response:** Defra published a summary of the consultation in December 2021 - [Summary of responses - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/summary-of-responses-to-the-consultation-on-the-implications-of-avian-flu-for-the-2022-survey-data). As noted in the minutes, Defra intend to publish a full response and updated guidance by the end of this year. In the meantime, Natural England are happy to discuss anything specific concerns that the summary raises in the ETGs.


Next Steps/AoB

- MK noted that Natural England are likely to provide a combination of generic advice/cross reference advice to the multiple PEIR's due in early 2023 but will also aim to provide some relevant project-specific advice on discrete, high importance, topics.
- ODOW queried if there was any updates on the implications of avian flu for the 2022 survey data and MK advised that it would be helpful to have a discussion to address this and how to progress with the data. **Action: ODOW to arrange a workshop to discuss this.**

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--|-----------------------------|--------|
| 29/09/22 | Natural England to confirm position on displacement of kittiwake. | Natural England | |
| 29/09/22 | RSPB to consider the use of the migratory CRM within the band model and provide a response to the Project. | RSPB (AM) | |
| 28/11/22 | Natural England to confirm that Little Gull and Common Tern should only be considered for migratory collision risk. | Natural England | Closed |
| 28/11/22 | RH and MK to provide advice re. the use of the stochastic model and whether to apply variance within the flight height distributions from Johnston et al. (2014) | Natural England - RH and MK | Closed |
| 28/11/22 | Natural England to confirm approach for interim guidance for collision risk and old advice for the displacement analysis | Natural England | Closed |
| 28/11/22 | ODOW to consider whether contacts for Gannet bycatch measures can be shared with Defra | ODOW | |
| 28/11/22 | Natural England to share copy of consultation response to Defra's Compensation Measures consultation in summer 2021 | Natural England | Closed |
| 28/11/22 | ODOW to arrange workshop with NE to discuss implications of avian flu on the survey data | ODOW | |

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Ornithology Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000419-01 Offshore Ornithology & Derogation & Compensation ETG Minutes of Meeting -27-03-2023 |
| Date: | 27 th March 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Chris Jenner (CJ) – ODO James Miles (JM) - GoBe Julia Bolton (JB) - GoBe Niamh Workman (NW) - GoBe Laura Vickery (LV) - GoBe Adam Chambers (AC) - Natural England Paul Lane (PL) - Natural England Martin Kerby (MK) - Natural England Rebecca Jones (RJ) - Natural England Rebecca Hodgkiss (RH) - Natural England Karen Schnetler (KS) - Marine Management Organisation Emma Shore (ES) – Marine Management Organisation Daniel Spencer (DS) – Marine Management Organisation Pete Cosgrove (PC) – Marine Management Organisation Andrew Dodd (AD) - RSPB |
| Apologies: | Rachel Furlong (RF) – ODO Aly McCluskie (AM) - RSPB |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

- ODOW provided an overview of the Project updates and programme:
 - Phase 1 consultation has concluded.
 - PEIR is being drafted and expected to be released June 2023.
 - The Project is still awaiting a grid connection offer and both options (Lincolnshire Node and Weston Marsh) are being progressed through PEIR and phase 2 consultation. The Project anticipate receiving a grid connection offer in the coming months.
 - DCO application submission is expected at the end of 2023.
- MK asked when the Project will be reducing the array area to 300km²:
 - CJ confirmed that PEIR array area will be 500km² and, it is currently anticipated that the ES array area will be 300km² to allow for the assessments to be on the final area footprint. Work is ongoing and progressing through the constraints and scenario modelling for the site area reduction. PEIR and section 42 comments will then inform this and help finalise the reduction.
 - MK queried whether the 24 months of data be used to inform the reduction.
 - CJ confirmed all receptors are being looked at; the 18 month data report will be used to inform PEIR and the 24 month report will be used to inform ES.

- MK welcomes this approach to reduce the array area and provide assessments and evidence before examination.

Previous Actions

- ODOW provided an overview of the actions from previous meetings. The outstanding actions are:
 - Natural England to confirm position on displacement of kittiwake: RH explained that the response to the RSPBs action to confirm their position on the displacement of Kittiwake was confirmed through the update to the meeting minutes provided in November 2022. It was explained that the Natural England do not consider the evidence base on kittiwake displacement efficient so do not advise this is assessed.
 - RSPB to consider the use of the migratory CRM within the band model and provide a response to the Project: AD confirmed Am will respond on this matter in due course.

Evidence Plan Schedule

- ODOW confirmed this is the last ETG before PEIR publication.
- Further ETG meetings are scheduled for July and September.

Offshore Proposals

- ODOW confirmed there are no changes to the configuration since the last ETG.
- CJ confirmed that up to two offshore reactive compensation platforms (ORCPs) are to be located within the offshore export cable corridor:
 - CJ explained that a study area for the optimal place for the structures will be assessed and presented at PEIR.
 - MK noted that if the structures are proposed to be within the red throated diver proportion of the Wash the presence of the structures would need assessing.
 - CJ explained this has been noted and the team are aware and taking into account the red throated divers.

Evidence Base

- ODOW provided an overview of the evidence plan process and the agreement logs that were prepared as a response to the Steering Group meeting in January 2023:
 - JB explained that the agreement logs are live documents and will inform the statement of common ground (SoCG).
- ODOW provided an overview of the evidence base and the assessments that have been undertaken and ongoing.
 - PEIR will be accompanied by a compensation roadmap and supporting documents presented that are informed by the 18 month report and CRM modelling.
- JM confirmed that the Project plan to undertake further census and tagging surveys post PEIR:
 - RJ queried what the census and tagging survey involve.
 - JM explained that the census is a seabird count, focusing on kittiwakes on offshore oil and gas platforms to get an insight into where kittiwakes preferentially breed and how many breeding birds there are within 20km of the ODOW array. The tagging is aimed to help determine foraging range, hotspots and connectivity of offshore colonies with onshore colonies for this species.

- CJ adding that proximity agreements are being sought with platform owners for the census to be undertaken to build on the previous study.

Agreement Log

- ODOV provided an overview of the non-agreed areas within the agreement log.
- Agreement log ID 16 – JM explained that the interim guidance from Natural England on avoidance rates was released and the results at PEIR will be based on the new Natural England parameters:
 - RH asked whether it will be just the sCRM presented.
 - JM confirmed this is the case.
- Agreement log ID 17 – JM explained all species will be assessed using the Furness (2015) BDMPS bio-seasons (see appendix 1):
 - RH questioned whether this was provided within the slide pack and if this is for this migration free breeding season.
 - JM confirmed it is provided and the migration free breeding season has been used where appropriate.
 - RH added that sandwich tern should have a larger breeding season for the migration free breeding season (suggesting April to August).
 - JM asked whether there are any further species of particular concern.
 - RH explained that looking at the information there are a number of species not reflecting full breeding season.
 - ACTION: Natural England (RH) to confirm which species need to be updated to reflect the full breeding season.
 - JM confirmed that PEIR will explain the Project's reasoning and justification behind the use of the breeding seasons presented at PEIR.
 - MK explained that there are ongoing differences of approach between England and Scotland regarding the recent Hornsea Project Four advice for guillemot. Natural England highlighted the need to see numbers to advise on the approach to take (please see slide pack and Appendix 1 of these minutes).
- JM asked whether the approach for breeding season apportioning for guillemot (100%) for Flamborough and Filey SPA was appropriate and would like to discuss post PEIR.
- JM asked whether for comments about using the BDMPS approach for non-breeding season apportioning:
 - RJ explained they would need to see survey results to be able to comment.
 - JM explained that high peaks in April, pre-breeding, is affecting results for displacement.
 - MK added that large numbers of guillemot are returning within non-breeding seasons at Flamborough and Filey SPA (Nov-Dec).
 - RJ explained that they would like to see survey results for guillemot numbers to advise on this.
 - JM confirmed the maximum abundances are within the slide pack provided and will be re-issued with the meeting minutes (see ETG slide 14).

- Agreement log ID 18 – JM explained that the minimum tip height for collision risk being used is 30m mean-sea level (MSL) using a range of different turbine scenarios to explore the worst-case scenarios. Provided alongside this will be an annex with the modelling based on 40m:
 - MK explained that the Project needs to be clear in what is being presented and in their definition of air gap.
 - JM explained that the MSL is being used for minimum tip height. This will be explained clearly within PEIR.
- Agreement log ID 23 – JM asked whether there was any advice on the method regarding the DAS design. The proposed method is to take the average of the two monthly breeding season surveys for the assessments.
- Agreement log ID 26 – JM confirmed that all species apart from fulmar have been included within the assessment at PEIR.

Additional Points of Discussion

- Natural England confirmed they would be unable to provide comments during the meeting and requested the meeting minutes clearly identify questions in which the Project are seeking answers. *Post meeting note from ODOW: the main points that the Project wish to discuss are highlighted below.*
- **ACTION: Feedback required regarding BDMPS and apportioning based on the Nature Scot guidance. Is the proposed method acceptable?**
- JM asked whether there was any feedback or comments regarding red-throated diver (RTD) and common scoter within the ECC and using a 2km displacement around cable laying vessels. Noting this was said to be appropriate for PEIR but maybe an alternative method is recommended at ES.
 - MK explained that Lawson *et al* data is 15 years old so welcomes update. MK unsure if this data will be available for ES.
- JM asked whether the inclusion of sabbaticals within the assessments would be appropriate.
 - RJ explained that unless you can provide site specific data then they are not accepted by NE and to assume all are breeding birds unless there is evidence.
 - AD queried what a sabbatical is.
 - JM explained that it is an adult individual recorded within the array area but not breeding during this season.
 - RJ added that currently there is not enough evidence to support including sabbaticals.
 - MK explained that Natural England did not agree with approach that Niras took within plan level HRA.
 - JM questioned that if this was included at PEIR could feedback still be provided by NE.
 - MK explained that with the absence of the full 24-month data at PEIR, Natural England's focus of their response to the section 42 consultation would be on the methodology rather than the conclusions drawn.
- JM queried whether Kittiwakes breeding on offshore platforms could be apportioned in the assessments:

- MK explained this has not been done yet. Natural England are aware the Nature Scot apportioning tool is being updated. Suggesting if an overview and plan of what is being proposed was provided it would allow Natural England to comment.
- JM explained that apportioning to kittiwakes on platforms within the assessment could be done using a maximum distance of 20km away as a precautionary approach.
- RH asked whether this data has been submitted to the Seabird Monitoring Program (SMP).
- CJ explained that due to sensitivity with the platform owners this has not currently been shared.
- JM queried if there were any comments on the threshold for material contribution to baseline mortality. It was explained that for lesser black backed gulls and sandwich terns there is little impact from the Project. This information will be presented at PEIR.
- PVA has not been conducted at PEIR but this will be outlined and feedback welcomed on the species that are being planned to be assessed:
 - MK explained that for PVA the Project should look at Hornsea Project Four and how PVA is interpreted. Adding that sites and species vary and thresholds will vary depending on the area. Best to provide a reasonable worst case, reasonable best case and mean assessment.
 - RJ added that the impacts of avian influenza need to be considered.
- JM asked for feedback on the species for bio-seasons (see Appendix 1 and slide 14).
- JM asked for feedback on the breeding bio-seasons apportionment to the SPA:
 - MK explained that gannet is generally apportioned to 100% for Flamborough and Filey SPA. Wakefield 2013 produced a paper on space partitioning to evidence this. It is not recommended apportioning around 40% of the gannets to Bass Rock and this is something Natural England are likely to push back on. Within the English North Sea most projects use 100% Flamborough and Filey SPA.
 - JM – the Project will apportion 100% of impacts to FFC SPA at PEIR.
 - RH queried whether the Project are proposing using migration free breeding season.
 - JM – looking at migration-free breeding season for most species and full breeding season for guillemot, puffin, little gull, herring gull, GBBG.
 - MK recommended that for the biogeographic regional assessments that full breeding season are used. PEIR to provide justification of the Projects methods that deviate from this.
 - AD queried whether with regards to gannet apportionment is it for the Project to set out why change in approach?
 - RJ confirmed this is the case and more detail will need to be provided to allow for comment.

Compensation

- ODOW provided an overview of the compensation measures the potential Project are proposing:
 - The Project will provide a Draft RIAA at PEIR.
 - The compensation measures the Project are focusing on are ANS and predator control.
- AD asked whether the Project could provide an update on TCE strategic meeting:

- CJ – confirmed at this point there are no specific updates with a meeting due to be held on 28th March 2023 with TCE. However the PEIR and DCO will be in line with the discussions held to date.
- JM asked whether there were comments on whether compensation could be carried out outside UK waters:
 - MK explained that the ecology would need to be assessed and if connectivity is evidenced then it would be a possibility. It is important that the connectivity is strong enough for the quantum of compensation required. It was recommended the Project look at how Hornsea Project Four approached predator management on the Channel Islands.
 - MK added that regarding policy, the Project would need to talk to Defra as they are the MPA policy lead. The Inspectorate and BEIS (now DESNZ) should also be consulted to discuss legal enforceability.
 - MK also noted that Gannet are a particularly challenging species to provide compensation for within the UK so this may be a species that would be considered.

Points of Discussion

- Whether Kittiwakes breeding on offshore platforms could be apportioned in the assessments:
- Feedback on the species for bio-seasons (see Appendix 1 and slide 14).
- Feedback required regarding BDMPS and apportioning based on the Nature Scot guidance. Is the proposed method acceptable?

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------|
| 28/11/22 | ODOW to consider whether contacts for Gannet bycatch measures can be shared with Defra | ODOW | Ongoing |
| 27/03/2023 | Feedback required regarding BDMPS and apportioning based on the Nature Scot guidance. Is the proposed method acceptable? | NE | New action |


/End

Appendix 1.

Table 0-1: Bio-seasons and associated UK North Sea (and English Channel) BDMPS population estimates used for assessment of key species for the Project for EIA and HRA assessments (Furness, 2015).

| Species | Migration-free breeding | Post-breeding migration | Return migration | Migration-free winter | Breeding | Non-breeding |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------|------------------|
| Guillemot | - | - | - | - | Mar-Jul | Aug-Feb |
| Razorbill | Apr-Jul | Aug-Oct | Jan-Mar | Nov-Dec | - | - |
| Puffin | - | - | - | - | Apr-Jul | Aug-Mar |
| RTD | May-Aug | Sep-Nov | Feb-Apr | Dec-Jan | - | - |
| Gannet | Apr-Aug | Sep-Nov | Dec-Mar | - | - | - |
| Kittiwake | May-Jul | Aug-Dec | Jan-Apr | - | - | - |
| Little gull ¹ | - | July to October | - | - | May-Jun | Jul-April |
| Herring gull | - | - | - | - | Mar-Aug | Sep-Feb |
| GBBG | - | - | - | - | Apr-Aug | Sep-Mar (91,399) |
| LBBG | May-Jul | Aug-Oct (209,007) | Mar-Apr (197,483) | Nov-Feb (39,314) | Apr-Aug | Sep-Mar |
| Sandwich tern | Jun | Jul-Sep (38,051) | Mar-May (38,051) | - | - | - |
| Common tern | Jun | Jul-Sep (144,911) | Apr-May (144,911) | - | - | - |

¹ Bio-season based off Cramp & Simmons (1983) and expert judgement, and Population estimate based on research by APEM (2020) presented in Appendix C of Volume A5, Annex 5.5: Offshore Ornithology Migratory Birds report as not provided in Furness (2015). As per Volume 2 Annex 12.1: Ornithology Technical Baseline, the nonbreeding season was extended into July to incorporate birds recorded in this month which are highly likely to be undertaking post-breeding migration.

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Ornithology & Derogation & Compensation ETG |
| Document Number: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0014 ODOW / Expert Topic Group (ETG) - Offshore Ornithology & Derogation & Compensation Minutes of Meeting - Meeting Date 31-07-2023 |
| Revision: | 01 |
| Revision Status: | Issued for Information |
| Date: | 31 st July 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Chris Jenner (CJ) - ODOW Jake Laws (JL) – ODOW Greg Tomlinson (GT) – ODOW Phil New (PN) – GoBe Laura Vickery (LV) – GoBe James Miles (JM) – GoBe Glen Gillespie (GG) – GoBe Ben Jones (BJ) – GoBe Karen Schnetler (KS) – MMO Andrew Dodd (AD) – RSPB |
| Apologies: | Debbie Nickless (DN) – WSP Emma Shore (ES) - MMO Aly McCluskie (AM) – RPSB Paul Lane (PL) – Natural England Helen Mann (HM) – Natural England Adam Chambers (AC) – Natural England |
| Circulation: | External |

Project introductions and apologies

- Within the Project team Greg Tomlinson (GT) has joined as Offshore Consents Manager and Jake Lawes (JL) has joined as HRA Manager. Rachel Furlong has moved to a new role within Corio Generation and will still support the Project in relation to strategic policy matters.
- It was noted that Natural England gave their apologies for not being able to attend in advance of the meeting, noting they will add any comments as post meeting notes.
- The Project added that any feedback as post meeting notes from stakeholders is welcomed.
 - AD confirmed they will share the slides and seek comments from AM.

ACTION: AD to share the slides and minutes with AM and to provide any post meeting comments.

Project Update

Outstanding actions

- Currently there is one outstanding action from the last ETG for Natural England: Feedback required regarding BDMPS and apportioning based on the Nature Scot guidance. Is the proposed method acceptable?

Evidence plan schedule

- ODOW provided an overview of the Evidence Plan Schedule, confirming the next ETG is 27th September 2023.

Programme

- ODOW provided an overview of the Project's programme.
- It was confirmed the Project is still aiming for a DCO submission by the end of 2023.
- It was confirmed the Project are expecting the grid connection location to be confirmed within the coming weeks and it is expected stakeholders will be notified in August.
 - AD explained that Boston Alternative Energy Facility (BAEF) was granted Development Consent in early July. One of the compensation sites flagged for the scheme is close to the onshore ECC and this now has the same level of protection as an SPA site under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This is on the Western Side of the Haven River and may affect either route connection option.
 - CJ thanked AD for raising this and explained the Project have met with the BAEF and they attended the public consultation event in Butterwick. They have looked at the indicative ECC route that is 80m wide and this avoided conflict with the area. The Project have also been invited to an ornithology working group to work closely with BAEF.
 - AD confirmed RSPB representation on the group, noting RSPB view that there is still much to be done and local management level knowledge is likely to be required.

Onshore cable route

- ODOW provided an overview of the Project and explained that with two possible connection points to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) the three possible onshore ECC routes remain. Once the NETS connection point is confirmed by National Grid the onshore ECC route will be determined.

Onshore Substation

- ODOW explained that three onshore substation search zones have been selected to allow a connection to one of the two different connection points.

Offshore Proposals

- ODOW provided an overview of the offshore elements of the Project.
- It was confirmed that technical work is ongoing to reduce the array area to approximately 300km² to and this will be refined for the ES and DCO submission.
- ODOW also explained that areas for potential compensation measures have been added to the Red Line Boundary at PEIR and the Project will seek to consent compensatory measures through the DCO where relevant.

PINS Early Adopters Programme

- ODOW confirmed the Project has been selected to trial elements of the Planning Inspectorate's Early Adopters Programme.
- Last week (w/c 24th July) the Project received information about the components they have been selected to trial.
 - Most components can be built from existing work that the Project are already progressing and adapting it to fit the scheme.
 - For component 1 (Use of Programme Planning) the Project programme will be published on the ODOW website shortly.
 - The Project are seeking clarification from the Inspectorate on the requirements of component two (Use of Evidence Plans) as the Project are already underway with their evidence plan.
 - Component three (Use of issues tracking) the Project aims to use the agreement logs. These have been drafted into a new template as a result of stakeholder feedback and will be updated and issued to stakeholders for comment following this round of ETGs. Component four (Use of Pre-application Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements (PADS)) is the component that will see involvement from stakeholders in the creation of the Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements (PADS). These have been trialed in several examinations so far and it is now being trialed that these are produced before application. These are stakeholder owned documents and will be submitted at the point of DCO application by ODOW.
 - AD asked whether the Project know when they will have more knowledge of a better timeline when the PADS need to be signed off.
 - GT explained at the moment there is no specific timeline but noted this would need to be before DCO application submission.
 - ODOW explained the intention was to use Section 42 points of disagreement as well as any relevant points from the agreement logs. In the September ETG the Project hope to show semi completed PADS and discuss with Stakeholders.
 - Additionally it was explained these are stakeholder owned documents but the Project is willing to assist stakeholders by populating the template. ODOW provided an example of the PADS.
- ODOW confirmed that Components Five (Production of Policy Compliance Document) and Seven (Production of Design Approach Document) are unlikely to require stakeholder involvement).

Offshore Ornithology

Areas of Disagreement/ Key Topics for Discussion

- ODOW provided an overview of the main areas of concern and topics of discussion from Section 42 feedback

Bioseasons Used Within the Assessment

- The Project put forward an argument for using migration free bioseason for Kittiwake, Gannet and Sandwich Tern and Natural England advised using the full breeding season within mean maximum + 1 SD foraging range.
 - The Project are proposing to take to a species by species basis on the justification of the use of the bioseasons.

- Additionally it was confirmed that the Project intends to present Natural England's and the Project's approaches at ES.
- AD explained that the Project approach sounds sensible in principle.

Negligible Impacts Screened into Cumulative Assessments

- The Project has included a large number of SPAs within the project alone assessments, including those outside of the Mean-Max +1SD foraging range.
- ODOW explained Natural England noted in their Section 42 response that they would like all SPAs considered within the project alone assessment included within the in combination assessments, including those that are considered negligible
 - ODOW noted it would welcome a discussion with Natural England as to what can be counted as a negligible impact and whether a case by case basis for sites can be used to agreed where significant effects for cumulative or in-combination are unlikely to occur.
 - A discussion as to if this only refers to species and SPAs within Mean Max +1SD foraging range would also be welcomed.

Model Based Estimates

- ODOW is aware that model-based assessments have been asked for in previous projects for different numbers and species and would like to ask which species stakeholders would expect model based estimates for within this project and which they consider 'high-risk'. It was confirmed that currently the Project are exploring this but there are no clear options when looking at the data.

EIA Population Scales

- ODOW confirmed that the population scales will be refined as per Natural England comments for ES.

Migratory Collision Risk

- ODOW explained that Natural England requested Artic skua, Great Skua and Arctic tern to be included in the migratory CRM and it was confirmed these will be included at ES.
- ODOW added that there is a new mCRM tool developed by Marine Scotland that the Project are proposing to use and would like stakeholder feedback if this is suitable.

Operational Displacement

- ODOW explained that Natural England provided feedback that they would like the upper and lower confidence intervals for each species considered within the operational displacement.
 - ODOW confirmed that they consider the mean abundance data is the most suitable but will present the whole range in the displacement appendix.

Operation Displacement - Shipping Activity Related to Maintenance Activities

- ODOW confirmed that for ES displacement assessments will include shipping activity in the operation and maintenance phase for common scoter and red-throated diver.

Updates Since PEIR and Last ETG

- It was confirmed the Project now has 24 months of Digital Aerial Survey (DAS) data.

- Reduction in array area will be influenced by DAS data and this reduced area will be used for the ES assessments.
- Minimum tip height and draft height will also be looked at being updated for ES based on the data and information.
- Natural England asked the Project in a past meeting to look at how representative the 2021 data was to previous years due to avian influenza. It was confirmed that a memo has been created and will be provided before the next ETG.
- ODOW confirmed they have received the second year of census data for the oil and gas platforms.
 - It was found that kittiwakes and guillemot were present on platforms (all within 20km of the ODOW array).
 - Kittiwake were recorded as nesting on the platforms.
 - On some platforms, there was a high density of guillemot, with some apparently showing breeding behaviours. ODOW explained it is hard to tell if they are breeding as they do create visible nests but there is confidence that some will.
 - AD queried how the Project knew this.
 - It was explained that by looking at the poses and how densely they are packed it can be estimated as they don't have nests.
 - ODOW are proposing to use the populations on the platforms within the apportioning process, rather than apportioning all to FFC SPA.
 - AD explained they will defer to AM and asked that if there are talks with Natural England that RSPB should also be included.

Assessment Methodology

- It was explained that the Project proposes the use of site-specific census data within apportioning for kittiwake. Maintaining a highly precautionary approach and including the breeding birds within 20km of array area.
- ODOW explained that it would be beneficial to come to an agreement on displacements and mortality rates and seek to discuss this with stakeholders.
- It was confirmed the intention of the Project to carry out PVA on any of the updated impacts that result in 1% increase in baseline mortality. The Project will present species specific counterfactual growth rates, population trends etc.
- The Project are seeking to have an agreement on the displacement rates and mortality rates
 - AD explained that the RSPB will ask for a counterfactual population size as well. AD noted that this was requested as part of the post-examination information requests from the Secretary of State on Hornsea Four.
 - ODOW confirmed this will be presented as ES.

Compensation

- It was explained that there are limited updates at present.
- It was confirmed that artificial nesting structures (ANS) are still being progressed for compensation measures for Kittiwake and Guillemot.
- It was added that the census data showing a higher number of kittiwakes and guillemots in the area than previous years and also breeding on offshore structures.
- It was also confirmed that the Project are exploring a range of strategic compensation measures and are actively engaged in in COWSC ANS and predator eradication groups.


Gannet

- ODOW explained that based on the 18 month data the combined collision and displacement risks at PEIR were calculated to be 4.5 birds and would like to agree with stakeholders that with the headroom for the current in-combination impacts to FFC SPA will not conclude no AEOI?
 - AD noted that the RSPB are not accepting large scale avoidance for Gannets for Hornsea Four. For SEP and DEP it is likely that RSPB also disagree with the in-combination decision. AD noted that this is an instance where RSPB and NE agree to disagree.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--|-----------------|------------|
| 29/03/2023 | ODOW to contact the DAS surveyor to discuss if DAS data will allow for identification of dead birds | ODOW | Ongoing |
| 29/03/2023 | RJ to recirculate the 2022 census data to the Project. | Natural England | Closed |
| 29/03/2023 | ODOW to include DAS survey data within the technical baseline for Natural England to review. | ODOW | Ongoing |
| 29/03/2023 | ODOW to look at the Project data in comparison with other projects within the area and assess robustness and how representative the data is. | ODOW | Ongoing |
| 31/7/2023 | AD to share the slides and minutes with AM to add post meeting comments | RSPB | New Action |

/End

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Offshore Ornithology and Compensation & Derogation Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0XX |
| Date: | 18/9/23 |
| Time: | 10.00hrs-12.00hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Greg Tomlinson (GT) – ODOW Jake Laws (JL) – ODOW Debbie Nickless (DN) – ODOW (WSP) Phil New (PN) – ODOW (GoBe) Laura Vickery (LV) – ODOW (GoBe) James Miles (JM) – ODOW (GoBe) Mark Lewis (ML) – ODOW (GoBe) Glen Gillespie (GG) – ODOW (GoBe) Ben Jones (BJ) – ODOW (GoBe) Adam Chambers (AC) – Natural England Paul Lane (PL) – Natural England Martin Kerby (MK) - Natural England Rebecca Jones (RJ) - Natural England Rebecca Hodgkiss (RH) - Natural England Rachel Riddell (RR) - Natural England Emma Shore (ES) – MMO |
| Apologies: | Karen Schnetler (KS) – MMO |
| Circulation: | External |

Project update

Outstanding Actions

- ODOW confirmed the Project will include the full 24 month DAS data in the Technical Report for application.
- ODOW also confirmed that the Project is developing a note to investigate the robustness of the DAS 2021/22 survey data and wider data sets to compare effects of avian flu on the data.
- ODOW confirmed that the RSPB action ‘AD to share the slides and minutes with AM to add post meeting comments’ is an ongoing action.

Evidence Plan Schedule

- ODOW confirmed that a round of November ETGs are being planned. These are targeted to topics with outstanding areas of discussion. It was confirmed this topic will be in the next round of ETGs.

Programme

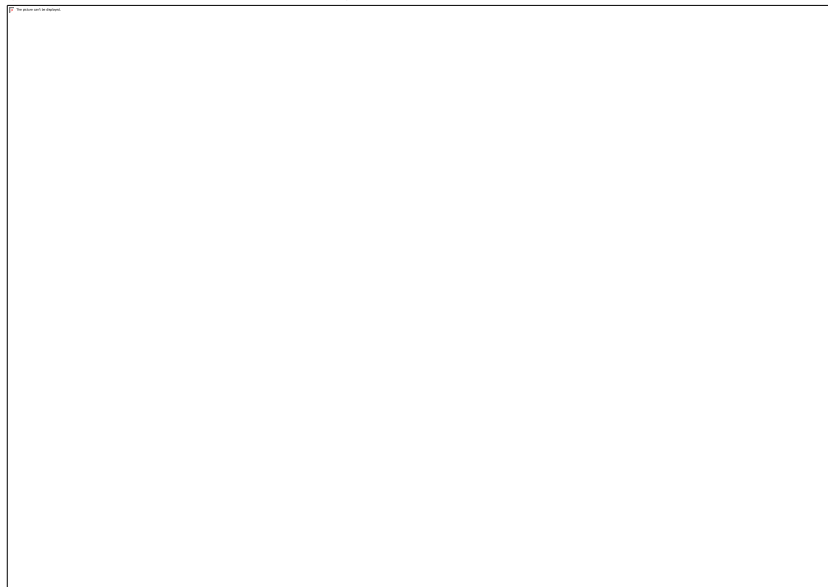
- ODOW confirmed that the Project is still progressing to have the EIA and DCO application complete for the end of Q4 2023.
- ODOW confirmed the Project are holding a targeted autumn consultation which will focus primarily on onshore matters.

Onshore

- ODOW confirmed on the 10th August that the grid connection for the Project will be Weston Marsh.
- ODOW confirmed that the onshore cable route will be the route North of the A52.
- ODOW confirmed Work is ongoing for onshore substation selection and the two sites are still being considered.

Offshore

- MK explained that Natural England has concerns over the ORCPs being located within the Greater Wash SPA.
 - ODOW explained the ORCPs will be along the cable route, at least 12km offshore (increased from 6km at PEIR).



- MK explained that the ORCPs could be a risk to red throated diver. There is a lack of information that non turbine structure may cause displacement. They also highlighted that there is nuclear storage work and drilling within that area so this needs to be considered in assessments. They recommend an assessment for displacement for red throated diver within a 10km buffer around the ORCP structures. It was added that vessel movement during the O&M phase should also be considered to and from the structures.
- ODOW explained they are aware there has been data collected in the Greater Wash for red throated diver and asked whether this could this be shared?
 - MK explained the data will not be available until November.
 - RH added that initial maps have been created and the final report is expected December.
- **ACTION: Natural England (MK/ RH) to check if any data could be shared in advance of the final report of Red Throated Divers within the Greater Wash to be used in assessments.**

- ODOW explained that as the area on the southern route is near to other windfarms, could the displacement fall into displacement effects of existing windfarms.
 - MK advised that the Project look at post consent monitoring, such as Lincs OWF post construction monitoring data. Data from other projects such along the Suffolk coast used Outer Thames Estuary data and the effects from structures such as nuclear infrastructure and World War Two forts.
- ODOW confirmed the array area is being reduced from the 500km² at PEIR to meet requirements of a power density of 5MW per km² through ongoing work.
- ODOW confirmed Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) maximum number is increased to 100 at ES from 93 previously used at PEIR due following a supply chain review and the need for inclusion of a 15MW turbine.
- ODOW confirmed that GBS are being retained as an option due to ground condition restraints, this is being refined and the WCS is being reduced from 100%.
- ODOW confirmed that the minimum tip height is 40m MSL (increased from 30m at PEIR).

Offshore Ornithology

Mitigation

Array Area Reduction

- ODOW confirmed that the Project has undertaken modelling to investigate how the array reduction can reduce the displacement rates. The preliminary results show a monthly average reduction for guillemot, razorbill, puffin and gannet of about 10%.
 - RH asked whether the reduction is the number of individuals, is this including the array area with buffers?
 - ODOW confirmed the reduction in the numbers of the individual birds within the array area and a 2km buffer.
- MK asked how the array area reduction was undertaken and to what extent environmental and ecological data such as key ornithological receptors were considered.
 - ODOW explained that the Project looked at hot spots of species that were identified through the HiDef data. Key species were identified from a HRA perspective and those areas were identified to the Project to feed into the site refinement as a high priority.
 - ODOW added that the avoidance element of the mitigation hierarchy has been taken into account for array reduction. Within the data guillemot and razorbill showed clear pattern within the site, which was able to be fed into the refinement work. Kittiwakes were broadly even across the site. This was fed to engineers to show which areas being reduced would have clear ecological benefits.
 - ODOW added that the requirement for the array reduction is post consent but the Project are undertaking the work pre consent in effort to minimize impacts as early as possible.
 - MK asked whether the information considered such as the species mapping and work undertaken will be presented in the ES.
 - ODOW confirmed that the analysis of bioseasons and raw monthly data was provided to engineers for consideration and the information will be included within the site selection chapter.

- PL asked whether the updated modelling was undertaken with the revised 100 WTG.
 - ODOW confirmed the modelling was undertaken using the array area rather than the turbine locations and number.

Increase of Minimum Tip Height

- ODOW confirmed the Project have increased the minimum tip height to 40m above MSL.
 - ODOW explained that as a result of this a substantial reduction in the collision impacts was seen in some species. Common and Sandwich tern were particularly reduced.
 - ODOW added that the 30m tip height collision impacts are based on 18 months of DAS data and 40m is based on the full 24 months DAS data, which is why there is an increase in herring gull.

Apportioning

Apportioning of Impacts to Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA (FFC SPA)

- ODOW confirmed the Project are looking to improve the evidence base informing apportioning rates for guillemot and razorbill.
- ODOW added that more birds were counted in April than the whole breeding season added together and April also shows a large increase in birds in flight.
- ODOW explained that within both years of data there was a high peak in the numbers of guillemot and razorbill in April. There is also a much larger proportion of birds in flight witnessed and travelling northerly. Therefore, the Project are proposing whether research could be undertaken to see if a proportion of this abundance peak are non-breeders or on route to other breeding colonies.

- ODOW asked whether the data collected in spring could be used to investigate which birds are second calendar year birds in non breeding plumage. This may then be used to model the proportion of non-adult and immature birds within the array.
- ODOW highlighted the recent evidence published from Beatrice OWF, and hope that Natural England will give it consideration in relation to guillemot and razorbill mortality and displacement rates, given they are lower than previously considered.

- RJ asked how the Project intend to differentiate between non-breeders, different aged birds and different colonies of origin. They explained that molt can be influenced by a range of factors and is not always reliable.
 - ODOW propose using the DAS data to investigate the head colour.
 - RJ explained that this has been suggested by other projects but Natural England do not consider this a reliable method.
 - ODOW added that birds that breed further north and are travelling through the site will not be in breeding plumage so this can help evidence that the individual is not linked to FFC SPA.
 - RF advised that in the absence of site specific evidence, the Project should assume that all adult type birds that are within foraging range of FFC SPA are linked. It was also added that FFC SPA is northwest of the Project array area.

- MK explained that Natural England require the information and methods that have been advised for to be presented within the ES. If the Project decides to progress with these investigations it should be presented alongside.
 - ODOW confirmed both scenarios will be presented at ES.
- The Project asked whether Natural England could clarify their position, asking if the HOW04 position on displacement and mortality rates will be taken for the Project.
 - MK explained this will depend on the pattern of the data. Within other data there is a higher peak post breeding season. They advised the Project to look at whether other project's data has seen the April peak. It is possible that birds are settling for a few days at FFC and then departing, but this argument would require a lot of evidence.
 - **ACTION: ODOW to investigate if the April abundance peak is witnessed in other projects data.**
- The Project raise that DAS datasets identify Kittiwake in 'adult plumage' as adult which develops approximately 18 months old, but the individuals will not start breeding until approximately 4 years old. Is there a methodology or data that would be able to be better for defining age in offshore populations.
 - RF explained that as the Project does not have site specific data this would be difficult. Natural England does not support the use of stable age structures so without the site specific data it is not possible to know which adults are non breeding.
 - ODOW explained that they have not got a method to propose but have numbers of 1st year birds and productivity rate from the DAS data.
 - RF added that the Project would have to assume distribution is uniform which Natural England do not believe it to be as there is a lack of data about this.
 - ODOW confirmed that discussions will be held and a written note produced for Natural England.
 - **ACTION: ODOW to provide a note proposing how to age Kittiwake and identify non breeding adults.**
- The Project are proposing the inclusion of above offshore breeders in apportioning. Offshore populations of Kittiwakes have been found on platforms and could these be apportioned to FFC SPA.
- ODOW explained the data recorded 836 AONs within 20km of the Project array. It was added that there were access issues to the platform so numbers most likely an underestimate and therefore precautionary.
 - RJ explained that before this could be factored in, the reliability of the data needs to be known.
 - ODOW explained the Project 2 years of data from the platforms. 2022 surveys were undertaken from 500m from the platforms and the majority of 2023 data was collected closer 200m/250m. The surveys were all done from boat based photography by professional ornithologists.
 - ODOW confirmed the Project are planning on using a precautionary approach, using number of nests, assuming 20km from array and using Nature Scot method. With the preliminary results a reduction of around 20-30% has been calculated. It was added that the number of AONs has been doubled to ensure breeding pairs.

- RJ explained that Natural England would like to see a range of apportioning presented including 100% to FFC SPA.
- MK explained that this is the first assessment undertaken within England so there is a lack of best practice guidance. Natural England would like to see a draft before application to avoid potential delay in examination.
- **ACTION: ODOW to present inclusion of above offshore breeders in apportioning assessment pre application to Natural England**

Guillemot Breeding on Offshore Structures

- ODOW explained guillemot were noted as being present on three platforms during breeding bird census. Direct breeding evidence was not available to observers but breeding behavior was exhibited. Whilst the Project's surveys did not witness direct evidence, this has been seen in other surveys. It was noted that the research is limited due to oil and gas operators not allowing for the surveys.
- RJ asked whether the intention of this data was to inform apportioning of guillemot/
 - It was explained that the data is more to add evidence of guillemot nesting for the ANS.

Compensation measures

- ODOW confirmed the Project are progressing work and looking at options for ANS.
- ODOW added that predator eradication and biosecurity is also being investigated but at this stage information is commercially sensitive so will be shared when possible. An additional interim ETG was proposed to discuss this before the November ETG.
- **ACTION: ODOW to arrange interim ETG to discuss predator eradication once the information is able to be shared.**
- ODOW confirmed that work is ongoing within the Kittiwake steering group.

- ODOW asked whether stakeholders could confirm that Lesser Black Backed gulls are scoped out based on the collision rate decrease as a result of the increase in minimum tip height, reducing the rate to less than 0.1 birds that are not within the mean max foraging range.
 - MK explain that they will require more detail but that seems reasonable. It was suggested the Project look at Natural England SEP and DEP advice on lesser black backed gulls, which is closer to the AOE SPA than ODOW. There is also a lot of urban colonies between the AOE SPA and Lincolnshire so the apportioning is highly diluted.

AOB

- MK explained that the strategic compensation measures need to be thought about how best to address this in examination
 - ODOW explained the Project are unable to share detail at this stage but agree it is key. The project will reflect what is in the plan within the application.
 - MK explained it is important that the plan is clear about what the strategic compensation can and cant do.
 - ODOW agree and are keen to keep the compensation discussion in examination to the numbers for compensation rather than how it is delivered.


MK asked for clarity on the priorities that Natural England can assist in and which documents are being provided for review ahead of submission.

Action: ODOW to provide a list of documents that will be provided to Natural England and the timeline for these documents.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|---|-----------------|------------|
| 29/03/2023 | ODOW to include DAS survey data within the technical baseline for Natural England to review. | ODOW | Ongoing |
| 29/03/2023 | ODOW to look at the Project data in comparison with other projects within the area and assess robustness and how representative the data is. | ODOW | Ongoing |
| 31/7/2023 | AD to share the slides and minutes with AM to add post meeting comments | RSPB | Ongoing |
| 11/9/2023 | Natural England (MK/ RH) to check if any data could be shared in advance of the final report of Red Throated Divers within the Greater Wash to be used in assessments | Natural England | New action |
| 11/9/2023 | ODOW to investigate if the April abundance peak is witnessed in other projects data. | ODOW | New action |
| 11/9/2023 | ODOW to provide a note proposing how to age Kittiwake and identify non breeding adults. | ODOW | New action |
| 11/9/2023 | ODOW to present inclusion of above offshore breeders in apportioning assessment pre application to Natural England | ODOW | New action |
| 11/9/2023 | ODOW to arrange interim ETG to discuss predator eradication once the information is able to be shared. | ODOW | New action |
| 11/9/2023 | ODOW to provide a list of documents that will be provided to Natural England and the timeline for these documents. | ODOW | New action |

/End

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|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Offshore Ornithology and Compensation & Derogation Expert Topic Group |
| Document Number: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-042 |
| Revision: | 01 |
| Revision Status: | Issued for Information |
| Date: | 20/11/23 |
| Time: | 10.00hrs-12.00hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Greg Tomlinson (GT) – ODOW Jake Laws (JL) – ODOW Debbie Nickless (DN) – ODOW (WSP) Phil New (PN) – ODOW (GoBe) Laura Vickery (LV) – ODOW (GoBe) James Miles (JM) – ODOW (GoBe) Mark Lewis (ML) – ODOW (GoBe) Ben Jones (BJ) – ODOW (GoBe) Adam Chambers (AC) – Natural England Martin Kerby (MK) - Natural England Rebecca Jones (RJ) - Natural England Rebecca Hodgkiss (RH) - Natural England Rachel Riddell (RR) - Natural England Andrew Dodd (AD) - RSPB Emma Shore (ES) – MMO Karrie Schentler (KS) – MMO |
| Apologies: | Aly McCluskie - RSPB |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Updates

- The Project is holding a Section 42 Autumn Consultation (20th October to 24th November). This consultation is primarily for onshore as the Project has confirmed the onshore substation location (Surfleet Marsh) and grid connection (Weston Marsh).
- The Offshore Project refinements are confirmation of:
 - a minimum blade tip height of 40m (up from 30m);
 - The maximum number of WTG as 100 (increase from 93, to account for a 15MW turbine option);
 - reduction of GBS to a maximum of 50% of structures; and
 - the ORCP area has been moved further offshore to the closest distance to shore of 12km.
- ODOW confirmed the DCO application is on track for submission in February 2024.
- ODOW explained that they are currently coming towards end of the EIA process but that the offshore ornithology compensation and derogation work is still ongoing and finalisation of those documents will be as late as possible to continue to incorporate stakeholder input.

- ODOW explained that the array area has been refined and by the time of construction will be required to meet the power density requirement set by TCE. The Project have made effort to reduce as far as possible at this moment for reasons including environmental impact reduction.
- ODOW presented the revised array area boundary, compared with the PEIR boundary. It was explained that the western border reduction was primarily to resolve shipping and navigation issues. The northern boundary reduction was a reduction influenced by the impact on birds, particularly the displacement of guillemot, and also the sloping of the boundary was to reduce the impact on the FDS route for shipping and navigation.
- MK asked whether the evidence for the array reduction will be presented at ES?
 - ODOW confirmed that the density models and evidence for the reductions will be included with the site selection and alternatives chapter. They explained that design based and model-based density estimates using MRSea were undertaken. This was focused on guillemot as kittiwakes were found to be more broad scale across the array.
- MK queried whether the recent capacity increases announced by TCE would influence the Project.
 - ODOW explained that the Project had used the parameters presented in the relevant PEIRs/ESs for the identified projects, rather than the lower capacity limits in their Afls. Therefore, with the exception of Dogger Bank D, the parameters for the cumulative and in-combination assessments will not need updating.

Offshore Ornithology

Approach to Apportioning of Guillemots in the Breeding Season

- ODOW explained that within the data there was a large peak in guillemot numbers in April. This month was higher than the rest of the breeding season added together and 3x higher than in May. Therefore, ODOW propose it is unlikely all individuals are breeding at FFC SPA.
 - ODOW explained that their approach assumes colony attendance is lower and apportioning 50% of the April individuals to FFC SPA. During this time foraging trips may be longer as well and there is also considerable migration within the North Sea. Rampion 2 data found a peak in late March so the April peak in the Project's data may be showing the migrating individuals continuing north.
 - ODOW explained the approach is precautionary as they are using the higher colony bands.
 - MK explained that similar methodology has been proposed by other projects. However, for FFC SPA there is not a lot of resolution in the colony data. There is also evidence that in the winter populations return so therefore the population may be dispersal rather than migratory. They added that there are a lot of guillemot within the North Sea and further north but not a lot of understanding. It could be that the guillemots are ready for breeding season and close to the FFC SPA in April.
 - RJ added there is evidence for guillemot remaining close to the breeding site outside of the breeding season and there could be a number of ecological reasons for the April peak so this needs to be taken into account.
 - MK and RH added that Natural England are unable to change their position and would still like 100% apportioning to FFC SPA presented but welcomes it alongside the Project's proposed method.

- ODOW confirmed both methods will be presented at ES.
- MK added that the Nature Scot methodology requires 100% of individuals within the mean max foraging range +1sd. Consideration should also be taken to how to handle guillemot in the molt and chick rearing phase. One of Natural England's concerns is that additional sensitivity and possible heightened colony contributions through August to September period for guillemot. Would like discussion when they are able to see the data.
- MK asked whether this approach is being adopted to razorbill.
 - ODOW explained the April peak is not found in the data for razorbill so this approach is not being undertaken. It is just thought there are inflated number for guillemot.
- ODOW shared a photograph of guillemots nesting on an offshore structures with eggs. It was noted that this may be pertinent to be taken into account for the apportioning of the array individuals to FFC SPA.
 - RJ explained that this can be considered but would need quantitative evidence.

Apportioning of Adults in Guillemots

- ODOW explained they are using a bespoke approach using 2021 productivity rates and demographic rates from Horswill and Robinson (2015). Using this approach the apportionment of adults within the population is 53%.
 - RH explained the Natural England standard approach is that unless there is site-specific data then would have to assume all adult type birds are breeding adults. If ODOW want to present this data then needs to be alongside the standard approach
 - MK agreed that both methodologies be presented and values would allow comparison.

Apportioning of Kittiwakes in the Breeding Season

- ODOW explained that the Project have found that within 20km of the array there have been a minimum of 836 kittiwake AON.
 - RH explained that Natural England would like to see the overall apportioning approach annex to allow comment.
 - **ACTION: ODOW to share overall apportioning approach annex with Natural England**
- RH explained that Natural England would like more detail on survey methods for the census surveys and a full survey report would be useful to see the exact numbers going into calculations. There are concerns with the differing dates and number of surveys across the two years.
 - ODOW confirmed that the reports could be shared, however, aspects of the reports may need to be redacted due to commercial agreements in place with the operators. ODOW confirmed that they recognised the timing of the 2022 survey was not ideal but that it was a result of delays arising from procurement and commercial discussions. Therefore the 2023 survey timing was earlier.
 - **ACTION: ODOW to share the platform census survey report with Natural England**
 - MK agreed that offshore populations should be factored into the apportioning. However, the platforms show variability, and this is likely to be an unstable so more resolution would provide more confidence. They suggested that providing a range would be better given the lack of data.

- ODOW noted that the numbers used for the apportioning was based only on the AONs and excluded other birds counted in the surveys to avoid inflating the numbers.
- MK agreed the Project's approach is reasonable and would like to see input values used for FFC SPA colony.
- ODOW added that as these numbers are just AON there is a wider offshore population. It was added that the Project have also not used the Hornsea Four data of the platforms which would further reduce the numbers apportioned to FFC SPA.
- RH asked if there were any further surveys planned. Adding more data would help add confidence to this approach.
- ODOW explained there are none planned but this is an option, although they would not be able to feed into the ES but may be available for examination.

Guillemot and Kittiwake Apportioning Approaches

- ODOW presented the differences in the Project and Natural England approaches.
 - RJ explained that the apportioning should be based on DAS age data rather than population distribution.
 - RJ added that Natural England do not accept sabbatical rates and the Project should assume all are breeding adults.
 - Natural England welcomed both approaches being presented at ES.

Questions to Stakeholders

- ODOW asked what the stakeholders position was on the sCRM and mCRM tools.
 - RH explained that it is not known when the testing will be complete for StochLAB (sCRM). Natural England provided advise in a guidance note and this remains their position. Natural England agree it is fine to not run StochLAB as they can not recommend it yet and the Project should present results using the Mcgregor CRM tool.
 - RH added that the mCRM and StochLAB have experienced the same issues as use part of the same code, if the Project want to use mCRM tool then Natural England would like another method presented as well.

Gannet Macro Avoidance

- ODOW asked whether cumulative and in-combination impacts can be adjusted using the new macro avoidance rates.
 - RH explained that Natural England have accepted this previously. They advised looking at SEP & DEP Natural England guidance and Natural England would want to see the Projects methodology.
 - **ACTION: Natural England to provide the guidance provided to SEP&DEP regarding the gannet macro avoidance and cumulative effects.**
 - AD explained that the RSPB are not supportive of the macro avoidance approach and will provide position.
 - **ACTION: RSPB to provide their position of using the updated gannet macro avoidance on projects within the cumulative and in-combination assessments.**

- ODOW asked whether the recent HiDef paper about the macro avoidance of gannets (which suggests that macro avoidance in gannet is even higher than previously thought) will change the ranges advised by Natural England
 - **ACTION: Natural England to check which ranges they would recommend the Project use for macro avoidance.**
- ODOW asked whether Projects that have compensated for their impacts can be removed from the in-combination assessments.
 - MK recommend that DESNZ are of the view that the outputs need to be shown with the compensation included and without. Natural England recommend looking at the likelihood of the compensation success and taking this into account. Both Hornsea Four and SEP&DEP provided both.
- AD explained they will find previous advice RSPB submitted regarding this.
- **ACTION: RSPB to share advice given regarding the inclusion of projects that have compensated for their impacts within the in-combination assessments.**
- **Post Meeting Note received from RSPB 20/11/23: Excluding from in-combination calculations the impacts of projects required to provide compensation measures: [Norfolk Boreas: submission to post-examination consultation dated 21 October 2021](#) – see section 5 (para 5.21 onwards)**
- ODOW asked whether the updated avoidance rates could be used to adjust previous collision estimates of other projects.
 - RH advised SEP&DEP undertook this and Natural England agreed with this methodology. They agreed this approach is doable and recommend the Project adopt the SEP&DEP values.
 - **ACTION: Natural England to provide documents relevant to SEP&DEP adjusting previous collision estimates using updated avoidance rates.**

Plémont Seabird Reserve

- ODOW introduced Plémont seabird reserve as a predator control project that ODOW are supporting as a compensation measure.
 - ODOW explained that the Project are currently funding a project officer role and if compensation required for auks, ODOW will be the principal funder for the project.
- MK explained to assess this measure Natural England need to understand the baseline of the area and then can calculate the benefit of the project. Also need to understand the drivers of the population declines.
 - ODOW explained that more details can be provided and they offered that a representative of the reserve could be invited to a meeting in the new year.
 - ODOW added there is a report by Birds on the Edge of the proposed project and the Project will provide additional information.
- ODOW shared information about the current seabird populations within the reserve. The seabird populations were historically very high showing potential and that there is suitable habitat.
- ODOW shared the number of recorded predators, showing potentially high predation pressure at the site.
 - MK asked whether the report will cover the extent of eradication.

- ODOW explained that this is a control measure so there will be ongoing aspects of monitoring, maintenance and predator control.
- MK asked about the community involvement for the Project.
- ODOW confirmed there is involvement from a local hedgehog conservation group and non-lethal and lethal traps will be used for different species to manage community concerns.
- MK added that Hornsea Four proposed predator eradication in the Channel Islands, so recommended looking at the Natural England advice. There are concerns about the connectivity of the seabird network and how this would benefit FFC SPA.
- **ACTION: Natural England to share the note on the protection of the coherence of the national site network provided to HOW04.**
- AD explained the RPSB also have concerns regarding the evidence that birds benefited will have connectivity to the UK population. Raising the measure could be a positive conservation measure but may not have a benefit to the FFC SPA.
- **ACTION: RSPB to share their views on HOW04 decision letter regarding the predator eradication and the connectivity of the seabird network.**
- **Post Meeting Note received from RSPB 20/11/23:** Connectivity to the UK SPA network from compensation measures in the Channel Islands (lack of evidence base, pointing to where evidence would need to be provided)
 - [Hornsea 4: REP5-120](#), including paras 3.21-3.23
 - [Hornsea 4: REP6-069](#) – see Tables 1 (predator eradication) and 4 (bycatch reduction). Section 5 of this document also includes a detailed assessment of the information required in respect of any predator eradication or control measure proposed as compensation and would be relevant to the Jersey proposal described briefly this morning.
 - [Hornsea 4: Post-examination consultation. RSPB submission dated 9 March 2023](#) – see numbered page 21.
- ODOW explained that for Auks the project are proposing a package of measures to help reduce uncertainty.
- ODOW provided an overview of additional sites for auk compensation using predator eradication and human disturbance reduction (site dependent based on pressures). All the sites are around the South West coast of England and have existing populations that are in decline. They are offshore and onshore sites.
 - RJ explained Natural England would want to see more detail and evidence of the pressures on the populations.
 - ODOW explained the measure is in early development so will be progressed as far as possible by application and continue development through examination.
 - MK asked if the sites have any designations.
 - MK explained the approach of multiple compensation sites for auks is welcomed. They recommended also looking at potential sites in Dorset.
 - **ACTION: ODOW to provide an overview of the designations of the proposed sites for auk compensation.**
- RH asked when it is likely that the Birds on the Edge report will be available.
 - ODOW explained the plan is provide the report ahead of the meeting in January.

ANS Auk Nesting

- ODOW showed a photograph showing guillemot nesting and breeding on an ANS structure within proximity to the array. The photo cannot be shared beyond the meeting.
 - AD explained this does not provide information of breeding success and fledging. More data is required to allow this to support the compensation measure.
- ODOW added that the census survey was undertaken from below the nesting sites so the photo presented in the ETG is the only direct evidence of offshore breeding, however suggests that where guillemots are displaying breeding behaviour that it is feasible they are breeding.

AOB

- RJ asked whether there were considerations within ANS design for Auks and the location of the structures.
- ODOW confirmed the Project are looking at a multi-species ANS. They explained the aim is to have some of the ecological work that fed into ANS design available to present for ES and examination. The site selection reporting at PEIR focused on kittiwake suitability. Razorbill and guillemot were also included in the site selection and evidence will be provided at ES.
- MK asked whether there were gulls and other predators found close to the structures in the census surveys. Adding predator protection needs to be taken into account for the design.
 - ODOW confirmed within the census numbers there were small numbers, not large aggregations.
- RJ added that if the ANS is multi-species it needs to consider the species that nest and those that do not and consider egg rolling, specifically in terms of the texture of the ledges.
 - ODOW confirmed this will be taken into account in the design.
- ODOW noted that they were content with Natural England sharing the estimated number of kittiwake collisions and indicative compensation requirements shared separately with the wider case team.
- It was noted that the numbers provided are not based on the revised array but are based on the 40m minimum tip height so should only decrease.
- MK explained Natural England can provide DAS advice on these numbers.
- **ACTION: ODOW to provide note on the interim numbers for the ES.**

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|---|-----------------|---------|
| 11/9/23 | Natural England (MK/RH) to check if any data could be shared in advance of the final report of Red Throated Divers within the Greater Wash SPA. | Natural England | Ongoing |
| 11/9/23 | ODOW to investigate if the April abundance peak is witnessed in other projects data. | ODOW | Ongoing |
| 20/11/23 | ODOW to share overall apportioning approach annex with Natural England | ODOW | New |
| 20/11/23 | ODOW to share the platform census survey report with Natural England | ODOW | New |
| 20/11/23 | Natural England to provide the guidance provided to SEP&DEP regarding the gannet macro avoidance and cumulative effects. | Natural England | New |
| 20/11/23 | RSPB to provide their position of using the updated gannet macro avoidance on projects within the cumulative and in-combination assessments. | RSPB | New |
| 20/11/23 | Natural England to check which ranges they would recommend the Project use for macro avoidance. | Natural England | New |
| 20/11/23 | RSPB to share advice given regarding the inclusion of projects that have compensated for their impacts within the in-combination assessments | RSPB | New |
| 20/11/23 | Natural England to provide documents relevant to SEP&DEP adjusting previous collision estimates using updated avoidance rates. | Natural England | New |
| 20/11/23 | Natural England to share the note on the protection of the coherence of the national site network provided to HOW04. | Natural England | New |
| 20/11/23 | RSPB to share their views on HOW04 decision letter regarding the predator eradication and the connectivity of the seabird network. | RSPB | New |
| 20/11/23 | ODOW to provide an overview of the designations of the proposed sites for auk compensation. | ODOW | New |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|---|----------------|--------|
| 20/11/23 | ODOW to provide note on the interim numbers for the ES. | ODOW | New |

/End

A coastal landscape featuring a path that winds through dunes covered in tall, golden-brown grasses. The path leads towards a wide, flat expanse of sand and water, possibly a beach or tidal flat, under a sky filled with soft, grey clouds. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex B Part 6 of 11

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024


Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex B – Part 6 of 10

Onshore Ecology, Hydrology and Ground Conditions Expert Topic Group Minutes

| | |
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|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Onshore Ecology, Hydrology & Ground Conditions ETG |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM- 000286-01 |
| Date: | 19th July 2022 |
| Time: | 1000hrs to 1200hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lincolnshire County Council: Dan Clayton (DC) • Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board: Ed Johnson (EJ) • Environment Agency: Annette Hewitson (AH), Richard Morgan (RM), Anna-leigh Riley (AR), Rebecca Sylvester (RS), Paul Sherman (PS), Rachel Hudson (RH) • Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust: Keiran McCloskey (KM) • Welland & Deepings Internal Drainage Board: Nick Morrish (NM) • Water Management Alliance: Yvonne Smith (YS) • Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board: Andrew Scott (AS) • Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board: Darren Cowling (DC) • ODOW: Beth Travis (BT), Chris Jenner (CJ), Roisin Alldis (RA) • SLR: Andy Gregory (AG), Victoria Smith (VS), Katrina Riches (KR), Colin Duncan (CD), Victoria Smith (VS), Martin Baines (MB) • GoBe: Rona McCann (RM) • Dalcour Maclaren: James Pidduck (JP) |
| Apologies: | ODOW: Jean-Côme SOL (JC), Rachel Furlong (RF) GoBe: Steve Bellew (SB), Julia Bolton (JB) SLR: Duncan Watson (DW) |
| Circulation: | External |

Introduction to ODOW

- All attendees gave a brief introduction before moving onto the Project introductions.
- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (The Project) was awarded Preferred Bidder status for a 1.5 GW site in the southern North Sea as part of The Crown Estate's Round 4 leasing process.
- ODOW aim to promote environmental stewardship while contributing to UK government goal of reaching 50 GW of renewable energy by 2030.

Project Update - Communications

- ODOW have recently launched the Project website – www.outerdowsing.com
- ODOW have created a Project email address – contact@outerdowsing.com
- Engagement with Local MPs & Councillors underway, with briefing sessions scheduled
- Engagement with landowners has also commenced.

Project Update – Connection Options

- The Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR), is an ongoing process, initiated by BEIS and Ofgem and led by National Grid to consider existing offshore transmission regime and to

address the barriers it presents to further significant deployment of offshore wind, with a view to achieving net zero ambitions.

- The draft results of the Holistic Design Network (HND) were published on 7th July 2022 and concluded that two connection options for ODOW be considered: a connection Lincs Node (previously known as East Midlands Connection) with a connection date of 2031, or alternatively a connection to Weston Marsh with a connection date of 2028/29.
- A final decision on the connection location will be taken by National Grid, with a decision expected in Sept 2022.
- The Scoping Report Boundary therefore includes both connection locations (as presented in the accompanying slide pack).
- Environmental and engineering constraints mapping has narrowed down the possible landfall connections which in turn will influence the routing of the potential export cable corridor.
- Due to the location of Triton Knoll there is a challenge in avoiding Silver Pitt which is unviable from an engineering and challenging from an ecological perspective (noting currently consultation on designated Silver Pit a Highly Protected Marine Area (HPMA)). Silver Pit is pushing the offshore cable route south of Triton Knoll and as a result, the geophysical surveys will continue in this area, at project risk, to ensure the project is moving as proactively as possible in collecting environmental information.
- Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board suggested that challenges can arise from the same areas being used for power lines at landfall, if the same areas are being used each time local communities may push back and ask questions due to the repeated disruption.
- ODOW expressed that currently there is substation at Weston Marsh but instead it is a T-junction of overhead lines, and it is understood that regardless of overhead or underground lines, the Project could be connecting to Weston Marsh. However as this is outside the ODOW Project's control and sits with National Grid, that at present it cannot be confirmed until the final decision from National Grid.

Project Update - Programme

- Submission of scoping before the end July
- Onshore surveys to commence end of August/September 2022
- EPP meetings have been arranged, these meetings will be used to engage with stakeholders on approach to scoping identification of scoping boundary and proposed consultation feedback
- DCO submission is currently scheduled for Q4 2023.

Onshore Scoping Report Boundary

- Environmental constraints mapping has narrowed down the possible landfall connections which in turn will influence the potential cable routes to be used.
- ODOW confirmed the landfall area does not overlap with any SSSIs and that geophysical and geotechnical investigations will be required in order to confirm ground conditions and suitability for construction.
- Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board made ODOW aware that the IDB's all have biodiversity action plans which include detailed audits of their districts and may hold some local information that could be useful for cable route refinement.

- As both Lincolnshire Node and Weston Marsh connection options are included, the area of search for the Scoping Report spans between these areas.
- The following designated sites fall within the area of search (AoS):
 - 11 International sites (within 15km of the AoS)
 - 11 National sites (within 2km of the AoS)
 - 2 LNRs (within 2km of the AoS)
- A HRA report will be produced separately which will cover European and Ramsar sites in more detail.
- The scoping boundary is intentionally kept wide at present, to allow for route refinement as additional surveys are undertaken and consultation feedback.
- Open source information has been assessed as well as site visits to validate information.

Onshore Ecology and Ornithology

- Desk based Preliminary Environmental Appraisal (PEA) has been drafted with the intention to incorporate substations and other aspects as the project progresses. Results should establish baseline conditions, flag any impacts on ecological receptors and identify opportunities for BNG at an early stage.
- Initial desk based habitat surveys have been undertaken using OS master map aerial imagery at 25cm resolution, using full UKhab classification, which have been done for the first section for level 2 or level 3, wherever possible (for example, Level 2 - urban, level 3 – building, Level 2 - grassland, Level 3 neutral grassland).
- Initial calculations suggest 90% is of the AoS is arable farmland. 5% is anticipated to be grass and the remaining 5% is between urban or lakes/rivers, this information will be used to target our field surveys.
- At this stage, no potential impacts or ecological receptors have been scoped out of the assessment, as the onshore layout of the onshore infrastructure is unknown.
- Once the cable route is confirmed, targeted surveys of habitats and species will be undertaken in accordance with good practice guidelines within the preferred locations and an appropriate buffer.

Hydrology and Flood Risk

- A desk based baseline has been built for the Scoping Report using publicly available and opensource data.
- The AoS is situated on the east coast of England and spans from Theddlethorpe St Helen in the north to Spalding in the south.
- Statutory environmentally designated sites within the AoS or within areas close to and in hydraulic continuity with the AoS:
 - 9 International sites;
 - 11 National sites
- Lincolnshire County Council added that in terms of flood risk zones, there's a re-mapping exercise underway for ancient woodland around the county. The previous survey was in the 80s and only looked at sites over 0.5 acres, the GLNP are doing the surveys now to update this.
- Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board commented that in June 2019, Triton Knoll had to stand construction down for a long period after we received 150mm of rain in 36 hours causing groundwater flooding affecting the site and drilling operations. Most of the IDB's have hydraulic models you could have access to when you are looking at this in more

detail. It was recommended that access to the flood defense grant is acquired in aid of the six year programme and this would have all the capital projects listed on it.

- Environment Agency suggested that both existing abstractions licenses and unlicensed private and domestic supplies should be considered as a potential receptor along the route. If it is anticipated that there will be changes in river or groundwater flows more detailed assessment will be required. It was also recommended to consider applying for dewatering abstraction licenses if water is to be transferred.
- Accidental spillages and leakages of oils, fuels and other polluting substances which could potentially enter the water environment have been scoped out for all phases of the Project.
- AS informed the project team (via Teams chat function) that the IDB's would expect ALL watercourses to be crossed by HDD, not just those maintained by the individual IDB or EA Main River, unless agreed locally. As this was done on the Triton Knoll & Viking Link projects. The IDBs would expect this to be covered by Protective Provisions within the DCO. This position was supported by DC. The Project team is currently defining the route alignment and crossing requirements and will seek to discuss these with the IDBs and Environment Agency at future ETG meetings.

Post meeting note: It was advised via email from DC of Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board that the use of HDD also offers benefits with regard to minimising the impact on the ecology of watercourses.

ACTION: SLR to contact Charlie Barnes about the GLNP re-mapping exercises.


Geology and Ground Conditions

- A desk based baseline has been built for the Scoping Report using publicly available and opensource data.
- Land Quality and Development Impact Assessment will be incorporated in the Scoping Report.
- 5 Environmental designations relevant to geology, ground conditions and land quality receptors identified.
- The Environment Agency recommended that hydrogeology is covered as a separate topic rather than included in geology under the same heading. It was expressed that a dewatering exemption might be needed which can take 6-12 months and that chalk would require 10-15m minimum for cover. If a dewatering exemption isn't already part of the ODOW Project scope, then the Environment Agency could provide this. The following link was shared from the Environment Agency for more information on dewatering exemptions and licenses: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1044/regulation/5/made>
- If at some point further information is required on projects at Theddlethorpe for cumulative/in combination assessment, team should contact AH.
- The following potential impacts have been scoped out only during the operations and maintenance phases of the ODOW Project:
 - Operational impacts on geology/ground conditions and associated longer term risks to human and environmental receptors
 - Loss of agricultural land
 - Routine maintenance effects on sterilisation of minerals and loss of agricultural land

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|---|----------------|--------|
| 19/07/2022 | Set up a meeting with Charlie Barnes about the GLNP re-mapping exercises. | SLR | |

/End

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|---|---|
|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Onshore Ecology, Hydrology and Ground Conditions Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-IP-000045-01 |
| Date: | 12 th October 2022 |
| Time: | 1000hrs to 1100hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Environment Agency: Anna-Leigh Riley (ALR), Annette Hewitson (AH), Paul Sherman (PS), Rachel Hudson (RH), Richard Morgan (RM), Steven Coe (SC) Lincolnshire County Council: Matthew Davey (MD) Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust: Kieran McCloskey (KM) LMDB: Darren Cowling (DC) ODOW: David Wright (DW), Roisin Alldis (RA) SLR: Alexandra Stewart (AS), Andy Gregory (AG), Katrina Riches (KR), Martin Baines (MB), Siobhan Hall (SH), Victoria Smith (VS) Welland IDB: Nick Morris (NM) Water Management Alliance: Emma Robertson (ER), Yvonne Smith (YS) W4 IDB: Ed Johnson (EJ) |
| Apologies: | Environment Agency: Rebecca Sylvester (RS) Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust: Tammy Smalley (TS) Natural England: Deanna Atkins (DA), Louise Burton (LB) ODOW: Beth Travis (BT), Chris Jenner, (CJ) Rachel Furlong (RF) SLR: Duncan Watson (DW) Welland IDB: Andrew Scott (ASc) |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

Apologies

- Due to resourcing constraints, Natural England have confirmed they are unable to attend this round of Expert Topic Groups (ETGs). Meeting minutes and presentations will be issued to Natural England for comment and written input.

Project Update

- A single Development Consent Order (DCO) application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (The Inspectorate).
- The Project's grid connection location subject to the ongoing Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR).
- The OTNR is being led by BEIS alongside National Grid and relevant stakeholders.
- OTNR considering an efficient approach to network connections.
- The final Holistic Network Design report, issued in July 2022, recommended two possible connection points be considered for the Project; Lincolnshire Coastal Node (Lincs Node) and Weston Marsh.
- Final decision still pending with an update on the Project's connection offer expected in Autumn 2022.

Programme

- Scoping Report was submitted to The Inspectorate on 29th July with the Project receiving the Scoping Opinion from The Inspectorate on 9th September 2022.
- Ongoing reviews and analysis of responses are being undertaken by the Project and technical teams.
- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will be submitted Q1 2023.
- The Project will work with stakeholders through the Evidence Plan Process (EPP), ETGs and bilateral discussions to assist in informing PEIR.
- The Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report was submitted to relevant stakeholders on 3rd August.
- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) underwent an initial consultation in August, with a revised version issued in September. Comments are due from stakeholder by 13th October.
- Public information Days (PIDs) will be held in November 2022 and Spring 2023.
- Targeting DCO application submission in Q4 2023.

Surveys

- A summary of ongoing, completed and planned surveys was provided.
- Of specific interest to this ETG, onshore surveys are ongoing, majority of terrestrial surveys are starting now and taking place throughout winter 2022 and spring 2023.

Onshore PEIR Boundary

- Refined cable route and substation search zones post-scoping.
- Lincolnshire Node and Weston Marsh substation search zones are still being considered.
- PEIR assessment will consider a 300m wide search zone where the cable could be constructed and assumed 80m temporary construction corridor and 60m permanent easement.
- Cable routing is being undertaken using a least-cost path analysis using environmental receptors as the key to be avoided. Detailed review of all known environmental constraints before any engineering input so the route was defined on the most critical environmental receptors. Engineering team then further refined the route from an engineering perspective.

Onshore Ecology and Ornithology – Scoping Opinion

Scoping Opinion confirm agreement to Scope Out:

- Impact on ancient woodland
 - SLR are aware that ancient woodlands are being reviewed again and if the situation do change and any additional sways of ancient woodland are included on the register, these will be incorporated in the ES if the opportunity arises and the data will be revised. Understand this information will unlikely be available to include in the assessment.

Scoping Opinion confirms areas of disagreement:

- Study area and data collection rescoping to include:
 - Areas of bat roosts increased from 2km to 5km;
 - WEBS data will be included now that the data is available;
 - All LWS and candidate LWS within 2km of the route corridor;

- Consultation with the RSPB particularly due to local RSPB reserves in proximity to the route corridor;
- Mapping priority habitats within the 2km buffer including standalone habitats outside designated sites;
- Breeding population of Natterjack toads to be scoped into the assessment at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes. Anticipate no direct impact, however there may be some indirect impacts from habitat disturbance and habitat fragmentation and potential hydrological impacts will be considered in assessment and survey following engineering input; and
 - Functionally linked land between Within Wood and Hornby/Mother Woods.
- Mitigation measures for INNS to be scoped in and included in best practice approach to reduce any biosecurity issues.
- Drilling fluid breakout plan – reviewing areas for trenchless operations and being engineered to avoid sensitive sites and ecological features, any which can't, will be mitigated against.
- Fish and freshwater species in waterbodies – scoped in. Trenchless techniques will be used throughout all main waterbodies, anticipated that there won't be a direct impact however there is a small risk of vibrations leading to sediment mobilization.
 - Smaller fields and ditches where trenchless operations will not be used are also scoped in.
- Survey methodologies – appendices will detail species specific survey methodologies.
- Confidential annexes – confirmed that information relating to badger, rare and vulnerable birds will be included only in a confidential annex to the ES.

Scoping Opinion – Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT)

- Commitments to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)
 - Confirmed commitment to BNG, this will be considered throughout continued detailed design.
 - Developing a scheme and mitigation practices will be considered for each decision.
- Comment to secure habitats for at least 30 years from LWT – confirmed we will explore these opportunities following further consultation with landowners.
- Impacts for Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA – mainly bird issues surrounding the area and Kittiwake features.
 - Ongoing wintering bird surveys work is ongoing, this commenced in September and will continue through the winter to the following September.
 - Two visits a month with a 400m buffer zone (goes beyond the 300m corridor)
 - Redoing desk study data to consider the 2km study area
 - Awaiting WEBS data, then breeding bird surveys will be completed.
 - Mitigation hierarchy will be used in the design – many key environmental receptors have already been avoided and working to minimize any adverse impacts.
 - Mitigation and compensation will be secured within the landscape and ecology strategy.

Ecology and Ornithology – PEIR

PEIR Chapter to include:

- Redoing of desk study data for both corridors and substation locations now these have been further refined;

- Progressed through Habitat Suitability Index assessments for all ponds, nearly all are now complete.
- Wintering bird surveys for two visits per month in both September and October and at least one in November – look to include as much data as is practicable in the PEIR to provide an indication for what is on the site at that time;
- *Post meeting note received from Natural England on 02 November 2022: Natural England's position regarding wintering bird surveys remains unchanged.*
- Following engineering methodology and timeframe availability, the definition of a 'temporary impact' will become further refined; and
- Mitigation principles to be included.

Ecology and Ornithology PEIR Boundary

- Figure on slide 18 indicates:
 - 300m cable corridor;
 - 2km study area;
 - 5km buffer for bat roost data; and
 - 15km for statutory designated sites.

Ecology and Ornithology – Next Steps

- Following refinement, currently undertaking as much assessment works as possible.
- HSI surveys due for completion at the end of October 2022 (subject to landowner access).
- Wintering birds surveys are all completed from public rights of way (PRoW) to continue.
- End of March 2023, access to the route corridor is anticipated so further surveys (habitat surveys, badger surveys, bat roost potential, ditch assessment) can be completed.
- March 2022 onwards can focus on Phase 2 surveys (amphibians, water vole, otter, fish, invertebrates, reptiles, bats, breeding birds).
- PEIR submission will only include 2 months of survey data therefore an interim wintering birds report will be submitted at the end of March 2023.
- *Post meeting note received from Natural England on 02 November 2022: Natural England's position regarding wintering bird surveys remains unchanged.*

No questions on Ecology and Ornithology have been presented during the ETG meeting.

Hydrology and Flood Risk – Scoping Opinion

Scoping Opinion confirm agreement to Scope Out:

- Accidental spillages and leakages of polluting substances – Construction, O&M and Decommissioning
 - However proposed mitigation measures will be detailed within the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) and cross referenced within the PEIR chapter.
- Impact on Water Framework Directive (WFD) status for surface water or groundwater bodies – O&M, agreed to be scoped out and agreement will be referenced in the PEIR chapter.
- Transboundary hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk effects – agreement to be scoped out will be referenced in the PEIR chapter.

Scoping Opinion confirms areas of disagreement:

- The Inspectorate commented on potential for damage to flood defence or surface water drainage infrastructure – Decommissioning.
 - Due to the uncertainty around what the decommissioning will entail, what will be staying in situ, what will be removed. Agreed that this will be assessed and outlined in a relevant document such as a decommissioning plan.
- Pollution or disruption of flow to groundwater through ground excavations or piling – Decommissioning
 - Appreciate uncertainty at this stage, it is unknown whether piling will be undertaken at this stage, this will be better understood at a later stage.
- Changes to surface water drainage at the OnSS location – Cumulative
 - Still looking to refine connection point, once the OnSS location and connection point is confirmed, cumulative impacts will be assessed.
- Study Area
 - Scoping report outlined a study area up to 2km beyond cable corridor route, confirmed that this will be justified.
 - Possibility that there are a couple of areas where an assessment is undertaken beyond the 2km looking at potential downstream receptors beyond that limit, don't anticipate any issues.
- WFD assessment
 - Comment from The Inspectorate around the sets of data to be considered.
 - The recommendation and approach is that a single WFD assessment report will be prepared to support the application for both onshore and offshore elements.
- Future proposals for watercourses within the study area
 - Suggestion to engage with the Environment Agency and IDBs to understand any respective plans or future projects. Confirmed this will form a part of a more detailed data requested which is being drafted currently.
 - Important to understand future projects within the cable route area and any potential implications and construction window crossovers.

Hydrology and Flood Risk – PEIR

PEIR Chapter to include:

- Document currently being drafted;
- Legislative approach outlined in Scoping will be carried through into the PEIR;
- Any comments received from the data request to be sent out to key stakeholders will be included in the PEIR;
- Full baseline environment description;
- Maximum design parameters will be considered for the scheme;
- Methodology will be outlined;
- Detailed assessment of the effects of the Project on the onshore hydrological environment;
and
- Detailed assessment of the cumulative effects of the Project with other large and local developments.

Hydrology and Flood Risk – PEIR Boundary

- Data from a number of the Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) has now been received detailing assets and infrastructure.
- A small area south of Weston Marsh OnSS crosses over into South Holland IDB – this will be included in the data request for any GIS data in this area to have a full understanding for their assets.

Hydrology and Flood Risk – Next Steps

- Data requests to be issued to stakeholders (the Environment Agency, relevant IDBs and Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership).
- Commence baseline site walkover surveys at the end of October 2022 to ground truth all information from desk-based assessment.
- This will include field boundary ditches, connectivity to the wider water course networks to understand how fields and areas of land are currently draining and which catchments they sit within along the route.
- Information will be fed into the baseline reporting for PEIR.

Hydrology and Flood Risk – Comments and Questions

- Ed Johnson – Due to their delivery of considerable capital works they would like to understand the implications of any projects W4IDB have over the next 5/6 years and any potential for clashes with the Project.
- Steven Coe – flagged a potential need for an asset protection type agreement not covered by the normal permitting process.
- David Wright confirmed that any agreements will be picked up and provisions will be discussed at a separate meeting. In the first instance, the Project will try and design any issues out and try not to impact on the works.

Geology and Ground Conditions – Scoping Opinion

Scoping Opinion confirm agreement to Scope Out:

- Transboundary effects are agreed to be scoped out and agreement of this will be confirmed in the PEIR Chapter.

Scoping Opinion confirms areas of disagreement:

- Operational impacts on geology/ground conditions and associated longer term risks to human and environmental receptors–O&M.
 - Has not been agreed to be scoped out therefore the potential effects will be assessed.
- The Inspectorate raised a couple of comments around the duplication and discussion around:
 - 1) the loss of agricultural land from operation of underground cables–O&M; and
 - 2) effects on agricultural land quality and soil condition.
 - Internally there are ongoing discussions as to whether the land use chapter should be separated out and the agricultural land element discussed in the Geology and Ground Conditions chapter and the human and economic elements discussed within the socio-economic chapter to reduce any repetition or contradiction in the ES.

- Further agreement is needed to which chapter addresses soil condition (soil quality and soil compaction) to again reduce any duplication.
- Local geological sites
 - Confirming that the effects on these should be included in the assessment as these were not mentioned within the Scoping Report.
- Assessment methodology
 - All assessment methodology will be included within the ES Chapter or as an appendix.
- Guidance document - The Inspectorate also suggests consideration of the “Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidance – Land and Soil in EIA (2022)”
 - Confirmed that this document will be accessed and reviewed with relevant information included as part of the assessment.
- Effects on agricultural land quality and soil condition – duplication between chapters, confirm where this info will sit within PEIR.

Geology and Ground Conditions – PEIR

PEIR Chapter to include:

- Policy and statutory context;
- Summary of consultation comments from key relevant stakeholders;
- All baseline information to date;
- Maximum baseline parameters;
- Methodology appendix;
- Assessment of any effects at this stage; and
- Cumulative impacts.

Bedrock Geology – PEIR Boundary

- Figure indicating a 250m boundary which will be outlined the ES Chapter.

Superficial Geology – PEIR Boundary

- Not within any mineral safeguarding areas.

Geology and Ground Conditions – Next Steps

- Accessing Envirocheck report to review for information on ground conditions and any potential contaminated land which has been reported
- Undertake walkover surveys in November to confirm information outlined in the desk-based assessment, Envirocheck report and aerial photography.
- Continue drafting PEIR report chapter and complete baseline sections.

No questions on Geology and Ground Conditions have been presented during the ETG meeting.

AOB

- Stakeholder comments on the ETG minutes will be due within 2 weeks of being issued by the Project.
- Next meeting proposed for early December 2023 – Doodle polls to be issued. The aim of these will be to discuss method statements, technical baseline, outline documents and relevant draft DCO requirements.

- **Action:** EJ requested separate discussion with RA and DW about cost recovery for future officer time and information provision.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|---|----------------|--------|
| 12/10/2022 | EJ to request a separate call with RA and DW to discuss cost recovery for future officer time | EJ | |

/End

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|---|---|
|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Onshore Ecology Hydrology Ground Conditions and Land Use ETG |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000402-01 |
| Date: | 26 th January 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Abbie Marwood (AM) – Boston Borough Council Andrew Scott (AS) – Black Sluice IDB Darren Cowling (DC) – Lindsay Marsh IDB Ed Johnson (EJ) – Witham Fourth IDB Nick Morris (NM) – Witham Fourth IDB Paul Sherman (PS) – Environment Agency Rebecca Sylvester (RS) – Environment Agency Richard Morgan (RM) – Environment Agency Ella Thorpe (ET) – South Holland IDB Yvonne Smith (YS) – South Holland IDB Matthew Davey (MD) – Lincolnshire County Council Chris Jenner (CJ) – ODOW David Wright (DW) – ODOW Hugh Morris (HM) – ODOW Roisin Alldis (RA) – ODOW Alexandra Stewart (AS) – SLR Andy Gregory (AG) – SLR Ben Wyper (BW) – SLR James Wilson (JW) – SLR Katrina Riches (KR) – SLR Martin Baines (MB) – SLR Victoria Smith (VS) – SLR |
| Apologies: | Natural England and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (noting separate meeting held with Natural England on 30 Jan 2023) |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

Project Recap

- ODOW provided an update on the Project progress to date.
- Original Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) published in August 2022, following Phase 1 public consultation events an updated version has recently been published, to include an additional consultation phase (Phase 1A)

Programme

ODOW provided an update on the Project Programme.

- PEIR report submission is now anticipated to be Q2 2023, as a result of a new proposed route for the Weston Marsh Grid Connection option following feedback received from the Phase 1 public consultation.

- Two additional public consultation events for Rev1A are being held in February 2023.
- DCO submission anticipated to be Q4 2023.

Onshore Surveys

- ODOW provided an overview on the surveys that are upcoming and have been undertaken.

Onshore Update

- ODOW provided an update on the onshore aspects of the Project.
 - The Project is expecting the Grid offer by the end of March, both options to Lincolnshire Node and Weston Marsh are still under consideration by National Grid at this time. With this uncertainty, both possible connection options will be assessed in PEIR, with one of options and associated onshore cable route dropped after a connection point for the project is confirmed.
 - The Project would either connect into the existing overhead lines circuits at Weston Marsh or a new National Grid Substation Lincolnshire Node.

Public Consultation Event Feedback

- ODOW provided an overview of the four in-person public consultation events that have been undertaken in November 2022 with an attendance of over 500 people.
- Three significant issues which came out for the route identified:
 - 1) land on the original Weston Marsh route is some of the most productive crop growing land in the UK;
 - 2) Geological concerns raised with regard to groundwater and stability of the ground in that area, potential for “running sands”, which could make engineering more difficult; and
 - 3) General concern on damage to existing drainage networks.
- A number of alternative routes were therefore assessed that seeks to avoid the above mentioned issues, with the proposed alternative route also undergoing consultation alongside the original route.

Preferred Alternative Route

- ODOW provided an overview of the alternative route (Rev1a), outlining the process of consideration when determining a series of alternative routes.
 - The preferred alternative route is being surveyed and consulted upon, to allow for all the possible routes to be compared at PEIR, Phase 2 consultation and Section 42 consultation.

Onshore Ecology and Ornithology

Scope of Assessment

- ODOW provided an overview of the scope of assessment identifying 11 broad scale impacts which will be detailed in the PEIR and ES.

Study Area

- ODOW provided an overview of the study area.
 - Minor amendments following Stakeholder feedback included extending the area to 5km for bat roost studies.
 - Wintering birds' extent considered is also 400m beyond the PEIR boundary following consultation.

Key Data Sources

- ODOW provided an overview of the key data sources used for Onshore Ecology.

- Further discussions with the RSPB and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust will also feed into this.

Site Specific Surveys Undertaken to Date

- ODOW provided an overview of the ongoing and upcoming surveys.

Site Specific Survey Results

- Provided an overview of the results for;
 - Habitat Surveys;
 - Wintering Birds;
 - Assessment of Watercourses for Riparian Mammals;
 - Bat roost potential surveys of Trees, Buildings and Structures; and
 - Badgers.

Habitat Surveys

- 90-95% of the habitat types are agricultural land with low ecological value. Focusing around landfall and designated sites (around landfall and across the cable route corridor).
- Focusing on field margins, hedgerows, ditches and small areas of woodland for direct impacts.

Wintering Birds

- Surveys still ongoing therefore no detailed analysis of the data has been undertaken.
- The general pattern to date has been areas of sensitivity are within the vicinity of wetland sites, nature reserves whereas the agricultural land is not showing any consistently high numbers of target species.

Designated Sites and Key Receptors

- ODOW provided an overview of the key receptors for the assessments across Lincolnshire Node, Weston Marsh and Weston Marsh Rev1a.

EIA Methodology

- ODOW provided an overview of the guidance followed for the EIA methodology and the CIEEM Guidelines used for the EIA assessments.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- ODOW provided an overview on the data gaps, uncertainties and how the assumptions have been made.

Embedded Mitigation

- ODOW provided an overview of the embedded mitigation measures in place.

Next Steps

- ODOW provided an update of the next steps for Ecology around the surveys.

ODOW asked for any questions

- No questions received from Stakeholders.
- ODOW raised the question to stakeholders where feedback would be appreciated:
 - In line with the scoping report and best practice guidelines, we propose the following approach for GCN surveys:
 - A. HSI for all ponds within 250m and wet/ seasonally wet ditches within 100 m.
 - B. eDNA for all ponds and ditches with 'average' or above suitability within 250m of permanent or 100m of temporary habitat loss.
 - C. population class assessments for ponds (only) within 250m of permanent or 100m of temporary habitat loss.
 - D. appropriate mitigation and licensing for all waterbodies with evidence of GCN presence.

- Do the consultees support this approach? No comments were received from Stakeholders during the call; however feedback is welcome on this approach.

Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk

Scope of Assessment

- ODOW provided an overview of the Scope of assessment for Hydrology as agreed through the Scoping Opinion.
- Agreed through the Scoping Opinion that accidental spillages and leakages of polluting substances could be controlled through embedded mitigation in the Code of Construction Plan (CoCP).
- Separate flood risk assessment undertaken for the substation area and one for the cable route.
- Aware there are users of ground water in the area including domestic and agricultural extraction and some Source Protection Zones (SPZs) in the north of the study area.
- Requirement for the management of surface water runoff driven by a separate site-specific drainage plan in accordance with national and local SUDs guidance with Local Flood Authority signoff.

Study Area

- ODOW provided an overview of the study area.
- Element of flexibility around the 2km buffer due to hydraulic connectivity.

Key Data Sources

- ODOW provided an overview of the key data sources and which authorities the ODOW team are actively engaging with.
- ODOW outlined the need to understand who the local water users are, which will feed into the more detailed survey work due to be completed.

Site Specific Surveys

- ODOW provided an overview of the initial hydrology site walkover completed in October 2022 and the areas of focus.
- ODOW provided a summary that the further detailed survey work will follow in the coming months.

Designated Sites and Key Receptors

- ODOW provided an overview of the designated sites which are dependent on hydrology and key receptors including waterbody catchments (including IDB drains), SPZs, groundwater abstractions, coastal and bathing waters and flood related issued.

EIA Methodology

- ODOW provided an overview of the guidance followed for the EIA methodology as set out in the Scoping Report.
 - ODOW will be preparing separate flood risk assessment reports for the cable route (including landfall) and substation.
 - Substation design will include surface water drainage in line with SuDS guidance.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- ODOW provided an overview of the uncertainty, data gaps and how the assumptions have been made.
 - Data requests have been issued to the Environment Agency and relevant councils.

- Landowner data requests are to follow where interactions with the water environment are relevant with detailed site surveys also pending.

Embedded Mitigation

- ODOW provided an overview of the embedded mitigations and commitments across the construction, O&M and decommissioning phases.
 - Many of the embedded mitigation measures will be included in the CoCP.
 - Where work is in areas designated as Flood Zone, the Flood Risk Assessment will make reference to emergency flood response and the triggers to be embedded in that response plan during the Construction Phase for any works undertaken.
 - The crossing of watercourses will be revisited following PEIR for further discussion.

Next Steps

- ODOW provided an update of the next steps for the detailed hydrology walkover survey to understand the key receptors, review of Rev1A and cumulative effects assessment.

ODOW asked for any questions

- RS raised that the Landfall location is within an area the Environment Agency nourish annually. Any further discussions on this should be directed through RS.
 - ODOW confirmed these works at the Landfall are known by the Project team.
- EJ raised that the IDBs gathered after the last round of ETGs to discuss a way forward for providing the Project with a consistent approach to consenting requirements across IDBs. Suggested a guidance document may be produced and asked how the Project would approach this?
 - ODOW confirmed if the IDBs could set out their aspirations, this would be welcomed and shared with the engineers. A follow up call can then be set up between ODOW and the IDBs.
- EJ raised that the IDBs are operational on the ground all year round due to maintenance and that the Rev1A may have a higher impact than the original route due to the IDBs being a lot more condensed in that area so higher activity.
 - ODOW confirmed this will be fed back into the Project.
- AS followed on from RS's point to confirm Statement of Common Ground had been produced with Triton Knoll and Viking Link. Agreed that the aspirations could be shared ahead of a SoCG being drafted up.

Geology and Ground Conditions

Scope of Assessment

- ODOW provided an update of the scope of assessment for Geology and Ground Conditions as agreed through the Scoping Opinion.
 - Risks posed to sensitive surface water and groundwater resources will be assessed as part of the Hydrology Chapter.

Study Area

- ODOW provided the study area, showing the possible routes and substation locations showing the 1km buffer around the proposed onshore substation and 250m buffer around the ECC.

Key Data Sources

- ODOW provided a summary of the data sources currently being used for the assessments.
 - Currently undertaking a review of the Envirocheck report for the route and 2km buffer.

Designated Sites and Key Receptors

- ODOW provided an overview of the sites and key receptors for Geology and Ground Conditions.
 - Two relevant designated sites to be assessed:
 1. Chapel Point to Wolla Bank SSSI; and
 2. GCR and Lincolnshire Coast Submerged Forest.
 - Three small historic landfill sites have also been identified during the Envirocheck report review. If further information is required ODOW will seek to contact the Local Authority to confirm whether these are inert or contamination is possible.

EIA Methodology

- ODOW provided summary of methodology and guidance as per the Scoping Report derived from the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM) and IEMA Guidance including recent revised IEMA guidance for assessing soil and soil quality.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- ODOW confirmed that no data gaps and uncertainties are anticipated for Geology and Ground Conditions.

Embedded Mitigation

- ODOW provided an overview of the embedded mitigation the Project is utilising for the Geology and Ground Conditions impacts.
 - Many of these mitigation measures will be outlined in the CoCP including best practice around pollution prevention, construction measures on soil handling and soil management and any environmental permits.

Next Steps

- ODOW provided an overview of next steps including a walkover survey of the entire route and continue with the Envirocheck report database review.

ODOW asked for any questions

- No questions received from Stakeholders.

Land Use

Scope of Assessment

- ODOW provided an overview of the scope of assessment.

Study Area

- ODOW provided an overview of the study area for the land use which is restricted to the red line boundary (RLB) as areas beyond the RLB are unlikely to be impacted.
 - Main areas of impact include:
 - ALC Grades 1 and 2 around the southern corridor and ALC Grade 3 to the north;
 - English Coastal Path;
 - National Cycle Route (RCR) 1; and
 - Localised PRoW.

Designated Sites and Key Receptors

- ODOW confirmed that there are no designated sites relating to Land Use constraints and summarized the key receptors within the study area:
 - Agricultural land, soil quality and drainage
 - Local PRoW, promoted routes and NCRs.

EIA Methodology

- ODOW provided an overview of the key data sources used for assessment.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- ODOW provided an overview of the data gaps and uncertainties for Land Use.
 - No distinction from Natural England data between ALC Grades 3a and 3b therefore a worst-case scenario is being adopted to consider all Grade 3a and 3b land as Best and Most Versatile (BMV).

Embedded Mitigation

- ODOW provided an overview of the relevant embedded mitigation for Land Use impacts.
 - Additional mitigations identified include an Access Management Plan (AMP) and a Soil Management Plan (SMP).

Next Steps

- ODOW provided overview of the next steps for Land Use.

ODOW asked for any questions

- No questions received from Stakeholders.


AOB

- EJ requested a shapefile for Rev1A route for internal use at board meetings.
 - ODOW confirmed the version in the public domain for consultation can be shared.
- RS additionally requested a shapefile for the other routes.
 - ODOW confirmed these will be pulled together and circulated to the IDBs and Environment Agency.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------|
| 26/01/2022 | IDBs to set out their aspirations to be shared with the engineers. A follow up call can then be set up between ODOW and the IDBs. | EJ | |
| 26/01/2022 | ODOW to feed back to the Project team that along Rev1A, there will be more operational activity year round due to the IDB drains being more condensed in that area so there will be more maintenance activity. | ODOW | |
| 26/01/2022 | ODOW to circulate shapefiles for the various routes to the Stakeholders. | ODOW | |

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Onshore Ecology, Ornithology, Hydrology, Ground Conditions and Land Use ETG |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM- 000422-01 |
| Date: | 16 th March 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <p>Adam Chambers (AC) – Natural England Helen Mann (HM) – Natural England Louise Burton (LB) – Natural England Annette Hewitson (AH) – Environment Agency Richard Morgan (RM) – Environment Agency Anna-Leigh Riley (AR) – Environment Agency Paul Sherman (PS) – Environment Agency Steven Coe (SC) – Environment Agency – standing in for Rebecca Sylvester Yvonne Smith (YS) – Water Management Alliance Ella Thorpe (ET) – Water Management Alliance Andrew Scott (AS) – Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board Paul Nicholson (PN) – Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board Chris Miller (CM) – Lincolnshire County Council Philip Pearson (PP) – RSPB Nick Morrish (NM) – Welland Internal Drainage Board David Wright (DW) - ODOW Roisin Alldis (RA) - ODOW Hugh Morris (HM) – ODOW Andy Gregory (AG) – SLR Ali Stewart (AS) - SLR Martin Baines (MB) - SLR Siobhan Hall (SH) - SLR James Wilson (JW) – SLR Ben Wyper (BW) – SLR Victoria Smith (VS) – SLR</p> |
| Apologies: | <p>Andrew Dodd – RSPB John Badley (JB) – RSPB Paul Lane (PL) – Natural England Kieran McCloskey (KM) – Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Tammey Smalley (TS) - Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Rebecca Sylvester (RS) – Environment Agency Darren Cowling (DC) – Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board Ed Johnson (EJ) – Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board Andrew Booth (AB) – East Lindsey District Neil McBride (NM) – Lincolnshire County Council Matthew Davey (MD) – Lincolnshire County Council Kate Percival (KP) – Lincolnshire County Council Eloise Shieber (ES) – Lincolnshire County Council</p> |

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| | <p>Dan Clayton (DC) – Lincolnshire County Council Abbie Marwood (AB) – Boston Borough Council Richard Fidler (RF) – South Holland District Council Phil Norman (PN) – South Holland District Council Chris Jenner (CJ) – ODOW Katrina Riches (KR) – SLR</p> |
| Circulation: | External |
| Attachments: | <p>123-ODO-CON-K-IP-000078-01 Onshore Ecology, Ornithology, Hydrology, Geology and Land Use ETG 20230316_v1.0DRAFT ODOW_Land_Use_Agreement_Log_230323_V1.0DRAFT ODOW_Hydrology_Flood_Risk_Agreement_Log_230323_V1.0DRAFT ODOW_Onshore_Geology_Agreement_Log_230323_V1.0DRAFT ODOW_Onshore_Ecology_Ornithology_Agreement_Log_230323_V1.0DRAFT</p> |

Project Update

- ODOW provided an overview of key topics and actions from the previous ETG.
 - IDB aspirations action remains open and was discussed in the ETG.
 - Several attendees flagged that they were unable to open the shapefiles circulated by ODOW showing the various routes.
 - **Action: SLR to reissue the shapefiles for the Lincs Node, Weston Marsh Rev1 and Rev1a routes to the stakeholders. Attendees to confirm access.**
- ODOW shared an updated Evidence Plan Meeting Schedule for the Onshore Ecology, Hydrology and Ground Conditions ETG.
 - Invitations for post-PEIR ETGs have been sent out for the following dates: 20th July 2023 and 18th September 2023.

Programme

- ODOW provided an update on the Project Programme.
 - The Programme has not changed since the last ETG in January.
 - Provided confirmation that PEIR submission is still programmed for spring summer 2023 and submission for the end of 2023.
- ODOW provided an update on the consultation events which occurred in November and February.
 - Rev 1a consultation is still open online with the formal consultation period running from 21 February to 21 March 2023.
- ODOW will not be confirming or adopting a route (either Rev 1 or Rev 1a) until all feedback has been received from the additional Rev 1A consultation and PEIR and the Phase two consultation events have been undertaken.
- Yet to have confirmation of grid connection location, anticipate receiving this over the next couple of months. ODOW stated that the two grid connections options (Lincolnshire Node and Weston Marsh) are presented and assessed in PEIR. As such, all route options are being viewed equally until a grid connection has been confirmed and accepted by ODOW.

Evidence Base

- ODOW provided an update on the Evidence Base and outlined that an evidence-based document was prepared and shared with the Steering Group. A summary slide was presented outlining the evidence expected to be collected across each topic specific to this ETG.
- ODOW informed that the current agreement logs are in an excel format (managed internally) for collaboration and coordination purposes, but for DCO submission they will be in the typical word document format and drafted by Consultee rather than by Topic as they are currently.
 - Attendees were encouraged to send their comments across in a table format for inclusion in the live central agreement log.
- ODOW confirmed that the agreement logs will not be submitted at PEIR.
- ODOW presented evidence road maps demonstrating the timeline of works being undertaken by the technical disciplines.
 - An update on the survey progress was provided.
- ODOW is not in a position to present all of the data at PEIR that will have been collected, as such a cut-off date of 28th February has been selected for inclusion within the PEIR. Data collected after this period will be presented to the ETGs post PEIR as a supplementary document.
- A proportion of the data collected in the second round of wintering bird surveys, starting October 2023, will be included in the application, with the remainder following post submission, but prior to examination.

Onshore Ecology and Ornithology

- ODOW confirmed that the Project have chosen to separate the Ornithology Chapter from the Ecology Chapter for both the PEIR report and the ES.
- SLR provided an update on the survey programme and data being collected. Data received to date is largely as anticipated.
 - Complete data sets will be included in the ES, but the PEIR assessments will be conducted on partial/near complete data sets due to timing of surveys.
 - ODOW is working on detailed survey methodologies and has been speaking to Natural England about GCN specifically. Breeding bird methodologies are also to be discussed with Natural England (Breeding Bird Methodology and Scope Letter has now been issued to Natural England on 23/03/2023).
- *RSPB Chat Comment: 'Always difficult to still have data collection ongoing once DCO application has been submitted. This makes it difficult to review for Interested Parties. Ideal is not to have new data being made available for consideration during Examination.'*
- ODOW provided RSPB with clarification on the approval of the wintering bird survey methodology.
- Natural England highlighted to RSPB that only one years' worth of ornithology surveys will have been completed at the point of the ES. RSPB raised that two years' worth of data is the ideal.
- ODOW understand that the Ancient Woodland log is being updated but is unlikely to be available until 2024 at the minimum.
- ODOW confirmed that the Project will present a principles document for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) at PEIR with the intention to explore delivery opportunities towards submission.

- *Natural England Chat Comment: 'Just to make our position on the Agreement logs clear - no comment at this ETG is not necessarily agreement in the action logs and we (Natural England) are likely to update our position post meeting or once more information is available.'*
- ODOW awaiting UKHab data to confirm whether fish and aquatic invertebrate surveys will be required. ETG will be consulted to provide decision reasoning.
- *Water Management Alliance Chat Comment: SH IDB would like to echo Adam's above comment. No comment is not agreement.*
- Natural England sought clarification on GCN. Requested that ODOW seek formal advice from the Natural England wildlife licensing team but seeking advice internally for confirmation on this line of communication.
- **Action: Issue ID 1 Bat Surveys to be closed out as no longer applicable due to all bat survey data being collected within a single survey season in 2023 rather than splitting out the survey seasons as originally proposed.**
- RSPB queried approach should issues arise in the tight timeline between PEIR and Submission.
 - ODOW will be revisiting certain land parcels to gain further data.
 - **Action: Internal ODOW discussion to be had around whether there will be enough time for completed reports, containing all survey data, to be discussed at future ETG meetings ahead of the ES submission.**
- RSPB emphasised importance of getting the majority of these issues closed out prior to examination due to limited capacity once examination begins.
- RSPB also highlighted capacity issues and the ability to engage positively.
 - ODOW asked for the group's comments on how/if the efficiency of these events could be improved.
- *Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board Chat Comment: 'As above, I think I speak for all the IDBs regarding no comment is not an agreement.'*

Hydrology and Flood Risk

- ODOW provided an update on the survey programme and the production of relevant documents.
- ODOW provided an overview of the agreed points in the log.
 - **Action: SLR and ODOW to facilitate further discussion required with Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board and the project engineers regarding the depth of the crossing.**
- Environment Agency raised the need to protect assets through legal agreements and consider the cumulative impacts and timings with IDB Projects.
 - ODOW confirmed that information on Environment Agency capital works will be included in the assessment.
- Water Management Alliance clarified that the strike plates are only required for open cut drains and therefore not required if ODOW opt for HDD.
 - **Action: ODOW to feed this back to the engineers and SLR to adjust the comment in the agreement log accordingly.**
- Water Management Alliance confirmed that their comment relating to Issue ID 15: '3-5m either side of the banks' are still valid as there are plans to widen the drains by 2m on each side over 50 years.
 - **Action: ODOW to liaise internally with the project engineers about the Water Management Alliance's comment relating to Issue ID15 '3-5m either side of the**

banks' are still valid as there are plans to widen the drains by 2m on each side over 50 years.

- RSPB queried how the cable could limit the expansion/creation of wetland habitats in the Frampton Marsh area. What are the maximum depths that the cables can be buried, to allow for scope for habitat creation?
 - ODOW raised cable depth as a potential issue should the landscape be altered as a result of the Defra funded project.
 - **Action: ODOW to pass SLR information/plans on Frampton Marsh Defra funded landscape reclamation project. Ecology and engineers to be consulted.**
 - **Action: SLR to share this information/plans on Defra funded landscape reclamation project with relevant technical teams (Hydrology, Ecology & Ornithology).**
 - RSPB to consult team and hold offline discussions.
- Natural England advised on the inclusion of an 'Outline Bentonite Management Plan' either as a standalone document or named within the OLEMS.
 - **Action: ODOW to confirm where to capture the Outline Bentonite Management Plan as advised by Natural England (suggested either as a standalone document or named within the OLEMS).**
- ODOW welcome a working document on aspirations from the IDB.
 - Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board confirmed that the IDBs are progressing this document.
- *ETG Meeting Chat Comment: Hi Steven - the Steeping River works have been raised and I have a meeting arranged with Rebecca on the 29th March 2023 and if I can get the full details, I can discuss with the engineers and draft a protective provision.*
 - **Action: SC to provide HM with full details on Steeping River Works ahead of ODOW/Natural England meeting on 29th March 2023.**
- RSPB sought clarification that the hydrology chapter will also be tied into the ecology chapter.
 - ODOW confirmed it is an integral part of the chapter.

Geology and Ground Conditions

- ODOW provided an update on the survey programme and the production of relevant documents.
- ODOW provided an overview of the agreed points in the log.
- ODOW are in process of trying to obtain data from the contaminated land/brownfield land register from East Lindsey Council.

Land Use

- ODOW outlined updates to scope refinement activities.
 - The inclusion of tourism sites into the baseline as a key receptor.
 - Confirmed use of IEMA 'A new perspective on land and soil in environmental impact assessment' as the guiding methodology.
 - The soil management plan is to be included as embedded mitigation rather than additional mitigation.
- ODOW asked for comments on:
 - the inclusion of the agriculture drainage impacts in the geology and land use chapter rather than the land use chapter.
 - ODOW welcomed feedback on the use of IEMAs methodology for land use.

- ODOW queried whether there were additional comments on considering the impacts on agricultural land holdings being greater for small holding compared to larger holdings.
- ODOW welcomed commentary on the influence of scale on the assessment of the impacts on holdings during the operational phase.
- No comments were received during the ETG meeting on the above points.

AOB


- ODOW requested that any comments or feedback be emailed over in table format.
 - Relating to wrongly agreed issues.
 - Key topics missing from the logs.
- ODOW encouraged individuals to bring any queries or concerns to them prior to the next ETG.
- ODOW reiterated that the next ETG is post-PEIR on 20th July 2023.

Summary of Actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|---|----------------|------------------------------|
| 16/03/2023 | SLR to reissue the shapefiles for the Lincs Node, Weston Marsh Rev1 and Rev1a routes to the stakeholders. Attendees to confirm access. | SLR | Y – circulated on 17/03/2023 |
| 16/03/2023 | Onshore Ecology and Ornithology Issue ID 1 in the Agreement Log regarding splitting the Bat Surveys across seasons to be closed out as no longer applicable due to all bat survey data being collected within a single survey season in 2023 rather than splitting out the survey seasons as originally proposed. | SLR | Y |
| 16/03/2023 | Internal discussion to be had around whether there will be enough time for completed reports, containing all survey data, to be discussed at next ETG meeting ahead of the ES submission. | ODOW | |
| 16/03/2023 | SLR and ODOW to facilitate further discussion is required with Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board and the project engineers regarding the depth of the crossing. | ODOW (DW)/SLR | |
| 16/03/2023 | ODOW to feed information on strike plates only being required for open cut drains and therefore not required if ODOW opt for HDD back to the engineers and SLR to adjust the comment in the agreement log accordingly. | ODOW/SLR | |
| 16/03/2023 | ODOW to liaise internally with the project engineers about the Water Management Alliance’s comment relating to Issue ID15 ‘ 3-5m either side of the banks’ are still valid as there are plans to widen the drains by 2m on each side over 50 years. | ODOW | |
| 16/03/2023 | ODOW to pass SLR information/plans on Frampton Marsh Defra funded landscape reclamation project. Ecology and engineers to be consulted. | ODOW | Y |
| 16/03/2023 | SLR to share this information/plans on Defra funded landscape reclamation project with relevant technical teams (Hydrology, Ecology & Ornithology). | SLR | Y |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|---|-------------------------|--------|
| 16/03/2023 | ODOW to confirm where to capture the "Outline Bentonite Management Plan" as advised by Natural England (suggested either as a standalone document or named within the OLEMS). | ODOW | |
| 16/03/2023 | SC to provide HM with full details on Steeping River Works ahead of ODOW/Natural England meeting on 29 th March 2023. | Environment Agency (SC) | |

/End

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Onshore Ecology, Hydrology, Geology and Land Use Expert Topic Group |
| Document Number: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0016 |
| Revision: | 01 |
| Revision Status: | Issued for Information |
| Date: | 2 nd August 2023 |
| Time: | 1100hrs to 1230hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <p>Annette Hewitson (AH) - Environment Agency Rebecca Sylvester (RS) - Environment Agency Ella Thorpe (ET) - Water Management Alliance Andrew Scott (AS) - Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board Ed Johnson (EJ) - Witham Fourth Internal Drainage Board Derek Braddy (DB) - Witham Fourth Internal Drainage Board Debra Thornalley (DA) - Welland Internal Drainage Board Eloise Shieber (ES) - Lincolnshire County Council Ed Tooth (ET) - RSPB Peter Edwards (PE) - RSPB Sam Dewar (SD) - DPA Planning Roisin Alldis (RA) - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Hugh Morris (HM) - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Andy Gregory (AG) - SLR Consulting Holly Brown (HB) - SLR Consulting James Wilson (JW) - SLR Consulting Martin Baines (MB) - SLR Consulting Stephanie Boocock (SB) - SLR Consulting Siobhan Hall (SH) - SLR Consulting Ben Wyper (BW) - SLR Consulting</p> |
| Apologies: | <p>Chris Jenner (CJ) - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind John Badley (JB) - RSPB Phillip Pearson (PP) - RSPB Andrew Dodd (AD) - RSPB Kate Percival (KP) - Lincolnshire County Council Dan Clayton (DC) - Lincolnshire County Council Chris Miller (CM) - Lincolnshire County Council Matthew Davey (MD) - Lincolnshire County Council Neil McBride (NM) - Lincolnshire County Council Phil Norman (PN) - South Holland District Council Mark Simmonds - South Holland District Council Abbie Marwood (AM) - Boston Borough Council Andrew Booth (AB) - East Lindsey District Council Paul Nicholson (PN) - Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board Darren Cowling (DC) - Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board Chris Manning (CM) - Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board Anna-Leigh Riley (ALR) - Environment Agency</p> |

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| | Steven Coe (SC) - Environment Agency Yvonne Smith (YS) - Water Management Alliance Paul Sherman (PS) - Environment Agency Richard Morgan (RM) - Environment Agency Adam Chambers (AC) - Natural England Helen Mann (HM) - Natural England Megan Bromiley (MB) - Natural England Paul Lane (PL) - Natural England Lucy Collins (LC) - Natural England K McCloskey (KM) - Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust T Malley (TM) - Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Vicki Smith (VS) - SLR Consulting Anne Dugdale (AD) - SLR Consulting Katrina Riches (KR) - SLR Consulting Alexandra Stewart (AS) - SLR Consulting |
| Circulation: | External |
| Attachments: | |

Project Update

- ODOW (Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind) provided an update on the status and progress of key topics and actions from previous Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings.
 - HM provided an overview of the ongoing action relating to a proposed Outline Watercourse Crossing Management Plan, which will be issued shortly for comment.

Programme

- ODOW provided an update on the grid connection and project refinements.
 - Three cable route and substation options remain, however, ODOW is confident that the grid connection will be confirmed in early August determining the study area.
 - Both AIS (Air-Insulated Switchgear) and GIS (Gas-Insulated Switchgear) technologies will be considered at ES, and this will not be confirmed until the detailed design stage.
- Section 42 concluded on 21st July and the technical teams have been reviewing these responses.

Consultation

- The online consultation virtual exhibition is still available on the ODOW website (<https://www.outerdowsing.com/consultation/>).
- Section 42 (S42) concluded on 21st July and the project and technical teams have been reviewing these responses.
- An additional round of consultation will commence in the autumn to consult upon refinements relating to the substation and Onshore ECC. This will occur alongside a September/October ETG. The date and details of this consultation will be confirmed following the confirmation of the Project’s grid connection.
 - Consultees were invited to express their opinions on the need for an additional ETG in the winter.
- ODOW provided an overview of the Inspectorate’s Early Adopters Programme and the relevant components that will be trialed.
 - Most components have already been implemented, only component 4, Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements (PADS) will be new to the consultation process. ODOW is seeking further clarification from PINS on PADS implementation.

Onshore Ecology and Ornithology

Ornithology

- ODOW provided an update on breeding and wintering bird surveys.
 - A single year's worth of data will be collected prior to the Environmental Statement (ES), year two will commence in September 2023 and conclude in March 2024. A complete 2 year survey dataset will be made available post application.
- ODOW presented five areas of disagreement / key topics for discussion.
 - The majority concern Natural England, upon which ODOW await Natural England's response.
 - Through refinement of the onshore cable corridor from 300m (the PEIR boundary) to a typical 80m width (which will be taken forward for the order limits), this process has provided up to an additional 220m of surveyed area across the full cable corridor where data has been collected on top of the initial 400m for wintering birds. In addition, once the final route is selected, a full season of breeding bird survey data will be available for the deselected areas, providing a relative value for the surrounding area.
 - Further engagement with Natural England on the scope and methodology of the breeding bird surveys is anticipated.
- ODOW presented and responded to comments received during the Section 42 (S42) consultation.
 - It was confirmed for Natural England that a mitigation plan for nesting birds and a specific mitigation plan for Annex one species (non-breeding birds) will be provided as part of the ES, within the OLEMS.
- JW queried whether it was possible for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to provide a timeline and GIS shape file for the boundary of the Landscape Recovery Project, noting that it is only in the early stages of development.
 - RSPB (ET) advised that given the early stages, the project team may not be in a position to share a GIS shapefile but would investigate whether a shapefile was available to share at this stage.
 - RA noted that the project was limited by the data available in terms of inclusion in the Project's assessments, however they are willing to work with the information/data once that can be provided.
 - **Action: Conversation between ODOW (JW) and RSPB to be resumed once more information on the Landscape Recovery Project is available.**
- ODOW asked for comments on:
 - ODOW welcomed commentary on the additional areas surveyed for winter birds and whether they are likely to be sufficient to demonstrate the relative importance of the ECC and to inform/support conclusions in the ES.
 - ODOW welcomed feedback on the proposed scope and methods of the second year of wintering birds surveys (2023-24), which will be in line with that from Year 1, covering a 400m buffer around the ES red line boundary.

Onshore Ecology

- ODOW provided an update on the full suite of ongoing and completed ecology surveys.
 - ODOW's proposed methodology for Great Crested Newt (GCN) surveys was submitted to Natural England via a Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) request. A response has not yet been received.
 - One positive eDNA result was obtained within the 250m buffer, for which appropriate mitigation will be included in the ES.

- ODOW presented three key topics for discussion / areas of disagreement relating to assessment methodology and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).
 - To address the Canal and River Trust's comments, a hybrid assessment with the hydrology team will be undertaken to assess the mobilisation of sediments, which will determine the requirement for and/or extent of the fish and aquatic invertebrate surveys required.
 - No S42 comments were received relating to assessment methodology.
 - A BNG principles document was submitted with the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and this will be updated to a full assessment with the relevant calculations to support it for ES. Targeted conversations with stakeholders will commence once a grid connection option is confirmed.
- ODOW presented and responded to S42 comments from Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT) and Natural England.
 - ODOW is aware of the risks associated with a compressed survey season and will assess the impacts as far as possible for the ES.
 - ODOW is expecting to submit a full data(1 year) set at ES, this was not possible at PEIR, as not all data had been gathered.
 - Should bat flight lines be identified within the study area, best practice methods will be used during construction to avoid impact or provide alternatives.
 - ODOW confirmed that a Bentonite Outbreak Management Plan will be included in the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) and a Biosecurity Management Plan include in the ES.
 - Potential impacts on Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are noted and will be taken into account in the impact assessment.

Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk

- ODOW updated that the S42 comments relating to hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk have been reviewed and updates to the ES are being considered.
- ODOW (HM) advised that a range of documents relating to the IDB Watercourse Crossing Proposal will be shared with DB and EJ of Witham Fourth Internal Drainage Board (W4IDB) before they are rolled out to the other IDBs.
- ODOW provided an update on ongoing discussions with the EA about main river crossings, bathing water assessments and a Weston Marsh flood risk assessment.
 - RS of the EA advised that her colleague Heather Tysoe will respond shortly to the email sent by ODOW (HM) prior to the meeting.
 - ODOW (MB & HM) asked EA (AH) whether it would be acceptable for the bathing water assessment to be included in the WFD. **Action: W/C 7th August EA to advise ODOW whether the inclusion of a bathing water assessment in the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is acceptable.**
- ODOW presented and responded to comments received during the S42 consultation.
 - Separate discussions and agreements may be introduced regarding streamlining the approval process for cable crossings, haul road culverts and dewatering discharges.
 - Decommissioning will be subject to separate planning and stakeholder sign-off process, but will be considered further as part of the ES process.
 - ODOW (MB) advised that one of the key factors for holding back the Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs) at PEIR is the route and OnSS area selection process. Once the grid connection option is confirmed and these elements have been determined, further information will be shared with the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)/relevant IDBs.

- ODOW (MB) advised that once the OnSS location is defined, it would be subject to a detailed study of surface water management and drainage provision. ODOW would look to link this in with potential ecological gains.
- ODOW (MB) reiterated that there were ongoing discussions with the IDBs about strike plates and lateral clearance for trenchless crossings.
- Black Sluice IDB (AS) updated that W4IDB (EJ) and ODOW (HM) are arranging a set of standard conditions for all IDBs. Furthermore, all IDBs had agreed on a 2m minimum clearance beneath the hard bed for trenchless crossings, plus 3-5m lateral clearance. For open cut crossings strike plate requirements will also be included in the standard methodologies being prepared by ODOW..
- ODOW thanked the IDBs for their coordinated approach to agreeing consenting requirements. **Action: ODOW to update Item 6, Slide 40, to include SouthHolland IDB in the list of cooperating IDBs.**

Geology and Ground Conditions

- ODOW provided an updated that the S42 comments relating to geology and ground conditions have been reviewed and the team is now working towards the preparation of the ES chapter.
- There were no areas of disagreement arising from the previous ETG, therefore ODOW presented and responded to comments received during the S42 consultation relating to soil management and land drainage.
 - Black Sluice IDB (AS) advised that discussions regarding separate consenting for land drainage had occurred in a meeting between ODOW (HM) and W4IDB (EJ) relating to the streamlining of the process under the DCO for the approval of construction works. Pre-construction and remedial land drainage will also require new discharge consents – but these are likely to be standard LDC applications made in the name of the landowner
 - ODOW (SH) advised that as part of the ES the Soil Management Plan (SMP) will be updated to include the recommended headings for inclusion from LCC and the methodologies to prevent silt slurries from Boston LPA.
 - ODOW (SH) confirmed that the Project has committed to testing the soils in line with the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) and in relation to British Standards for top and subsoils, which will provide site specific baseline data aiding in the latter stages of the project with more specific methodologies and construction methods.
 - Testing requirements have been committed to and will be included with the commitments register and the Soil Management Plan.

Land Use

- ODOW provided an update that the S42 comments relating to land use have been reviewed and the team is now working towards the preparation of the ES chapter.
- There were no areas of explicit disagreement arising from the previous ETG and scoping opinion, however, comments on the agreement logs are yet to be received. Therefore, ODOW presented and responded to comments received during the S42 consultation.
 - ODOW advised that the scope of the assessment is evolving due to the nature of the topic and that once the cable route is defined the assessment would be further refined.
 - Discussions about the methodology for the cumulative assessment are ongoing.
 - ODOW advised that once the cable route is confirmed the final land take for linkboxes will be known.

- ODOW (RA) advised that the Project is working closely with landowners on route refinement to avoid, as much as possible, impacts such as severance and access disruption.
- ODOW clarified that the outcomes of the Land Use chapter (no significant effects anticipated) meant that impacts on food security would be limited due to the scale of the cable route and the duration of the works
- ODOW clarified that drainage in respect to agricultural drainage systems had been scoped out of the land use chapter because it is better suited to being assessed within the geology and ground conditions chapter.
- ODOW asked for comments on:
 - ODOW welcomed feedback on the use of IEMAs methodology for assessing the magnitude of impact on agricultural holdings.
 - ODOW welcomed feedback on the inclusion of agri-environmental schemes within the land use chapter.
 - ODOW welcomed commentary regarding the extent of the assessment Study Area and the cumulative scope.

AOB

- ODOW (RA) advised the RSPB (PE) that news of the grid connection decision would be issued in a press release. It is anticipated that this will go ahead in early August.


Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed | Update |
|-------------|---|----------------|--------|--------|
| 16/03/23 | SLR to reissue the shapefiles for the Lincs Node, Weston Marsh Rev1 and Rev1a routes to the stakeholders. Attendees confirm access. | SLR | Closed | |
| 16/03/23 | Onshore Ecology and Ornithology Issue ID 1 in the Agreement Log regarding splitting the Bat Surveys across seasons to be closed out as no longer applicable due to all bat survey data being collected within a single survey season in 2023 rather than splitting out the survey seasons as originally proposed. | SLR | Closed | |
| 16/03/23 | ODOW to pass SLR information/plans on Frampton Marsh Defra funded landscape reclamation project. Ecology and engineers to be consulted. | ODOW | Closed | |
| 16/03/23 | SLR to share this information/plans on Defra funded landscape reclamation project with relevant technical teams (Hydrology, Ecology & Ornithology). | SLR | Closed | |
| 16/03/23 | Internal discussion to be had around whether there will be enough time for completed reports, containing all survey data, to be discussed at the | ODOW | Closed | |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed | Update |
|-------------|---|-------------------------|--------|---|
| | next ETG meeting ahead of the ES submission. | | | |
| 16/03/23 | SLR and ODOW to facilitate further discussion is required with Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board and the project engineers regarding the depth of the crossing. | ODOW (DW) / SLR | Open | ODOW propose issuing an Outline Watercourse Crossings Management Plan. Crossing Principles to be confirmed. |
| 16/03/23 | ODOW to feed information on strike plates only being required for open cut drains and therefore not required if ODOW opt for HDD back to the engineers and SLR to adjust the comment in the agreement log accordingly. | ODOW/SLR | Closed | |
| 16/03/23 | ODOW to liaise internally with the project engineers about the Water Management Alliance's comment relating to Issue ID15 ' 3-5m either side of the banks' are still valid as there are plans to widen the drains by 2m on each side over 50 years. | ODOW | Open | ODOW to issues an Outline Watercourse Crossing Management plan for comment. |
| 16/03/23 | ODOW to confirm where to capture the "Outline Bentonite Management Plan" as advised by Natural England (suggested either as a standalone document or named within the OLEMS). | ODOW | Closed | |
| 16/03/23 | SC to provide HM with full details on Steeping River Works ahead of ODOW/Natural England meeting on 29 th March 2023. | Environment Agency (SC) | Closed | |
| 02/08/2023 | Conversation between ODOW (JW) and RSPB to be resumed once more information on the Landscape Recovery Project is available. Particularly regarding the sharing of shapefiles and timelines for the Project. | ODOW / RSPB | Open | |
| 02/08/2023 | W/C 7 th August EA to advise ODOW whether the inclusion of a bathing | EA | Open | |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed | Update |
|-------------|--|----------------|--------|--------|
| | water assessment in the WFD is acceptable. | | | |

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Onshore Ecology, Hydrology, Geology and Land Use Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM |
| Date: | 18 th September 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <p>Adam Chambers (AC) – Natural England Helen Mann (HM) – Natural England Paul Lane (PM) – Natural England Lucy Collins (LC) - Natural England Megan Bromiley (MB) - Natural England Paul Sherman (PS) – Environment Agency Heather Tysoe (HT) – Environment Agency Richard Morgan (RM) – Environment Agency Ella Thorpe (ET) – Water Management Alliance Darren Cowling (DC) – Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board Chris Manning (CM) – Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board Paul Nicholson (PN) – Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board Derek Braddy (DB) Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board Nick Morris (NM) – Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board Eloise Shieber (ES) – Lincolnshire County Council Chris Miller (CM) – Lincolnshire County Council Ed Tooth (ET) - RSPB Sam Dewar (SD) – SELCP Roisin Alldis (RA) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Hugh Morris (HM) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Andy Gregory (AG) – SLR Consulting Vicki Smith (VS) – SLR Consulting James Wilson (JW) – SLR Consulting Martin Baines (MB) – SLR Consulting Siobhan Hall (SH) – SLR Consulting Holly Brown (HB) – SLR Consulting</p> |
| Apologies: | <p>Kieran McCloskey (KM) – Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Tammy Smalley (TS) – Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Annette Hewitson (AH) – Environment Agency Rebecca Sylvester (RS) – Environment Agency Anna-Leigh Riley (ALR) – Environment Agency Steven Coe (SC) – Environment Agency Yvonne Smith (YS) – Water Management Alliance Andrew Scott (AS) – Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board Ed Johnson (EJ) – Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board Andrew Booth (AB) – East Lindsey District Council Kate Percival (KP) – Lincolnshire County Council Dan Clayton (DC) – Lincolnshire County Council Matthew Davey (MD) – Lincolnshire County Council</p> |

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| | Neil McBride (NM) – Lincolnshire County Council Phil Norman (PN) – South Holland District Council Mark Simmonds (MS) – South Holland District Council Abbie Marwood (AM) – Boston Borough Council Andrew Dodd (AD) – RSPB Philip Pearson (PP) – RSPB John Badley (JB) – RSPB Chris Jenner (CJ) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Anne Dugdale (AD) – SLR Consulting Ben Wyper – SLR Consulting |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) provided an update on the status and progress of key actions from previous Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings.
 - ODOW provided an overview of the ongoing action relating to the proposed Outline Watercourse Crossing Management Plan, advising that the engineers have drafted a technical note and a consent summary will be issues shortly for comment.
- ODOW provided updates on the refinements to project parameters, changes to assessments from the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) to the Environmental Statement (ES) and the Section 42 responses received.
 - ODOW referred to the confirmation from National Grid that the Project’s grid connection location will be at Weston Marsh, however noted that the specific siting work is still ongoing and the project are engaging with the National Grid on this.

Consultation

- Ahead of the November ETG round, ODOW will assess whether any technical topics could be dropped to create a more targeted session.
- Autumn consultation will consist of a full Section 42 (S42), which is planned for the end of October.

Programme

- Submission of the DCO application is on track for the end of the year (2023).

Onshore Ecology

- ODOW provided an update on the survey progress.
 - There were limited changes to the updated desk study data.
 - 17 badger setts have been identified and mitigation will be provided as necessary.
 - Of all ponds and ditches surveyed only one positive eDNA result for Great Crested Newts (GCN) was returned. ODOW recognizes that a license would be required for the works crossing the potential GCN movement corridor.
 - Ecologists have not found any evidence of reptiles; however, a habitat suitability survey will be conducted rather than specific presence/absence surveys.
 - The Fish and aquatic invertebrates survey will be designed around the risk of sediment mobilization, however, it is anticipated that habitat suitability surveys will be undertaken.
- ODOW presented and responded to comments received during the S42 consultation.
 - Natural England advised that ODOW would need a letter of no impediment and queried whether this process was underway. ODOW confirmed that this would be in

place in time for submission. Adam Chambers requested to be copied in on communications with the Protected Species Service Team.

- **Action: ODOW to copy in Adam Chambers in on communications with the Protected Species Service Team.**
- Sea Banks Clay Pits SSSI and Chapel Point Bank SSSI now lie outside the refined ES red line boundary (RLB). Therefore, the approach to mitigation is now by avoidance.
 - Natural England queried whether the surveys acknowledge that it won't assess the impact on water inputs. ODOW clarified that geological impacts are being considered.

Onshore Ornithology

- ODOW provided an update on breeding and wintering bird surveys and mitigation proposed at ES.
 - Several Schedule 1 nesting species have been identified along route.
 - A seasonal restriction to construction works has been confirmed at the RSPB Frampton Marsh Reserve and the Wash SPA/Ramsar.
 - ODOW provided an overview of noise modelling at landfall including the 4m high earth bund proposed to provide acoustic mitigation for the Anderby Marsh LWS.
- ODOW welcomed feedback on the updated mitigation proposed since PEIR.
- ODOW presented and responded to Natural England comments received during the S42 consultation.
 - ODOW asked for Natural England's comment on:
 - Whether a repeat of the Year 1 methodology for Year 2 non-breeding bird surveys (2023-24), including a 400m survey buffer, would be appropriate
 - the breeding bird survey methodology described in a letter to Natural England dated 06 March 2023.
 - Natural England's ornithology specialists were not present on the ETG call. Natural England is to review the mitigation offline and respond in writing to provide ODOW with feedback on the measures proposed. Natural England asked ODOW to collate the ornithology mitigation queries presented in the ETG into a specific email request for Natural England's review and response.
 - **Action: ODOW to collate the ornithology mitigation queries presented in the ETG into a specific email request for Natural England's review and response, to be issued to Natural England w/c 25th September 2023.**

Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk

- ODOW advised that the baseline and assessment reporting are being updated in line with the new RLB and that flood modelling for the substations area is also underway.
- ODOW reiterated that a summary of the consents process will be issued shortly.
- **Action: ODOW to confirm internally where the Bentonite Management Plan will sit.**
 - **It is confirmed that it will form part of the Outline Coad of Construction Practice.**
- ODOW sought comments from the Environment Agency on the breach methodology.
 - The Environment Agency reiterated that its response is due 29th September 2023.

Geology and Ground Conditions

- ODOW advised that the assessment reporting is being updated in line with the new RLB.
- ODOW presented and responded to comments relating to land drainage, soil management and designated sites, received during the S42 consultation.
 - ODOW confirmed that a local drainage contractor has been appointed.

- Natural England queried whether ODOW is using the MAF 1988 Guidelines. ODOW confirmed that this guidance is being used for the agricultural land classification (ALC) surveys.

Land Use

- ODOW reiterated the Project’s commitment to ALC surveys, a cable study, and the appointment of a drainage local contractor.
- ODOW presented and responded to comments relating to best and most versatile (BMV) land and food security received during the S42 consultation.
 - Natural England queried whether BNG is being considered in relation to land use and BMV. ODOW confirmed that the need for balance between these two issues is well understood by the technical teams. Until the substation location is defined ODOW is not able to finalise the entire RLB, which is required for the BNG baseline calculations.
 - **Action: ODOW to provide stakeholders with further detail on BNG approach following confirmation of the onshore substation location.**
 - ODOW updated that food security will be addressed within the Socio-Economics chapter as a UK wide economic issue rather than a site-specific issue. Food security will be assessed qualitatively in the ES.

AOB


- ODOW provided a summary of actions from the meeting and asked stakeholders to raise any points that had been missed.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed | Update |
|-------------|--|----------------|---------|---|
| 16/03/23 | SLR and ODOW to facilitate further discussion with Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board regarding the depth of the crossing. ODOW to produce draft Outline Watercourse Crossings Management Plan to be used in discussion with IDBs. This will comprise a Summary of the Consent Process and Crossing Principles to be confirmed through a Technical Note. | ODOW (DW)/SLR | Ongoing | Outline Watercourse Crossings Management Plan to be developed and shared once RLB is finalised. |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed | Update |
|-------------|---|------------------------|---------|---|
| 16/03/23 | ODOW to liaise internally about the Water Management Alliance's comment relating to Issue ID15 '3-5m either side of the banks' are still valid as there are plans to widen the drains by 2m on each side over 50 years. ODOW to share a Summary of the Consent Process with the IDBs, showing how the design of crossings will require IDB approval pre-construction. | ODOW | Ongoing | Under the DCO, the IDBs will have to approve the crossing design pre-construction. A summary of the consent process has been prepared to be circulated to the IDBs. |
| 02/08/23 | Conversation between ODOW (JW) and RSPB to be resumed once more information on the Landscape Recovery Project is available. Particularly regarding the sharing of shapefiles and timelines for the Project. | ODOW/RSPB | Ongoing | ODOW awaiting further details, including GIS Shapefiles from RSPB. RSPB has suggested a call prior to sharing data. |
| 02/08/23 | W/C 7th August EA to advise ODOW whether the inclusion of a bathing water assessment in the WFD is acceptable. | EA | Closed | |
| 18/09/23 | ODOW to copy Adam Chambers on all communications with the Protected Species Service Team. | Natural England / ODOW | Open | |
| 18/09/23 | ODOW to collate the ornithology mitigation queries presented in the ETG into an email request for its review and response by Natural England. Proposed landfall mitigation Annex 1 species mitigation Nesting birds' mitigation plan 2023/24 methodology | Natural England / ODOW | Open | To be sent to Natural England w/c 25/09/2023 |
| 18/09/23 | ODOW confirmed Bentonite Management Plan will form part of the oCOCP. | ODOW | Closed | Confirmed in minutes above. |
| 18/09/23 | ODOW to provide stakeholders with further detail on BNG approach following confirmation of the onshore substation location. | ODOW | Open | To be discussed at the November ETGs |

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Onshore Ecology, Hydrology and Land Use Expert Topic Group |
| Document Number: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0040 |
| Revision: | 01 |
| Revision Status: | Issued for Information |
| Date: | 30 th November 2023 |
| Time: | 1000hrs to 1200hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <p>Andrew Scott (AS) – Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board Adam Chambers (AC) – Natural England Helen Mann (HM) – Natural England Helen Wooley (HW) – Natural England Louise Burton (LB) – Natural England Megan Bromiley (MB) – Natural England Lucy Collins (LC) – Natural England Lauren Coull (LC2) Environment Agency Annette Hewitson (AH) – Environment Agency Paul Sherman (PS) – Environment Agency Rebecca Sylvester (RS) – Environment Agency Richard Morgan (RM) – Environment Agency Ella Thorpe (ET) – Water Management Alliance Darren Cowling (DC) – Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board Chris Manning (CM) – Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board Derek Braddy (DB) Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board Nick Morris (NM) – Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board Eloise Shieber (ES) – Lincolnshire County Council Chris Miller (CM) – Lincolnshire County Council Neil McBride (NM) – Lincolnshire County Council Philip Pearson (PP) – RSPB Sam Dewar (SD) – SELCP Roisin Alldis (RA) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Hugh Morris (HM) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Andy Gregory (AG) – SLR Consulting Matthew Hemming (MH) – SLR Consulting Vicki Smith (VS) – SLR Consulting James Wilson (JW) – SLR Consulting Martin Baines (MB) – SLR Consulting Katrina Riches (KR) – SLR Consulting Holly Brown (HB) – SLR Consulting</p> |
| Apologies: | <p>Kieran McCloskey (KM) – Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Tammy Smalley (TS) – Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Anna-Leigh Riley (ALR) – Environment Agency Steven Coe (SC) – Environment Agency Heather Tysoe (HT) – Environment Agency Yvonne Smith (YS) – Water Management Alliance Paul Nicholson (PN) – Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board Ed Johnson (EJ) – Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board Andrew Booth (AB) – East Lindsey District Council Kate Percival (KP) – Lincolnshire County Council Dan Clayton (DC) – Lincolnshire County Council</p> |

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|---------------------|---|
| | Matthew Davey (MD) – Lincolnshire County Council Phil Norman (PN) – South Holland District Council Mark Simmonds (MS) – South Holland District Council Abbie Marwood (AM) – Boston Borough Council Andrew Dodd (AD) – RSPB Chris Jenner (CJ) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Anne Dugdale (AD) – SLR Consulting |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

Outstanding Actions

- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) provided an update on the status and progress of key actions from previous Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings.
 - The onshore substation location has been confirmed, ODOW is working on the BNG update.
 - ODOW confirmed that Adam Chambers will be copied into emails with the Protected Species Service Team.

ETG Schedule

- 30th November 2023 is the last scheduled ETG. ODOW advised that more targeted discussions could be arranged for January if there are any issues outstanding after the call.

Programme

- ODOW confirmed that the application is being submitted Q1 2024.
- ODOW updated consultees on the status of the Autumn consultation¹, which launched 20th October 2023 and concluded on the 24th November 2023.
 - Five in person consultation event have been held and stakeholders have been consulted. ODOW are reviewing stakeholders' responses.
 - The key updates that ODOW consulted on included the Environmental Update Report, the updated onshore export cable corridor (ECC) and access routes, updated visualisations and the confirmed substation location.

Post meeting note: In response to the Project's Autumn consultation a number of refinements to the onshore Project Boundary were made. The Project have therefore initiated a targeted statutory consultation under section 42 to consult prescribed consultees and affected land interest parties on these minor changes.

Onshore Updates

- ODOW reminded stakeholders of the Project's Order Limits, including the location of the onshore substation (OnSS) at Surfleet Marsh and the 400kv cable corridor that feeds into the indicative search area for the National Grid substation (NGSS)
- the location of the NGSS is not yet known, therefore the area is currently shown as the "Connection Area" which is an indicative search area for this National Grid infrastructure and is being used for the assessments.

Cumulative Effects Assessment Approach

- ODOW informed stakeholders that the approach to the cumulative effects assessment (CEA) is a continuation from the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The process has been applied as per The Planning Inspectorates Advice Note 17.

¹ <https://www.outerdowsing.com/outer-dowsing-offshore-wind-autumn-consultation/>

- ODOW revised the long list of developments in the Projects Zone of Influence. A cut-off date of the end of September has currently been applied. This list of approximately 570 developments has been screened to produce a short list of 15 developments where cumulative contributions are likely.
Post meeting note: The cut-off date has subsequently been revised to end of November 2023.
- ODOW highlighted that it is aware there are several Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) pending. At present, there is little information on these projects in the public domain, therefore ODOW will acknowledge them in the CEA chapter and the assessment is likely to be updated in examination.
- ODOW presented the draft short list of developments, which includes five residential developments and ten energy developments, primarily solar. The list was issued to relevant stakeholders on 24th November 2023 for their comments.
- ODOW requested questions or comments from stakeholders on the CEA lists provided and approach.
- No questions or comments were received.

Onshore Ecology

- Survey work concluded 20th October 2023. The team are currently reviewing the data sets in response to minor changes to the Order Limits.
- ODOW has conducted a first pass analysis of the data set, which has been used to draft high-level reports. These reports will be subject to change in line with the final Order Limits.
 - Natural England asked for clarification on whether a full data set would be presented before the Environmental Statement (ES) is submitted. ODOW advised that it depends on internal timescales, such as receipt of final data to run the final assessment and the time required to finalise the reports. **Action: SLR to discuss ecology deliverables timelines with ODOW and to update Natural England on progress once final data analysis commences, with the aim of sharing reports ahead of submission.**
- Scoped in five main construction impacts, one main impact during operations and maintenance and expect decommissioning impact to be similar to construction, but more temporally and spatially limited with no permanent habitat loss.
- ODOW advised that protected species licenses may be required for Great Crested Newt (GCN), badger, bats, water vole and otter.
 - Water Vole have been identified as the key licensable species.
- ODOW provided an overview of the approach taken for the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Strategy (OLEMS).
 - The collaborative approach with design teams has meant that impacts have been minimised. The Project has been able to avoid all direct impacts on rivers, main drains, priority habitats, buildings, ponds, woodland blocks.

Onshore Ornithology

- Discussion was had between ODOW, Natural England and RSPB on the outstanding areas of agreement relating to proposed mitigation for functionally linked arable land, following the Natural England email advice received 16th November 2023.
- ODOW sought clarification from Natural England on the proposal to extend the seasonal restriction for non-breeding birds from 'October to March' to 'September to April'.
 - Natural England advised that October to March is not the normal non-breeding bird exclusion period. Natural England clarified that passage birds start arriving in the Wash at the end of July/start of August and continue using the Wash through to

May. The advice does not cover the full passage period, it is more towards the core passage and full overwintering period.

- Natural England understand that a restriction from mid-July to mid-May would not be technically feasible. The September to April restriction aligns with those undertaken by Racebank and Lincs Offshore Wind Farms in their construction. The Project's proposed seasonal restriction would however have to be based on the two years' worth of data, which ODOW acknowledged. **Actions: ODOW to consider inclusion of April 2024 in the ongoing wintering bird survey. ODOW to review the agreed mitigation for Race Bank and Lincs. ODOW to present seasonal timing of bird records within ES.**
 - The RSPB agreed with Natural England's clarifications and highlighted that in the absence of two years' worth of data being presented at submission, outstanding conversations will be required post submission.
- It was noted that ODOW were presenting proposals for mitigation in relation to birds within the designated site boundary (specifically at The Haven) and additionally in relation to birds using FLL.
 - Natural England directed ODOW to the Secretary of State's request in relation to Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal Extension, for a pink footed goose management plan. **Action: ODOW to review this request.**

Post Meeting note: the Project have confirmed that c. 2% of the onshore ECC is farmed for sugar beet (in 2023).

- ODOW explained targeted mitigation options for hotspots, such as screening and crop management. ODOW also agreed that the first year of survey data provides only a snapshot of species distribution due to crop rotation. The second year of survey data would supplement this.
- **Action: ODOW to have further internal discussions to identify practical mitigation for potential impacts on functionally linked land.**

Post Meeting note: ODOW would like to pursue further engagement with Natural England on this point. NE to advise if they would welcome a meeting in Jan/ early Feb 2024 with their ornithologist.

- **Action: Natural England is to share its advice for Norfolk on pink footed goose mitigation/management with ODOW.**
 - RSPB clarified that this would include information on the creation of alternative foraging and advised that there is evidence from Jack's Lane Wind Farm that ODOW could look at. **Action: ODOW to review these sources of information to inform the mitigation plan.**
- ODOW have since confirmed that only c. 2% of the onshore ECC is framed for sugar beet (in 2023).
- ODOW noted that at the recent BNG meeting with RSPB it was noted that a seasonal restriction was not necessary in relation to RSPB Frampton Marsh Nature Reserve, due to route design, vegetation screening and nearest habitat present. RSPB clarified in the ETG that the requirement for mitigation should be based on the baseline survey data.
- ODOW re-presented its approach to mitigation at Anderby Marsh Nature Reserve and demonstrated that the 4m high earth bund successfully mitigates impacts on the reserve.

Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk

- ODOW updated that a methodology has been agreed for the hydraulic modelling for onshore substation and it is working to finalise the document to send to the Environment Agency for review.
 - ODOW clarified that the purpose of the document is to aid the design process of the substation platform, to allow for the assessment of residual risk from the breach of defenses along the Welland. Modelled for a 1 in 1,000-year event.

- The Environment Agency queried when the hydraulic modelling report would be made available for their team's review. ODOW confirmed that the report is being finalised and could be sent to RS at the Environment Agency wc 4th December. **Action: ODOW to send the Environment Agency the hydraulic modelling report for review ahead of DCO submission.**
- ODOW responded to Natural England's further information request on groundwater impacts, particularly at Clay Bank Pits SSSI. An assessment of cable corridor confirmed that there are two potential receptors, Clay Bank Pits SSSI and small private water supply at Bristol farm. The assessment has indicated that there is a low risk of impact to both receptors.
- ODOW updated stakeholders in the operational drainage of the onshore substation and the IDB crossing arrangements.
- **Action: ODOW to send the flood risk assessment documents to the Environment Agency for review prior to DCO submission.**
- The RSPB queried whether there had been any conversation about how run off could be managed or stored for beneficial uses. ODOW advised issues is conflicting purpose – need full use of attenuation to manage volumes and this needs to drain away at the agreed discharge rate ready for the next storm. Storing water in the system for potential reuse means there is less volume for attenuation for the next storm event. Over designing the attenuation is a possible solution, however, there would need to be a demonstratable need for water from the landowner. It should be noted that the additional land take for landscaping can cause conflict with other environmental aspects.
 - The RSPB acknowledged this and highlighted the issue of water scarcity in the region. ODOW advised that this was on its radar.

Land Use

- ODOW updated that impacts on land use have been scoped into the assessment. 10 potential impacts have been identified for the construction phase, two for the operational phase and impacts in the deconstruction phase are expected to be similar to those at construction.
 - ODOW provided an overview of land take values for the project to explain the Project's impact on agricultural productivity.
 - Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) raised concerns about the cumulative impact of NSIP projects across the county. As per the Traffic & Transport, Noise, Human Health and Socio-Economics ETG ODOW advised that it would consider this in the cumulative effects assessment. The assessment would consider the projects with information available in the public domain and would likely be updated again during examination as more projects come online and further data becomes available. ODOW also informed stakeholders that an analysis of land availability in relation to food crop supply availability is provided in the Socio-Economics chapter of the ES.
 - ODOW updated stakeholders that the Project crosses only 29 public rights of way. Only three PRoW will require a minor diversion, with the maximum diversion expected to be less than 200m.
 - LCC comments that the approach to PRoW appears satisfactory.
 - ODOW addressed LCC's query about the reinstatement of agricultural land with no impact on productivity. ODOW have appointed an agricultural soil specialist to work alongside SLR's geologists to develop a soil management plan.

AOB

- Black Sluice IDB requested the shapefile for the new red line boundary. **Action: ODOW to issue the shapefile for the new red line boundary to all stakeholders present on the call.**
Post Meeting note: this is available on the Project website- link in summary of actions table.
- The Environment Agency queried whether the principal areas of disagreement template had been issued as mentioned in the Steering Group. ODOW advised that a template hadn't been issued because the relevant data had not been shared and the timeframe for commentary would be too short.

Post Meeting Notes

Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board commented that it might be possible to ask farms to change cropping along the cable route so it is not attractive to pink footed geese.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Open/ Closed | Update |
|-------------|--|------------------------|--------------|---|
| 18/09/23 | Adam Chambers requested to be copied in on communications with the Protected Species Service Team. | Natural England / ODOW | Closed | ODOW note that AC is to be included in communications. |
| 18/09/23 | ODOW to provide stakeholders with further detail on BNG approach following confirmation of the onshore substation location. | ODOW | Closed | The substation location has been confirmed at Surfleet Marsh and ODOW will provide an updated document for the Application. |
| 30/11/23 | SLR to discuss ecology deliverables timelines with ODOW and to update Natural England on progress once final data analysis commences, with the aim of sharing reports ahead of submission | SLR/ODOW | Open | |
| 30/11/23 | Natural England is to share its standard advice for Norfolk on pink footed geese mitigation/management with ODOW. | Natural England | Open | |
| 22/12/23 | Post meeting action: NE to advise if they would welcome a meeting in Jan/ early Feb 2024 with their ornithologist re the identification of practical mitigation for potential impacts on functionally linked land. | Natural England | Open | |
| 30/11/23 | ODOW to send the Environment Agency the hydraulic modelling | ODOW | Closed | Draft sent 21/12/23 |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Open/ Closed | Update |
|-------------|--|----------------|-----------------|--|
| | report for review ahead of submission. | | | |
| 30/11/23 | ODOW to send the flood risk assessment documents to the Environment Agency for review prior to DCO submission. | ODOW | Open | |
| 30/11/23 | ODOW to issue the shapefile for the new red line boundary to all stakeholders present on the call. | ODOW | Closed | <p>The latest shapefile can be found on the Project website in .shp and .kmz format: https://www.outerdowsing.com/outer-dowsing-offshore-wind-autumn-consultation/</p> <p>Links to Targeted Consultation Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Consultation Supporting Info • Targeted Consultation Onshore Order • Targeted Consultation Refinements F • Targeted Consultation Onshore Order • ODOW Refined Onshore Order Limits • ODOW Refined Onshore Order Limits |

/End

A photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, a narrow, sandy path winds through tall, dry grasses and dunes. The path leads towards a flat, sandy beach area in the distance. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, suggesting an overcast day. The overall scene is a natural, coastal environment.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex B Part 7 of 11

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024


Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex B – Part 7 of 11

Seascape & Landscape Visual Impact Expert Topic Group Minutes

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|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Seascape & Landscape Visual Impact ETG |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000366-01 |
| Date: | 12 December 2022 |
| Time: | 0930hrs to 1100hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Simon Martin (SMa) – OP-EN Simon Myers (SMY) – OP-EN Jo Philips (JP) – OP-EN Helen Mann (HM) – Natural England Louise Burton (LB) – Natural England Oscar Patman (OP) – South Holland DC Chris Jenner (CJ) – ODOW Roisin Alldis (RA) – ODOW Alexandra Stewart (AS) – ODOW (SLR) Andy Gregory (AG) – ODOW (SLR) Phil New (PN) – ODOW (GoBe) Laura Vickery (LV) – ODOW (GoBe) |
| Apologies: | Adam Tillotson (AT) – Marine Management Organisation Richard Fidler (RF) – South Holland |
| Circulation: | External |

Introductions

Helen Mann was welcomed to the project as Senior Responsible Officer

Project update

- CJ - provided update that there are still two potential grid connections and the Project will continue to assess both at PEIR. The Project are anticipating to have a grid connection confirmed by Q1 2023.
- CJ - gave an overview of project progress to date.
- CJ - confirmed that PEIR submission is currently planned for Q1 2023.
- CJ - confirmed that the Phase 1 Consultation closed on 29th November and Community Liaison Groups (CLGs) have been established and meetings took place between 28th Nov and 2nd Dec.
- CJ – recommended that the virtual Project Information Days (PIDs) are available online so HM is welcome to get a further background on the project.
- CJ – the Project has identified a substation search zone for each of the grid connection options. The ES will include the final selected substation location following further consultation and site selection works.
- CJ - confirmed that the Project is looking at how the other projects including Triton Knoll and the Viking Links cable have affected the area, ensuring ODOW learns from the experience and approach of other projects.

SLVIA

- SMA – provided an overview of how the project are assessing the impact on landscape, visual and seascape
- SMA – confirmed that the project is assessing the character of the coast and seascape alongside changes in visual amenities as result of the project
 - SM – provided details of the Project Envelope (PE)
 - CJ – confirmed the PE is based on the 500km² area defined by TCE and this will be reduced to 300km² so the PE could change at DCO submission point

Scope of the assessment

- SMA – provided an overview of the scope of the assessment for SLVIA following receipt of the Scoping Opinion
- SMA – provided the EIA Methodology assessment approach and gave an update that the Project is currently on the baseline survey stage
- SMA – confirmed a light touch approach will be taken at PEIR for the array area due to distance to the coast and the low levels of visibility

Data sources

- SMA – provided an overview of the data sources used to inform the SLVIA assessments
- SMA – confirmed the Project are using Met Office visibility data from the Donna Nook observation point and that the distance of the Project from the coast means that there is expected to be conditions to make the project visible only 2% of the year. This data will be presented in PEIR

Study area

- SMA – presented the study area, showing the 60km buffer study area for the array area and the proposed 30km study area for the RCS
- SMA – queried if stakeholders were content with the proposed study area for the RCS?

Site specific surveys

- SMA – provided an update on the surveys and viewpoint photography and confirmed these are planned to continue through to January

Designated sites and key receptors

- SMA – provided an overview on the landscape and visual receptors for the study area
- SMA – confirmed that viewpoint will be micro-sited and asked for feedback about the site selection
 - HM – queried what has LPA feedback been?
 - OP – suggested looking at Gibraltar Point as it is a slight promontory and a Wildlife Trust site
 - LB – recommended checking the viewpoints used for Viking Link and Triton Knoll and how these compared to those selected for the Project
- LB – requested the rationale behind the viewpoints to allow for more detailed comments

ACTION – SMA – to provide memo outlining rationale behind the selection of viewpoints to NE to follow meeting notes

- SMY – provided an overview on the viewpoints from his surveys
 - HM – recommended Dudgeon and Sheringham Extensions to be looked at to check the project are considering these sites
 - SMY – confirmed that vantage points within the north Norfolk coast have been looked at
 - HM – recommends Salthouse as a viewpoint that is in the Sheringham Extension ES.
 - SMA – noted the differences between the Project and SEP and DEP due to proximity and the need to be proportionate when considering number of viewpoints, however the Project will explore whether that viewpoint could be included.

Initial findings

- SMA – provided an overview of initial findings that the land is low lying so limited visibility is expected of the project from the coast and the most likely visibility will be from the RCS
- SMA – provided the wireline diagrams produced from the completed assessments which were presented at Scoping.

ACTION SMA - include the wireline diagrams in the technical notes

Next steps

- SMA – gave overview of the next steps for the project

LVIA

Scope of assessment

- JP – provided an overview on the scope of the assessment agreed by the SO and confirmed they are expecting the impact of the onshore substation to be the greatest effect

Study area

- JP – showed the study area and the two options for the onshore cable route
- JP – confirmed most of the land within the study area was historically marshland that is now cultivated farmland

Key data sources

- JP - gave an overview of the key data sources

Site specific surveys

- JP- confirmed site reconnaissance and viewpoint photography has taken place and it has been found that the flat landscape combined with natural and manmade shielding (e.g. trees and hedges) means at a distance of 2 to 3km the visibility is rapidly reduced
- JP – confirmed that landscape character and designated landscapes are being reviewed for DCO application
- JP – welcomed opinions and discussions on viewpoints

Viewpoint plan

- JP – confirmed that the location of Lincolnshire Node is not fixed yet, so 5 viewpoints are being assessed, taking into account human use, PRoW, and settlements
- JP – explained that at Weston Marsh North there are small pockets of building or woods that acts as a screens
- JP – explained at Weston Marsh south it is mainly reclaimed landscape and arable farm land that already has pylon lines and a power station that have changed the character

Designated sites and key receptors

- JP- provided an overview of the designated sites and key receptors and confirmed they are being included in the baseline assessments

LVIA EIA methodology

- JP – confirmed will be the same as for SLVIA

Mitigation Planting

- JP – explained this is a compensation opportunity to reduce landscape and visual effects and would help the work on the landscape and ecology biodiversity plan. It would have a focus on creating a screen and increasing climate resilience for long lasting impacts and would look at working with the biodiversity actions plans.


Next steps

- JP – confirmed that the project is currently at PEIR stage and working on high level mitigation plans
- JP – confirmed that they are creating Rochdale envelope and continuing with stakeholder consultation

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------|
| 12/12/22 | ODOW - to provide memo outlining rationale behind the selection of viewpoints to NE to follow meeting notes | ODOW (SMa) | |
| 12/12/22 | SMa - include the wireline diagrams in the technical notes | ODOW (SMa) | |
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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Seascape & Landscape Visual Impact ETG Meeting |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000418-01 |
| Date: | 27 th March 2023 |
| Time: | 0900hrs-1030hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Chris Jenner (CJ) - ODOW Hugh Morris (HM) - ODOW David Wright (DW) - ODOW Jo Philips (JP) – OP-EN Simon Martin (SMa)– OP-EN Simon Myers (SMy)– SLR Andy Gregory (AG) - SLR Julia Bolton (JB) – GoBe Niamh Workman (NW) – GoBe Laura Vickery (LV) - GoBe Lou Burton (LB) – Natural England Adam Chambers (AD) – Natural England Emma Shore (ES) – MMO Karen Schnetler (KS) - MMO |
| Apologies: | Rachel Furlong (RF) - ODOW Roisin Alldis (RA) - ODOW |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

- ODOW provided an update on the Project and the previous meeting’s actions:
 - All of the actions are closed.
 - The Project are awaiting feedback from Natural England on the SLVIA viewpoint memo.
 - AC confirmed the Natural England comments are in progress and should be received as soon as possible.

Evidence Plan Schedule

- ODOW confirmed this is the last ETG before PEIR publication.
- Further ETG meetings are scheduled for 27th July and 29th September.

Project Programme Update

- ODOW provided an update on the Projects progression and programme:
 - The Project is currently in between Phase 1 (with the addition of Phase 1a focusing on the alternative route) and Phase 2 consultation.
 - As a result of the feedback from the phase 1 consultation events raising a number of land use and engineering issues, the Project have created an alternative onshore cable corridor to the Weston March grid connection. The new corridor was consulted on through Phase 1a which has concluded.

- The consultation events were well attended by over 300 people and the feedback and comments are being compiled.
- The Project is currently in the process of drafting the PEIR, which is anticipated to be released in June 2023.
- The Project confirmed they are still awaiting a final grid connection offer; Lincolnshire Node or Weston Marsh. The Project anticipate receiving a grid connection offer in the coming months. The PEIR and phase 2 consultation will include both possible connection options.
- DCO application submission is expected at the end of 2023.

Public consultation events

- ODOW provided an overview of the Phase 1 and 1a consultation that has concluded:
 - The consultation phases are being undertaken using a hybrid of methods to ensure that as many people as possible could be consulted. Consultation was undertaken through leaflets, webinars, an online virtual exhibition, feedback forms, in person events, community liaison groups and landowner interest groups.

Onshore Proposals

- ODOW provided an overview of the onshore corridors and the onshore substation study areas.

Evidence Base

- ODOW provided an overview of the evidence base and the agreement logs that were created as result of the Steering Group meeting in January 2023.
 - It was confirmed that the agreement logs will remain live and form the basis of the Statement for Common Ground (SoCG) subject to Natural England's comments regarding the agreement logs.
 - It was confirmed that SLVIA and LVIA photography will feed into PEIR. Post PEIR more photography may be anticipated where appropriate as a result of section 42 consultation.

SLVIA

- SMY provided an overview of the progress on the SLVIA assessments:
 - The SLVIA viewpoint selection memo was issued to Natural England and feedback is welcomed.
 - PEIR input is currently being drafted.
- SMY provided an update that at PEIR two offshore reactive compensation platforms (ORCPs) will be assessed. Both ORCPs will be within the offshore cable corridor. The assessment has been done using the worst case scenario (WCS). This has used two ORCPs located on the closest feasible point to the coastline and as close together. The maximum separation distance of the ORCPs is 1500m, while the closest separation distance is 90m apart. It is anticipated that 90m would be a WCS as this is believed to have the highest visual impact:
 - SMY asked for any feedback to this method.
 - LB raised concerns about the ORCPs and recommends looking at the Hornsea Project Three's application for the Kittiwake artificial nesting structures (ANS) as this had objections. Natural England advise the structures should be much further offshore. The ORCP structures are larger than the ANS proposed by Hornsea Project Three therefore there are concerns of objections. It was recommended that a WCS is

not used and the least impactful scenario should be presented is one which is as far offshore as possible.

- *Post Meeting Note from Natural England: Received 17th May 2023: A WCS is likely to be objected to immediately upon submission, therefore it is recommended that the applicant seeks to move these structures to present as minimal impact as possible to facilitate a starting point for discussion.*
It's also likely that this will be as far offshore as possible but our recommendation is that the aim is to reduce impact rather than arbitrarily moving the structures as far offshore as possible.
- CJ explained that the search zone for the Project's ORCPs has taken into account visual impact and that Hornsea Project Three's ANS' were only 1km offshore. The Projects ORCPs are planned for further offshore.
- LB explained that the Hornsea Project Three ANS' are now 10 or 12km offshore and are smaller and in the backdrop of existing windfarm (East Anglia Two). Natural England advised this is taken into consideration by the Project.
- CJ added that the Project are looking at how the ORCPs could be within the background of the other windfarms in the area such as Lincs.
- SMa confirmed this work in being undertaken and that the ORCPs will tend to be viewed within the backdrop of existing offshore windfarms such as Lincs and Race Bank (rather than in isolation).
- SMa explained that there is a need for understanding and assessing the worst case scenario and the Project are mindful of the weight of the impacts of the ORCPs and this will be considered within the design process. The Project are looking at this overall and in combination with the other constraints such as the hard environmental constraints.
- SMY confirmed that offshore viewpoints from vessels have been included in the assessments as a result of Scoping consultation:
 - SMY confirmed that the viewpoints were added that were the closest points of the busiest passenger vessel areas to the array area. The two areas are NE and SW of the array area.
 - SMY asked for any recommendations or comments on the methodology.

LVIA

- The Project confirmed there were no updates on the LVIA assessments.
 - *Post Meeting Note from Natural England: Received 17th May 2023: The applicant still needs to confirm the substation (Lincolnshire Node) location. It is likely that Natural England will defer our advice to the LPA and the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB's local knowledge once this location has been confirmed. It's noted that neither of these bodies attended this meeting.*

Agreement logs

- ODOV showed the agreement logs, highlighting the areas of non agreement:
 - LB confirmed that Natural England will not comment on the agreement logs and have concerns surrounding the process and presentation of the logs. Natural England will provide feedback on how to make this process more effective and improved.

- LB added that Helen Mann (HM) will provide examples of agreement log processes that they would recommend following.

ACTION: Natural England to feedback on how the agreement logs process can be improved. *Post Meeting Note from Natural England: Received 17th May 2023: In their current format, we believe that the agreement logs provide a running commentary of ongoing stakeholder comments during ETGs (to which we have provided comment in the review of the minutes) rather a record of overarching positions on technical aspects taken by yourselves with relevant stakeholder opinions on those positions also captured. The way that the current Agreement logs have been presented would require significant resource to review which we do not currently have available. Instead we have provided a document with our suggestions on what information an agreement log should attempt to capture and a formatted template example. We hope that you consider our suggestions helpful in capturing stakeholder positions moving forward. We will be providing this response to each of the ETG meeting minute responses that we have recently attended where we have been requested to provide comment on agreement logs.*

SLVIA

- SMA provided an update on the areas of non agreement.
- SMA explained that through the scoping opinion offshore receptor and sea users near to the array area should be considered in the SLVIA. The Project initially thought this could be scoped out but have now been added into the assessments with viewpoints from the ferry routes and supported through wireline visualisations.
- SMy asked whether there were any recommendations or comments regarding baseline data sources, such as any information on the potential for a new Heritage Coast north of Mablethorpe.

ACTION: Natural England (LB) to get a formal stance from Natural England on the potential for further baseline information on the new proposed heritage coast to consider. *Post Meeting Note from Natural England: Received 17th May 2023: Our formal stance on the proposed Heritage coast is provided in the Comments on the Meeting minutes of the SLVIA ETG dated 10th October 2022*

- SMA provided an update that the rationale and justification for the 30km ORCP study area radius will be provided at PEIR with supporting evidence.
- SMA also explained that in response to Natural England wanting to see details of local character areas and it mapped at an appropriate scale, this has been assessed and will be provided at PEIR.
- SMA confirmed that most areas of non agreement are hoped to be addressed in PEIR and through further consultation.
- ES added that the MMO will review and provide comments after the meeting.

LVIA


- JP provided an overview of the areas of non agreement identified within the logs.
- JP added at the point of DCO application the impacts of the landfall can be addressed as more details will be known. The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (OLEMS) will address this and help assess where mitigation is needed and required:
 - LB explained that the LPA will need to be consulted.
 - ODOW confirmed that ETG meeting invites were issued to the LPA and, if appropriate, additional meetings may be held with the LPA to consult on this.

- LB queried how completed the photography will be for the assessments within PEIR:
 - SMa confirmed the photography was completed for the proposed viewpoints between November 2022 and January 2023. Any need for further photography will be as a result of the section 42 consultation.
 - LB questioned whether this presents a thorough visual impact assessment at PEIR.
 - SMa confirmed that it is thorough, however it is proportionate to the likely impact. The assessment is robust but focusses on the more likely significant effects of the ORCPs. Consultation may highlight that assessments may need to be supported by further viewpoints but areas likely to be impacted have been included at PEIR.
 - SMy added that viewpoints focus along the coastline and then from the inland designated sites (including Lincolnshire AOB and Lincolnshire Wolds). Inshore the land is low lying and has sandbanks so this has driven the selection to mostly coastal viewpoints.
 - LB agreed that this rationale is appropriate.
- JP explained that LVIA has three onshore substation study areas and for the DCO application it is proposed to refine to one onshore substation study area. By this stage there will be more detail available regarding the proposals and the viewpoint selections for this area will be reviewed with the possibility of adding more distant viewpoints if considered appropriate to the assessment. The current search areas present indicative layouts and viewpoints have been selected to represent the various aspects around each site. When it is known where the onshore route will go, and the detailed locations of all associated infrastructure known, mitigation plans can be drawn up in more detail.
 - LB suggested that Neil McBride from Lincolnshire County Council will be able to provide tree species within the area to help with planting mitigations.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Status |
|-------------|--|-----------------|--------|
| 12/12/22 | ODOW (SMa) to provide memo outlining rationale behind the selection of viewpoints to NE to follow meeting notes ODOW | ODOW | Closed |
| 12/12/22 | ODOW (SMa) include the wireline diagrams in the technical notes ODOW | ODOW | Closed |
| 27/3/23 | Natural England to feedback on how the evidence plan and agreement logs process can be improved. | Natural England | Closed |
| 27/3/23 | Natural England (LB) to get a formal stance from Natural England on the potential for further baseline information on the new proposed heritage coast to consider. | Natural England | Closed |

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Seascape & Landscape Visual Assessment Expert Topic Group |
| Document Number: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0013 |
| Revision: | 01 |
| Revision Status: | Issued for Information |
| Date: | 27 th July 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1530hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <p>Greg Tomlinson (GT) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Roisin Alldis (RA) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Jacob Laws (JL) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Hugh Morris (HM) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Beth Travis (BT) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Phil New (PN) – GoBe Niamh Workman (NW) – GoBe Kevin Gillespie (KG) – AAH Planning Simon Myers (SM) – SLR Consulting Jo Phillips (JP) – Optimised Environments (OpEn) Sam Dewar (SD) – DPA Planning Louise Burton (LB) - Natural England</p> |
| Apologies: | <p>Karen Schnetler (KS) – Marine Management Organisation Adam Chambers (AC) – Natural England Helen Mann (HM) – Natural England Paul Lane (PL) - Natural England Emma Shore (ES) – Marine Management Organisation Andrew Booth (AB) – East Lindsey District Council Neil McBride (NM) – Lincolnshire County Council Eloise Shieber (ES) – Lincolnshire County Council Phil Norman (PN) – South Holland District Council Mark Simmonds (MS) – South Holland District Council Abbie Marwood (AM) – Boston Borough Council Chris Jenner (CJ) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Rachel Furlong (RF) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Julia Bolton (JB) – GoBe Laura Vickery (LV) – GoBe Andy Gregory (AG) – SLR Consulting Alexandra Stewart (AS) – SLR Consulting</p> |
| Circulation: | External |

Project introductions and apologies

- Natural England gave their apologies for not being able to attend in advance of the meeting, noting they will add any comments as post meeting notes.

Evidence plan schedule

- ODOW confirmed the next Seascope & Landscape Visual Assessment ETG will be on the 29th of September 2023.
- A further ETG will likely be scheduled for October/November

ACTION: ODOW to confirm date of October/November ETG

Programme

- ODOW provided an update on the Project's progression and programme:
 - It was confirmed the Project is expecting a grid connection offer in Early August 2023 and stakeholders will be notified.
 - RA outlined the recent close of the Phase 2 (Section 42) consultation on July 21st, noting that relevant comments from consultees have been included at a high level within the ETG presentation.

Onshore cable route

- ODOW provided an overview of the Project's onshore ECCs and advised these remain as per the Project's PEIR. Once a connection point is confirmed, the route will be refined, and work is ongoing to inform the decision around route "north of the A52" or "south of the A52" toward the Weston Marsh connection option should this be the adopted grid connection point.

Onshore substation

- ODOW advised that three onshore substation search zones as outlined in the PEIR are still being considered. Once a grid connection point is confirmed, ODOW will work with the National Grid to inform the specific siting of the Project should Weston Marsh be confirmed, specific site selection work is ongoing.

Offshore proposals

- ODOW provided an overview of the offshore aspects of the Project.
- ODOW confirmed that the array area at PEIR was 500km² and technical work is ongoing to reduce the array area for ES and DCO submission.
- ODOW explained that areas for Artificial Nesting Structures (ANS) compensation and benthic compensation have been included at this stage and it is the intention to seek to consent these elements as part of the DCO.

PINS -Early Adopter's Programme

- ODOW confirmed the Project has been selected to participate in the PINS Early Adopter Programme. A programme designed to trial elements of a future refined and streamlined consenting process.
- The Project confirm they have been selected to trial 7 components:
 - Component 1: Use of Programme Planning
 - Component 2: Use of Evidence Plans (subject to clarification about intended/potential Inspectorate role in existing Evidence Plan process)
 - Component 3: Use of issues tracking (Referenced by ODOW as “Agreement Logs”, new template has been drafted following stakeholder feedback. The Agreement Logs will be updated following these ETGs and issued to stakeholders for comment.
 - Component 4: Use of Pre-application Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements (PADS)
 - Component 5: Production of Policy Compliance Document
 - Component 7: Production of Design Approach Document
 - Component 10: Use of multipartite meetings
- ODOW highlight that only components 3 and 4 are likely to be different to what stakeholders are already doing.
 - For Component 3 agreement logs are already being used but have been updated based on stakeholder feedback.
 - For Component 4 stakeholders will create Principle Areas of Disagreement (PADS). These are stakeholder owned documents and will be submitted by the Project at the point of DCO application.

SLVIA

Areas of Disagreement/ Key Topics for Discussion

- ODOW provided an overview of the main areas of concern and topics of discussion from Section 42 feedback.

Effects of the Offshore Array Area

- The Project proposed to scope out the seascape, landscape and visual effects arising from the array area.
- At PEIR, the Project assessed seascape, landscape and visual effects of the array, which found no significant effects as a result of offshore infrastructure within the array area.
- S42 comments from Natural England confirmed that any visible influence of the ODOW turbines would be considered minimal.
- The Project proposed that effects of the Offshore array area on onshore seascape, landscape and visual receptors are unlikely to be significant and can be scoped out of the ES.

Effects of the ORCPs, Study Area and Viewpoints

- The Project assessed the potential effects of a WCS location for the ORCPs at PEIR. Localised significant effects were identified, due to their relative proximity to parts of the Lincolnshire coastline (6-7km).
- The Project explained that at the time of preparing the SLVIA for the PEIR, it was anticipated that the ORCPs could be approximately 6km from the closest coastline.
- The Project confirmed that in response to comments made by stakeholders, the ORCP search area was reduced, to increase distance between the ORCPs and the coastline, which will be reflected in the ES.

- The Project added that for ES two ORCPs will be located a minimum distance of 12km from the coast.
- The Project explained that impacts will reduce and there is the potential that effects of ORCPs will not be significant, this will be assessed in the ES.
- It was noted that Natural England previously advised their only concern is with effects of ORCPs, however S42 comments advise that ORCPs will not result in significant effects on designated landscapes.
- The Project explained that the study area for ES assessment of ORCPs will be 30km radius, with assessment focused on effects from coastline between Chapel Six Marshes, Mablethorpe and Saltfleetby with effects on designated landscapes to be scoped out.
- The Project added that the potential visibility of night-time lighting of ORCPs will be included in the SLVIA.

- The Project ask if consultees agree with the following questions regarding the proposed approach to SLVIA:
 - Does the location of ORCPs further offshore (at least 12km) address Natural England's original concerns about their effects?
 - Do any other stakeholders have comments in relation to moving the ORCP locations further offshore?
 - Is it agreed that the focus of the ES should be on the likely effects of ORCPs on coast between Chapel Six Marshes, Mablethorpe and Saltfleet?
- Consultees agree to take these questions away and provide a response in writing.

ACTION: Consultees to review questions raised in ETG and respond.

Designations and Heritage Coasts

- The Project confirmed that Heritage coast receptors will be assessed at ES.
- The Project explained that effects of the Project on the qualities of the prospective Lincolnshire Heritage Coast were not assessed in the PEIR, as its location and qualities are yet to be defined. However, Viewpoints and LCTs north of Mablethorpe (in the relevant area) were assessed in PEIR.
- S42 Response from Natural England highlighted that progress with the heritage coast has stalled, therefore no weight or consideration needs to be given at this time, but to track any potential progress on this.
- The Project confirmed that the ES will be drafted on the basis of no progress and so not consider the proposal to create a Heritage Coast for Lincolnshire.

Effects on Landscape Character

- The Project recapped that in the Scoping Report the impacts on the Landscape Character Types (LCTs) located outside the ZTV and/or inland from the coast were scoped out.
- The Project added that the PEIR mapped and assessed all local LCTs, scoping out those outside the ZTV and assessing the LCTs in more detail where likely significant effects could arise at the coast.
- The Project proposed that the ES scopes out assessment of landscape receptors (character and designations) resulting from the array area, which is supported by S42 comments from Natural England.
- The Project asked if consultees agree that effects of the array area on LCTs are unlikely to be significant and can be scoped out of the ES.
 - No comments were given at this time.

Effects on Offshore Visual Receptors

- At the Scoping stage, the Project proposed to scope out the impact of the array area on the views experienced by offshore visual receptors during O&M.
- The Project added that the PEIR included assessment of the visual effects on offshore receptors and viewpoints from passenger vessel routes within the SLVIA study area using wireline visualisations but were found to be not significant.
- The Project confirmed that the ES will include an assessment of effects on offshore visual receptors from representative viewpoints.

Assessment Methodology and Approach

- The Project confirm that the methodology for the SLVIA was considered sufficient and appropriate to inform assessments.
- The Project added that the methodology for the SLVIA will also be set out in the ES, taking on board any advice provided during ETGs and s42 comments.
- The Project ask if the consultees agree with the following regarding the Projects approach/methodology for the SLVIA:
 - To scope out effects of array area on onshore landscape and visual receptors.
 - The ES will assess potential effects of ORCPs on landscape and visual receptors with the 30km study area, focusing on the area between Chapel Six marshes and Saltfeetby
 - To scope out effects of ORCPs on designated landscapes and Heritage Coasts.

LVIA

Areas of Disagreement/ Key Topics for Discussion

- ODOW provided an overview of the main areas of concern and topics of discussion from Section 42 feedback.

Site Layout

- ODOW provide an overview and update on the site layout
 - The Project confirm that three locations for the Onshore Substation are still being considered.
 - The Project confirm that options for site layouts currently being explored with opportunities and constraints from all technical disciplines being considered.
 - The Project confirm that options for site layouts considering potential visual effects on rural residents, road-users on main and rural roads, walkers along River Welland and other PRoWs.
 - The Project confirm that options for site layouts consider potential for existing hedgerows and tree cover to provide screening and space to allow new mitigation planting to be implemented.
 - The Project confirms that options for site layouts and mitigation planting consider ways to reduce cumulative visual effects of ODOW Onshore Substation.

Landfall and Onshore Cable Route

- The Project proposes to scope in the effect of export cable landfall during operation and maintenance (O&M) owing to the potential residual effects on vegetation.
- The Project added that the ES will present more detail on the effects of the landfall and onshore cable route and the Outline Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan (OLEMP) will detail restoration works.
- The Project confirm that reference to consultations and how they have been addressed will be included in the ES.

Location of Representative Viewpoints

- The project explained that the location of representative viewpoints will be presented at next ETG for feedback and agreement.
- S42 comments from Boston, East Lindsey and South Holland LPAs state 'representative viewpoints need to be submitted and approved prior to the assessment being undertaken.'
 - The project aims to have six or seven viewpoints to represent visual receptors in the local area of the final onshore substation.
 - The Project explained that these viewpoints would be associated and chosen based on principal visual receptors.

List Of Cumulative Developments

- The Project confirmed that an updated list of cumulative developments will be reviewed and those that present potential to give rise to cumulative effects will be highlighted for assessment.
- The Project will look to issue the updated list to the relevant stakeholders for comment.
ACTION: ODOV to issue updated list of cumulative effects for stakeholders comment.
- The Project explain that any associated national grid works, where sufficient information becomes available in the public domain, will be taken into account as relevant information for the assessment.

Worst Case Scenario

- The Project confirm that as was the approach at PEIR, Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) Onshore Substation will be used as worst-case scenario in viewpoint photomontages.
 - The Project explain that this is because; the maximum height of the GIS buildings is 19m, which is 4m taller than the outdoor electrical infrastructure of the Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) option and the GIS option comprises converter sheds which have more mass and presence than the outdoor electrical infrastructure of the AIS option.
 - The Project further explain that these tall buildings will have more of a visual impact than the equivalent AIS option and add that as the AIS has a larger footprint, the Zone of Theoretical Visibility maps will use the AIS footprint and the GIS height to cover the WCS.

Presentation of Visualisations

- The Project confirmed that the onshore Substation will be illustrated using an indicative model.
- The Project explained that the visualisations will be produced in line with Landscape Institute and NatureScot guidance, which is industry best practice.
- The Project added that baseline photography will be used to show the view without the onshore substation and that visualisations will be used to show the addition of the onshore substation and National Grid substation using a photo-realistic model and maximum parameters model.
- The Project explained that mitigation planting will be added to represent 15 years of growth.

Relevance of Lincolnshire Wolds AONB

- The Project confirm that the relevance of Lincolnshire Wolds AONB to LVIA will be determined by location of the Onshore Substation.
 - The Project explain that if the Weston Marsh connection option is confirmed, there will be no effect on the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.
 - The Project explain that if the Lincolnshire Node connection option is confirmed, further detailed site investigations will be undertaken to determine the potential effects on landscape and visual receptors. However, the Project propose that with separation distances and extents of screening, it will be unlikely for significant effects to arise.


Section 42 – Natural England Comments on LVIA

- The Project explain that a Natural England and Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Partnership joint working response on the impacts of the development on the landscape was submitted at S42.
- The Project confirmed that the Natural England and The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Partnership joint working response will be carefully considered in the final selection of the onshore substation location.
- The Project explain that Lincolnshire Node is one of three potential onshore substation search areas and concerns regarding potential effects on the LW AONB will be taken into consideration should the Lincolnshire Node connection option be confirmed.
- ODOW display a map which illustrates that the LW AONB lies beyond the 5km radius study area applied to the onshore substation and beyond the 1km buffer applied to the onshore cable route.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed | Update |
|-------------|--|-----------------|--------|--------|
| 27/03/2023 | Natural England to feedback on how the evidence plan and agreement logs process can be improved. | Natural England | | |
| 27/03/2023 | Natural England (LB) to get a formal stance from Natural England on the potential designated sites of the heritage coasts to consider. | Natural England | | |
| 27/07/2023 | ODOW to confirm October/November ETG date | ODOW | | |
| 27/07/2023 | Consultees to respond to the project’s questions regarding proposed approaches. | All Consultees | | |
| 27/07/2023 | ODOW to issue updated list of cumulative effects for stakeholders comment. | ODOW | | |

/End

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind SLVIA and LVIA |
| ODOW Ref: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0026 |
| Date: | 22/09/23 |
| Time: | 10.00hrs -12.00hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Roisin Alldis (RA) - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Greg Tomlinson (GT) - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Andy Gregory (AG) – SLR Consulting Phil New (PN) – GoBe Consultants Niamh Workman (NW) – GoBe Consultants Simon Martin (SM) – OPEN Ltd Simon Myers (SMY) – SLR Consulting Lynda Thomson (LT) – OPEN Ltd Sam Dewar (SD) - DPA Planning (on behalf of the S&ELCP) Karen Schetler (KS) – Marine Management Organisation Neil McBride (NM) - Lincolnshire County Council Kevin Gillespie (KG) – AAH Planning (on behalf of LCC) Helen Mann (HM) – Natural England Louise Burton (LB) – Natural England |
| Apologies: | Jacob Laws (JL) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Hugh Morris (HM) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Beth Travis (BT) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Jo Phillips (JP) – Optimised Environments (OpEn) Paul Lane (PL) – Natural England Emma Shore (ES) – Marine Management Organisation Andrew Booth (AB) – East Lindsey District Council Mark Simmonds (MS)– South Holland District Council Abbie Marwood (AM) – Boston Borough Council Chris Jenner (CJ) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Circulation: | External |

Evidence Plan Schedule

- It was confirmed that a round of November ETGs are being planned, doodle polls have been issued. These are targeted to topics with outstanding areas of discussion. The Project confirmed this topic will be in the next round of ETGs.

Programme

- It was confirmed that the Project are still aiming for DCO submission by the end of 2023.
- The Project are holding a targeted autumn consultation which will focus primarily on onshore refinements.

Onshore

- It was confirmed on the 10th August that the grid connection for the Project will be Weston Marsh.
- The Project confirmed that the onshore cable route will be the route North of the A52.
- The Project confirmed that Surfleet Marsh (previously Weston Marsh North) is being progressed as the location for the onshore substation ***CONFIDENTIAL***.
- The Project provided an overview of onshore project refinements:
 - AIS footprint increased from 92,700m² to 143,380m²
 - Equipment height increased from 12m to 13m
 - 15m firewalls included for AIS
 - GIS Building height reduced from 19m to 16.5m
- The Project confirmed these refinements will be presented in the autumn consultation and will be shown in visualisation format.
-

Offshore

- It was confirmed that work is ongoing to reduce the array area from 500km² at PEIR in line with The Crown Estate's Minimum Power Density requirements..
- Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) maximum number is increased to 100 from 93 previously used at PEIR following a review of the supply chain resulting in the need for the inclusion of 15MW WTGs.
- Gravity Base Structure (GBS) foundations are being retained as an option following a review of ground conditions, however the number of GBS foundations in the Maximum Design Scenario (MDS) is being reduced from 100% of foundations locations to a maximum of 50%.
- Offshore Reactive Compensation Platforms will be located at least 12nm offshore (previously 6km).

SLVIA

Updates

- The Project provided a recap of findings since PEIR.
- It was explained that potential significant effects relating to the ORCPs were identified during PEIR due to their relative proximity to parts of the Lincolnshire coastline.
- The Project explained that the ORCP search area has since been moved further offshore, which will be reflected in the ES.

Effects of the Offshore Array Area

- The Project reiterate that at PEIR there were no significant effects as a result of offshore infrastructure within the array area.
- The Project proposed that effects of the Offshore array area on onshore seascape, landscape and visual receptors are unlikely to be significant and can be scoped out of the ES.
- Natural England (LB) explained that advice is based on designations only, Natural England cannot comment on scoping out as this is outside of Natural England remit.
- Natural England advised that the offshore array area could be scoped in to ensure all interested parties have an opportunity to voice their opinion.
- LPA (SD) will come back to project on further feedback on scoping out the offshore array area.

- **ACTION: LPA (SD) to provide further feedback as to whether they agree if the effects of the array area are unlikely to be significant (in which case, it would be scoped out the ES assessment).**
- LCC (NB) explained that no analysis has been undertaken, therefore will remain neutral on the matter.

Effects of the ORCPs, Study Area and Viewpoints.

- In response to stakeholder comments, the Project explained that the two ORCPs (90m x 90m x 90x) will now be located a minimum distance of 12km from the coast, doubling the distance assumed during PEIR assessment.
- ODOW noted the potential that effects of ORCPs will no longer be significant, which will be assessed in the ES.
- Natural England previously advised their only concern is with effects of ORCPs, however s42 comments advise that ORCPs will not result in significant effects on designated landscapes.
- ODOW proposed a study area for ES assessment of ORCPs to be 30km radius, with assessment focused on effects from coastline between Chapel Six Marshes, Mablethorpe and Saltfleet, with effects on designated landscapes to be scoped out.
- The Project explained that the potential visibility of night-time lighting of ORCPs will be included in the SLVIA.
- The project displayed a map and provided an overview of offshore reactive compensation platform zone of theoretical visibility (ZTVs)
- The Project displayed a map and provided an overview of the study area and MDS for SLVIA.
- Natural England will review slides with their specialists and respond to the Projects questions on slide 20.

ACTION: Natural England to review slides with specialists and respond to questions (slide 20). In particular feedback was requested from NE as to whether the mitigation applied to the position of the ORCPs further offshore may address previous concerns about their impacts.

Designations and Heritage Coasts

- Following advice from Natural England that the Heritage Coast proposal had stalled, the Project confirmed that the ES will give no weight or consideration to the proposal.
- Natural England reiterated that advice has not changed since PEIR. However, Natural England recommend future proofing assessments. Natural England further advised that there may be other interested parties' interest in this (e.g The Wildlife Trusts).
- Natural England brought the new Lincolnshire Coronation Coast National Nature Reserve (LCCNNR) to the attention of the Project.

Effects on landscape character

- The Project proposed that effects of the array area on Landscape Character Types (LCTs) are unlikely to be significant and can be scoped out of the ES.

Effect on Offshore Visual Receptors

- The Project confirmed that the ES will include an assessment of effects on offshore visual receptors from representative viewpoints.

Assessment Methodology and Approach

- ODOW noted that no specific comments regarding assessment methodology or approach were received during S42.
- The project confirmed the intent to focus on effects on ORCPs.

LVIA

Updates

- The Project provided an overview of LVIA updates
- The Project confirmed that the Surfleet Marsh search zone is being progressed, with the final site layout including mitigation planting and drainage currently being developed.
CONFIDENTIAL
- Further site work is planned for w/c 25th October. The Project noted that both LCC and LPAs were invited to join, KG (LCC) confirmed he will be joining for a meeting on site
- ODOW issued proposed 5 viewpoints alongside the indicative/ proposed OnSS location at Surfleet Marsh for consultation. An additional 2 are yet to be identified, with a total of 7 viewpoints proposed.

Site layout

- ODOW informed stakeholders that options for the site layout are being explored.
- The Project confirmed that options for the site layout consider potential visual effect on rural residents, road users on main and rural roads, walkers along river Wellend and other ProWs.
- The Project added that options for the site layout consider potential for existing hedgerows and tree cover to provide screening and space to allow mitigation planting to be implemented.
- Mitigation of effects on local receptors through the provision of offsite planting is also being considered.
- ODOW confirmed the site layout will consider ways to reduce cumulative visual effects of the ODOW Onshore substation and National Grid Onshore Substation – although the precise details or location of this is not known at this stage.

Landfall and Onshore Cable Route

- The Project proposes to scope in the effect of export cable landfall during operation and maintenance (O&M) owing to the potential residual effects on vegetation.
- The Project added that effects during the O&M phase are likely to be limited owing to the underground location of the infrastructure and the limited removal of vegetation.
- The project confirmed the ES will present more detail on the effects of the landfall and onshore cable route.
- S&ELCP (SD) confirmed they are happy with this approach.

Location of representative viewpoints

- The Project informed stakeholders that the aim is to have seven viewpoints to represent visual receptors in the local area of the final onshore substation.
- The Project provided the rationale of the location of representative viewpoints in a table
CONFIDENTIAL
- S&ELCP (SD) is of the opinion there should be more viewpoints.

- LCC (KG) advised that their LVIA specialist will be coming back on this after the meeting, but the initial suggestion was for the Project to consider viewpoints further away (2km).
-
- ODOW confirmed that after the site visit (25/09/23) the Project will consider further viewpoints. A list of viewpoints will be issued by 10th October for agreement between the parties by 24th October.
 - **Post meeting note:** Sam Dewar of DPA Planning (on behalf of the S&ELCP) passed on comments regarding viewpoint selection from their landscape consultant. These included the request for more middle and distant range viewpoints, representation of the settlements of Gosberton and Surfleet Seas End and including a total of ten viewpoints in the LVIA. These comments were taken into consideration during the site visit.)

ACTION: ODOW to consider further viewpoints.

List of cumulative developments

- The Project confirmed that the cumulative longlist was being updated .
- The project will look to issue the list to relevant stakeholders for comment on 17th October for agreement by 31st October

ACTION: ODOW to issue the Cumulative Long list to relevant stakeholders for comment

- S&ELCP (SD) confirmed they are happy with this approach.
- An overview map was displayed to show the cumulative projects included at PEIR and to show the cable corridor south of the A52 and the Lincs node connection option removed from scope and therefore discounted from the LVIA.

Worst case scenario

- The Project confirmed that GIS and AIS onshore substations will be considered.
- ODOW added that both AIS and GIS will be shown in illustrative visualisations to show the two different technologies. Given the increase in footprint of the AIS from PEIR, the Project noted that the GIS would no longer necessarily provide a worst case scenario for all receptors.S&ELCP (SD) and Kevin confirmed they are happy with this approach.

Presentation of visualisations

- The Project provided an overview of the presentation of visualisations:
 - Visualisations to be produced in line with Landscape Institute guidance.
 - Baseline photography will be used to show the baseline view (without the onshore substation.)
 - Onshore Substations (both AIS & GIS) to be illustrated using indicative models.
 - The LVIA assessment, however, will be based on a maximum parameter Rochdale Envelope using the maximum extent of the AIS and maximum height of a GIS substation. This will also be shown on the visualisations. This approach was agreed by S&ELCP (SD) and Kevin.
 - Mitigation planting will be added to represent 15 years of growth.
- S&ELCP (SD) raised concerns regarding the 15 years of growth approach.

- The Project confirmed that this is standard industry best practice and displayed examples of how this looked at PIER.


Relevance of Lincolnshire wolds AONB

- The Project confirmed that the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is no longer relevant to the LVIA as the Lincolnshire Node search zone has been discounted as a potential option to locate the onshore substation.
- The Project therefore proposed to scope effects on the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB out of the LVIA.
- Natural England (LB) confirmed they were content with this approach.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--|-----------------|--------|
| 22/09/23 | LPA (SD) to provide further feedback on scoping out the offshore array area. ODOW would like to point to the relevant seascape visualisations (from page 28) 6.2.17.2 SLVIA-Figures-Wirelines-and-Visualisations.pdf (outerdowsing.com) | SD | |
| 22/09/23 | Natural England to review slides with specialists and respond to questions (slide 20) | Natural England | |
| 22/09/23 | ODOW review feedback from LPAs and consider further viewpoints. | ODOW | |
| 22/09/23 | ODOW to issue the Cumulative Long list by 10 th October to relevant stakeholders for agreement by the 24 th October. | ODOW | |

/End

| | |
|---|---|
|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind LVIA Expert Topic Group (ETG) |
| ODOW Ref: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0039 |
| Date: | 20 th November 2023 |
| Time: | 10.00hrs -11:00hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <p>Roisin Alldis (RA) - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Hugh Morris (HM) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Jo Phillips (JP) – Optimised Environments (OpEn) Matthew Hemming (MH) – SLR Consulting Ltd Alexandra Stewart (AS) – SLR Consulting Ltd Holly Brown (HB) – SLR Consulting Ltd</p> <p>Sam Dewar (SD) - DPA Planning (on behalf of all Local Planning Authorities (LPAs)) Neil McBride (NM) - Lincolnshire County Council Kevin Gillespie (KG) – AAH Planning (on behalf of LCC)</p> |
| Apologies: | <p>Emma Shore (ES) – Marine Management Organisation Karen Schnetler (KS) – Marine Management Organisation Adam Chambers (AC) – Natural England Helen Mann (HM) – Natural England Paul Lane (PL) – Natural England Andrew Booth (AB) - East Lindsey District Council Eloise Shieber (ES) - Lincolnshire County Council Phil Norman (PN) - South Holland District Council Abbie Marwood (AM) - Boston Borough Council Jacob Laws (JL) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Greg Tomlinson (GT) – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind</p> |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

Outstanding Actions

- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) provided an update on the status and progress of key actions from previous Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings.
 - Post meeting note: Cumulative long list was issued to stakeholders 24th November 2023, for comment on 8th December 2023. LPA (SD) confirmed via email on 1st December 2023 that they are happy with the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) approach.
 - Post meeting note: LPA confirmed that they are happy the offshore array area can be scoped out for SLVIA.

ETG Schedule

- ODOW confirmed that this is the last scheduled ETG for 2023.
- ODOW advised that more targeted discussions could be arranged for January if there are any issues outstanding after the call or should any consultees wish to discuss any items further

Programme

- ODOW confirmed that the application is being submitted Q1 2024.
- ODOW updated consultees on the status of the Autumn consultation, which launched 20th October 2023 and would be concluding on the 24th November 2023 where an extension has not been agreed.
 - Five in person consultation event have been held and stakeholders have been consulted.
 - Post meeting note: ODOW thank those who have provided a response and they are reviewing stakeholders' responses.
- The key updates that ODOW consulted on include the Environmental Update Report, the updated onshore export cable corridor (ECC) and access routes, updated visualisations and the confirmed substation location.
- No questions were received from stakeholders on the Project Update at this time.

Onshore Updates

- ODOW presented stakeholders with the Projects order limits, including the location of the onshore substation at Surfleet Marsh and the 400kv cables that feed into the indicative search area for the National Grid substation.
- ODOW noted that the connection area is an indicative search area for the NGSS infrastructure as indicated by National Grid. This is therefore being used by the Project to inform the 400Kv Cable route and to inform the cumulative effects assessments.

Offshore Updates

- ODOW provided a brief summary of the offshore updates, including the closest onshore elements of the offshore infrastructure, the Offshore Reaction Compensation Platforms (ORCPs).

LVIA

LVIA Updates

- OpEn provided an overview of LVIA updates since the September ETG.
- OpEn outlined the comment raised in the September ETG about increasing the number of viewpoints. Previously 5 viewpoints were shown.
- OpEn met with AAH Planning on behalf of LCC on site in September 2023, to determine additional viewpoints.
 - Visualisations have been produced for these representative viewpoints.
- The viewpoint list has been updated as a result from 5 to 10 viewpoints and shared with LCC and the LPAs on 6th November 2023.

- OpEn completed another site visit in October, along the Landfall and cable route to feed into the detailed assessment.
- OpEn have developed a mitigation planting plan alongside the Project Ecology team, tying in Biodiversity Net Gain targets to provide effective screening around the OnSS.
- OpEn have developed an assessment of cumulative effects from long list and short list, largely focussing on the interaction between the NGSS and the Project, and accounting for other projects along the length of the onshore ECC.

Onshore Cable Route

- OpEn outlined the onshore ECC route updates since the last ETG.
- OpEn outlined the initial findings of the assessment along the onshore ECC:
 - There are 221 locations along the route where a trenchless technique is used, meaning a large portion of the route remains undisturbed.
 - Secondary construction compounds at either end of the route have been accounted for.
 - Careful routing of the onshore ECC has led to the majority of the route avoiding settlements, utilising arable farmland.
 - Character of arable farmland is routinely farmed, with little natural vegetation.
 - Ground is subject to frequent disturbance therefore common for the land to be turned over.
 - Implementation where open cut trenching occurs, doesn't give rise to a notable magnitude of change, this is more part of the baseline character.
 - Localised temporary significant effects along this route are found at the larger primary construction compounds where plant, materials and welfare hubs are located.
- OpEn summarised that there are very few losses of hedgerows and trees due to the extensive use of trenchless techniques and careful routing to avoid settlements along the onshore ECC. The main receptors include the road users who come into close proximity to the temporary construction compounds, few instances of effects on residents and walkers.

Onshore Substation

- OpEn provided an overview of the two types of zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV); bare ground ZTV and screened ZTV, and ran through the ZTVs presented in the slides.
- Bare Ground ZTV:
 - Only accounts for the landform, shows a very low lying and level landscape, therefore visibility is over a substantial extent.
 - Exception being the southern side of the River Welland with a 3-4m embankment encasing the River. The white strip to the south of the river indicates the effect of visual screening.
- Screened ZTV:
 - Accounts for woodland. Where there are clusters of woodland this reduces the theoretical visibility, described as the 'actual visibility' but doesn't account for buildings.

- This applies a 10m average height to woodland planting or trees. Depicts a fairly substantial spread of visibility on the southeastern side of the River Welland the levels of visibility drop off due to screening and distance.
- Combined screened ZTV with Landscape Character:
 - Extensive landscape character area 'The Lincolnshire Fens' from south Skegness to Peterborough. For the purposes of assessment and in line with S42 comments, the Project has taken local landscape character into account.
- OpEn confirmed using a 5km study area around the OnSS, where landscape is characterised by reclaimed marshland with large open fields, arable farmland with very little enclosure from woodland and hedgerows.
- OpEn have defined two Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA):
 - 1) Surfleet and Gosberton Marsh Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA), typically more developed due to the settlements around this area. Main road also intersects and development to the northern side of Spalding.
 - 2) Weston Marsh LLCA, to the southeastern side, typically less developed and less settlement, rural remoteness and fewer busy roads.
- These LLCAs have been used as basis for the landscape character assessment.

Landscape Designations

- OpEn confirmed there are no landscape designations within the study area. A 1km buffer was applied either side of the onshore ECC and 5km around the OnSS.
- Lincolnshire Wolds is now no longer considered, due to the separation distance from the Weston Marsh onshore ECC.
 - Determined there is no potential for significant effects on landscape designations.

Updated Viewpoints

- Feedback from the previous ETG led to increasing the number of viewpoints from 5 to 10.
- This included viewpoints representative of the local settlements South Seas End to the south and Gosberton to the west.
- Middle range views have been represented to a 2km distance to give the ideal threshold for determining significant and non-significant effects.
- During the site visit, OpEn took a good range of additional viewpoints, approx. 15 in total to test out for visibility.
- OpEn ran through the table summarising why the additional viewpoints were chosen and presented a map of the viewpoints to depict the spread around the site and representation for a variety of aspects and users.

Surfleet Marsh OnSS Mitigation Planting

- OpEn presented a map depicting both the onshore and offshore planting around the OnSS, outlining the aim is to produce a layered mitigation planting plan, for near and middle distance range planting.
 - Planting around the substation is predicted to reach 7-8m high in 15 years, so needs to be offset away from building and closer to receptors to create an effective screen in this time.

- OpEn outlined the planting plan:
 - Offsetting the planting away from the building and closer to the receptors, such as the residents, road users and walkers, which would screen the building within 15 years, possibly less.
 - Extensive following of field boundaries, reinforcing the historic landscape character, enabling farm fields to stay productive within the high-quality agricultural land, to prevent restricting access to land or fields.
 - Layering effect creates more effective screen where there may be gaps or seeing it from different directions.
 - Cumulatively, the tree planting provides an effective screen.
 - The visualisations indicate that at all viewpoints, significant visual effects are likely to be mitigated within 10-15 years, with some significant effects being lost between year 5 and year 10.
- OpEn found that the planting provides effective mitigation for this key above ground infrastructure, within a relatively short period of time, especially effective from the south and east where there is a greater depth of planting.

Cumulative Effects Assessment

- OpEn outlined the two aspects to CEA:
 - 1) Landfall and onshore ECC:
 - The CEA will highlight where residential developments or energy developments are in proximity.
 - The assessment will look at the cumulative effect in respect of visual receptors, such as a residential development to the north to the west of Hogsthorpe, close to the predicted TCCs.
 - The assessment looks in detail at the cumulative effect between the two developments.
 - 2) 5km search area of OnSS:
 - Looking at the potential for cumulative interactions between OnSS and NGSS.
 - Limited information on the NGSS at present, however still important to make this assessment to build up an understanding of what receptors could be affected cumulatively by these developments.
- OpEn outlined that a detailed assessment of the cumulative effects will be on the LLCA, looking at viewpoints.
- LCC raised questions around the inclusion of additional infrastructure and Projects that aren't currently in the public domain (such as the Grimsby-Walpole 400KV National Grid upgrade and Meridian Solar) but will be in there by the time the application is submitted in February 2024.
- LCC also raised that during examination the first developer in line may be expected to update the cumulative impacts throughout examination for others to see.
- ODOU outlined that where information and a footprint for upcoming Projects is not yet freely in the domain, there will be a cut off date for Projects to be included in the CEA. Typical parameters are being adopted at this stage for the NGSS due to their not being the information available, these will be utilised for ODOU to make an assessment on the NGSS. ODOU will acknowledge the projects which are expected but where enough information is

not yet in the public domain. ODOW will therefore seek to update the standalone CEA document, where required, throughout the examination phase.

Next Steps

- OpEn outlined the next steps on the slide deck.
- ODOW are seeking agreement on the updated viewpoint list from LCC and LPAs.
 - LCC and LPAs provided initial feedback on the viewpoints during the meeting. Immediate Feedback on the Viewpoints issued:
 - AAH Planning on behalf of LCC confirmed they were happy with the proposed viewpoints.
 - Sam Dewar on behalf of the LPAs confirmed they are initially happy, however the landscape consultant is reviewing the viewpoints and will revert.
 - **Action: AAH Planning to provide ODOW confirmation on agreement on the viewpoint list following the Landscape Consultant’s review.**
- OpEn outlined the representation of the OnSS uses two different models, AIS and GIS, representing a worst-case scenario (WCS) depicting both, based on project design ‘Rochdale Envelope’.
 - Once AIS or GIS is confirmed, the assessment still holds as they’re based on both parameters.
 - Experience from recent hearings is developers have been asked to provide visualisation for both AIS and GIS which ODOW have completed – two sets of visualisations showing the respective models.
 - Important to note that this isn’t likely what they’ll look like, this is just demonstrating the WCS.
- **Action: Are stakeholders happy with the approach the Project are taking on assessing the maximum extents of AIS and GIS technologies using a Rochdale Envelope approach as a worst-case scenario?**
- Immediate feedback from LCC and LPAs on the AIS/GIS:
 - Both confirmed they were content with the PDE Approach – **Action closed.**

AOB

- ODOW confirmed the Project are progressing the substation design review process document.
 - ODOW are creating two different types of documents as requested by PINS to outline the design principles the Project will adhere to for the OnSS.
 - A draft outline document was produced at PEIR.

The Design Approach Document (DAD) will outline the Design Review Process being adopted by the project. ODOW will contact both LCC and the LPAs separately regarding anticipated input on this panel and roles/ responsibilities.

Summary of Actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed | Update |
|-------------|--|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| 22/09/2023 | Dates Revised: ODOW to issue the Cumulative Long list by 24th November to relevant | LPA (SD) / LCC | In Progress | Issued to stakeholders 24/11/23, |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed | Update |
|-------------|--|------------------------------|---|--|
| | stakeholders for agreement by the 8th December. | | | stakeholders to provide comment by 08/12/23. LPA (SD) confirmed happy with CEA approach 01/11/2023. |
| 22/09/2023 | LPA (SD) to provide further feedback on scoping out the offshore array area. ODOW would like to point to the relevant seascape visualisations (from page 28) 6.2.17.2_SLVIA-Figures-Wirelines-andVisualisations.pdf (outerdowsing.com) | LPA (SD) | Closed | Feedback from the Autumn Consultation confirmed LPAs agreed on scoping out of offshore array area for SLVIA. |
| 20/11/2023 | LPAs and LCC to confirm agreement on the updated viewpoint list issued 6 th November 2023. | LPA (SD) | Open | N/A |
| 20/11/2023 | Stakeholders to confirm they are happy with the approach the Project are taking on presenting both AIS and GIS as a worst-case scenario. | LPA (SD) / AAH Planning (KG) | Closed – stakeholders confirmed happy with approach during ETG. | N/A |

/End

A coastal landscape featuring a path that winds through dunes covered in tall, golden-brown grasses. The path leads towards a flat, sandy beach area where the ocean waves are breaking. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, suggesting an overcast day. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex B Part 8 of 11

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024

Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex B – Part 8 of 11

Archaeology & Cultural Heritage, LVIA & SLVIA Topic Group Minutes

| | |
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|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | ODOW Archaeology & Cultural Heritage, LVIA & SLVIA ETG |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000282-01 |
| Date: | 13 July 2022 |
| Time: | 1000hrs to 1200hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel Furlong (RF), Stakeholder and Consents Manager, ODOW • Roisin Alldis (RA), Onshore Consents Manager, ODOW • Beth Travis (BT), Consent Co-ordinator, ODOW • Julia Bolton (JB), Lead Environmental Project Manager, GoBe • Phil New (PN), Offshore Environmental Project Manager, GoBe • Andy Gregory (AG), Onshore Environmental Project Manager, SLR • Alexandra Stewart (AS), Onshore Assistant Environmental PM, SLR • Charlotte Dawson (CD), Lead Onshore Heritage and Archaeology Consultant, SLR • Christin Heamagi (CH), Manager Maritime Archaeology • Lauren Nagler (LN), Consultant, Maritime Archaeology • Simon Martin (SM), Lead SLVIA Consultant, OPEN • Jo Phillips (JP), Lead LVIA Consultant, OPEN • Lou Burton (LB), Senior Responsible Officer, Natural England • Chris Pater (CP), Co-ordinator of Historic England's input to OWFs around England (offshore), Historic England • Matt Nicholas (MN), Science Advisor (Onshore), (on behalf of Tim Allen), Historic England • Ian George (IG), Historic Places Manager, Lincolnshire County Council |
| Apologies: | Tim Allen, Historic England, Inspector of Ancient Monuments |
| Circulation: | External |

Introductions:

- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) sought permission to record the meeting for the purposes of assisting minute taking. With no objections received, introductions were made for all attendees.
- ODOW provided an overview of the project team and highlighted key contacts.

Project Introduction:

- ODOW gave an overview of project location and The Crown Estate (TCE) Round 4 leasing process to determine project array area.
- ODOW noted that the TCE Plan Level Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is ongoing.
- Details of the known constraints within the wider area were given.
- Project design parameters were presented (Slide 7) are preliminary and subject to change prior to issue of the ODOW Scoping Report.
- Onshore cable corridor (Slide 8) to be confirmed as subject to Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) process, which is being led by National grid in conjunction with

Ofgem and BEIS. The OTNR will confirm the final grid connection location for ODOW as is expected to report September 2022 (noting this has been previously delayed).

- At present 2 possible grid connection options:
 - Lincs Node (previously known as East Midlands) connection would link in at Lincolnshire. This would rely on the Lincolnshire Green grid reinforcement project being developed by NG, and would connect in 2031 at the earliest.
 - Weston Marsh connection point, would connect in 2028/2029.
- ODOW provided an overview of the project programme (slide 9), including intention to submit the Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate at the end of July.
- ODOW is approximately 54km from shore
- **ACTION: ODOW to inform stakeholders once documents are submitted to PINS.**
- **ACTION: ODOW to provide The Inspectorate of each stakeholder's key points of contact for ODOW.**

Evidence Plan Process (EPP) Introduction:

- Brief overview of the EPP structure and purpose was given as per (slide 11).
- *NOTE: All info shared during meetings is confidential,*
- *NOTE: Please contact either JB or RF as your first point of contact for any queries.*

Offshore and Onshore Boundaries:

- GoBe presented the offshore boundary which is informed by OTNR and TCE's Plan Level HRA, and highlighted constraints as detailed further in the Scoping Report
- SLR presented the onshore boundary detailing the AoS and the two potential onshore substation locations

LVIA

- A high-level overview of methodology presented (Slide 19)
- The LVIA study area, including buffers, was presented (Slides 20-21)
- Landscape character and Designations (Slides 22-25)
 - Character and designations were presented including data gaps and where additional site work may be required to provide a robust baseline and to determine viewpoints
 - Notably no overlaps with AONBs so no direct impacts anticipated
- Principle Visual Receptors (Slides 26-27), includes potential impacts to people & how they might experience effects, including the study of settlements, roads, railways, areas which may have experience impacts more including footpaths etc. This also includes study along routes for potential sequential impacts
- Important to note the use of a design envelope and working to a worst-case scenario.

SLVIA

- A high-level overview of methodology was presented (Slide 31), noting the SLVIA is undertaken using Rochdale envelope and maximum design scenario
 - While it is expected the WCS will be max turbine tip height, it could be a larger number of smaller turbines
- Offshore Development Components (Slide 32) detailed components SLVIA will focus on, including the subsea cables, the offshore reactor station and the turbines.
- The offshore reactor station has an AoS between the array area and the landfall and is likely to be located approximately halfway between the two.
- Due to the distance of the array area and the location behind Triton Knoll and it being in a seascape with a baseline that has many turbines present already we do not expect the array area and turbines to create significant impacts.

- Study Area (Slide 33) need to consider the location of the offshore reactor station and would seek feedback on that, to ensure content with the approach given the distance from shore.
- Natural England queried the 60km radius, confirming Natural England has considered changing its advice given the size of the new larger turbines, this is increasing to 70-80km. Natural England suggested looking at the scoping opinion for Five Estuaries and North Falls. Natural England confirmed they had no concerns with the 30km, but in terms of being environmentally led, but requested the SAC is avoided for the reactor station, should ODOW require this.
- **ACTION: OPEN and GoBe to discuss new SLVIA distances with colleagues to inform approach moving forwards**

Post meeting note: Natural England's advice at Scoping Opinion for both the Five Estuaries and North Falls projects, supported the use of a 60km ZTV for 400m turbines. ODOW's proposed approach to the study area is consistent with these recent precedents.

- Study Area Key Considerations (slides 34-38) The theoretical visibility extends to the closest areas of coastline, but it is notable to mention that its only parts of the rotors and the blade tips at that distance
- The weather station at Donna Nook suggests that visibility beyond 50km is very rare using the met office data and only for a very limited period of time (approx 2% of time across the year to see the turbines at that distance). This will limit the scale and magnitude of the impacts in addition to the surrounding seascape character which includes a baseline of offshore windfarms which are visible.
- Viewpoints and Wirelines are detailed in slides 39-48 and due to the magnitude of change being so low ODOW propose scoping out the impacts of the array area,
- Next Steps: include agree study area and viewpoints which will allow ODOW to progress with photography and assessments of the offshore reactor stations

Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

- Baseline Characterisation (Slides 52-53) detailed the Study Area = Offshore area +1km buffer to MHWS
- UKHO data were utilized with a total of 213 unique records,
- Aside from 2 aircraft there are no other designated sites within the AoS, however there is potential to find more due to the potential for other receptors to be present
- Two SSSIs on the coast which have preserved paleoenvironmental deposits consisting of Holocene sediments and special geological features which could inform understanding of submerged landscapes in the area
- Historic England queried whether there was any indicative record of other losses, with Maritime Archaeology confirming there was no indicative record of other losses in the area but there are more in the surrounding area. As further data is received, the Project will analyse the data further in the following phases
- Maritime Archaeology confirmed that Method Statements had been provided to feed into the 2021 and 2022 geophysical campaigns, and confirmed that the data assessed will be utilised in the PEIR.
- Maritime Archaeology also confirmed a WSI would be produced.
- Historic England confirmed, regarding embedded mitigation measures, that while embedded mitigation can be readily understood (i.e. avoidance of known heritage assets), it is important to understand that a WSI ~~and the~~ contains a range of methodologies which are adaptive. Adaptive approaches have to be ~~taken~~ included so that in situ management can

continue to be taken to protect features, especially given the scale and size of the structure that may be deployed

- Historic England also requested that, with all of the OWFs and cable routes within the area, particularly in the intertidal zone, make sure there is coherence between the onshore and offshore chapters. ODOW confirmed the teams will work collaboratively.
- **ACTION: GoBe to ensure consultants to engage and work collaboratively to ensure coherence across onshore and offshore technical aspects.**

Post meeting note: Historic England research records include marine heritage, however these records will focus on data for the English Inshore Marine Planning Areas within which designation for heritage purposes is possible.

Onshore Arch & Cultural Heritage

- Baseline references designated heritage along with non-heritage assets as provided by Lincolnshire County Council.
- AoS is very large, so a large study area for the scoping currently but this will be refined as the Project progress
- Working currently to a 500m buffer from the cable route and substation to inform direct effects and a 2km buffer to consider the longer-term effects of the presence of the substation
- Lincolnshire Node option has more designated heritage assets within the AoS for the Substation Location than Weston Marsh, but it is acknowledged that the longer cable corridor of Weston Marsh does have more designated heritage assets.
- Impacts Scoped in / out (slide 68) impacts of offshore infrastructure has been scoped out as detailed in the SLVIA section of this meeting
- Historic England raised a query regarding the desk-based assessment (DBA), and whether this will that include a geoarchaeological assessment e.g. deposit modelling where data exists and looking at existing data sources. At the point where any geotechnical investigations do begin, the Project should ensure geoarchaeological involvement to maximise the opportunities to obtain data
- Maritime Archaeology confirmed that if the opportunity arises to monitor the geotechnical investigations, a geoarchaeologist would make observations to support the baseline characterisation.

AoB:


- Historic England explained that they might not able to provide advice on certain items until post Scoping or until after the PEIR and even Post Application submission depending on the information that is made available during pre-application e.g. if developer-led survey programmes and archaeological analysis and interpretation are delayed.
- Regarding future ETG meetings, the meetings will be split into detailed technical groups as required. Meetings will be consolidated where possible.
- The next ETG is anticipated to be post-Scoping Opinion (~September 2022).

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|--------------|---|----------------|--------|
| 11 July 2022 | Inform stakeholders once documents are submitted to PINS. | ODOW | |

| | | | |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------|-----|
| 11 July 2022 | Explore if project team can let PINS know who the key points of contact for ODOW are for each Stakeholder group | ODOW | |
| 11 July 2022 | SM to discuss new distances with colleagues to inform approach moving forwards | OPEN (via GoBe) | Yes |
| 11 July 2022 | GoBe and consultants to engage and work collaboratively to ensure coherence across Archaeology chapters moving forwards | GoBe | |
| 11 July 2022 | Include adaptive measures and approaches within WSI | Maritime Archaeology (via GoBe) | |

/End

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|---|---|
|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | SLVIA, LVIA, Archaeology & Cultural Heritage Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000338-01 |
| Date: | 10 th October 2022 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | MMO: Emma Shore (ES) Historic England: Christopher Pater (CP), Tim Allen (TA), Jack Coe (JC) Lincolnshire County Council: Jan Allen (JA) ODOW: Rachel Furlong (RF), Roisin Alldis (RA) GoBe: Julia Bolton (JB), Phil New (PN) SLR Consulting: Andy Gregory (AG), Charlotte Dawson (CD) OPEN: Simon Martin (SM), Jo Phillips (JP) Maritime Archaeology: Lauren Nagler (LN), Christin Heamagi (CH) |
| Apologies: | ODOW: Chris Jenner (CJ), Beth Travis (BT) MMO: Adam Tillotson (AT) Natural England: Louise Burton (LB), Deanna Atkins (DA) Lincolnshire County Council: Ian George (IG) East Lindsey District Council: Andrew Booth (AB) Historic England: Matthew Nicholas (MN) |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

Apologies

- Due to resourcing constraints, Natural England have confirmed they are unable to attend this round of Expert Topic Groups (ETGs). Meeting minutes and presentations will be issued to Natural England for comment and written input.

Project Update

- A single Development Consent Order (DCO) application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (The Inspectorate).
- The Project's grid connection location subject to the ongoing Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR).
- The OTNR is being led by BEIS alongside National Grid and relevant stakeholders.
- OTNR considering an efficient approach to network connections.
- The final Holistic Network Design report, issued in July 2022, recommended two possible connection points be considered for the Project; Lincolnshire Coastal Node (Lincs Node) and Weston Marsh.
- Final decision still pending with an update on the Project's connection offer expected in Autumn 2022.
- The final decision on the connection location will be determined by National Grid.

Programme

- Scoping Report was submitted to The Inspectorate on 29th July with the Project receiving the Scoping Opinion from The Inspectorate on 9th September 2022.
- Ongoing reviews and analysis of responses are being undertaken by the Project and technical teams.
- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will be submitted Q1 2023.
- The Project will work with stakeholders through the Evidence Plan Process (EPP), ETGs and bilateral discussions to assist in informing PEIR.
- The Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report was submitted to relevant stakeholders on 3rd August.
- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) underwent an initial consultation in August, with a revised version issued in September. Comments are due from stakeholder by 13th October.
- Public information Days (PIDs) will be held in November 2022 and Spring 2023.
- Targeting DCO application submission in Q4 2023.

Surveys

- A summary of ongoing, completed and planned surveys was provided.
- Historic England queried the lab testing of vibrocores for paleoenvironmental analysis for the 2021 offshore campaign.
- The Project submitted a method statement for the geophysical campaign to Historic England on 21st May 2021. It was confirmed that the vibrocore logs were assessed and will be considered for PEIR. The vibrocore logs will be used to assist in determining future geotechnical campaign locations when archaeological cores are collected within future geotechnical campaigns. Method statements will be prepared for future geotechnical campaigns, if required by the marine licence and submitted to Historic England. Engineering based geotechnical work is anticipated to be undertaken prior to the submission of the DCO application. Specific archaeological cores will be collected and assessed post-submission in consultation with relevant stakeholders required as per any relevant DCO conditions. The 2023 geotechnical campaign will assist in feeding into the reduction of the array area boundary for the overall site characterisation and is therefore not focused on archaeology.
- Historic England confirm the participation in a clear method statement to inform each stage of the programme of survey work is extremely helpful in terms of how the work is progressed so that the geoarchaeological work is built in as early as possible. Historic England would wish to see optimisation for this work, noting that the earlier archaeological input can feed in. In terms of the design and delivery of the Project, Historic England would encourage more integration and participation for the archaeological consultants in terms of the programme of surveying and analysis.

PEIR Boundaries

- Offshore: focusing on the southern area of the Scoping boundary, and predominately a 2km wide route. There is section in the inshore area for optionality in the of the cable whilst commercial discussions ongoing with potential aggregates site.
- Onshore: significantly refined from Scoping boundary to a 300m wide corridor to be used for the purposes of the assessment. An environmental lead approach has been used to refine the corridor.

- Historic England requested more information on what the assessment work has comprised of.
- The Project confirmed that a least-cost path analysis has been undertaken. All available EIA constraints data has been used. The Project have tried to avoid environmental constraints, where possible, that have been identified. The detail will be presented within the PEIR and a consideration of alternatives chapter will explain the different routes.
- Historic England need to understand which specific sources will be used in order to provide meaningful consultation. Historic England are concerned that the timing of the PEIR will not enable enough time to respond to comments to undertake work, or there may be an absence of detail. Historic England confirmed early engagement to ensure the organisation can comment of adequacy work and where opportunities or risk lie.
- **ACTION: The Project confirmed the data sources used for archaeology will be shared with Historic England prior to submission of the PEIR.**
- The Project are progressing on the basis of a full assessment for both the Lincolnshire Node and Weston Marsh connection locations. The assessment and PEIR will be split out into the two options.

Seascape Visual Assessment

Key Scoping Opinion Comments:

- No specific comments on Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment (SVIA) were received from East Lindsey District Council or Lincolnshire County Council in the Scoping Opinion.
- In the Scoping Report, the Project attempted to illustrate the lack of effect of the Project through the wireline figures presented. Only the very tip of the blades may be visible for the coastal areas.
- The Planning Inspectorate requested that a 60km study area needs to be considered. Therefore, the Project will assess the potential for likely significant effects.
- Historic England noted that Natural England are the lead stakeholder for this topic.
- The Project will present a 'light touch' assessment in the PEIR as a pragmatic next step.
- The detail of the assessment will focus on the offshore reactive compensation station (RCS) which will be 6km to 17km offshore and be 90m high x 90m width x 90m length. A study area for the offshore RCS needs to be defined based on its zone of visual influence. The requirement for the offshore RCS is also dependant on the final onshore grid connection location.
- **ACTION: Natural England to confirm the potential for significant effects likely to occur on receptors located over 54 km from the array area? The Project array area is also located behind a baseline of other windfarms, so the addition of the array area is unlikely to be significant. Note: The Inspectorate has agreed to scope out aviation lighting effect at this distance.**
- **ACTION: Natural England to confirm if a 'light-touch' approach is acceptable for the PEIR for the visual effects on offshore receptors? What receptors are present and are significant effects likely to occur?**
- **ACTION: Natural England to confirm if the proposed heritage coast north of Mablethorpe is not approved and is 'likely to be formally defined in the early part of 2023', how should it be considered in the project design and should the potential impacts be considered when it is not formally defined? At what stage should it be considered – for PEIR or ES?**

- The Project confirmed views from the coast are also being considered within the SVIA, and not only offshore receptors.
- Lincolnshire County Council confirmed the organisation are using landscape specialists. It is understood that due to the volume of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), Lincolnshire County Council will be looking to recruit for more landscape advisors. Lincolnshire County Council advised the Project to contact with the Lincolnshire County Council planners.
- The Project confirmed this would be useful for selecting and agreeing view point locations.
- **ACTION: The Project to contact Lincolnshire County Council planner to obtain advice on who to contact regarding SVIA.**

Landscape and Visual Assessment

Key Scoping Opinion Comments:

- Two key consultees who responded were the Planning Inspectorate and Natural England.
- Regarding landfall there were concerns over the amount of the information available about the content of the landfall and the restoration. The Project confirmed there is a detailed project description on which the assessment is based. All the landscape effects at the landfall, along the export cable corridor (ECC) and around the onshore substation, will be presented in the Landscape and Ecological Design Principles Plan (LEDPP). This document looks at the potential effects of the removal of hedgerows and trees associated with construction works and demonstrates how the landscape elements can be replaced most effectively.
- With regards to the ECC, there are concerns surrounding permanent losses. Typically, the ECC is routed as carefully as possible to avoid woodland and trees and where possible, trenchless techniques are used under areas of woodland to minimise areas of losses. Currently a wider route is being considered than actually required to allow for optionality. With hedgerows, these will be typically replaced. The removal of trees will be minimized where possible as these cannot be replanted over the cable route.
- Due regard will be taken for the heritage coast within the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).
- The assessment methodology used is detailed within the PEIR. The LVIA is distinct from the overall EIA methodology and these differences will be highlighted within the PEIR.
- With regards to mitigation planting, although projects typically try to undertake as much advance planting as possible, the PEIR will assume there will be no advanced planting to ensure a worst-case scenario.
- With regards to nationally designated landscapes, the Project will consider any potential effects to Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- For landscape character, reference will be made to The Fens National Character Areas for Western Marsh and reference will be made to East Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment for Lincolnshire Node.
- For siting and design, a detailed analysis has been undertaken for a number of onshore substation locations taking into consideration a number of environmental topics, including landscape and visual.
- For the methodology, clear guidance is set out in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment which will be used. Although no other substations currently within the area, there may be potential for this in the future and the LVIA will consider this.

PEIR Boundary:

- A standard approach to assessment within the PEIR is typical for this type of project and, in line with the approach used by other projects.
- The PEIR chapter and appendices will be accompanied by figures and visualisations.

Next Steps

- The Project have been out on site to understand the viewpoint locations and take initial photography.
- **ACTION: Natural England to confirm if they have any recommendations for viewpoints for LVIA.**
- Historic England queried if a separate piece of work would be undertaken on heritage asset impacts.
- The Project confirm that archaeology experts would be considering heritage assets, and this would be included within the relevant archaeology chapters.

Marine and Intertidal Archaeology

Key Scoping Opinion Comments:

- Due to the localised effects of Project, it has been agreed within the Scoping Opinion that all transboundary impacts have been scoped out of all phases.
- Lincolnshire County Council queried what the Project meant by transboundary.
- The Project confirmed that transboundary would be considered if the effects are felt in international waters. If a wreck is found belonging to another nationality, this would be built into the WSI. The relevant bodies within the affected country would be notified. The closest exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is approximately 60km.
- It was agreed that the study area is appropriate. The offshore EC Chas been refined for PEIR and the study area will be further defined in detail.
- Currently there are 213 known unique records within the Scoping Report study area. It is anticipated the PEIR will have fewer records due to the refinement of the ECC. The wreck database has been updated recently so there may be some changes between what was presented in the Scoping Report and PEIR.
- Once the analysis of the geophysical data is complete, the Project will have a better understanding of the data and how many unknown receptors there maybe.
- The offshore surveys passed closely to a known wreck and therefore the surveys were expanded slightly to cover this to provide up-to-date information.
- Historic England acknowledge receipt of a report about a discovery of an unknown wreck in October 2021.
- The Scoping Report described both penetration and compression impacts to the seabed together. It was requested that these effects are fully explained, in order to explain the nature of compression impacts and establish whether there is potential for two different types of effect. The PEIR will assess impacts from penetration separately from compression impacts and this will be explained in the ES.
- The Project confirmed that a full geophysical and geotechnical data analysis will be conducted by the retained archaeologist.
- There has been a slight delay in transferring the data from the survey contractor. This is currently being resolved and the PEIR will include as much detail as possible.

- The full geophysical survey has been completed in 2021 and 2022 and the full suite of geophysical data was undertaken at this time. No further geophysical surveys are planned for 2023.
- Historic England confirmed it would be useful to understand the full engineering parameters of the Project and the Rochdale Envelope. Any information the Project can include on the worst-case scenarios and what geophysical work will be necessary subsequently would be considered helpful.
- The Project confirmed all of the above information will be presented within the PEIR and will be presented within pre-PEIR ETGs.
- The Project confirmed an Outline WSI will be submitted with PEIR.
- Historic England queried if the vibrocore logs provided adequate information on the geoarchaeological analysis works which should later on the Project.
- The Project confirmed toolbox talks were given to those who opened and assessed the cores for the array area and the offshore ECC. Maritime Archaeology were involved in the whole process. The Projects have access to the full logs and anything else recovered. These logs were part of an early campaign and assist in providing future recommendations for areas of archaeological interest.
- The Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment for Yorkshire and Lincolnshire and the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework were not included in the baseline for the Scoping Report. The Project can confirm these will be utilised for future stages.

Relevant Embedded Mitigation:

- All mitigation detailed within the Scoping Report will be taken forward and will be added to where required.
- Historic England confirm the embedded mitigation measures are appropriate approach for known features. For unknown features, a crucial element is adaptive mitigation. A system will be required by the Project for refining the survey work for the resolution to enable the Project to identify anomalies. The most highly sensitive sites will be those which are dispersed and fragmentary sites. Engagement and a two-way flow between archaeological consultants and the engineers/survey contracts is essential to ensure a sensible approach to adaptive mitigation.

Next Steps

- The Project confirmed there are discussions ongoing between the marine archaeologists and the onshore archaeologists to ensure they bridge the gap within the intertidal area.

Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

Key Scoping Opinion Comments:

- The Project referenced the conclusions of a previous discussion with Lincolnshire County Council to discuss how to move forward.
- The standard suite of desk-based elements will be included but will be staged to allow possible streamlining for the purposes of providing a manageable dataset but one which is detailed enough to identify areas of risk.
- HER data should be assessed out to 2km from PEIR boundary to consider archaeological potential.
- With regards to historic mapping, Lincolnshire County Council and the Project agreed that one onshore substation and the associated cable within the corresponding parish would be

assessed. The Project will then issue to Lincolnshire County Council to discuss extrapolating along whole cable corridor or other areas as necessary.

- A LiDAR review of whole PEIR boundary will be undertaken using National LiDAR dataset. A sample AP assessment will also be undertaken in an area to be agreed subsequent to the geoarchaeological modelling.
- Lincolnshire County Council advised the Project to speak to Caitlin Green (a local independent researcher) for input into the geoarchaeological modelling.
- Lincolnshire County Council confirmed that Caitlin Green has undertaken a project along the heritage coast which has existing data and has assessed existing boreholes.
- Historic England confirmed that the landform work undertaken by a locally based independent researcher Caitlin Green is currently in draft, however the appropriate personnel at Lincolnshire County Council are content to share a draft format, Historic England would also be content that the Project uses this information. The information would be useful for understanding the bigger picture and assisting in identifying risk.
- The Project and Lincolnshire County Council will have ongoing discussions as more and more information becomes available and as the baseline becomes more detailed, to facilitate discussions around extrapolating data collection (or not) and the staged programme of evaluation planned for EIA.
- Project confirmed that the Portable Antiquities Scheme will be consulted at PEIR.
- The Project confirmed a full aerial photography assessment will not be included in PEIR but that a sample exercise undertaken subsequent to geoarchaeological deposit modelling and the overall LiDAR assessment would be a useful exercise for the PEIR output with consideration for further AP analysis for EIA.
- Lincolnshire County Council confirmed the organisation would normally require geophysical survey of the whole route, and then trenching a 2% sample with 2% contingency for the DCO submission. The Project and Lincolnshire County Council will continue to discuss throughout EIA.
- Lincolnshire County Council's preference for EIA is that a full assessment is undertaken to inform mitigation.
- Lincolnshire County Council stated areas should not be dismissed because they have a short archaeological period i.e. medieval and post medieval assets should be considered.
- The Project confirmed that we are on the same page and the assessments will be undertaken, however it is a question of when this is done. Some assessments may not be available for PEIR but will be available for DCO submission.
- Historic England confirmed the overall process must be sufficient and targeted to minimize risk.
- The Project confirmed in response to Historic England, that they do not have any further information on any works undertaken by National Grid.
- Historic England encouraged the Project consider what aspects can be progressed before Q1 2023 to allow for further progression between the submission of PEIR and DCO application.
- The Project confirm it is progressing both options for PEIR, and a project decision will be taken on how to move forward once National Grid have confirmed the final grid connection location.
- With regards to setting, Lincolnshire County Council and the Project agreed that flexible buffers will be implemented. This was scoped at 2km, but with professional discretion, this would increase up to 5km for highly graded designations.
- The peat database will be incorporated by the geoarchaeologist.

- The Project confirmed that it may be necessary to submit trenching results after submission before determination of the Project.
- Lincolnshire County Council confirmed that this decision on acceptance will be made by the Inspectorate.
- Lincolnshire County Council stated that the DCO submission should have a mitigation strategy set out. Project requested consideration of an outline method statement instead if this was not possible to prepare a WSI (trenching results pending). This was not ruled out but Historic England stated that any outline WSI (although Historic England’s preference is that this is referred to as an Archaeology Strategy) needs sufficiently holistic detail and to be a sophisticated strategy that encompasses work done to date including research questions based on the information obtained. This can then be referenced in DCO requirements. Post consent, the DCO requirements are then easily translated into a series of cohesive WSIs, written by archaeology contractors, and the various WSIs can be measured appropriately against archaeology strategy.
- The Project will continue discussions on this as more detailed information is obtained throughout EIA.

PEIR:

- For PEIR the following will be submitted:
 - Chapter;
 - Two supporting technical appendices;
 - DBA, including geoarchaeological assessment; and
 - Heritage statement.
- Historic England requested a rolling provision of baseline as the Project progresses, rather than at set deadlines, would assist in resourcing and ensuring engagement is ongoing.

AOB

- Historic England raised a query around the delay of the final grid connection locations and whether the Project is not part of a coordinated approach with any other developers.
- The Project confirmed that National Grid will be responsible for providing the Project with its grid connection location. As part of final recommendation of path finder, the Project was only project considered for a radial connection only.
- Ongoing engagement will be undertaken. via Evidence Plan Process
- The Project confirmed the preference to split out this ETG into two technical groups: either via topic (LVIA and SLVIA / Onshore and Offshore Archaeology & Cultural Heritage), or via offshore (SLVIA and Offshore Archaeology & Cultural Heritage) and onshore (LVIA and Onshore Offshore Archaeology & Cultural Heritage).
- Historic England agreed to split the ETG by topic
- The next ETG is anticipated for early December 2022.
- Lincolnshire County Council confirmed w/c 5th December is not suitable for their attendance for archaeology aspects.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|--------------|---|----------------|--------|
| 11 July 2022 | Inform stakeholders once documents are submitted to PINS. | ODOW | Y |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------------|--------|
| | <i>CLOSED – Scoping Report submitted on 29th July 2022 with the Project receiving the Scoping Opinion from The Inspectorate on 9th September 2022.</i> | | |
| 11 July 2022 | Explore if project team can let PINS know who the key points of contact for ODOW are for each Stakeholder group <i>CLOSED: Action complete.</i> | ODOW | Y |
| 11 July 2022 | GoBe and consultants to engage and work collaboratively to ensure coherence across Archaeology chapters moving forwards <i>CLOSED: Collaborative meetings arranged between sub-consultants undertaking different aspects of archaeology.</i> | GoBe | Y |
| 11 July 2022 | Include adaptive measures and approaches within WSI <i>CLOSED: Comment is noted and the Project agree to this being included in the WSI.</i> | Maritime Archaeology (via GoBe) | Y |
| 10 October 2022 | The Project confirmed the data sources used for archaeology will be shared with Historic England prior to submission of the PEIR. | ODOW | |
| 10 October 2022 | Natural England to confirm the potential for significant effects likely to occur on receptors located over 54 km from the array area? The Project array area is also located behind a baseline of other windfarms, so the addition of the array area is unlikely to be significant. Note: The Inspectorate has agreed to scope out aviation lighting effect at this distance. | Natural England | |
| 10 October 2022 | Natural England to confirm if a 'light-touch' approach is acceptable for the PEIR for the visual effects on offshore receptors? What receptors are present and are significant effects likely to occur? | Natural England | |
| 10 October 2022 | Natural England to confirm if the proposed heritage coast north of Mablethorpe is not approved and is 'likely to be formally defined in the early part of 2023', how should it be considered in the project design and should the potential impacts be considered when it is not formally defined? At what stage should it be considered – for PEIR or ES? | Natural England | |
| 10 October 2022 | The Project to contact Lincolnshire County Council planner to obtain advice on who to contact regarding SVIA. | ODOW | |
| 10 October 2022 | Natural England to confirm if they have any recommendations for viewpoints for LVIA. | Natural England | |

/End

A coastal landscape featuring a path through dunes and grasses leading to a beach under a cloudy sky. The path is a mix of sand and sparse vegetation, winding through tall, dry grasses. The beach is visible in the distance, and the sky is filled with soft, grey clouds.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex B Part 9 of 11

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024




Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex B – Part 9 of 11

Evidence Plan Steering Group Minutes

| | |
|--|---|
|    | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Evidence Plan Steering Group Meeting (EPSG) |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000098-01 |
| Date: | 23 rd November 2021 |
| Time: | 0900hrs to 1130hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | ODOW: Rachel Furlong (RF), Chris Jenner (CJ), Jean-Come Sol (JCS) GoBe: Julia Bolton (JB), Phil New (PN), Steve Bellew (SB) Natural England: Deanna Atkins (DA), Alan Gibson (AG), Emma Brown (EB) MMO: Adam Tillotson (AT), Emma Shore (ES) The Inspectorate: Claire Deery (CD), Marie Shoesmith (MS) EA: Annette Hewitson (AH) |
| Apologies: | Natural England: Lou Burton (LB) |
| Circulation: | External |

(Presentation – attached)

Introductions - ODOW

- David Few – Project Director
- CJ – Development Manager
- RF – Stakeholder and Consents Manager
- SB – Environmental Project Director (GoBe)
- JB – Lead Environmental Project Manager (GoBe)
- PN – Offshore Environmental Project Manager (GoBe)
- CC – Onshore Environmental Project Manager (GoBe)

- RF and JB will be key points of contact for the Evidence Plan Process (EPP)

Project Introduction

- CJ gave an introduction to the project team structure and the company backgrounds for Macquarie GIG/TotalEnergies, previous work which has been undertaken, including Round 4 leasing bid process and grid processes.
- ODOW is keen to take lessons learnt from all parties previous experience.
- The increase in turbine parameters (tip height and rotor diameter) from that presented in the ToR was discussed, with this change linked to initial engagement with the supply chain regarding predictions for turbine parameters at the time of construction/operation - noted that these are aligned with those in other projects.
- Similar changes from the ToR have been noted for the array cables, with this change linked to the uncertainty regarding layout options.

- Note was made of the changed grid process for the R4 projects compared to the previous processes (CION), with the OTNR process being more transparent with engagement at an early stage with other stakeholders.
- EB queried whether ODOW had any understanding of the level of detail which would be provided by National Grid as part of the OTNR. CJ confirmed that ODOW did not have any more insight than that which NE are aware of regarding the detail. CJ noted that the connection point will be stress tested to ensure that there is a feasible option to get cables between the OWF site and the grid connection, but that the project will be responsible for designing and developing the cable route offshore and onshore.
- EB queried how much work would be required post confirmation of grid connection location prior to submission of scoping. CJ confirmed that the project has been doing a lot of work in the background for optioneering for the cable routes based on a range of connection options. Noted that the TCE Cable Route Protocol will be adhered to for the offshore routing.
- RF provided an overview of the current programme, noting the first ETGs planned for early 2022.

Evidence Plan Process Terms of Reference


- RF gave an introduction to the EPP, ODOW keen for it to be a collaborative process. Where possible future meetings will offer option of face-to-face and virtual, dependent on current COVID guidelines.
- ODOW noted that some information shared with EPSG is of commercial sensitivity and asked stakeholders not to share beyond their teams or as appropriate, whilst acknowledging stakeholders are subject to EIR and FOI legislation. EB noted that some projects have used systems which allow commercially sensitive documents only to be viewed, and not shared.
- ODOW is working on appointing an independent chair for the EPP process who has extensive experience of EPP and DCO processes.
- JB summarised the ToR, aims and ETGs which are currently planned.
- AG noted that the Derogation/Compensation ETG may benefit from being expanded to cover MEEB (measures of equivalent environmental benefit) in the event that significant benefits to MCZs are predicted.
- **ACTION:** JB ensure the ToR covers MEEB in the event that significant benefits to MCZs are predicted.
- EB queried where coastal processes would be considered. JB stated that these would be considered within the Marine Ecology and Processes ETG. EB mentioned that coastal processes would benefit from having inclusion of LPAs if cable route affects sensitive coastlines. SB highlighted that these ETGs will be flexible and where relevant new ETGs or subgroups will be set up accordingly.
- **ACTION:** JB will update the ToR to note the inclusion of the LPA in the coastal impacts.
- AG noted that timings for ETGs would be best arranged for when there is opportunity for stakeholder input and discussion, rather than just a project update. JB agreed that ETGs would be held when required rather than meeting for meetings sake and that quarterly meetings will be for the steering group, rather than ETGs.
- Where possible future ETGs meeting timings will be agreed at the ETGs, in line with the ToR.
- EB stated that it is best to avoid ETGs just being project giving updates on progress but should focus on dealing with issues and making best use of experience/expertise in the room.

- Discussion around the timings for submission of information. It was agreed that, where possible, documents would be provided more than 2 weeks ahead of the meeting, particularly where significant volumes of information are provided.
- NE and EA confirmed that all contact should be through the case team/planning officer respectively who will then coordinate input from the topic specialists.
- JB noted that ETGs suggested for /c 10th January or w/c 17th January 2022 and thanked those who had provided availability.
- **ACTION:** All participants to confirm availability for ETG attendance for w/c 10th January or w/c 17th January 2022.
- NE suggested that ETGs should align with opportunity for meaningful stakeholder input and discussion into the next stage of the project, rather than simply a regular project update.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Who | Closed |
|-------------|--|-----|--------|
| 23 Nov 2021 | JB ensure the ToR covers MEEB in the event that significant benefits to MCZs are predicted. | JB | |
| 23 Nov 2021 | JB will update the ToR to note the inclusion of the LPA in the coastal impacts. | JB | |
| 23 Nov 2021 | All participants to confirm availability for ETG attendance for w/c 10th January or w/c 17th January 2022. | All | |

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Evidence Plan Steering Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM- 000274-01 |
| Date: | 13th July 2022 |
| Time: | 1000hrs to 1200hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Amos Ellis Consulting (acting as Independent Chair): Gideon Amos (GA) ODOW: Rachel Furlong (RF), Beth Travis (BT), Roisin Alldis (RA) GoBe: Julia Bolton (JB), Rona McCann (RM), Phil New (PN) SLR: Andy Gregory (AG), Alexandra Stewart (AS) MMO: Adam Tillotson (AT) Environment Agency: Frances Edwards (FE) Planning Inspectorate: Marie Shoesmith (MS) Historic England: Chris Pater (CP) |
| Apologies: | ODOW: Jean-Côme Sol (JC), Chris Jenner (CJ) GoBe: Steve Bellew (SB) Natural England representation East Lindsay Council representation- separate meeting arranged to brief ELC |
| Circulation: | External |

Introduction to ODOW

- GA welcomed everyone to the meeting and set out the key functions of the Steering Group:
 - Address any procedural issues arising and discuss and agree any amendments required to the Evidence Plan process Terms of Reference;
 - Oversee the resolution through discussion, led by the independent chair, of specific issues¹ and decisions that may arise during the development of this Plan and through the ETG discussions. A summary of discussions will be recorded within the meeting minutes (and consultation log where appropriate); and
 - Ensure that discussions taking place within the individual ETGs are consistent with the agreed approach for the EIA and HRA.
- GA explained that he was independent of the Project and his role was not to be the arbiter but would be to ask questions and challenge all parties, including the applicant, if necessary, and help drive forward the Evidence Plan process
- All attendees gave a brief introduction before moving onto the Project introductions.
- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (The Project) was awarded Preferred Bidder status for a 1.5 GW site in the southern North Sea as part of The Crown Estate’s Round 4 leasing process.
- ODOW aim to promote environmental stewardship while contributing to UK government goal of reaching 50 GW of renewable energy by 2030.

Project Update - Communications

¹ It is acknowledged that the Steering Group requires the clear and systematic documentation of agreements and disagreements in order to aid resolution of issues.

- ODOW have recently launched the Project website – www.ouerdowsing.com
- ODOW have created a Project email address – contact@ouerdowsing.com
- Engagement with Local MPs & Councillors underway, with briefing sessions scheduled
- Engagement with landowners has also commenced.

Project Update – Connection Options

RG gave a Project update:

- The Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR), is an ongoing process, initiated by BEIS and Ofgem and led by National Grid to consider existing offshore transmission regime and to address the barriers it presents to further significant deployment of offshore wind, with a view to achieving net zero ambitions.
- The draft results of the Holistic Design Network (HND) were published on 7th July 2022 and concluded that two connection options for ODOW be considered: a connection Lincs Node (previously known as East Midlands) with a connection date of 2031, or alternatively a connection to Weston Marsh with a connection date of 2028/29.
- A final decision on the connection location will be taken by National Grid, with a decision expected in Sept 2022.
- The Scoping Report Boundary therefore includes both connection locations (as presented in the accompanying slide pack).
- Environmental and engineering constraints mapping has narrowed down the possible landfall connections which in turn will influence the routing of the potential export cable corridor.
- Due to the location of Triton Knoll there is a challenge in avoiding Silver Pitt which is unviable from an engineering and challenging from an ecological perspective (noting currently consultation on designated Silver Pit a Highly Protected Marine Area (HPMA)). Silver Pit is pushing the offshore cable route south of Triton Knoll and as a result, the geophysical surveys will continue in this area, at project risk, to ensure the project is moving as proactively as possible in collecting environmental information.

Project Update - Programme

RF outlined the current Programme:

- Submission of a Scoping Report application for a Scoping Opinion is expected before the end July
- EPP meetings have been arranged, these meetings will be used to engage with stakeholders on approach to scoping identification of scoping boundary and proposed consultation feedback.
- DCO submission is currently scheduled for Q4 2023.
- The Planning Inspectorate stated that the prescribed consultation bodies have 28 days from receipt of the Planning Inspectorate's scoping consultation letters to respond. Any responses received after the 28 day period are not included in the body of the Scoping Opinion but are published as a late response and forwarded to ODOW. If the Scoping Report is submitted and validated on 29th July 2022, consultation letters would be issued to the consultation bodies early in the first week of August. On the basis of the proposed timing for scoping, the Scoping Opinion is likely to be issued to ODOW around 8th September 2022.
- The Planning Inspectorate also confirmed that for the purposes of the Scoping Opinion, only those consultation bodies prescribed by the legislation will be consulted by the Planning

Inspectorate and therefore, a number of bodies also involved in the Evidence Plan ETGs will not receive a consultation letter from the Planning Inspectorate. The Inspectorate suggested that ODOW could inform any non-consulted bodies likely to be interested in responding to the Scoping Report that they would not be formally consulted and encourage any responses from non-consulted bodies be sent directly to ODOW.

- Historic England asked if generation assets would be the main focus of the Scoping Report. ODOW confirmed that the focus is the full project including the array, export cable corridor (onshore and offshore) as well as potential substations locations.

Project Update- Surveys

JB and RF set out the approach to surveys:

- ODOW confirmed with Historic England that all survey plans were consulted with statutory groups such as Natural England and MMO and that results from these surveys will be shared at the next ETGs (anticipated to be in September/October, post scoping-opinion).
- Regardless of delays with the final confirmation from the OTNR of the grid connection location, there will be data available on the array area, with the Export Cable Corridor (ECC) provided in the ES in 2023 if required.

Role of the Steering Group

GA set out the role of the Steering Group

- The EPP will seek to facilitate open discussions to work towards positions which enable a responsible, but pragmatic, solution, so as to enable the management of potentially significant environmental impacts within the framework of a timely and financially sound development.
- The EPP is intended to be flexible and it is recognised that during the process some changes may occur.
- Any information of a confidential nature will be treated accordingly by all parties.
- Establishment of an EPP is vital in reaching a consensus for the ETGs and gain understanding of approaches and resolutions, establishing a common ground.

Scoping Report

AG, AS and JB provided an update on the gathering of offshore evidence:

- Both Lincolnshire Node and Weston Marsh connection options are included in the Scoping Report boundary.
- The EPP Chair asked ODOW to share their experience with the process and the journey in terms of grid connection. ODOW explained that the Project have been engaging constructively and collaboratively with stakeholders as part of the OTNR process to date.
- The final grid connection location will be determined National Grid based on the final outcomes of OTNR and balancing considerations of economics, deliverability, environmental and community impacts
- A final decision on grid connection is expected in September 2022, given there are no further delays in the process.
- The EPP Chair asked ODOW what the principal Local Authority for the Project would be and ODOW confirmed that East Lindsey District Council would be leading, but that they have a

service agreement in place with Boston and South Holland Councils who will play a key role in supporting them.

- ODOW noted that East Lindsey Council were unfortunately unable to make the Steering Group meeting on this occasion but a separate session had been arranged for 20th July.

Scoping Report - Cumulative & Transboundary

JB and PN reported provided the following update:

- Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) draft will be available early next year.
- Transboundary has been scoped out for all onshore topics and for all offshore topics except the following:
 - Marine Mammals;
 - Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology;
 - Commercial Fisheries;
 - Shipping and Navigation; and
 - Aviation, Radar, Military and Communication.
- The Planning Inspectorate advised that the statutory duty under the EIA Regulations for the Secretary of State (SoS) in respect of any likely transboundary effects continues throughout the staged NSIP process, until the end of the Judicial Review period. During the pre-application stage and before a recommendation is made to the SoS, the functions required by Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations in respect of transboundary effects are carried out by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS.
- ODOW expressed that six states have been listed with the Dutch Exclusive Economic Zone being the closest to the Project.
- ODOW made clear that derogation and compensation will be a key aspect for the Project.
- ODOW expressed their intention to address derogation and compensation, on an 'in principle' basis, as early as possible and that a dedicated ETG had been set up to facilitate engagement and consultation.
- The EPP Chair asked ODOW which compensatory measures had been considered and discussed with Natural England. ODOW confirmed that a number of options have been considered, with a long list of options discussed with stakeholders to help refine to a shortlist. For ornithology, offshore nesting structures, prey availability, predator control, bycatch mitigation etc were all being considered, in addition a long list of potential compensatory measures for benthic environments was being drawn up.
- ODOW also expressed their enthusiasm for strategic collaboration across similar projects with other developers in the northern North Sea, in order to put forward a package of compensatory measures across multiple projects/species/SACs. This work is primarily being undertaken by the Offshore Wind Industry Council (OWIC)
- The EPP Chair asked if the DCO application would be able to secure consent for and any rights required for the delivery of compensatory measures and ODOW confirmed that there was a legal team in place to facilitate these discussions and enable compensation and derogation to form part of the DCO application.
- The EPP Chair queried whether OWIC are looking at how each DCO could link back to the strategic or collaborative compensatory measures as the mechanisms to deliver them. ODOW confirmed that this is being considered.

- ODOW advised that DEFRA are encouraging developers and stakeholders to develop a fully established suite of compensatory measures prior to the final application. ODOW are aware of a proposal for DEFRA to become more involved in project level discussions around derogation and compensation and will ensure the EPP ETGs are kept updated on progress should this happen.
- The Planning Inspectorate provided a high-level overview of EPP observations based on the outcomes from recent examinations and the key messages were:
 - Agreeing baseline data (especially for marine mammals and birds)
 - Agreeing assessment methodology
- It was recommended by the Planning Inspectorate that having modelling approaches, baseline data and an understanding of areas that present constraints, issues or differences in views/opinions between the Applicant and statutory consultees is good to understand as soon as possible, but also acknowledged there needs to be some level of maturity in the assessments. The Planning Inspectorate encouraged continued engagement and sharing of information throughout the pre-application process and beyond, this is particularly pertinent to avoid significant further work during examination. The Planning Inspectorate commented that in light of recent initiatives such as Project Speed, it is likely that the Planning Inspectorate will be seeking an increased level of feedback from Applicants and statutory bodies with regards to pre-application engagement.
- The EPP Chair asked ODOW how much agreement was currently emerging for baseline and methodology and ODOW confirmed that engagement has been very constructive to date, and they intend to continue an upfront approach. However, as the recent round of ETGs was more of a project update and overview there hadn't been a lot of technical input.
- ODOW expressed that the Scoping Report will be issued to stakeholders at the end of the month, giving them an opportunity for any queries to be addressed at PEIR/ES/EIA stages.
- ODOW informed the attendees that for derogation and compensation, meeting in September would be important to discuss measures for ornithology and benthic simultaneously.

Next Steps

- Scoping Report is anticipated to be submitted end July 2022.
- Consultees responding to the request for views on the Scoping Report are encouraged to respond in as much detail as possible and specifically to address the specific questions set out at the end of each section of the Scoping Report.
- ODOW expects to publish the PEIR and undertake the statutory consultation process in Q1 2023.


AOB

- ODOW expressed that following scoping opinion, there will be another EPSG meeting designed to provide feedback and build a sounding board for any areas which need further discussion, potentially for September/October.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--------|----------------|--------|
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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) |
| Meeting: | ODOW Steering Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000368-01 |
| Date: | 27 th January 2023 |
| Time: | 1000hrs to 1200hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Gideon Amos (GA) – Amos Ellis Consulting (Chair) Rachel Furlong (RF) – ODOW Chris Jenner (CJ) – ODOW Roisin Alldis (RA) – ODOW Andy Gregory (AG) – ODOW Julia Bolton (JB) – ODOW Phil New (PN) – ODOW Laura Vickery (LV) – ODOW Marie Shoemith (MS) – The Planning Inspectorate Claire Deery (CD) – The Planning Inspectorate Louise Burton (LB) – Natural England Helen Mann (HM) – Natural England Martin Kerby (MK) – Natural England Tim Allen (TA) – Historic England Chris Pater (CP) – Historic England Annette Hewitson (AH) – Environment Agency Paul Stephenson (PS) – Marine Management Organisation Neil McBride (NM) – Lincolnshire County Council |
| Apologies: | None |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) submission is anticipated for Q2 2023.
- Development Consent Order (DCO) submission anticipated for Q4 2023.
- Draft Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) will be submitted alongside PEIR.
- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been revised to include an additional consultation phase (1a) for the new alternative route (Rev1a).
- MK explained that the time between PEIR submission and DCO submission may not allow time for effective consultation and evidence to be assessed for route Rev1a. This could lead to unresolved issues at examination. Natural England welcomed opportunity to have discussions with the Project to manage and reduce this risk.
- Natural England also explained that the thoroughness of the PEIR on submission across all receptors will dictate the number of issues to be resolved and that without a comprehensive PEIR the proposed timescales will be very challenging.
- GA queried whether the phase 1a consultation and the surveys for route Rev1a will be captured in PEIR.
- ODOW confirmed that for PEIR, the Project is working to get all the routes to equivalence, allowing comparison and assessment across all the route options.

- LB added that projects typically have a period of time where the focus is the lead up to the application submission date and asked when is this expected to be for the Project? Noting that developers typically do this three months before submission date.
- ODOW explained that the outline of application will be submitted to The Crown Estate three months before. The offshore array area reduction from 500-300km² will be done before DCO submission and the Environmental Statement (ES) chapters that will inform this decision are being drafted early to start the consultation process as soon as possible.
- TA queried that the time pressure could affect the iterative archaeology investigations. Historic England explained the assessments inform each other in an iterative manner and therefore the concern is that there is not enough time and as a result stages will be compressed not allowing for proper assessments. This would mean that mitigation may not be fully informed and may not be robust.
- MK suggested a way to help the Project with the short timeframe could be the creation of a detailed evidence plan with milestones of key timings to help inform stakeholders.
- **ACTION: ODOW to share timeline of evidence and key dates / milestones for discussion at next Evidence Plan Steering Group meeting.**

Surveys – Offshore

- ODOW provided an overview of the offshore surveys.
- CP asked how the 2023 Geotech surveys will affect the production of the ES. ODOW confirmed the surveys are planned for March. Maritime Archaeology will provide instructions for the Geotech teams to allow for analysis to be undertaken. This data is expected to be able to be included in the ES.

Surveys – Onshore

- ODOW provided an overview of the onshore surveys.
- GA queried if the timing of the LVIA viewpoint surveys in October would be affected due to the leaves still being on trees and whether this view would change at a different time of year.
- This was noted by the Project.
- LB queried if there be only one year for wintering bird surveys complete for onshore route at application submission. LB confirmed that only one year of survey data is a risk as it doesn't allow of inter-annual variability to be assessed at ES. Due to the functionality linked land, it may be that mitigation and compensation measures are not robust enough.
- The Project confirmed this will be the case. The Project propose that the second year of wintering bird surveys will commence October 2023 to allow submission of the data during examination. It was added that the wintering bird survey currently undertaken has two surveys per month so allows a more detailed understanding of the area.
- *Post meeting note from Natural England received 21st February:* NE noted that whilst the additional data collection within the current survey programme is welcome, it will not address the need to understand interannual variability of functional land usage in the submitted ES. Without the benefit of the second year of data, there is a risk that the submission will contain insufficient measures to address the likely impacts. We recommend the applicant carefully consider how best to handle this risk during the consenting process, including consideration of anticipatory mitigation measures.

Evidence Plan Meeting Schedule

- ODOW provided an overview of the evidence plan schedule and how it has been restructured to tailor to the attendees.
- MS queried that in the Terms of Reference, the steering group meeting was proposed to be quarterly but they have been less frequent. Noting the proposed timescales for the

anticipated DCO application submission, MS queried whether steering group meetings would be held more frequently eg quarterly.

- ODOW responded that the planned steering groups have been held after ETGs and before key submissions to allow for discussions. The Project are looking to arrange extra sessions with key topics to allow further discussions.
- LB explained that the ETGs highlighted the need to bring key risk and issues to the Steering Group meetings. It was also recommended that this done through an evidence plan programme to allow for a smooth examination.

Onshore Routing Update

Public Consultation Event Feedback

- ODOW provided an overview on the consultation event feedback that led to the alternative onshore route being created.
- The Project explained that at the consultation events issues were raised around the central section of the Weston Marsh onshore cable route and the Project responded to these by creating route Rev1a.
- The Project also confirmed a connection offer has not been received and 2 connection points (Weston Marsh or Lincs Node) are still being considered. The Project are hoping for an offer in March 2023. PEIR will include the assessment of both routes to Weston Marsh.
- GA asked if a connection will be agreed at ES submission.
- The Project confirmed that this is the intention.

Scoping to PEIR

Key Scoping Comments – Offshore

- ODOW provided an overview of the key offshore Scoping Opinion comments.
- MK added that regarding the Round 4 HRAs consideration of offshore ornithology impacts, Natural England advised that adverse effects could not be ruled out on additional Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA features beyond kittiwake - guillemot and razorbill. It was also recommended the Project review Natural England's advice at Hornsea Four regarding those features in the context of potential in-combination adverse effects.
- The Project confirmed that a without prejudice approach will be taken to ensure measures are in place if required.

Approach to PEIR

- ODOW gave an overview on the approach to PEIR being taken for offshore and onshore.
- MK explained that Natural England cannot confirm gannet can be scoped out for adverse effects in combination. However, the risk of in-combination adverse effects has been reduced by the shift in the evidence base regarding avoidance rates and macro avoidance. Accordingly, MK confirmed Natural England advice that gannet is not a priority for developing compensation measures, though this needs to be kept under review.
- LB explained that adverse effect of integrity (AEoI) cannot be excluded and added there is the need to look at outcomes from round 4 data to inform this.
- This was noted by the Project. The Project will include the 18 month digital aerial survey data report at PEIR to help inform information surrounding gannets.
- CP queried at which point the assessment of the reactive compensation station (RCS) will be included and what level of detail.
- The Project confirmed the RCS will be included in the design envelope at PEIR.

Compensation and Derogation

Shortlist – Benthic

- ODOW provided an overview of the shortlist for benthic derogation and compensation and how the project has progressed from the feedback received.
- The Project are meeting with DEFRA on 30th January 2023 to discuss the possible shortlist options. The Project are aware that DEFRA are leading work with stakeholders to create a library of compensation measures.
- LB explained that currently the strategic options are progressing slowly. There has been progress with the project level compensation and guidance is being developed. LB added that Natural England continues to support the extension of the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge Special Area of Conservation (IDRBNR SAC), however DEFRA does not support this on other projects and it is expected DEFRA will remain with this position for the Project.
- Natural England confirmed that the SNCBs are issuing a paper within the next few weeks which will show a clear indication that none of the SNCBs are supporting marine debris removal, and marine debris reduction awareness and enhancement of biogenic reef are a low priority.
- **ACTION: Natural England (HM) to share link to SNCB paper on benthic compensation measures when it is available.** *Post meeting note from Natural England received 21st February:* The report is due in March. Natural England will make ODOW aware once it has been published.
- LB added that the extension of the SAC is a high risk ticket item for the IDRBNR SAC and advised that guidance is expected in March which the Project should try to take into consideration for PEIR.
- GA asked if the SAC isn't extended, whether there are any other management measures recommended that could be taken.
- LB replied that fishery management measures are very complex.
- The Project confirmed that recently established by-laws make it hard for an individual project to undertake this compensation.
- LB recommended asking DERA about this in the meeting.
- **ACTION: ODOW (RF) to share feedback from stakeholders on the outcome of DEFRA meeting on proposal to extend SAC as possible Compensation Measure.**

Ornithology Derogation and Compensation

- ODOW provided an overview of the derogation and compensation process and assessments.
- MK suggested the Project keep reviewing the strategy and look at the Dogger Bank PEIR outputs to inform the assessments. Natural England agree that prioritisation is correct at present.

Ornithology Derogation and Compensation Shortlist

- ODOW provided an overview of the shortlist and the measures being currently progressed.
- MK suggested the Project look at the Berwick Bank submission and watch the progress.
- Natural England agreed the Project was exploring the right compensation measures.
- ODOW added the Project are looking at prey and fisheries management as an option with DEFRA and that the Project would be open to consider and engage with this measure at a strategic level.


Summary and Next Steps

- GA suggested to the Project that a graphic timeline for the steering group of when the evidence is coming in and what will be included at each stage would be helpful.
- **ACTION: ODOW (RF/JB) to include graphic timeline of when evidence will be provided at next Steering Group meeting.**
- MK explained that the ETGs have been the most successful when there is material circulated in advance so that internal discussions can take place before the ETG. It was also suggested that if the Project had specific questions, to issue these before the ETG to allow for preparation in advance. Natural England added that it would be useful to get placeholders now to ensure availability for the ETGs.
- AH agreed a programme of meetings and material in advance would be useful.
- **ACTION: ODOW (LV) to programme the upcoming ETG meetings.**
- MS suggested agreement logs could also add value to the meetings. These could be used to document any matters agreed at ETG meetings and those matters still under discussion/outstanding, and to allow for meaningful conversations.
- **ACTION: Natural England (MK) to share examples of best practice examples / templates of previous evidence plans to help inform the Project.**
- Natural England added that it should be noted that the Project will be in competition for resource with seven other OWF NSIPs this year and at the same time as examination for SEP and DEP also possibly one other. Where a chapter of PEIR is not fully complete, our response will likely be limited to higher level and generic with signposting to guidance.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|---|----------------------|--------|
| 27 Jan 2023 | ODOW (JB/RF) to provide key dates for upcoming meetings at next Evidence Plan Steering Group meeting. | ODOW (JB/RF) | |
| 27 Jan 2023 | Natural England (HM) to share link to SNCB paper on benthic compensation measures when available. | Natural England (HM) | |
| 27 Jan 2023 | ODOW (RF/JB) to share timeline of when evidence will be provided and key milestones for discussion at next Steering Group meeting. | ODOW (RF/JB) | |
| 27 Jan 2023 | ODOW (RF) to inform share feedback from stakeholders on the outcome of DEFRA meeting on proposal to extend SAC as possible Compensation Measure | ODOW (RF) | |
| 27 Jan 2023 | ODOW (LV) to programme the upcoming ETG meetings | ODOW (LV) | |
| 27 Jan 2023 | Natural England (MK) to share examples of best practice examples / templates of previous evidence plans to help inform the Project. | Natural England (MK) | |

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Evidence Plan Process Steering Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000415-01 |
| Date: | 13 th March 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Gideon Amos (GA) – AEC (Chair) Rachel Furlong (RF) – ODOW Hugh Morris (HMo) – ODOW Debbie Nickless (DN) – WSP Julia Bolton (JB) – GoBe Consultants Phil New (PN) – GoBe Consultants Laura Vickery (LV) – GoBe Consultants Andy Gregory (AG) – SLR Consulting Marie Shoesmith (MS) – The Planning Inspectorate Claire Deery (CD) – The Planning Inspectorate Martin Kerby (MK) – Natural England Adam Chambers (AC) – Natural England Helen Mann (HMa) – Natural England Paul Lane (PL) – Natural England Emma Shore (ES) – Marine Management Organisation Karen Schnetler (KS) – Marine Management Organisation Annette Hewitson (AH) – Environment Agency |
| Apologies: | Chris Jenner (CJ) – ODOW Tim Allen (TA) – Historic England Chris Pater (CP) – Historic England |
| Circulation: | External |

Programme

- ODOW provided an update and confirmed the programme has not changed since the last Steering Group meeting with the Project progressing towards Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) submission, targeting end of May and DCO application expected Q4 2023.
- CD questioned if there had been any update to the transmission network review.
 - ODOW confirmed that the process is coming to an end. At this point two possible connections remain under consideration by National Grid (Lincs Node and Weston Marsh). Engagement is ongoing and the Project is expecting a grid connection offer in April 2023. Preliminary Environmental Information in the PEIR will therefore be fully provided for both connection options, with two routes to Weston Marsh being assessed.

Public Consultation Events

- ODOW provided an overview of the public consultation undertaken and ongoing.
 - Phase 1 feedback raised concerns (economic, engineering, geological and drainage) over the route to Weston Marsh and led to consultation on alternative route, known as Phase 1A.

- Consultation on Phase 1a underway and runs to 21st March.
- Consultation undertaken through a hybrid range of in person meetings, webinars, a virtual exhibition and feedback forms.
- Community liaison groups and landowner interest groups meetings were also held.
- GA asked about feedback from local stakeholders on the alternative route at the recent events.
 - The Project confirmed that attendance at the public information events was high (c.300 attendees over two days) and the general feedback was good. The public were pleased that additional consultation has been sought and the alternative route created from their feedback.
 - HMo gave feedback from the Phase 1A consultation event noting that the public were comfortable that the route avoided the residential areas. The original route is a reclaimed marsh and the public understood the reasoning for rerouting.

Compensation

- ODOW provided an update on the compensation measures being proposed.
 - ODOW are engaged in the TCE led Kittiwake Strategic Compensation Plan (KSCP) group and these meetings have commenced.
 - ODOW confirmed that they are also exploring options for collaboration with other developers regarding compensation measures.
 - The Draft Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) will be submitted alongside the PEIR, and will include compensation roadmaps and supporting documents.
- CD queried what a compensation roadmap would contain.
 - ODOW explained the roadmaps are documents detailing how 'In Principle' compensation measures would be achieved. They are an effort to front load discussions and, if required, to demonstrate how the Project would deliver the measures.
- MK supported the Project's proposal that strategic and project alone measures should be progressed and asked whether the Marine Recovery Fund is being considered as a potential option.
 - It was confirmed the Project are engaging with Defra and will look to keep the option of the Project contributing to the Marine Recovery Fund. The latest advice is that the fund will be established by end of the 2023/early 2024.

Evidence Base

- ODOW provided an overview of the Evidence Base for the Project (circulated ahead of the meeting):
 - From the feedback from the previous Steering Group meeting, the Project have created a document showing when evidence is being collected and at what point this will be included within the EPP and formal documents.
- It was confirmed agreement logs have been prepared ahead of the ETGs to allow discussions with stakeholders. An example was shown.
 - The Project confirmed that since issuing the template the agreement logs have been updated to have a sub-topic column.
 - ODOW confirmed the agreement logs will be live and reissued before each ETG.
 - **Post meeting note from Natural England received 29th March:** NE advise that these documents serve as useful live documents for ODOW to demonstrate how issues are being tracked during ETG discussions. Having seen a worked example, Natural England advise that an agreement log in Word format for comment by Stakeholders under track changes, is the most useful way for stakeholders to feed into and add

position status and wording. This can be finalised as a record for stakeholders following each meeting. Natural England referred to SEP and DEP example on PINS website as good practice example [Draft SoCG Natural England \(Offshore\) \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

- **Post meeting note from Natural England received 29th March:** Natural England noted that to be effective, the agreement logs should not attempt to capture every statement made by stakeholders but focus on the key issues to be discussed and agreed with respect to the ETG in question, and then identifying the position of each stakeholder on that issue. Updating the log should then be focused on whether the position of stakeholders has changed with respect to those key points rather than capturing additional statements, the latter being the main purpose of the minutes. Otherwise, there is a risk that the agreement logs become unwieldy and do not help with issue tracking or resolution. NE will continue to consider the best way to capture evidence plan ETG discussions.
- With regards to published examples of Evidence Plan documents, MS noted that several NSIPs have produced Evidence Plan documents that are published on the National Infrastructure Planning webpages for those projects. Recent examples include Hornsea Project Three, Thanet Extension, Sizewell C, and Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension.
- AH queried will the agreement logs feed into the SoCG and whether the plan is for them to be grouped by topic or stakeholder.
- AH explained that the SoCGs are more complicated when there are multiple organisations for one topic. There are pros and cons for each way – Project to consider best approach
- MK added that the EPP needs to show that discussions have been had and issues worked through so presenting all stakeholder views together may be helpful. Natural England recommended looking at the Norfolk Vanguard/Boreas Kittiwake Implementation and Monitoring Plan for an example of effective logs, noting that the submitted versions show the ‘end result’ of agreements. Further adding the Project need to ensure that the agreement logs can be translated in the SoCG, noting that SoCG use different terminology (agreed, not agreed - material, not agreed – non-material, in discussion, and agree to disagree).
- **Post meeting note from Natural England received 29th March:** We further advise the definitions should be outlined and agreed with stakeholders.
- HMa noted that no comment does not mean agreement through an ETG, post meeting notes/ comments should be taken to provide Natural England’s view.
- ODOW confirm that this is noted and the agreement logs are to be used to track the discussions, and areas of disagreement will be sought to resolve through bi-lateral and ongoing consultation.

Offshore Update

- ODOW provided an update and showed an overview of the offshore evidence plan.
 - Information on the undertaken and ongoing data being collected, with expectations of when the evidence will be included in consultation and assessments was provided.
- MK questioned whether the offshore surveys that have just commenced will be included in the July ETG.
 - It was confirmed this survey campaign is 20 geotechnical boreholes. The benthic surveys have already been collected and results are expected to be presented at July or September ETG. The geotechnical and geophysical survey for the cable route has

commenced and has been taken into account with the cable burial assessments and determining rock protection requirements.

- PL asked whether the results will help inform pile driving and noise modelling.
 - It was confirmed that this is the aim but at this stage there will be a conservative assessment.
- MK asked whether the 2024 offshore surveys would be preconstruction surveys which therefore won't have any implications on ES.
 - The Project confirmed this was the case and the 2024 surveys will also help inform the marine archaeology Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).
- ODOV provided an update on the offshore ornithology surveys.
 - It was confirmed that a memo providing a summary of the 18 month survey data and observed differences between 2021 and 2022 breeding seasons is being prepared and will be circulated ahead of the proposed workshop with Natural England to discuss Avian Flu and implications for data.
 - ODOV explained that the preliminary results do not show significant variations between 2021 and 2022.
 - It was confirmed that the Project intends to repeat the 2021 census survey this year and has submitted an application to the BTO for a tagging licence for a survey in 2023.
 - Offshore ornithology roadmap to be submitted alongside PEIR and Digital Aerial Surveys (DAS) report.
 - 18 months of DAS data will inform PEIR Collision Risk Modelling with full 2 years of DAS to support DCO application.
- MK asked whether there will be consideration to ornithology for the array reduction.
 - The Project confirmed that the array reduction will be informed by the 24 month DAS report and this reduction is expected to occur between PEIR and DCO. Currently the data does not show particular areas of hotspots and activities but this will be taken into account in considering array reduction.
 - MK added that Natural England would recommend use of this data to help determine areas of hotspot activity.
 - It was confirmed that the HiDef data has been received and analysis will start shortly. Two surveys were undertaken throughout the breeding season (March to September 2022). Displacement species will be targeted to benefit from the reduction of the array.
 - GA asked whether the impact assessments have been based on the whole array area.
 - The Project confirmed that the whole area has been considered and within the PEIR there are key areas that will be targeted.
- MK asked whether the Project has a minimum air gap (draught height between turbine blades and sea level).
 - The Project confirmed this is the case and the assessment will present impacts from a range of air gaps to allow for environmental and technical constraints.
 - MK recommended East Anglia One North and Two be considered as the projects had difficulties regarding minimum air gap. Adding that during examination, projects have been questioned about technical feasibility.
- MK explained that, subject to any seascape effects, blade marking may be useful to be considered by the Project but this is in early stages of discussions and Defra have just started this work.
 - The Project asked whether the Vattenfall paper, showing that there were no collisions, could be taken into account.

- MK added that the University of Exeter report of the avoidance rates for the JNCC and a Gannet macro avoidance paper is also expected shortly.
- ODOW queried whether there were updates on when the condition assessments for the SACs are expected to be published.
 - MK explained the publication of the updates should be available in May.

Marine Mammals

- ODOW provided an update on the Marine Mammal evidence plan.
- ODOW asked when the Defra ITT on noise limits would report and how this would feed into projects in planning.

Action: MK to investigate and provide update on the DEFRA underwater noise limits tender

SLVIA and LVIA

- ODOW provided an overview of the evidence collected and surveys to date.

Marine Archaeology and Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

- ODOW provided an overview of the evidence collected and surveys to date and upcoming.

Traffic and Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Human Health and Socio-Economics

- ODOW provided an overview of the evidence collected and surveys to date and upcoming.
 - The new alternative route was being surveyed.
 - Once there is a grid connection, the abnormal load and any additional surveys will be undertaken.

Onshore Ecology, Hydrology, Ground Conditions and Land Use

- ODOW provided an overview of the surveys undertaken and ongoing.
 - Next round of surveys is due to commence in April.
 - All data collected up to 28th February will be included at PEIR and data after this date will be included within the ES and shared through interim report and ETGs.
 - ODOW confirmed during the geotechnical surveys, an archaeologist will be present to ensure that the surveys are also utilized to inform archaeology assessments.
- MK noted that at the last Steering Group meeting, that it is likely that the wintering bird surveys will be incomplete at DCO submission. It was recommended that the Project get as much certainty from the data collected to date as possible and confidence in the impacts. MK also recommended that the Project think of strategic mitigation measures, for example pink-footed goose in Norfolk, lapwing etc and looking at developing biodiversity net gain enhancement proposals that also deliver mitigation measures.
 - The Project confirmed this is noted and currently the data is presenting high populations located near to the RSPB reserve and further throughout the route there are much lower numbers. The Project are aiming to provide as much information as possible, once available.
- GA asked about the Project's sequential approach/flood risk assessment.
 - The Project confirmed a drainage strategy for the substation is undergoing. Preliminary work is being undertaken and flood risk assessment for the cable route construction and will be shared when complete.

AOB

- ODOW asked are there any overarching queries about the Evidence Base
 - MK added that this is useful and has allowed informed conversations.

- The Project proposed that the document is kept updated and there was agreement that this would be helpful.
- AH noted that the new alternative onshore route goes under the River Steeping. The Environment Agency has improvement works planned for this area and therefore there may need to a legal agreement through an asset protection agreement that these works will be protected. This could be a lengthy process so is encouraged to start the process as soon as possible.

ACTION: ODOW (HMo) to contact the Environmental Agency regarding whether an asset protection agreement may be required for the new alternative route.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------|
| 27 th Jan 2023 | ODOW to provide key dates for upcoming meetings at next Evidence Plan Steering Group meeting. | ODOW (JB/RF) | Closed |
| 27 th Jan 2023 | Natural England to share link to SNCB paper on benthic compensation measures when available. - <i>MK advised that this expected end of March and should be on JNCC website.</i> | Natural England (HMa) | Ongoing |
| 27 th Jan 2023 | ODOW to include graphic timeline of when evidence will be provided at next Steering Group meeting. | ODOW (RF/ JB) | Closed |
| 27 th Jan 2023 | ODOW to programme the upcoming ETG meetings and send invites. | ODOW (LV) | Closed |
| 27 th Jan 2023 | Natural England to send examples of previous evidence plans to help inform the Project. | Natural England (MK) | Closed |
| 13 th March 2023 | Natural England to provide update on DEFRA noise limits tender. | Natural England (MK) | New |
| 13 th March 2023 | ODOW to contact the Environmental Agency regarding whether an asset protection agreement may be required for the new alternative route. | ODOW (HMo) | New |

/End

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|---|--|
|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Evidence Plan Process Steering Group |
| Document Number: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0021 ODOW Evidence Plan Steering Group Minutes of Meeting - Meeting Date 07-08-2023 |
| Revision: | 01 |
| Revision Status: | Issued for Information |
| Date: | 07 August 2023 |
| Time: | 13:00 to 15:00 |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Gideon Amos (GA) - Amosellis Consulting Sheldon Ven (SV) - Amosellis Consulting Greg Tomlinson (GT) - ODOW Roisin Alldis (RA) – ODOW Beth Travis (BT) - ODOW Julia Bolton (JB) - GoBe Phil New (PN) - GoBe Laura Vickery (LV) - GoBe Andy Gregory (AG) - SLR Karen Schnetler (KS) – Marine Management Organisation Louise Burton (LB) – Natural England [from 2pm] Paul Lane (PL) - Natural England Helen Mann (HM) - Natural England Martin Kerby (MK) - Natural England Neil McBride (NM) – Lincolnshire County Council Chris Pater (CP) – Historic England Helen Lancaster (HL) – The Planning Inspectorate Annette Hewitson (AH) - Environmental Agency |
| Apologies: | Marie Shoesmith - The Planning Inspectorate Emma Shore - Marine Management Organisation Adam Chambers - Natural England Chris Jenner - ODOW |
| Circulation: | External |

Summary of Minutes – full minutes attached as appendix at the end of document.

Project Updates

Onshore

- ODOW provided an overview of the Project timeline, confirming the Project are still awaiting grid connection confirmation from National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO). This is expected on or before 11th August. **Post meeting note received from ODOW 10/8/23: now confirmed see [Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Grid Connection Update \(10/08/23\) - Outer Dowsing](#)**
- ODOW confirmed that autumn consultation will be undertaken, targeting Project refinements.

Offshore

- ODOW confirmed that work is ongoing to refine the array area in order to meet The Crown Estate’s minimum power density requirements. .

- Detailed design work is ongoing and the Project are seeking to consent any required compensation measures that require a marine licence within the DCO submission.
- ODOW confirmed that, where possible, compensation measures that require consent themselves will be included within the ES red line boundary.

Programme

- ODOW confirmed that Section 42 consultation closed on 21st July and the Project have been working through the feedback.
- The Project held five public consultation events which were attended by over 400 people.
- ODOW added that engineering surveys and Section 42 consultation responses are being reviewed and considered to help inform which route to take (north or south of the A52) should the Weston Marsh option be the adopted grid connection location.
- ODOW confirmed that the Project are still progressing towards a DCO application to be submitted Q4 2023, or early January 2024 (to avoid the Christmas break).

Evidence Plan Schedule

- ODOW confirmed the July/August round of Expert Topic Groups (ETGs) are now complete.
- The September round of ETGs are planned and invites are in diaries.
Action: ODOW to issue doodle polls of new proposed dates for the rescheduled September ETGs. Post meeting note from ODOW received 14/8/23: Doodle polls sent out 14/8/23 of the new proposed dates.
- The Project are proposing an additional round of ETGs for key topics may be required in October/November 2023.
- An additional Steering Group meeting will be arranged for after the end of the September round of ETGs.

Next Steps, Challenges and Proposed Solutions

- ODOW provided an overview of the next steps for the Project's Evidence Plan Process (EPP).
- ODOW provided an overview of the challenges for the Project's EPP.
- ODOW provided some proposed solutions to the challenges experienced in the EPP.
Action: ODOW to provide a high level engagement plan for the EPP up until examination.
Action: Natural England (PL, HM, MK) to provide their availability for the September ETGs.

The Planning Inspectorate's Early Adopters Programme

- GT confirmed = the Project has been accepted for the Planning Inspectorate's (The Inspectorate) Early Adopters Programme and provided a high-level overview.
- HL provided an overview of. The Inspectorate's view on the Early Adopters Programme components.
- ODOW noted the key relevant components to the Project. With component 4 being the only stakeholder owned document.
- It was raised that producing SoCG, PADS and agreement logs is a duplication of work and does not seem to streamline the process. It was also highlighted that it would be difficult to find areas of disagreement before ES and application submission.
- **Action: The Inspectorate (HL) to inform stakeholders of the feedback mechanism for the Early Adopters Programme.**

July/August ETG Summary

- ODOW highlighted that differing sensitivity and magnitude definitions was raised as an issue within different topics. ODOW confirmed the definitions used were in-line with other Projects but the terminology for ranking (low/medium/etc.) varied from other projects which ODOW suggest may be causing this disagreement.
- Within the slide pack requests and queries were made and the Project hoped to discuss these with stakeholders through post meeting notes.
 - MK explained it can be hard to provide commentary on slides so asked if key queries could be highlighted and Natural England will try to provide written feedback.

Action: ODOW to capture questions raised to Natural England within the ETGs and include within the ODOW response to Natural England's Section 42 Response.

Marine Ecology and Coastal Processes and Derogation and Compensation ETG

- ODOW explained that a number of discussion areas were highlighted from Section 42 feedback and all can be resolved through updates to ES.

Marine Mammals ETG

- ODOW will consider non-oil and gas surveys where information/ data is available but seek clarification from stakeholders which should be included in the assessment. It was noted that the MMO had taken an action within the ETG to discuss internally to provide advice on identification of historical levels of seismic surveys.
- ODOW explained that the discussion topics raised through Section 42 hope to be resolved through updates within the ES.

Offshore Ornithology and Derogation and Compensation ETG

- ODOW confirmed the full 24 months of DAS data has been received and will feed into ES.
- ODOW propose presenting stakeholder methodology and the Project's methodology for relevant assessments where the methodologies differ.

Action: ODOW (PN) to provide Natural England with a timescale of when the Project would be able to utilise a template of parameters within the ES assessments.
- With regards to ornithological compensation, ODOW confirmed there are three main species for which 'without prejudice' measures are being developed: kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill.
- The draft RIAA could not conclude no adverse effect for in combination effect for kittiwakes on the basis of the information available at the time of writing.
- A brief discussion was held around the interaction between the Project consenting process and The Crown Estate Round 4 Kittiwake Strategic Compensation Plan.
- MK queried the Project in light of the HOW04 decision on guillemot and the threshold that agreed for compensation.
 - ODOW are considering on a "without prejudice" basis at how to deliver compensation for features other than Kittiwake at FFC SPA.
- MK raised that there are seven projects likely to be submitted in similar timeframes and questioned how this will be incorporated within the cumulative assessments. GT explained the project will follow the tiering approach as set out in The Inspectorate's Advice Notes.

Action: ODOW to discuss within team an approach the ES cumulative assessment and discuss with the EPP members.

Onshore

- Apologies were given for the limited time remaining in the meeting to discuss the onshore topics. The Project invited stakeholders to contact the ODOW if they have any questions that were not able to be covered within the meeting.

Traffic and Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Health and Socio-Economics ETG

- For traffic and transport, the Project are the looking at optimising the haul road. It was also confirmed Network Rail will be provided with more details of possible disruptions.
- For the issues raised regarding noise, all the local authority's points are being incorporated into ES through the Noise and Vibration Management Plan.
- The main socio-economic issues were focused on impacts on agricultural land and these are being reviewed in line with ongoing engagement with landowners to help inform the detail for the relevant management plans.
- The UK Health Security Agency were satisfied with the EIA approach as this followed IEMA guidance or methodology assessing significance for populations and compliance with NPS.

Onshore Ecology, Hydrology, Geology & Ground Conditions and Land Use ETG

- ODOW confirmed that 95% of the UK HAB surveys complete and all surveys except bats are completed which is expected to finish in October.
- GCN have been taken into consideration at the onshore substation locations. However, no GCN have been identified within the substation search zones.
- Natural England have requested two years of wintering bird survey data. The second year of the Project's wintering bird surveys will commence in September 2023 and the full years of wintering bird data will be made available upon completion of that round of surveys, post application.
- Natural England also requested bat flight lines and Barn Owls and Coastal SSSIs.
 - ODOW confirmed that the Project have been in contact with relevant local bird specialists as requested by Natural England.
- Most section 42 responses regarding land use were regarding farming and agricultural land use.
- Concerns relating to geology and ground conditions mainly focused on the agricultural impacts on drainage and whether there would be any long term implication on soil productivity.
- For hydrology, the Project are continuing the ongoing meetings with the W4IDB. Work is being progressed for protective provisions and flood risk requirements.
 - The section 42 responses stated a bathing water assessment is required at landfall and trenchless techniques need to be used at main river crossings.

Seascape & Landscape Visual Assessment ETG

- NM explained that not all the responses have been incorporated into the SLVIA and LVIA responses. Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) noted they have concerns over the visual impacts on the substation locations. NM added that the Lincolnshire Node grid connection raises the most concern as the infrastructure currently does not exist so there is a requirement for more substations in the location. **Post Meeting Note From ODOW added 26/9/23:** *It was confirmed on the 10th August that the Project are not connecting to Lincolnshire Node and will have the National Grid connection at Weston Marsh. Work is ongoing to confirm a substation location.*
 - ODOW confirmed the Project is aware of the councils concerns and these will be addressed and considered in the design reviews. The Project will be taken an

additional phase of consultation in the Autumn where they will progress the design in consultation with the local community.

Action: ODOW (AG/JB) to arrange an introduction meeting with the County Council and OPEN (ODOW's LVIA advisors).

Marine and Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage ETG

- ODOW confirmed an offshore geotechnical campaign is planned for 2024.
- Trial trenching is planned upon completion of the geophysical surveys and will most likely commence post submission.
- There was a discussion within the Marine and Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage ETG regarding the Slackholme Abandoned Village and stakeholders are happy with the Project's proposed avoidance and options to mitigate, including trenchless techniques.
- ODOW confirmed the WSI will be provided alongside the application, however the findings of trial trenching will not be included.
- CP noted that the ES produced should now also include specialist archaeological analysis of survey data for the proposed Electricity Export Cable Corridor.
- CP asked whether a timeframe for reporting on the geoarchaeological analysis of the geotechnical survey planned for 2024 could be provided in reference to the proposed timetable for DCO submission and examination.

Action: ODOW to provide a timeframe for reporting on the geoarchaeological analysis of the geotechnical survey planned for 2024.

- ODOW confirmed that the Project are processing comments on the draft DCO and will provide comments as necessary.

Summary of Ongoing Works Prior to Next ETGs

- The Project are planning a targeted autumn consultation once the onshore ECC route and substation locations are known.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| 27/1/23 | Natural England to share link to SNCB paper on benthic compensation measures when available. - <i>MK advised that this expected end of March and should be on JNCC website.</i> | Natural England (HMa) | Ongoing – Update 4/9/23 – this is not yet published on JNCC website |
| 27/1/23 | Natural England to send examples of previous evidence plans to help inform the Project. | Natural England (MK) | Closed |
| 16/3/23 | Natural England to investigate the progress of the DEFRA noise limits tender. | Natural England (MK) | Ongoing |
| 16/3/23 | ODOW to contact the Environmental Agency regarding whether an asset protection agreement may be required for the new alternative route. | ODOW (HMo) | Ongoing |
| 7/8/23 | ODOW to issue doodle polls of new proposed dates for the rescheduled September ETGs. | ODOW (LV) | Closed – issued 14/8/23 |
| 7/8/23 | ODOW to set up an engagement plan for the EPP up until examination. | ODOW | New |
| 7/8/23 | Natural England (PL, HM, MK) to provide their availability for the September ETGs. | Natural England (PL, HM, MK) | New |
| 7/8/23 | The Inspectorate (HL) to inform stakeholders of the feedback mechanism for the Early Adopters Programme. | PINS (HL) | New |
| 7/8/23 | ODOW to capture questions raised to Natural England within the ETGs and include within the Section 42 Response. | ODOW | New |
| 7/8/23 | ODOW (PN) to provide Natural England with a timescale of when the Project would be able to utilise a template of parameters within the ES assessments. | ODOW (PN) | New |
| 7/8/23 | ODOW to discuss within team an approach the ES cumulative assessment and discuss with the EPP members. | ODOW | New |
| 7/8/23 | ODOW (AG/JB) to arrange an introduction meeting with the County Council and OPEN (ODOW's LVIA advisors). | ODOW | New |
| 7/8/23 | ODOW to provide a timeframe for reporting on the geoarchaeological analysis of the geotechnical survey planned for 2024. | ODOW | New |

/End

Full Minutes

Project Update

Onshore

- ODOW provided an overview of the Project timeline, confirming the Project are still awaiting grid connection confirmation from National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO). This is expected on or before 11th August. **Post meeting note received from ODOW 10/8/23: now confirmed see [Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Grid Connection Update \(10/08/23\) - Outer Dowsing](#)**

- GA queried if two options for the Weston Marsh (WM) export cable corridor (ECC) were still being progressed.
 - ODOW confirmed there are still two options for the ECC to WM. Both are being surveyed equally to inform the technical assessments.
- ODOW confirmed that autumn consultation will be undertaken, targeting the Project refinements.

Offshore

- ODOW confirmed that work is ongoing to refine the array area in order to meet The Crown Estate's minimum power density requirements.
- Detailed design work is ongoing and the Project are seeking to consent any required compensation measures that require a marine licence within the DCO submission.
- MK asked which compensation measures these are and whether the red line boundary would encompass these?
 - ODOW explained this refers to measures such as ANS structures for birds and the benthic compensation measures as detailed at PEIR. If required ODOW will include separate deemed marine licences (dML) within the DCO.
 - ODOW confirmed that, where possible, compensation measures that require consent themselves will be included within the ES red line boundary.

Programme

- ODOW confirmed that Section 42 consultation closed on 21st July and the Project have been working through the feedback.
- The Project held five public consultation events which were attended by over 400 people.
- GA asked if there was a difference in the public opinion across the two connection points of WM or Lincolnshire Node?
 - ODOW explained that there is a general understanding that this decision is one that will be made by National Grid and not the Project. It is understood that the route north of A52 to WM is closer to residential areas but the route has avoided being in close proximity to homes.
- ODOW added that engineering surveys and Section 42 consultation responses are being reviewed and considered to help inform which route to take (north or south of the A52) should the Weston Marsh option be the adopted grid connection location.
- ODOW confirmed that the Project are still progressing towards a DCO application to be submitted Q4 2023, or early January 2024 (to avoid the Christmas break).
 - MK asked when the cut-off date for the ES assessments will be.
 - ODOW confirmed the majority of surveys and reports will be finished by end October 2023.
 - MK noted this is helpful to allow stakeholders to understand when changes cannot be made to the ES input.

Evidence Plan Schedule

- ODOW confirmed the July/August round of Expert Topic Groups (ETGs) are now complete.
- The September round of ETGs are planned and invites are in diaries.
 - MK raised that Natural England may not be available for the dates,
 - ODOW explained that they will reschedule the meetings that Natural England can not attend.

Action: ODOW to issue doodle polls of new proposed dates for the rescheduled September ETGs. Post meeting note from ODOW received 14/8/23: Doodle polls sent out 14/8/23 of the new proposed dates.

- The Project are proposing an additional round of ETGs for key topics may be required in October/November 2023.
- An additional Steering Group meeting will be arranged for after the end of the September round of ETGs.

Next Steps, Challenges and Proposed Solutions

- ODOW provided an overview of the next steps for the Project's Evidence Plan Process (EPP).
 - ODOW explained that they will seek continued engagement through the EPP. Additionally, updated agreement logs will be issued.
 - ODOW confirmed the aim of this round of ETGs was to seek early engagement on the section 42 comments and the September round of ETGs aims to resolve any outstanding disagreements in so far as is possible.
- ODOW provided an overview of the challenges for the Project's EPP.
 - ODOW explained that the availability of key stakeholders has limited the engagement for section 42 and the most recent round of ETGs. The RSPB were unable to provide a detailed section 42 response, Ministry of Defence's (MoD) full response is delayed and Natural England withdrew attendance from all ETGs. ODOW have also had delays to provision of non-statutory advice.
- ODOW provided some proposed solutions to the challenges experienced in the EPP.
 - ODOW are proposing dedicated workshops and bilateral meetings to allow for more flexibility in availability.
 - ODOW will aim to increase vision of stakeholders for the timings of documents such as memos and documents under DAS.
Action: ODOW to provide a high-level engagement plan for the EPP up until examination.
 - ODOW are seeking to continue working with stakeholders to optimise meaningful engagement.
- MK explained that the September ETG meetings will be critical. The timing of the October and November ETGs will mean that it may be hard to incorporate substantial changes. Therefore, to allow meaningful discussions any meeting material should be circulated in advance. It was noted that bilateral meetings are useful in some cases but the ETGs are important to allow for multiple stakeholders to share knowledge.
 - GA asked Natural England to confirm their attendance for the September round of ETGs.
 - MK confirmed that Natural England will attend the next round of ETGs.
Action: Natural England (PL, HM, MK) to provide their availability for the September ETGs.
 - ODOW are committed to sharing relevant material 10 days in advance of meetings.

The Planning Inspectorate's Early Adopters Programme

- GT confirmed the Project has been accepted for the Planning Inspectorate's (The Inspectorate) Early Adopters Programme and provided a high-level overview.
-
- HL provided an overview of-The Inspectorate's view on the Early Adopters Programme components.
- - It was confirmed that seven projects responded with interest and could choose from up to 10 components within the programme.

- The only compulsory component is Component One: Use of programme planning. This is something The Inspectorate will monitor.
- ODOW have published their programme on the website ([Programme.jpg \(2214×1558\) \(outerdowsing.com\)](#)).
- ODOW noted that the key relevant components to the Project are:
 - Component 1: Use of Programme Planning
 - Component 2: Use of Evidence Plans
 - Component 3: Use of issues tracking.
 - Component 4: Use of Pre-application Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements (PADS)
 - Component 5: Production of Policy Compliance Document
 - Component 7: Production of Design Approach Document
 - Component 10: Use of multipartite meetings
- It was explained that components 5, 7 and 10 are not likely to involve stakeholder resource. Component 3 will be built from the agreement logs and then progressed into the SoCG.
- Component 4 will be stakeholder owned, identifying areas of disagreement between the Project and stakeholder, with the agreement logs assisting stakeholders in completing the documents. PADs have previously been trialled during examinations and are now being trailed pre-examination.
 - NM highlighted that it will be difficult to identify principle areas of disagreement before the application and ES is produced. Pre-application the focus is on the methodology so it might be difficult to include councillor feedback.
 - AH queried whether there is a mechanism for feedback for this pilot process noting that The Inspectorate gave EA information but not clear pathway to give feedback.
 - ODOW have regular meetings with The Inspectorate to provide feedback and the Project encourage stakeholders to give feedback as well.

Action: The Inspectorate (HL) to inform stakeholders of the feedback mechanism for the Early Adopters Programme.
- GA queried at which stage the PADS are meant to submitted
 - HL explained that the trial scheme asks for the PADS to be submitted at the time of DCO submission but some may also be asked for within examination.
- HM asked if they could be provided with examples of the PADS.
 - Lower Thames Crossing PADS: (https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-002013-PADS_Tracker_1_-_TfL.pdf);
 - Examples of No Response: (https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-002024-No_PADS_Overview.pdf); and
 - PADS for the A66: (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010062/TR010062-001680-Natural%20England%20-%20Other-%20Natural%20England%20updated%20PADSS.pdf>)
- AH, MK and HM all raised that the Project producing SoCG, PADS and agreement logs is a duplication of work and does not seem to streamline the process.
 - HL notes this and will feed back to The Inspectorate.
 - ODOW also confirmed they will feed these comments back formally to the Inspectorate.
- HL explained that the NSIP documentation reform consultation is now out and encourages stakeholders to give feedback.

July/August ETG Summary

- ODOW highlighted that differing sensitivity and magnitude definitions was raised as an issue within different topics. ODOW confirmed the definitions used were in-line with other Projects but the terminology for ranking (low/medium/etc.) varied from other projects which ODOW suggest may be causing this disagreement.
- Within the slide pack requests and queries were made and the Project hoped to discuss these with stakeholders through post meeting notes.
 - MK explained it can be hard to provide commentary on slides so asked if key queries could be highlighted and Natural England will try to provide feedback.

Action: ODOW to capture questions raised to Natural England within the ETGs and include within the Section 42 Response.

Marine Ecology and Coastal Processes and Derogation and Compensation ETG

- ODOW explained that a number of discussion areas were highlighted from Section 42 feedback and all can be resolved through updates to ES.
- ODOW explained for benthic ecology the 'without prejudice' compensation case focuses where the cable route passes through the SAC. The Project are awaiting the updated guidance from Defra that is due imminently to allow progression of the compensation workstream. It is hoped the guidance will provide detail on non like-for-like measures. There are limited options to compensate for potential sandbank impacts and guidance on this matter would be beneficial.
 - MK noted there are few compensation measures available for benthic compensation in particular, and for OWF this is becoming an increasing issue. Recently consented projects have been awarded consent on the basis of compensation measures which were approved against SNCB advice. An example of this is HOW03, Vanguard and Boreas which provided marine debris removal and awareness, which has been found to be ineffective during the HOW03 clearance campaign.
- MK asked whether the Project are committing to avoid *Sabellaria* reef by not using rock protection within the SAC site.
 - ODOW have undertaken a much higher sampling density than typically seen for offshore wind projects which provides more confidence in the assessments. Geotechnical surveys have been undertaken along the cable route to refine where rock protection may be needed through the Cable Burial Risk Assessment.
 - ODOW aim to confirm final volumes of rock protection and sandwave clearance in the next ETG (September). The Project received Natural England on mitigation measures for cable installation.. ODOW have committed to micro siting after pre-construction surveys. It was confirmed the intention is to progress the compensation as a 'without prejudice' case.
 - The Project are working to avoid rock protection within the SAC but are continuing with potential compensation work.

Marine Mammals ETG

- ODOW will consider non-oil and gas surveys but seek clarification from stakeholders which should be assessed. It was noted that the MMO had taken an action within the ETG to discuss internally to provide advice on identification of historical levels of seismic surveys.
- ODOW explained that the discussion topics raised through Section 42 hope to be resolved through updates within the ES.

Offshore Ornithology and Derogation and Compensation ETG

- ODOW confirmed the full 24 months of DAS data has been received and will feed into ES.
- ODOW propose presenting stakeholder methodology and the Project's methodology for assessments where the methodologies differ.
 - MK explained that presenting both methodologies was something that has happened with past projects. This used to be undertaken through a template the applicant filled in with the parameters. Natural England are looking to update this following changes to methodologies over recent years. It was asked when the latest the Project could receive this so they could include within the ES.
 - ODOW confirmed this will be discussed internally with early October being the latest date to feed into the major assessments.

Action: ODOW (PN) to provide Natural England with a timescale of when the Project would be able to utilise a template of parameters within the ES assessments.

- With regards to compensation, ODOW confirmed there are three main species for which 'without prejudice' measures are being developed: kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill. The draft RIAA could not conclude no adverse effect for in combination effect for kittiwakes on the basis of the information available at the time of writing. The Project are looking at multiple streams to deliver compensation for kittiwake, both at a project-level and strategic workstreams. Due to the uncertainty around the strategic measures, the Project is seeking to secure the ANS compensation measure within the DCO application. The Project have proposed two potential search areas through PEIR which may be refined prior to application.
- A brief discussion was held around the interaction between the Project consenting process and The Crown Estate Round 4 Kittiwake Strategic Compensation Plan. ODOW explained that the TCE process was meet the requirements set out in TCEs Appropriate Assessment at plan-level and not to pre-judge the project level consenting process. GT noted the final TCE Kittiwake Strategic Compensation Plan is expected to set out the relationship between it and other relevant processes.
- MK queried the Project in light of the HOW04 decision on guillemot and the threshold that The Inspectorate agreed for compensation.
 - ODOW are considering on a "without prejudice" basis at how to deliver compensation for features other than Kittiwake at FFC SPA.
 - It was added the HOW04 decision has highlighted that the Project may need to think about compensation measures for guillemot and razorbill. Regarding gannet, the Project will analyse the 24 month DAS data. Following recent projects, the Project will look to agree whether there is no requirement for compensation when all parameters are known.
- MK suggested splitting compensation and derogation from the main offshore ornithology topic within the upcoming ETGs to ensure sufficient time given to compensatory measures.
 - Initially this was done however due to stakeholder availability the meetings were combined. ODOW will consider this for the next set of ETGs.
- MK raised that there are seven projects likely to be submitted in similar timeframes and questioned how this will be incorporated within the cumulative assessments/in-combination.
 - ODOW have discussed with RWE the potential for sharing data.
 - GA asked whether this is something The Inspectorate could facilitate to help the Projects.
 - HL replied that the consenting team at DESNZ have previously declined getting involved in discussions and it may be a case of projects collaborating.

- MK suggested the emerging cumulative effects framework from the Marine Scotland initiative might be of benefit as it is a database that all projects can feed into as an open platform.

Action: ODOW to discuss within team an approach the ES cumulative assessment and discuss with the EPP members.

Onshore

- Apologies were given for the limited time remaining in the meeting to discuss the onshore topics. The Project invited stakeholders to contact the ODOW if they have any questions that were not able to be covered within the meeting.

Traffic and Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Health and Socio-Economics ETG

- For traffic and transport, the Project are the looking at optimising the haul road. It was also confirmed Network Rail will be provided with more details of possible disruptions.
- For the issues raised regarding noise, all the local authority's points are being incorporated into ES through the Noise and Vibration Management Plan.
- The main socio-economic issues were focused on impacts on agricultural land and these are being reviewed in line with ongoing engagement with landowners to help inform the detail for the relevant management plans.
- The UK Health Security Agency were satisfied with the EIA approach as this followed IEMA guidance or methodology assessing significance for populations and compliance with NPS.

Onshore Ecology, Hydrology, Geology & Ground Conditions and Land Use ETG

- ODOW confirmed that 95% of the UK HAB surveys complete and all surveys except bats are completed which is expected to finish in October.
- GCN have been taken into consideration at the onshore substation locations. However, no GCN have been identified within the substation search zones.
- Natural England have requested two years of wintering bird survey data. The second year of the Project's wintering bird surveys will commence in September 2023 and the full years of wintering bird data will be made available upon completion of that round of surveys, post application.
- Natural England also requested bat flight lines and consideration of impacts on Barn Owls and Coastal SSSIs.
 - ODOW confirmed that the Project have been in contact with relevant local bird specialists as requested by Natural England.
- Most section 42 responses regarding land use were regarding farming and agricultural land use.
- Concerns relating to geology and ground conditions mainly focused on the agricultural impacts on drainage and whether there would be any long term implication on soil productivity.
- For hydrology, the Project are continuing the ongoing meetings with the W4IDB. Work is being progressed for protective provisions and flood risk requirements.
 - The section 42 responses stated a bathing water assessment is required at landfall and trenchless techniques need to be used at main river crossings.

Seascape & Landscape Visual Assessment ETG

- NM explained that not all the responses have been incorporated into the SLVIA and LVIA responses. Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) noted they have concerns over the visual impacts on the substation locations. NM added that the Lincolnshire Node grid

connection raises the most concern as the infrastructure currently does not exist so there is a requirement for more substations in the location.

- ODOW confirmed the Project is aware of the councils concerns and these will be addressed and considered in the design reviews. The Project will be taken an additional phase of consultation in the Autumn where they will progress the design in consultation with the local community.
- NM explained that the substation locations and design have been late in the pre application dialogue and LCC would like to explore more of a discussion between councils and ODOW's landscape consultants.
- **Post Meeting Note From ODOW added 26/9/23:** It was confirmed on the 10th August that the Project are not connecting to Lincolnshire Node and will have the National Grid connection at Weston Marsh. Work is ongoing to confirm a substation location.
- **Action: ODOW (AG/JB) to arrange an introduction meeting with the County Council and OPEN (ODOW's LVIA advisors).**

Marine and Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage ETG

- ODOW confirmed an offshore geotechnical campaign is planned for 2024.
- Trial trenching is planned upon completion of the geophysical surveys and will most likely commence post submission.
- There was a discussion within the Marine and Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage ETG regarding the Slackholme Abandoned Village and stakeholders are happy with the Project's proposed avoidance and options to mitigate, including trenchless techniques.
- CP asked whether an updated outline WSI will be provided at ES.
 - ODOW the WSI will be provided alongside the application, however the findings of trial trenching will not be included.
- CP also noted that the ES produced should now also include specialist archaeological analysis of survey data for the proposed Electricity Export Cable Corridor.
- CP asked whether a timeframe for reporting on the geoarchaeological analysis of the geotechnical survey planned for 2024 could be provided in reference to the proposed timetable for DCO submission and examination.
Action: ODOW to provide a timeframe for reporting on the geoarchaeological analysis of the geotechnical survey planned for 2024.
- NM questioned that comments were provided for the draft DCO, but no comments were covered within the ETGs and asked are any discussions planned on this.
 - ODOW confirmed that the Project are processing comments and will provide comments as necessary.
 - GA added that the DCO is typically one of the last documents to be drafted.

Summary of Ongoing Works Prior to Next ETGs

- The Project are planning a targeted autumn consultation once the onshore ECC route and substation locations are known.

| | |
|---|---|
|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Evidence Plan Process Steering Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000415-01 |
| Date: | 19th October 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <p>Gideon Amos (GA)– Amos Ellis Consulting, EPP SG Chair Greg Tomlinson (GT) - ODOW Roisin Alldis (RA) - ODOW Jake Laws (JL)- ODOW Andy Gregory (AG) – ODOW (SLR) Phil New (PN) – ODOW (GoBe) Laura Vickery (LV) – ODOW (GoBe) Niamh Workman (NW) – ODOW (GoBe) Karrie Schnetler (KS) - MMO Emma Shore (ES) - MMO Adam Chambers (AC) – Natural England Paul Lane (PL) – Natural England Helen Mann (HM) – Natural England Louise Burton (LB) – Natural England Claire Deery (CD) – The Planning Inspectorate Marie Shoemith (MS) – The Planning Inspectorate Neil McBride (NM)- LCC Eloise Shieber (ES) – LCC Tim Allen (TA) – Historic England Annette Hewitson (AH) – Environmental Agency</p> |
| Apologies: | <p>Martin Kerby – Natural England Chris Pater – Historic England</p> |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

Offshore Update

- The Project team provided an update of the changes made to the offshore elements of the Project.
 - The array area at PEIR was 500km², work is ongoing to reduce the array area for ES and DCO submission. This is to accord with The Crown Estate’s minimum power density requirements and to reduce the potential impacts of the Project on several receptors.
 - The number of Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) has increased to 100. This is due to supply chain review and the need to include the option for a 15MW class turbine as an option for the Project but this remained within the worst case assessed for environmental impact.

- Ground conditions and engineering and environmental risks have been assessed and the Project have committed to no more than 50% of foundations (excluding for Artificial Nesting Structures) being Gravity Based Structures (GBS).
- WTG minimum tip height has been confirmed to increase to 40m above Mean Sea Level (MSL).

Onshore Update

- The Project team provided an update of the changes to the onshore elements of the Project.
 - Autumn consultation starts w/c 23rd October.
 - The main changes onshore are the confirmed location of the onshore substation, changes to the substation parameters and refinements to the onshore cable corridor including traffic mitigation requirements. The Project have confirmed that they are connecting at Weston Marsh and the substation will be at the Surfleet Marsh location (previously “Weston Marsh North”). The cable route taken forward has also been confirmed to be the route north of the A52, both of these updates were publicised to the local community and stakeholders in August of this year via a press release
 - The Project explained that the Surfleet Marsh substation location will be presented to the upcoming Community Liaison Groups (CLGs) before being included in the public consultation kick off on the 20th October.
 - An additional update is that an indicative 400kv cable corridor has been added to the cable corridor to connect the Project substation to the National Grid Substation search area, presented by the Project as an “indicative connection area” for the National Grid infrastructure.
 - The Project has also undergone refinement of access points along the onshore cable corridor.
 - The Project have been progressing the landscape and visual impact assessments of the substation and are in the process of establishing a local design panel to involve the local community and other key stakeholders in the detailed design of the substation.
- NM asked how the local design panel would influence the application?
 - RA explained that the local design panel, will be made up of members of the Project’ Community Liaison Onshore Substation Group, Landscape experts from LCC and the relevant LPA (BBC) who will be involved in the detailed design aspects after the DCO submission is submitted. The outline design principles document will outline the design approach and approach to the Design Review Process (DRP) including an external design review; The design process and engagement will be ongoing and continue post consent, which will establish parameters only for the final design.
 - GA added that the specific design work will continue through examination and post consent, with the local planning authorities approving the final design under DCO Requirements (aka conditions).
 - NM explained that the design panel needs to be able to feed into the final design.
 - RA explained that the role of the local design panel will be secured in the application within the Outline Design Principles document. The Rochdale Envelope to be consented by the DCO provides the description and layout of the substation by prescribing parameters and the local design panel will be used to ensure the communities impacted have input into the final design.

- LB explained that Natural England would like to review this externally to this meeting before providing formal comment. They raised concerns over delaying decision until post submission also that the design process, is not a statutory requirement and there is no engagement plan with stakeholders such as Natural England.
- RA explained that the purpose of the design panel and DRP is to ensure that the local community and those with an interest in the detailed design aspects of the substation are involved in the detailed design stage where the Project will be able to consult on design elements such as the finish, colour and other architectural aspects. The purpose of the Rochdale envelope assessment as set out in the LVIA is to ensure the maximum parameters of the onshore substation are tested against each of the relevant environmental receptors and can therefore be considered acceptable. The elements, refinements and outcome of the DRP will therefore not be required to inform consent, however the scope and requirement of the DRP, the principles of design and the maximum parameters will be secured through the DCO.
- GA explained that typically this is set up post consent so encourages the early engagement pre application.

Programme

- The Project provided an overview of the updated programme.
 - The autumn consultation is commencing (Friday 20 October – Friday 24 November 2023) with five Public Information Days (PIDs) and webinars being held, along with hard copy material being put into local libraries.
 - It was confirmed the DCO submission is now expected to be Q1 2024 (end of February).

Autumn Consultation

- The Project explained that as part of the autumn consultation an environmental update report has been provided to show how the Project will consider the impacts of the changes on each topic assessed at PEIR.
 - The Project explained one of the changes is that the WTG minimum tip height has been raised to 40m (from 30m at PEIR) above MSL to reduce potential impacts for bird collisions.
 - The Project explained that the substation parameters have been refined. There has been a reduction in the number of bays allocated to ODO within the National Grid substation, so the AIS substation footprint has increased to 14.5 hectares from 9.5. Within the PEIR the GIS footprint was considered the worst case scenario and therefore the visualisations represented only this technology, given the increase in the footprint the visualisations shown will represent both technologies.
- The Project explained that the only change not included within the autumn consultation update is the reduction in the array area. This will be brought forward at ES stage as work is ongoing to confirm the reduced array area boundary.

EPP Progress

- The Project confirmed all September ETGs have been held and draft agreements logs have been shared with respective ETG members.

Proposed engagement strategy

- The Project explained that following feedback from stakeholders and internal discussions, the Project team proposed that some topics could be retired from future

Expert Topic Group meeting rounds in order to allow work to focus on key outstanding areas of disagreement.

- GA asked the Project to provide rationale for this?
- The Project explained that there are a number of topics where the majority of items are agreed or where disagreements remain, that further discussion in meetings is unlikely to resolve the issues. These topics will continue to be assessed within the ES and work will remain ongoing by the Project.
- The Project confirmed that the motivation for this proposal is to free up valuable time for all parties by focusing discussions on key outstanding issues.
- The Project confirmed that supporting documents and position papers will be provided pre application to try resolve issues where relevant. The Project also plan on using the multiparty meeting aspect of PINS Early Adopter Programme.
- The Project confirmed that engagement plans will be shared (where relevant) following this meeting.
- CD asked whether the topic groups were involved in the discussions to retire the topic?
 - The Project explained that this has been first raised in the Steering Group and will be discussed with the topic groups.
 - LB explained that Natural England will not be engaging in the discussions during the meeting and will provide formal feedback in writing after the meeting.
 - **ACTION: Natural England to provide formal feedback on whether the EPP can cease some of the ETG topic meetings as proposed by ODOW.**
 - The Project explained that slides will be issued after the meeting and welcome feedback from all attendees.
- Post-meeting note: To clarify the Project's position with regard to certain topics to not be taken forward for a further ETG meeting, the Project propose to continue the EPP for all topics through to the point of Application; however, it was suggested that the currently scheduled meetings for the following topics are cancelled as the Project do not consider that there is any new information that would result in a change to the assessment to be presented to stakeholders. Therefore, the meetings for the relevant topics are proposed to be cancelled after the next round of meetings which wer still going ahead for all topics, so as to free up valuable time for stakeholders and to ensure limited resources are focused on those topics where continued discussion will enable further development of proposals and to seek agreement on key items prior to Application. The relevant topics where no further meetings are proposed are:
 - *Marine Mammals;*
 - *Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact;*
 - *Air Quality;*
 - *Socio-Economics; and*
 - *Geology and Ground Conditions.*

Post Meeting Note: The Project initially proposed to not take Human Health forward for a further meeting, however the Project would like to consult the ETG on how Public Rights of Way diversions/ closures will be assessed in this chapter.

PINS Early Adopter Programme

- The Project provided an overview of the PINS Early Adopter Programme and the components they are trialling.
- NM asked for clarification for the differences between the PADS and SoCGs.

- ODOW explained that the PADS are submitted alongside the application, stakeholder owned and only the areas of disagreement. The SoCGs are produced after the DCO submission and are all areas of agreement and disagreement.
- NM asked whether there had been further discussion on the Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements (PADSs) since the previous meeting?
 - MS explained the EAP is a trial process and obtaining feedback and experience from all parties is an important element. Further to the previous action on the Inspectorate to inform stakeholders of the feedback mechanism for the EAP, MS reiterated the response of Inspectorate colleague Helen Lancaster that for those bodies belonging to the Defra family, it is understood that Defra is developing a briefing pack and feedback form which can be used to record experiences of the trial. However, should participants also want to make any comments or raise any queries in the Evidence Plan ETG/steering groups then the Inspectorate would be happy to hear them directly. In respect of differences between PADSs and Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs), MS commented that an important distinction between PADSs and SoCGs is that PADSs are consultee owned and authored, and SoCGs are applicant owned and authored. It was noted that SoCGs mainly list areas of agreement (and disagreement) whereas the PADSs are focused on capturing the principal areas of disagreement at the point of DCO application.
 - NM asked is there a framework for PADSs to be submitted similarly to SoCG?
 - The Project explained that the PADSs template has been shared with all stakeholder that the Project has invited to submit a PADSs, noting they need to be submitted with DCO application so are required to be provided to the Project by 15th December 2023.
 - TA added that PADSs are fundamentally a good idea and a way to identify key areas of disagreement early.

September ETG summary

Onshore

Ornithology

- The Project confirmed they have committed to seasonal working restriction in vicinity of RSPB Frampton marsh reserve and Wash SPA/ Ramsar. It was added that the Project are awaiting a response from Natural England on this.
 - PL queried what the Natural England response was related to?
 - The Project explained that the Natural England ornithologist could not attend the ETG so a note was provided on the 29th September to gain feedback. This was also packaged with a response on proposed methodology.
- The Project confirmed that they have committed to a 4m high earth bund to provide acoustic mitigation at Anderby Marsh Local Nature Reserve.
 - TA asked whether the impacts of the earth bund been considered?
 - The Project confirmed that this will not affect the ground below as it will not be an engineered earthen structure for use in construction, rather it will be simply a barrier to provide mitigation (i.e. won't be subject to mechanical compaction).

Archaeology

- The Project have committed to using non-trenching techniques for going underneath Slackholme village and the haul road will also stopped at an appropriate set-back distance so no interaction will occur with this feature.

- The Project have agreed with LCC on a localised test for historic photo analysis.
- The Project explained that the geophysics work is progressing more slowly as a result of ground conditions and access issues. This will mean fewer results will be presented in ES than hoped.
 - TA added that there have been discussion of the extent of geophysics data for historic dry areas within silty areas. The technique should vary based on the conditions found rather than being dictated in advance.

Flood Risk

- The Project explained there is engagement with the Environment Agency on raising land at TJBs and regarding beach modelling.
 - AH explained that in relation to the sim-ops agreement, the Project have set out key principles and the Environment Agency are currently working through with lawyers. It was noted this could be a key issue during examination due to the time taken to get these agreements in place.

LVIA

- The Project explained that LCC LVIA consultant have met with Project consultants onsite to agree viewpoints which are being incorporated into ES assessment.
- The Project confirmed a landscaping plan will be published and consulted on in the autumn consultation.
- The Project confirmed they have committed to agriculture and land classification surveys and employment of local drainage contractor.

Traffic and Transport

- The Project have committed to an access route along Low Road to bypass Skegness.
-

Proposal to hold no further ETG meetings for certain EPP topics

- The Project explained that this is a proposal and if stakeholders in the EPP SG would like the continuation of meetings on topics then meetings will not cease.
- The Project added that placeholder invites have been issued for all topics but the Project are proposing making the next ETG round more targeted for topics with outstanding disagreements and topics with changes or updates.
 - NM explained that regarding the socio-economic ETG, tourism is being addressed and the studies are ongoing so it is not necessarily required to be part of an ETG. However, food security needs to remain being discussed. Now that the substation location is known the effect of the agricultural land needs to be discussed.
 - The Project explained that the impact on local agricultural land is discussed in the land use ETG and that wider food security in the UK is discussed in the socio-economic topic as this is a national concern. This will be addressed within the ES. The Project proposed a targeted update or adding this as a discussion point in the land use ETG.
 - NM agreed with the proposed approach.
- CD explained that the Project need to think how in the absence of meetings that the stakeholders are updated and engaged.
 - The Project explained that updates will still be provided through the agreement logs. The agreement logs for all topics would still be issued and updated as work is progressed as relevant.

- GA suggested that the Project write to each ETG and consult whether they would like to continue in writing.
 - **ACTION: ODOW to write to all ETG attendees with a list of which topics they propose an additional ETG meeting for and which ones they propose would not benefit from an additional meeting and confirm if they are happy with this approach.**
 - CD queried whether the approach to be taken to 'retire' a group was covered in the Terms of Reference **ACTION: ODOW to check the ToR for the process of retiring ETG topics.**
- LB explained that Natural England would like the meeting slides and the proposal in writing setting out the engagement and proposed new EPP schedule. They noted that the engagement plans being provided by the Project are not necessarily guaranteed by Natural England. It was also added that where issues are across multiple stakeholders it may be difficult to reach resolution in the absence of the ETGs.

Offshore topics

SLVIA

- The Project explained the ORCPs search area is now a minimum of 12km from the shore in response to concerns raised by stakeholders.
- The Project explained this topic is proposed to have no further ETG meetings as the visualisations being developed by the Project will not be able to be available in time for further ETG for discussion in meetings but will be presented in the ES.

Marine Archaeology

- The Project confirmed that data is continuing to be analysed and within the ETG there was discussion on the appropriate Maximum Design Scenario and clarification was provided that will follow through to ES.

Marine Processes

- The Project confirmed that they are scoping in features above MHWS as requested by stakeholders.

Fish and Shellfish

- The Project provided an overview of the key discussion points.
- The Project confirmed they will be presenting the Hawkins et al.(2014) thresholds for herring spawning assessments as requested in Section 42 and investigating the requirement for noise abatement following receipt of final noise modelling and the assessment conclusions.

Benthic Ecology

- The Project explained in the ETG there was discussion over how UXO clearance was assessed. The Project have confirmed that they will undertake a qualitative assessment informed by the UXO recorded at local projects (Hornsea Zone and Triton Knoll). There was also discussion of the delineation of the biogenic reef from the data and how to make more robust. From these discussions evidence will be presented at the November ETG and within the ES.
- The Project confirmed without-prejudice compensation work is ongoing and the Project are engaging with strategic and project-alone measures.

Marine Mammals

- The Project confirmed the ES baseline has the SCANS IV data included.
- The Project explained that they are proposing no more ETG meetings for this topic as the Section 42 comments and feedback have been taken into account and the Project have presented their position and there are no topics where further discussion will be of benefit.
 - KS explained the MMO have not populated the PADSs yet and would like to consult with Cefas before commenting.
 - **ACTION: MMO to consult with Cefas and teams and provide written response on the proposal to hold no further Marine Mammals ETG meetings.**

Offshore Ornithology

- The Project explained that technical notes and position papers will be issued for review.
- The Project confirmed that they are progressing with project level and strategic level compensation measures for the kittiwake feature of the FFC SPA.
 - GA asked for a high-level overview of the artificial nesting structures.
 - The Project explained that they are part of the plan level group with TCE for kittiwakes and are under NDA but there is a draft of the plan in progress. The Project also have other measures in progress and Auks measures are ongoing and discussions will soon be held due to confidentiality.
- GA queried whether DCO land rights needed are required for any compensation measures?
 - The Project explained that seabed rights are required rather than land rights. One measure is potentially on shore but does not require land rights.
 - TA explained if any potential measures involve repurposing historic structures then Historic England should be consulted. The Project confirmed that this was not currently being planned.

Summary of Ongoing Work

- The Project provided an overview of the ongoing work.
- CD asked whether for the topic groups with ongoing discussions there is the possibility for an additional ETG round past November?
 - The Project explained that if required then additional meetings will be held. It was added that part of the proposed restructuring of ETG topic meetings was to allow for more discussions on the topics requiring this and freeing up stakeholder time to focus on these key issues.

Next Steps

- The Project confirmed the engagement plans are to be issued shortly.
- The Project added that the EPP schedule will be reviewed and confirmed.
- CD asked whether there will be another steering group meeting?
 - The Project confirmed another steering group meeting will be held after the next round of ETG meetings.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--|----------------|---------|
| 7/8/23 | ODOW to set up an engagement plan for the EPP up until examination. | ODOW | Ongoing |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--|-----------------|---------|
| 7/8/23 | The Inspectorate (HL) to inform stakeholders of the feedback mechanism for the Early Adopters Programme. | PINS (HL) | Closed |
| 7/8/23 | ODOW (PN) to provide Natural England with a timescale of when the Project would be able to utilise a template of parameters within the ES assessments. | ODOW (PN) | Ongoing |
| 7/8/23 | ODOW to discuss within team an approach the ES cumulative assessment and discuss with the EPP members. | ODOW | Ongoing |
| 7/8/23 | ODOW to provide a timeframe for reporting on the geoarchaeological analysis of the geotechnical survey planned for 2024. | ODOW | Ongoing |
| 19/10/23 | Natural England to provide formal feedback on whether the EPP can cease some of the ETG topic meetings as proposed by ODOW. | Natural England | New |
| 19/10/23 | ODOW to write to all ETG attendees with a list of which topics they propose an additional ETG meeting for and which ones they propose would not benefit from an additional meeting and confirm if they are happy with this approach. | ODOW | New |
| 19/10/23 | ODOW to check the ToR for the process of retiring ETG topics. | ODOW | New |
| 19/10/23 | MMO to consult with Cefas and teams and provide written response on the proposal to hold no further Marine Mammals ETG meetings | MMO | New |

/End

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Evidence Plan Process Steering Group |
| ODOW Ref: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0057 |
| Date: | 1 st February 2024 |
| Time: | 0900hrs to 1100hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <p>Gideon Amos (GA)– Amoseillis Consulting, EPP SG Chair Mike Rigby (MR) - Amoseillis Consulting (observer only) Sheldon Ven (SV) - Amoseillis Consulting (observer only) Greg Tomlinson (GT) - ODOW Roisin Alldis (RA) - ODOW Andy Gregory (AG) – ODOW (SLR) Ali Stewart (AS) – ODOW (SLR) Phil New (PN) – ODOW (GoBe) Michelle Priestly (MP) – ODOW (GoBe) Laura Vickery (LV) – ODOW (GoBe) Paul Lane (PL) - Natural England Adam Chambers (AC) - Natural England Helen Mann (HM) - Natural England Lou Burton (LB) - Natural England Martin Kerby (MK) - Natural England Emma Shore (ES) – MMO Karrie Schnetler (KS) - MMO Chris Pater (CP) – Historic England Neil McBride (NM) – LCC Annette Hewitson (AH) – Environmental Agency Stephanie Newman (SN) - The Planning Inspectorate Sam Dewar (SD) – DPA (on behalf of Local Planning Authorities)</p> |
| Apologies: | <p>Tim Allen – Historic England Marie Shoesmith and Claire Deery - The Planning Inspectorate</p> |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

- ODOW provided an overview of the Programme.
 - ODOW explained that the Project have undertaken five statutory consultations. These have been the Phase 1, Phase 1a (consultation on the alternative onshore export cable corridor (ECC) route),Phase 2 consultation, Autumn Consultation r and most recently a targeted consultation in December 2023 to January 2024 which targeted minor changes to the proposed onshore order limits.
 - ODOW confirmed that the DCO is due to be submitted late February. Any changes to this will be advised as soon as possible.

Order Limits

Offshore Refinements

- ODOW confirmed that none of the changes had the effect of extending the order limits previously consulted upon.
- ODOW explained that the array area has been refined by reducing and sloping the northern boundary. This was primarily driven by shipping and navigation receptors and the cumulative impact with other OWFs. This also reduces the potential displacement impacts to guillemot
- ODOW confirmed that there have been minor changes to the ECC, noting the ECC has narrowed to avoid potential interactions with other users such as an aggregate option area.
- ODOW explained that the northern artificial nesting structure (ANS) area has had the area for the Hornsea Four structure removed.
- ODOW explained that the potential areas for the biogenic reef recreation have been refined from the full extent of the SAC to smaller areas across the SAC of suitable habitat.
- GA asked whether there had been any updates to the offshore reactive compensation platforms (ORCP)
 - ODOW confirmed there have been two minor updates. Within the northern area the eastern side had reduced due to shipping and navigation receptors and within the southern area a triangle had been removed from ORCP area and offshore ECC due to the need to avoid an area under an option agreement with The Crown Estate for aggregate dredging.
 - ODOW also confirmed that the northern or southern legs of the ECC are options and only one would be used, e.g. there will be up to two structures in a single ORCP area only.
- CP asked whether the offshore order limits encompassed all the areas described?
 - ODOW explained that all are included, and the Works Plans to be submitted as part of the DCO application will make this clearer.

Onshore Refinements

- ODOW explained that the ECC route is split into segments for the assessment.
- ODOW provided an overview of the onshore substation design review process.
 - ODOW confirmed that the design review process had begun with the identification of draft design principles and through the site selection process and that the review process has commenced.
 - ODOW confirmed that landscaping is a key element of the design solutions planned around the Project substation.
 - ODOW confirmed that a Local Design Panel (LDP) has been initiated with a purpose to engage with local communities and stakeholders to refine and develop the design in line with their Outline Design Principles Statement.
- GA asked whether further detail could be provided on the process following consent?
 - ODOW explained that a Design Approach Document and Design Principles Statement (DPS) will be submitted alongside the DCO application and are the basis for the design review process. The DPS will be consulted on and refined throughout the application, examination and post-consent process with the relevant LPA being the discharging authority on the final design of the OnSS as per the relevant requirement of the DCO, once made.

- ODOW added that an Independent (external) design review panel will also review the designs.
- MK queried why compensation sites were included in the offshore order limits but not within the onshore?
 - ODOW explained that only two of the suite of measures proposed for offshore are looking to be consented through the DCO. This is due to the progression of the measure and the ability to undertake a meaningful assessment. Work is ongoing in relation to the other measures and the Project will continue work to add confidence in the security of the measures and relevant consents will be sought after DCO submission through other relevant consenting and licensing regimes as required and as has been the norm for other projects to date.
 - GA explained that historically the consent for compensation measures has been separate from/after DCO submission so it is encouraging that some of the compensation measures are being progressed as part of the DCO at this stage, explaining that this will help provide the SoS with confidence in the measures, but noted that other consents are frequently needed alongside the DCO as the regime was generally unable to capture every related consent within the same application.

Evidence Plan

- ODOW provided an update on the evidence plan process (EPP) and the recent meetings held in November 2023. Noting that marine mammals, seascape landscape visual impact assessment and socio-economic, and geology and ground conditions topics were not taken forward for a final November ETG following stakeholder agreement.
- ODOW explained that multipartite meetings had been held with Natural England and the Planning Inspectorate to discuss Benthic and Offshore Ornithology Compensation in January 2024.

Overview of Expert Topic Groups (ETGs)

- ODOW provided an overview of the Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Health and Socio-Economics ETG held on 20th November 2023.
- ODOW provided an overview of the Onshore Ecology, Hydrology and Land Use ETG held 30th November 2023
- GA asked when the two years of onshore ornithology survey data will be complete and analysed.
 - ODOW explained that as much as possible of the data will be included in the ES. The Project confirmed that at the end of March the full two years of data will be complete and submitted into the examination.
- LB raised that, regarding impacts to protected species licences, some other projects get letters of no impediment before applications are submitted. It was explained that there is a 45-day turnaround excluding reviews and any issues needing to be resolved. Therefore this is a concern and could be an issue within examination.
 - ODOW explained that these applications will be made as soon as possible and that the timescales are noted.
- ODOW provided an update on the Landscape Visual Assessment ETG held 20th November 2023.
- ODOW provided an update on the Marine and Onshore Archaeology & Cultural Heritage ETG held 30th November 2024.

- ODOW confirmed that the onshore geophysical survey work is ongoing and the team are back on site to finish.
- ODOW gave an update on the offshore archaeology data analysis, noting that the assessment has been updated for the revised compensation areas as well.
- CP explained that regarding the method statement for marine archaeology to support planned work for 2024, they encourage the ongoing discussion. They asked whether all the areas shown previously (including ANS and biogenic reef) will be within the DCO.
- ODOW confirmed that all areas are included in the DCO save for the minor refinements noted earlier in the meeting. Project geotechnical surveys have been conducted for the offshore ECC and Array. Other available sources have been used to inform assessments for the ANS and biogenic reef areas and the Project have committed to appropriate mitigation to remove any uncertainty, such as micro siting.
- ODOW provided an update on the Marine Ecology & Coastal Processes and Derogation & Compensation ETG held 8th November 2023
 - ODOW confirmed the blockage modelling has been updated to reflect only 50% of structures using gravity base structure foundations.
 - ODOW also confirmed that they have undertaken a sediment mobility study which will be confidential due to commercially sensitive information but shared with Natural England, MMO and the Planning Inspectorate.
 - ODOW confirmed that Envision have been contracted to undertake reanalysis for Sabellaria evidence and Natural England have offered to review this data.
 - Following feedback from a workshop in January with Natural England the Project will include a without prejudice HRA Derogation case for biogenic reef.
 - ODOW also confirmed that the Project will be submitting an outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP) for UXO alongside application.
- ODOW provided an update on the Offshore Ornithology and Derogation & Compensation ETG held 16th November 2023
 - ODOW explained that a lot of the discussions on the methodology approaches were further discussed in January workshop with Natural England and where there is not an aligned position on methodology both will be provided at application.
 - MK asked whether the ORCP is within the Greater Wash SPA and whether the Project have assessed the potential impact on red throated divers (RTD).
 - ODOW confirmed the ORCPs do sit in Greater Wash SPA. This has been raised previously by NE and potential impacts on RTD from the ORCP have been assessed as part of the ES and relevant HRA documents. They noted that due to the Inner Dowsing Race Bank North Ridge Special Area of Conservation (IDRBNR SAC) the possible locations of the ORCP were constrained – i.e. ODOW took a decision early in project development not to locate ORCPs within the IDRBNR SAC.
 - MK asked whether the ORCPs are within the displacement of neighbouring projects.
 - PN noted that if the southern route was used, the ORCP search is adjacent to Lynn, Inner Dowsing and Lincs offshore wind farms whereas the Northern area is more isolated from existing infrastructure.
 - MK suggested this was mapped against those projects which may already be having an impact on the SPA.

- ODOW provided an update on the Benthic and Ornithology Compensation Workshop held 9th January 2024.
 - ODOW explained the purpose of the workshop was to discuss without prejudice compensation measures as well as the full compensation case for kittiwake.
- MK explained that without seeing the full assessment, Natural England are unable to confirm no material contribution threshold.
 - ODOW confirmed the species that they are considering to have no material contribution and therefore no adverse effect (and no without-prejudice case being developed) are gannet, sandwich tern and lesser black-backed gull (LBBG).
 - MK confirmed that Natural England consider effects on gannet make no material contribution so the Project will not be required to provide compensation in respect of this species/habitat. However, Sandwich tern and LBBG may need to be considered once the Project assessment is reviewed. NE suggested that the Project discuss with other projects where compensation is required such as Sheringham & Dudgeon Extension (sandwich tern) and, North Falls and Five Estuaries (LBBG) to look at a collaborative approach.
 - ODOW confirmed that discussions have been held and will look to progress where needed.
- GA asked for clarification that the Project are applying on basis of no adverse effect.
 - ODOW confirmed that due to small impacts predicated, the Project are concluding no adverse effect on these features (gannet, sandwich tern and LBBG) and therefore not presenting a without prejudice HRA derogation case at application. The Project added that throughout the EPP no specific concerns have been raised.

EPP Terms Of Reference - Agreement Logs (Consultation Logs)

- ODOW explained that the EPP consultation logs previously are being updated and reformatted following feedback from Natural England. It was added that these will be appended as part of the ES and will present the applicants view of the discussions. The Principal Areas of Disagreement Statement (PADS) (where relevant) will present the stakeholder view.
- LB asked the Planning Inspectorate to clarify the expectations for stakeholders regarding the consultation logs. Noting that before application stakeholders will not be able to sign off and agree the logs.
 - SN explained that the expectation varies across the projects. This process has allowed the projects to undertake the early adopters scheme elements as they think best as a trial.
 - ODOW noted that the PINS Early Adopters Programme (EAP) and PADS system commenced late in the EPP process and future applications would likely benefit from these elements from project inception.
- HM and MK raised concerns about the time for stakeholder sign off and the increasing amount of logs with potential duplication or conflicting information. They asked that the SoCG are kept to a minimum.
 - GA added that the early EAP is about trialing different approaches. Examination is where the disagreements are narrowed and there is a risk of several processes colliding and overlapping. Lots of tables and documents could distract from the disagreements being narrowed down.

- SN explained they understand the concerns and will pass this feedback onto the team.
- ODOW explained that they have been providing feedback to the PINS on the EAP as well and encourage others too.

Next Steps

- ODOW confirmed that the EPP has now concluded and the cut off period for input into the ES has now passed.
- ODOW confirmed bilateral engagement will progress where relevant.
- MK explained that from Natural England’s perspective it can be hard to engage further as feedback will not feed into submission. NE requested if the Project can structure discussions so they do not conflict with relevant representations. Adding that Natural England would prefer a written note approach.
 - ODOW confirmed this has been understood.
- MK asked whether the PADS are able to be amended following the additional information from this meeting.
 - GA explained that the EPP is a point in time and the examination dialogue will continue.
 - **ACTION: ODOW to confirm if PADS can be amended. *Post meeting note – ODOW and NE met to discuss PADS and ODOW confirmed the PADS can be updated.***

ODOW thanked all attendees for their time and resource throughout the process.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|---|----------------|---------|
| 7/8/23 | ODOW to set up an engagement plan for the EPP up until examination. | ODOW | Closed/ |
| 7/8/23 | The Inspectorate (HL) to inform stakeholders of the feedback mechanism for the Early Adopters Programme. | PINS (HL) | Ongoing |
| 1/2/24 | ODOW to confirm to Natural England if PADS can be amended | ODOW | Closed |

/End

A coastal landscape featuring a path of white sand and sparse vegetation leading towards a beach. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, suggesting an overcast day. The foreground is dominated by tall, dry grasses and small shrubs, with the path cutting through them.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex B Part 10 of 11

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024


Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex B – Part 10 of 11

Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Noise & Health and Socio-economics Expert Topic Group Minutes

| | |
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|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Noise & Health and Socio-economics ETG |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000287-01 |
| Date: | 19th July 2022 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1600hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <p>Lincolnshire County Council: Ian Field (IF), Ian George (IG), Johanna Rhoades (JR)</p> <p>ODOW: Beth Travis (BT), Rachel Furlong (RF), Roisin Alldis (RA)</p> <p>SLR: Andy Gregory (AG), Daniel Moran (DM), Anne Dugdale (AD), Lucy Boulton (LB), Benedict Sarton (BS)</p> <p>GoBe: Rona McCann (RM)</p> <p>BiGGAR Economics: Simon Cleary (SC)</p> |
| Apologies: | <p>ODOW: Jean-Côme SOL (JC), Chris Jenner (CJ),</p> <p>GoBe: Steve Bellew (SB), Julia Bolton (JB)</p> |
| Circulation: | External |

Introduction to ODOW

- All attendees gave a brief introduction before moving onto the Project introductions.
- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (The Project) was awarded Preferred Bidder status for a 1.5 GW site in the southern North Sea as part of The Crown Estate's Round 4 leasing process.
- ODOW aim to promote environmental stewardship while contributing to UK government goal of reaching 50 GW of renewable energy by 2030.

Project Update - Communications

- ODOW have recently launched the Project website – www.outerdowsing.com
- ODOW have created a Project email address – contact@outerdowsing.com
- Engagement with Local MPs & Councillors underway, with briefing sessions scheduled
- Engagement with landowners has also commenced.

Project Update – Connection Options

- The Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR), is an ongoing process, initiated by BEIS and Ofgem and led by National Grid to consider existing offshore transmission regime and to address the barriers it presents to further significant deployment of offshore wind, with a view to achieving net zero ambitions.
- The draft results of the Holistic Design Network (HND) were published on 7th July 2022 and concluded that two connection options for ODOW be considered: a connection Lincs Node

(previously known as East Midlands Connection) with a connection date of 2031, or alternatively a connection to Weston Marsh with a connection date of 2028/29.

- A final decision on the connection location will be taken by National Grid, with a decision expected in Sept 2022.
- The Scoping Report Boundary therefore includes both connection locations (as presented in the accompanying slide pack).
- Environmental and engineering constraints mapping has narrowed down the possible landfall connections which in turn will influence the routing of the potential export cable corridor.
- Due to the location of Triton Knoll there is a challenge in avoiding Silver Pitt which is unviable from an engineering and challenging from an ecological perspective (noting currently consultation on designated Silver Pit a Highly Protected Marine Area (HPMA)). This is pushing the offshore cable route south of Triton Knoll and as a result, the geophysical surveys will continue in this area, at project risk, to ensure the project is moving as proactively as possible in collecting environmental information.

Project Update - Programme

- Submission of scoping before the end July 2022.
- Onshore surveys to commence end of August/September 2022.
- EPP meetings being held in July 2022, and will be used to engage with stakeholders on approach to scoping, identification of scoping boundary and proposed consultation feedback.
- DCO submission is currently scheduled for Q4 2023.

Onshore Scoping Report Boundary

- Environmental constraints mapping has narrowed down the possible landfall connections which in turn will influence the potential cable routes to be used.
- As both Lincolnshire Node and Weston Marsh connection options are included, the area of search for the Scoping Report spans between these areas.
- The scoping boundary is intentionally kept wide at present, to allow for route refinement as additional surveys are undertaken and for consultation feedback.
- Open source information has been assessed as well as site visits to validate information.

Traffic & Transport

- Desk based review of data sourced from DfT/LCC will be used to inform the Scoping Report.
- New, classified, data on traffic, turning counts and queue lengths will be used to inform subsequent PEIR and EIA stages.
- The peaks months will be used to build up a 'worst case' scenario in terms of traffic and HGV seasonality.
- Guidance on Environmental Appraisal of Road Traffic will be followed throughout the EIA process for the ODOW Project.
- A suite of documents outlining the embedded mitigation measures will be produced when assessing the potential impacts on Traffic & Transport.
- The following potential impacts will be scoped out during the construction and cumulative stages of the ODOW Project:
 - Noise; and
 - Disruption to the railway.

- During the Operation & Maintenance, and decommissioning stages all potential impacts will be scoped out.
- Discussion points were shown to all attendees and a written response was requested by ODOW to all attendees.
- Lincolnshire County Council confirmed they will provide written responses to scoping questions for Traffic & Transport and all other topics covered later in the ETG, but thus far no issues have been identified.

Onshore Air Quality

- Desk based review of publicly available data will be used to inform the Scoping Report.
- The Area of Search (AoS) spans the following local authority areas:
 - East Lindsey District Council;
 - Boston Borough Council;
 - and South Holland District Council.
- Mitigation Measures for dust and for non-road mobile machinery (NRMM) will be applied.
- Emissions generated from offshore vessel movements will be scoped out during the construction and O&M phase.
- Emissions generated from the operation of NRMM will be scoped out during the construction phase, while traffic movements during the O&M phase will be scoped out.
- Traffic and offshore vessel movements will be scoped out for the decommissioning phase.

Noise & Vibration

- Once cable routes and substation locations have been confirmed, Survey locations will be distributed according to the closest noise-sensitive receptors to the landfall, onshore export cable route and onshore substations in agreement with Environmental Health Officers.
- Baseline sound monitoring will be combined with a review of any available baseline noise data from similar projects such as Triton Knoll.
- In accordance with best practice guidance, mitigation measures will be employed throughout each stage of the project.
- The following impacts will be scoped out:
 - Construction and decommissioning of the offshore extent of the ECR and the array areas to the nearest onshore noise-sensitive receptors.
 - Vibration effects from the O&M stages of the onshore substations, underground cables and array area.

Land Use

- Desk based review of publicly available data will be used to inform the Scoping Report with the key sources being Natural England and Defra.
- A key observation was that a significant area of the scoping boundary and area of search is made up of ALC grades 1 and 2 which are best and most versatile. It is noted that there will be temporary impacts on this land classification during construction which will need to be addressed through mitigation and will be discussed with the relevant stakeholders.
- Best practice measures will be incorporated as embedded mitigation in consultation with stakeholders.
- During the construction and decommissioning phases, highway infrastructure will be scoped out, while for operations and maintenance the following will be scoped out:

- Agricultural productivity from underground works
- Drainage
- Outdoor Recreation Land
- PRoW
- Tourism

Human Health

- Desk based review of publicly available data will be used to inform the Scoping Report.
- No baseline surveys have been proposed as the assessment for human health will combine other assessments (Geology and Ground Conditions, Land Use, Air Quality, Hydrology and Flood Risk, Noise and Vibration, Traffic and Transport and Socio-economics).
- The AoS will include all local populations which could have the potential to be affected during any stage of the ODOW Project.
- The general population and vulnerable groups will both be considered at a spatial scale in proportion to the project, aligning with the PHE Guidance.
- The public health priorities of each county council will be incorporated within the context of EMFs.
- Mitigation measures such as cable burial and adhering to appropriate Project Environment Management and Monitoring Plan (PEMMP) will minimize EMFs it's potential impact on human health, such that it will be scoped out of all phases of the assessment.
- In addition to EMFs, pests and odours will be scoped out of the scoping assessment.
- For O&M, the following additional impacts will be scoped out:
 - Air emissions (dust and emissions)
 - Water emissions
 - Soil emissions (including hazardous waste and substances)
 - Disruption to local road network (reduced access to services and amenities)


Socio-Economics, Tourism & Recreation

- Desk based review of publicly available data will be used to inform the Scoping Report.
- Metrics such as the Gross Value Added will be used to quantify economic impact of the ODOW Project, throughout all stages of the ODOW Project and categorized between direct, indirect and induced impacts.
- The onshore tourist attractions, recreational assets, marine recreation and local accommodation and hospitality will be considered in assessing the potential positive and negative impacts from the ODOW Project.
- The baseline will cover the potential impacts on a local and regional scale, covering Yorkshire and the Humber, and the East Midlands at the largest regional scale.
- On the smallest local scale, there is a population of 308,700 accounting for 3% of the regional area, with a higher accommodation and food services employment than in the regional area.
- Demographic and Service Demand Impacts, including short term accommodation demand are scoped out for the operation and decommissioning phases of the project.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| | | | |

/End

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|---|--|
|  | |
| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Health, Socio-Economics and Land Use Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000341-01 |
| Date: | 13 th October 2022 |
| Time: | 1000hrs to 1200hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | BiGGAR: Andrea Magnaghi (AM) Lincolnshire County Council: Johanna Rhoades (JR), Neil McBride (NM) ODOW: Roisin Alldis (RA) SLR: Alexandra Stewart (AS), Andy Gregory (AG), Ben Wyper (BW), Daniel Moran (DM), Jon Munns (JM), Lucy Boulton (LB) |
| Apologies: | BiGGAR: Simon Cleary (SC) Lincolnshire County Council: Ian Field (IF), Ian George (IG) National Highways: General Email ODOW: Beth Travis, Chris Jenner, Rachel Furlong SLR: Anne Dugdale (AD), Benedict Sarton (BS) |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

Project Update

- A single Development Consent Order (DCO) application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (The Inspectorate).
- The Project's grid connection location subject to the ongoing Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR).
- The OTNR is being led by BEIS alongside National Grid and relevant stakeholders.
- OTNR considering an efficient approach to network connections.
- The final Holistic Network Design report, issued in July 2022, recommended two possible connection points be considered for the Project; Lincolnshire Coastal Node (Lincs Node) and Weston Marsh.
- Final decision still pending with an update on the Project's connection offer expected in Autumn 2022.

Programme

- Scoping Report was submitted to The Inspectorate on 29th July with the Project receiving the Scoping Opinion from The Inspectorate on 9th September 2022.
- Ongoing reviews and analysis of responses are being undertaken by the Project and technical teams.
- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will be submitted Q1 2023.
- The Project will work with stakeholders through the Evidence Plan Process (EPP), ETGs and bilateral discussions to assist in informing PEIR.
- The Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report was submitted to relevant stakeholders on 3rd August.

- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) underwent an initial consultation in August, with a revised version issued in September. Comments are due from stakeholder by 13th October.
- Public information Days (PIDs) will be held in November 2022 and Spring 2023.
- Targeting DCO application submission in Q4 2023.

Surveys

- Of specific interest to this ETG, onshore surveys are ongoing and individual surveys were outlined throughout the topic specific sections.

Onshore PEIR Boundary

- Refined cable route and substation search zones post-scoping.
- Two cable routes from Landfall to both Lincolnshire Node and Weston Marsh substation search zones are still being considered.
- PEIR assessment will consider a 300m wide cable corridor in which the cables could be located within an assumed 80m temporary construction corridor and 60m permanent easement.
- Cable routing is being undertaken using a least-cost path analysis using environmental receptors as the key to be avoided. Detailed review of all known environmental constraints was undertaken before any engineering input so the route was defined on the most critical environmental receptors. Engineering team then further refined the route from an engineering perspective.

Socio-Economic – Scoping Opinion

- The main focus identified in the Scoping Opinion is the approach to impacts to decommissioning.

Scoping Opinion confirm agreement to Scope Out:

- Transboundary effects;
- Demographic and service demand during Operation and Maintenance (O&M) stages.

Key Scoping Opinion Comments:

- 1) Socio-Economics
 - Inclusion of demographic and services demands assessment during decommissioning unless demonstrated it's not required; and
 - Inclusion of impacts of decommissioning unless their exclusion is justified. Further clarification is needed for the perspective of decommissioning.
- 2) Tourism & Recreation
 - ES to demonstrate how temporary closures of tourism land use facilities during O&M would be avoided.
 - Assessment to be included in the ES for the effects of visual effects on offshore receptors during all phases of ODOW.
 - When drafting the chapters, the Socio-Economic team will work with the teams drafting the land use and LVIA chapters so that there is consideration of any interactions with what's outlined in those chapters.

Proposed Approach to Decommissioning

- This will be informed by both economic and demographic level:
 - Under a worst-case scenario, assumption is that the decommissioning impacts will be at most similar in magnitude to construction impacts;
 - Using Government-recommended discount factors would result in decommissioning impacts limited in scale (Greenbook guidance quantifies using a 3.5% discount rate, further impacts are in the future the greater the impact of discounting); and
 - Lack of information on available decommissioning technology at the time and knowledge of future baseline.
- Decommissioning is assumed to be a reverse of the construction phase and installation of turbines.
- Demographic impacts will also base assumptions on worst case scenario such as port activity or temporary immigration and will be similar to the construction period.
- Additional details on the decommissioning approach will be outlined in the Decommissioning Programme.
- **ACTION: Agreement will be required with the relevant stakeholders on the proposed approach to decommissioning.**

Effect of Discounting on Project Impact Magnitude Figure

- An illustrative example is provided of the impact that using a discount factor has on the magnitude of the impacts considered.
- The example for using a 3.5% discount rate indicates that by the time the decommissioning phase occurs, the impacts are vastly discounted.

Socio-Economics Next Steps

- 1) Agree on approach to how to responses to scoping report are addressed;
- 2) Agreement on addressing the Scoping Opinion comments;
- 3) Inform data collection exercise around initial cost estimates;
- 4) Defining worst-case scenarios for each impact considered; and
- 5) Drafting PEIR chapter.

Socio-Economics Stakeholder Questions

- **ACTION: Do you agree with the proposed approach to decommissioning?**
- **ACTION: Is there any other issues from a socio-economic perspective you'd like to raise at this stage?**
- Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) outlined that with respect of tourism for other cable routes in area (such as Viking Link), there were concerns when cable route is constructed. LCC further asked:
 - 1) How likely can the construction works avoid the tourism season?
 - 2) What sort of mitigations could be put in place to ensure construction works have minimal effects on tourism industry?
 - 3) Is there scope to avoid construction works taking place in Summer period?
- SLR queried what were the main concerns for the other projects (e.g. traffic users and movements; construction workers taking up beds; inaccessibility)?
- LCC outlined that where the tourism season clashes with the construction works which may reduce the number of tourists in the area in the season. Local businesses were concerned

potentially losing income due to works taking place to avoid the area during construction on other similar projects.

- SLR outlined that embedded mitigation measures considered as part of the Project such as a haul road constructed through the length of the cable route which will encourage construction traffic off main roads. It is suggested that this may mitigate the vast majority of these concerns.
- **ACTION: The Project team to input into the tourist section of the PEIR and ES, the duration of works will need to be considered with engineering input to balance both requirements.**
- SLR suggested that with the ongoing beach replenish works currently ongoing, there may be scope to look at the existing works and compare these to the Project works as the area of the beach which will have works on will be smaller than the area currently shown on the plan to give locals and idea of the scale of the works and likely affect.
- **ACTION: Discuss internally with the Project team the potential to review existing works and compare these to the Project.**
- LCC queried if the works around the landfall point at Wolla Bank will impact on the county's coastal park? Suggested a similar concern around timing and possible mitigation measures.
- SLR outlined that the Project is still currently under design phase and the section from the west side of the road to the beach is under consideration to be engineered using trenchless techniques, with the aim to bypass this area and reduce any direct effect on the land and the area can remain open.

Traffic and Transport – Scoping Opinion

Scoping Opinion confirm agreement to Scope Out:

- Construction traffic noise;
- Anticipated road vehicle movements during O&M;
- Significant impacts on Traffic and Transport (T&T) during decommissioning;
- Cumulative traffic noise to be addressed in noise chapter;
- Transboundary effects unlikely to occur as effects are likely to be localized.

Scoping Opinion confirms areas of disagreement

- Two linking points around disruption to the railway services during construction and cumulative disruption were raised as areas of disagreement.
- SLR outlined that discussions between T&T team and engineering team around engineering techniques used around this infrastructure ongoing.
- Discussions will be progressed with National Rail on this and technical business clearance and asset protection clearance with the aim to keep the line open and avoid any disruption, with the aim to scope this out.

Traffic and Transport PEIR

The T&T section of the PEIR is anticipated to include:

- Relevant legislative and policy content;
- Consultation and stakeholder comments;
- Relevant standards and guidance;
- Scope and assessment methodologies including:

- Worst case scenario for each section of the two routes agreed for PEIR and number of vehicle movements to and from these sections in isolation and cumulative impacts;
- Any embedded mitigation measures including outline traffic management plan, outline construction management plan, for Public Rights of Way (PRoW) access management plan outline including haul roads and diversions; and
- Any assumptions and limitations;
- Details of baseline traffic surveys including accident traffic data review across networks;
- Results of the assessments (for example: delay, community severance, dust and dirt, users of PRoW, pedestrian amenity, road safety); and
- Cumulative effects of other projects ongoing.

Traffic and Transport Next Steps

Actions since last ETG:

- Reviewed Scoping Opinion comments and discussed key issue around rail network;
- An initial site visit has been undertaken to look at substation locations; a second site visit to look at access routes and sensitive receptors and potential ways of avoiding more sensitive routes and urban areas to feed into project design is ongoing;
- 5 x baseline traffic surveys were completed in August looking at potential uplift in traffic during summer months. Locations are being resurveyed to look at any factors between the two data sets; and
- 25 other automatic traffic counters have been placed across the route for a week to gather data across all access routes.

Traffic and Transport - Next Steps

- To look at other PRoW which may be affected and a strategy for managing these.
- Once the data is received and traffic inputs are discussed with the Project team, the assessments will be reviewed to feed into the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- Review of mitigating traffic during summer months, looking at longer haul roads to avoid certain areas to reduce traffic numbers on highway network which will form part of the assessment.
- Identify the engineering techniques being used at each crossing (open trenched or trenchless techniques) which will feed into the assessment.

Traffic and Transport Stakeholder Questions

- LCC confirmed that Ian Field may want to provide additional feedback following issue of the ETG slides and minutes.
- LCC offered assistance in providing the Council team contact details who can provide a definitive list of the PRoW network.
- LCC added that from observation on other projects, it is at the construction stage when most complaints for traffic are received. LCC suggested the Project should provide their commitments and outline what measures will be put in place so that construction traffic follow the allocated routes.
- SLR confirmed that the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan will set out a range of measures that would be implemented during construction and an outline Travel Plan to

minimise these movements. Final versions of these documents will be prepared post consent, with firm details of the measures to be implemented.

Land Use – Scoping Opinion

Scoping Opinion confirm agreement to Scope Out:

- Highways infrastructure – construction will be assessed as part of T&T to avoid duplication;
- Outdoor recreation – operation agreed to be scoped out as this will mainly be affected during the construction stage;
- PRoW – Operation will mainly be affected during the construction stage;
- Tourism – Operation to be scoped out on the basis the ES demonstrates how closures to tourism and land use facilities, particularly camping and caravan sites would be avoided; and
- Transboundary land use effects.

Areas for further discussion

- Agricultural Productivity
 - The Inspectorate requested the effects on farm holdings or businesses may be assessed. It was suggested that subject to agreement, this assessment may be assessed within the socio-economic chapter.
- Further impacts scoped into assessment
 - The scope will be developed throughout the consultation stages and refer back to the relevant guidance.
- Potential effects of loss or damage to soil function
 - The Inspectorate outlined the potential effects of loss or damage to soil function should be assessed additionally to agricultural yield. It is suggested that this may be assessed within the Geology and Ground Conditions chapter, subject to agreement.

Scoping Opinion confirms areas of disagreement

- Drainage and productivity – Operation
 - Aimed to scope out this impact mainly due to the fact that the impact of drainage of the farm businesses and productivity would be reinstated by operational stage, once the cables are installed the land would be reinstated to its previous condition.
- The Inspectorate have requested further information on this which will be outlined in a Soil Management Plan and in the Construction Environmental Management Plan.

Land Use PEIR

Areas for discussion:

- **ACTION: A discussion is needed with the relevant stakeholder on whether aspects raised within the Land Use chapter would be better assessed within other chapters where similar elements and assessments are included to:**
 - Remove the risk of duplication and confusion which was raised in the Scoping Opinion;
 - Streamline the PEIR and ES which may result in the Land Use chapter being removed altogether as below:
 - The Geology Chapter may include:

- Agricultural land classification and potential impacts on soil and agriculture;
- Discussion and assessment on the BMV soils, principle of good soil handling and best practice and
- Mitigation measures for preservation and protection of soils.
- The Socio-Economic or Traffic and Transport Chapter may include:
 - Private property and housing;
 - Community land and assets;
 - Development land and business;
 - Agricultural land holdings;
 - Tourism; and
 - Walkers, cyclists and horse-riders (including users of PRow).

Land Use Stakeholder Questions

- LCC suggested that the preference would be that Land Use retains its own chapter, particularly outlining ALC, BMV land, land classification for clarity to stakeholders for finding the information.
- LCC outlined that with food security being a sensitive topic at present for Lincolnshire County Council, they are keen to understand the impacts and what mitigation measures are in place to reduce this.
- LCC queried is there a suggestion that when the land is restored there would not be an overall loss of land?
- SLR outlined that the construction of a substation would result in permanent losses of agricultural land. For the purposes of the cable route, the Project is anticipating temporary effects which with implementation of the soil management plan, the correct reinstatement of soil horizons and drainage structures, the land is anticipated to recover to its original condition.
- SLR queried whether following other similar projects such as Triton Knoll, there have been any issues raised by landowners or feedback that the land is being effected or yields have differed and if soil management has been successful. The LCC confirmed that no feedback has been provided which suggested this has been an issue.

Human Health – Scoping Opinion

Scoping Opinion confirm agreement to Scope Out:

- Impact from dust and traffic emissions – O&M;
- Impacts from emissions to water – O&M;
- Impacts from emissions to soil (including hazardous waste and substances) – O&M), with the exception that measures to address impacts from unplanned maintenance should be described in the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP);
- Disruption to local road networks including reduced access to services and amenities – O&M;
- Impacts from exposure to EMF – alone and cumulative it has been agreed that the ES will demonstrate the electrical infrastructure will remain below negligible levels in line with the relevant guidelines;
- Impacts from pests;
- Impacts from odours;

- Transboundary effects; and
- Standalone Major Accidents and Disasters – the Project has agreed to undertake a hazard study to identify potential issues coming from the project and the environment effected by the Project. This will follow a risk matrix style to deed back into the design and identify where risks can be mitigated against at an early stage.

Areas for further discussion:

- Cumulative impacts – non-radioactive effects
 - Weekly review of planning data bases is ongoing which will help identify any current or future projects which could contribute to a cumulative effect;
 - **ACTION: SLR requested knowledge and feedback from the Council of any other Projects are upcoming or ongoing which may need to be considered here.**
- ETGs will be ongoing along with consultation with relevant consultation bodies including the UK Health Security Agency to inform this chapter.

Further detail to be included in the PEIR and ES

- Census Data
 - Most up to date census data to be used, baseline will use June 2022 data for PEIR.
 - Depending on when further data is received, the Project will look to update this for the final ES.
- Study Area
 - In PEIR, the specific study area will be defined with regards to local populations which have the potential to be affected.
 - Ongoing consultation through the ETGs will help to inform this.

Human Health Next Steps

- Continued engagement with the relevant stakeholders including the UK Health Security Agency and PEIR assessment and chapter preparation is ongoing.
- The Project team raised that given there are no outstanding areas of disagreement, would stakeholders be comfortable that Human Health was no longer discussed at the ETGs. During the ETG it was discussed and agreed that Human Health would continue to be a part of the ETGs particularly due to needing further consultation from Sean Johnson from the Lincolnshire County Council and the number of the attendees on the ETG call.
- **ACTION: The Project team to circulate the ETG minutes and slides to Sean Johnson and include them on the list for future ETGs including in December.**

Human Health Stakeholder Questions

- The LCC provided comment around the cumulative impacts raising the NSIP schemes in proximity to the Project included Boston Alternative Energy NSIP which a decision is due on Friday 14th October, however this has been delayed.
- **ACTION: GoBe to review the Boston Alternative Energy Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and consider within the relevant PEIR Chapter assessments.**
- LCC also raised the Lincolnshire Green Project, discussion that this project is included in ongoing Project discussions around the grid connection.

Noise and Vibration – Scoping Opinion

Key Scoping Opinion Comments:

- Baseline sound data for Triton Knoll may be referenced within the Noise and Vibration chapter;
- SPA's and SSSI's noise sensitivity comment will be assessed at high sensitivity within the PEIR;
- HDD crossings at watercourse crossings will be included in a trenchless noise and vibration assessment in addition to the railway and major road crossings;
- Site construction compounds within the construction noise assessment will be included;
- Cumulative assessment will take into account all elements of the onshore works; and
- The Inspectorate requested that an operational vibration assessment of the onshore substation should be undertaken, which was previously scoped out. On previous assessments qualitative assessments have been undertaken and a similar approach will be applied here.

Scoping Opinion confirm agreement to Scope Out:

- A construction and decommissioning noise assessment of the offshore elements of the Project (Turbines);
- An operational noise assessment of the offshore elements of the Project (Turbines);
- An operational noise and vibration assessment of the underground cables; and
- Any transboundary noise and vibration assessments or effects.

Noise and Vibration PEIR

The Noise and Vibration section of the PEIR is anticipated to include:

- Relevant legislation and policy;
- Consultation and Scoping Opinion comments;
- Relevant standards and guidance;
- Scope and assessment methodologies:
 - Worst-case scenario for elements of the Project including where the substation boundary peripheries may be at PEIR;
 - Any embedded mitigation measures; and
 - Assumptions and limitations.
- Baseline sound surveys may be included at PEIR stage where possible at the substation locations and Landfall. The Export Cable Corridor (ECC) will use absolute levels for construction noise where baseline sound data is not available; and
- High level results of construction and operational assessment for the Landfall, the ECC and the substation including any initial potential adverse impacts which are identified and the results of the cumulative noise assessments with high level conclusions.

Noise and Vibration Next Steps

Actions since the last ETG meeting

- The route has been defined and substation areas determined and the approximate location of ECC crossing points (including for watercourses, major roads and railways) have been identified for noise surveys.

- A detailed desktop analysis is currently ongoing of the potential baseline sound monitoring locations based on the above.

Next Steps for PEIR

- Following the determination of the baseline sound monitoring locations, a scoping document will be submitted to the relevant stakeholders for approval outlining the proposed monitoring locations and assessment methodologies.
- Once approved, the baseline sound monitoring will commence.

Next round of ETGs:

- The Project team anticipate being able to:
 - Feedback on the sound monitoring locations;
 - Discuss any initial results from monitoring; and
 - Outline any initial findings from noise modelling and any predicted impacts we can see initially.

Noise and Vibration Stakeholder Questions

- The LCC asked whether feedback being provided from East Lindsay and South Holland Environmental Health Teams?
- Noise Team confirmed this is part of the scoping process, this will be circulated to them as part of the group of relevant stakeholders.
- **ACTION: SLR to circulate the scoping document to all relevant stakeholders for approval outlining the proposed monitoring locations and assessment methodologies ensuring all the necessary stakeholders are asked to provide comment.**

Air Quality – Scoping Opinion

Scoping Opinion confirm areas of agreement:

- Qualitative construction dust assessment; and
- Screening of construction vehicle movements.

Scoping Opinion areas for further consideration is required:

- Use of non-road mobile machinery (NRMM) during the construction phase;
- Potential for offshore vessel movements to impact on onshore receptors (both human and ecological) during the construction and operational phases;
- Operational phase traffic movements;
- Decommissioning phase traffic movements and other works associated with decommissioning;
- Whether a project specific air quality monitoring survey which is required, this is on the availability and suitability of other baseline monitors. This requires a review to determine the need for a project specific survey; and
- Assessment of in-combination effects on national and local designated ecological sites – this was initially scoped out due to the requirement only being for internationally or European designated sites.
- **ACTION: Air Quality Team to seek agreement with the relevant Environmental Health teams and agree an approach on the areas for further consideration.**

Air Quality PEIR

The Air Quality section of the PEIR is anticipated to include:

- Consult with relevant consultees to seek agreement on proposed methodology;
- Review existing baseline air quality and publicly available data sets then complete a review to confirm whether supplementary project specific surveys are needed;
- Qualitative assessment of NRMM emissions on sensitive receptors;
- Qualitative assessment of construction dust impacts on sensitive receptors;
- Screening of road traffic emissions using flows from T&T team for the construction phase;
- Construction phase vehicle flows will be compared against potential flows for operational phase which are expected to be much lower;
- Decommissioning activities – review of the potential traffic movements, likely to be a qualitative comparative exercise whereby the construction phase is assumed as worst case and therefore decommissioning phase movements would have a lesser impact in comparison;
- Consideration of cumulative impacts where necessary;
- Offshore vessel movements – review of which port will be used and locations of onshore receptors in relation to this and additional consultation with relevant stakeholders on this topic to agree approach; and
- Mitigation in response to above assessments.
- All of the assessments will be undertaken according to the relevant guidance and will be agreed with relevant stakeholders prior to submission.

Air Quality PEIR Boundary

- Two AQMAs in Boston are the two relevant ones for the PEIR Boundary.

Air Quality Next Steps

Actions since the last ETG:

- The Scoping Opinion has been reviewed and the items which have been raised for consideration; and
- Air Quality team have provided input into the substation locations options.

Next Steps

- Collate publicly available data and design inputs to inform the PEIR;
- Review the need for potential project specific air quality surveys; and
- Consult with the key statutory consultees on the additional Scoping Opinion requirements including Local Authority Environmental health, the Environment Agency / Natural England in relation to ecologically designated sites.

Air Quality Stakeholder Questions

- The LCC queried whether dust from construction phase be considered? Also, will the relevant mitigation measures be implemented?
- The Air Quality Team confirmed that construction dust is one of the main consideration in terms of the construction phase. Part of the assessment process will help identify the relevant mitigation measures and they'll be recommended for inclusion in the Code of Construction Practice and aligned with the assessment outcomes.

AOB


- Stakeholder comments on the ETG minutes will be due within 2 weeks of being issued by the Project.
- Next meeting proposed for early December 2023 – Doodle polls to be issued. The aim of these will be to discuss method statements, technical baseline, outline documents and relevant draft DCO requirements.
- **ACTION: Project team to send out the list of relevant representatives we have for the ETG calls to the County Council so they can confirm all relevant members are included in the next round of ETG discussions.**

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--|-----------------------|--------|
| 13/10/2022 | Agreement will be required with the relevant stakeholders on the proposed approach to decommissioning for Socio-Economics. | BiGGAR | |
| 13/10/2022 | Stakeholders who weren't able to attend the ETG to comment on whether they agree with the proposed approach to decommissioning for Socio-Economics? | All stakeholders | |
| 13/10/2022 | Stakeholders who weren't able to attend the ETG to comment on whether there any other issues from a Socio-Economic perspective to raise at this stage? | All stakeholders | |
| 13/10/2022 | The Project team to input into the tourist section of the PEIR and ES, the duration of works will need to be considered with engineering input to balance both requirements. | ODOW/SLR | |
| 13/10/2022 | BiGGAR/SLR to discuss internally with the Project team the potential to review existing works along the Landfall site and compare these to the Project. | BiGGAR/SLR/ODOW | |
| 13/10/2022 | Further discussion is required with the relevant stakeholders on whether aspects raised within the Land Use chapter would be better assessed within other chapters. To be discussed internally and externally with statutory consultees. | ODOW/SLR/Stakeholders | |
| 13/10/2022 | The Council to provide knowledge and feedback of any other Projects are upcoming or ongoing which may need to be considered here (we are aware of Lincolnshire Green and Boston Alternative Energy Project) | LCC | |
| 13/10/2022 | LCC to provide contact details to Sean Johnson for the Project team to circulate the ETG minutes and slides to for comment and include them on the list for future ETGs including in December. | LCC | Y |

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|-------------|--|----------------|--------|
| 13/10/2022 | SLR to circulate the noise and vibration scoping document to all relevant stakeholders for approval outlining the proposed monitoring locations and assessment methodologies ensuring all the necessary stakeholders are asked to provide comment. | SLR | |
| 13/10/2022 | Air Quality Team to seek agreement with the relevant Environmental Health teams and agree an approach on the areas for further consideration. | SLR | |
| 13/10/2022 | Project team to send out the list of relevant representatives we have for the ETG calls to the County Council so they can confirm all relevant members are included in the next round of ETG discussions. | ODOW | |

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Traffic and Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Health and Socio-Economics ETG |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000421-01 |
| Date: | 29 th March 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1430hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <p>Catherine Townend (CT) - National Highways Ian Field (IF) – Lincolnshire County Council David Wright (DW) - ODOW Hugh Morris (HM) - ODOW Simon Cleary (SC) – BiGGAR Economics Ltd Julia Bolton (JB) - GoBe Daniel Moran (DM) - SLR Lucy Boulton (LB) - SLR Benedict Sarton (BS) - SLR Alexandra Stewart (AS) - SLR Holly Brown (HB) - SLR</p> |
| Apologies: | <p>Rachel Belcher (RB) - Lincolnshire County Council Johanna Rhoades (JR) – Lincolnshire County Council Neil McBride (NM) – Lincolnshire County Council Eloise Shieber (ES) - Lincolnshire County Council Sean Johnson (SJ) – Lincolnshire County Council Fiona Hudson-Brown (FHB) – Lincolnshire County Council Phil Norman (PN) – South Holland District Council Rachel Fidler (RF) – South Holland District Council Mark Simmonds (MS) – South Holland District Council Abbie Marwood (AM) – Boston Council Helen Mann (HM) – Natural England Adam Chambers (AC) – Natural England Paul Lane (PL) – Natural England Andrew Booth (AB) – East Lindsey Council Andrea Carlo Magnaghi (ACM) – BiGGAR Economics Ltd Andy Gregory (AG) – SLR Chris Jenner (CJ) – ODOW Roisin Alldis (RA) – ODOW</p> |
| Circulation: | External |
| Attachments: | <p>123-ODO-CON-K-IP-000077-01 Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Health and Socio-Economics ETG Presentation - 29-03-2023 ODOW_Onshore_Air_Quality_Agreement_Log_050423_V1.0DRAFT ODOW_Human_Health_Agreement_Log_050423_V1.0DRAFT ODOW_Socio-Economics_Agreement_Log_050423_V1.0DRAFT ODOW_Onshore_Traffic_Transport_Agreement_Log_050423_V1.0DRAFT ODOW_Onshore_Noise_Vibration_Agreement_Log_050423_V1.0DRAFT</p> |

Project Update

- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) provided an update on the Project:

- ETG members were shown a map of the current route options including the alternative route, 'Rev 1A', to the Weston Marsh Grid Connection.

Programme

- ODOW provided an update on the Project's programme:
 - Phase 1 and 1A consultation has been completed.
 - The PEIR document is being compiled.
 - Phase 2 consultation will begin in summer 2023, with ongoing engagement throughout the autumn.
 - DCO application submission is expected at the end of Q4.

Evidence Plan Schedule

- Further ETG meeting are scheduled for 2nd August and 26th September 2023.
- **Action: ETG members to inform ODOW if there are issues with their attendance for these ETG dates.**

Public Consultation Events

- ODOW provided an overview of the key feedback that informed the addition of the alternative route (Rev 1A) to Weston Marsh including:
 - Economic impacts;
 - Geological concerns including running silts and ground stability; and
 - Drainage.
- Consultation events for both the Rev 1 and Rev 1A routes were well attended with a total of approximately 800 attendees across the events.
 - The materials used for the events are still available for viewing online.

Evidence Base

- ODOW provided an overview of the evidence and agreement logs that were created as a result of the Steering Group meeting in January 2023.
 - The agreement logs are live documents that will be updated by the Project team throughout the EPP and will form the basis of the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG).
 - ODOW requested that any comments on the agreement logs are sent across in a tracked change format.
 - ODOW informed members that the format of the logs may change and asked stakeholders to put forward their preferences should they have any.
 - **Action: ETG members to inform ODOW if they have preferences for how the agreement logs should be presented.**
- ODOW provided an overview of the ongoing and upcoming surveys including:
 - Completion of noise and transport surveys
 - Abnormal load survey due to be completed post July.

Traffic and Transport

- ODOW provided an update since the last ETG:
 - Obtained ATC data and speed data for route 1A.
 - Site visit looking at which routes might need interventions.
 - Assessing trip generation.
 - Finalising PEIR documents

- National Highways suggested there will be no impact to the Strategic Road Network given the distance and numbers of vehicles.
- DM ran through the agreement log focusing attention on areas of non-agreement:
 - Network Rail were not present at the ETG; therefore their comments were not discussed.
- DM informed stakeholders that the Project is minded to not conduct junction assessments at PEIR for the A16 - A52 roundabout, A16 - A158 junctions, and the A128 junctions as they are only marginally over the threshold.
 - Lincolnshire County Council does not foresee any problems with capacity and suggested that additional vehicles numbers at junctions be referred to in percentage terms.
 - Issue ID 11 in the ODOW Onshore Traffic and Transport Agreement Log has been updated to reflect that the 30 two way trip threshold and no junction capacity assessments has been agreed.
- ODOW has compared the baseline for HGV numbers with DfT data and applied a factor to lower the baseline.
 - Lincolnshire County Council raised no concerns with this approach.
 - Issue ID 12 in the ODOW Onshore Traffic and Transport Agreement Log has been updated to reflect this agreement with regard to the HGV adjustments.
- ODOW has considered the impacts on seasonality on the baseline and will opt for a neutral month as worst-case scenario.
 - Lincolnshire County Council flagged that the A158 through Horncastle gets very busy in August and advised that seasonality is addressed in the construction management plan.
- **Action: CT has not attended previous ETG meetings, DM to send CT numbers across to get her up to speed.**

Air Quality

- LB provided an overview of progress including:
 - Updates to the study area and subsequent sensitive receptors
 - Inclusion of the alternative route in the PEIR chapter.
 - Preparation of specific air quality briefing note that provides more detail on the dispersion methodology, which is to be circulated to ETG members, local authorities and Natural England.
- LB gave a brief overview of the agreement log focusing attention on areas of non-agreement noting, however, that the relevant ETG members for air quality were not present on the call.
 - ODOW is looking to confirm the specific methodology relating to issue ID's 1 and 2.
 - ODOW is not looking to do a full decommissioning assessment on decommissioning activities but instead a comparison to the construction phase.
 - ODOW sought clarification on the screening of designated sites in combination with other development trips or for ODOW Project alone. Further discussion is to be had with stakeholders not present.
 - Issue ID's 8, 9, 10 and 11 are to be agreed via the air quality briefing note.

Noise and Vibration

- BS provided an overview of noise and vibration progress including:
 - Completion of baseline monitoring

- BS flagged that ODOW has not received confirmation from the local authorities that the scope of monitoring is sufficient.
- BS provided an overview of the agreement log focusing attention on areas of non-agreement.
 - BS explained that an operational vibration assessment for the substation would not be necessary. He confirmed that this would instead be assessed qualitatively in the PEIR and may warrant further consultation.

Human Health

- There were no human health stakeholders present on the call.
 - ODOW has reached out to Sean Johnson from Lincolnshire County Council, but he has been unable to attend the ETGs to date.
- JB informed ETG members that there were no significant updates for human health aside from progressing the PEIR chapter.
- JB provided an overview of the agreement log focusing attention on areas of non-agreement.
 - The Project is working towards ensuring that all electrical infrastructure is below the ICMRP Guidelines to mitigate EMF, however this will not be in time for PEIR.
 - Cumulative effects of non-radiative impacts and extent of the study area for impacted populations will be discussed with the relevant stakeholders once the final export cable corridor and onshore substation sites are agreed.
 - Issue ID's 14 and 16 have been updated to agreed.

Socio Economics

- SC provided an update on the socio-economic progress:
 - Completed assessment of economic impact
 - Finalising tourism and recreation assessment for the PEIR
- All issues have been agreed for socio-economics, as such there was no need to run through the log.


AOB

- No additional comments were raised by stakeholders.
- Agreement logs are to be recirculated with the minutes.

Summary of Actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------|
| 29/03/23 | ETG members are to advise ODOW of any clashes or issues with their attendance at the two remaining ETG meetings. | All ETG members | Open |
| 29/03/23 | ETG members to inform ODOW if they have preferences for how the agreement logs should be presented. | All ETG members | Open |
| 29/03/23 | CT has not attended previous ETG meetings, DM to send CT the ATC numbers across to get her up to speed. | SLR (DM) | Open |

/End

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Health and Socio-Economics Expert Topic Group |
| Document Number: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0017 |
| Revision: | 01 |
| Revision Status: | Issued for Information |
| Date: | 2 nd August 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 1530hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Eloise Shieber (ES) - Lincolnshire County Council Ian Field (IF) - Lincolnshire County Council Sam Dewar (SD) - DPA Planning Sean Johnson (SJ) - Lincolnshire County Council Roisin Alldis (RA) - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Hugh Morris (HM) - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Alexandra Stewart (AS) - SLR Consulting Holly Brown (HB) - SLR Consulting Daniel Moran (DM) - SLR Consulting Benedict Sarton (BS) - SLR Consulting Lucy Boulton (LB) - SLR Consulting Simon Cleary (SC) - BiGGAR Economics |
| Apologies: | Andrew Booth (AB) - East Lindsey District Council Johanna Rhodes (JR) - Lincolnshire County Council Neil McBride (NM) - Lincolnshire County Council Sean Johnson (SJ) - Lincolnshire County Council Fiona Hudson-Brown (FHB) - Lincolnshire County Council Rachel Belcher (RB) - Lincolnshire County Council Phil Norman (PN) - South Holland District Council Mark Simmonds (MS) - South Holland District Council Abbie Marwood (AM) - Boston Borough Council Helen Mann (HM) - Natural England Adam Chambers (AC) - Natural England Paul Lane (PL) - Natural England Catherine Townend (CT) - National Highways Chris Jenner (CJ) - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Jon Munns (JM) - SLR Consulting Andrea Carlo Magnaghi (ACM) - BiGGAR Economics |
| Circulation: | External |
| Attachments: | No attachments |

Project Update

- ODOW provided an update on the status and progress of key topics and actions from previous ETG meetings – all previous actions were closed out.

Programme

- ODOW provided an update on the grid connection and project refinements.
 - Three export cable corridor routes and substation options remain, however, ODOW is confident that the grid connection will be confirmed in early August and the project will ensure all stakeholders are notified.
 - Both Air-Insulated Switchgear (AIS) and Gas-Insulated Switchgear (GIS) technologies will be considered for the Environmental Statement (ES), this will not be confirmed until the detailed design stage.

Consultation

- The online consultation virtual exhibition is still available on the ODOW website.
- Section 42 concluded on 21st July and the technical teams have been reviewing the S42 responses.
- An additional round of consultation will commence in the autumn.
- The next round of ETGs have been added to diaries and are in September/ October.
 - Consultees were invited to express their opinions on the inclusion of an additional ETG in the winter (Oct/Nov).
- ODOW provided an overview of the Inspectorate (PINS) Early Adopters Programme and the relevant components that will be trialed by ODOW.
 - Most components have already been implemented, only component four, Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements (PADS) will be new to the Project's consultation process. ODOW is seeking further clarification from PINS on PADS implementation.

Traffic and Transport

- ODOW provided an update on progress since PEIR including a detailed review of trip generation, construction vehicle access routes and construction accesses and haul road crossings.
 - ODOW advised that it has highway boundary data across the whole study area, which is being used to inform where mitigation might be. A package of drawings will be provided at ES.
 - ODOW informed consultees that OS data and a visual inspection of the highway network is being used to inform the necessity for road widening. Topographical data is not yet available and therefore through the detailed design process post consent using topographical data, some of the very minor widening identified at this stage may not end up being required.
 - ODOW advised that where a visibility splay goes through vegetation that is sensitive the 85th percentile speed will be reviewed to propose lower speed limits during the works.
- ODOW raised key topics for discussion / areas of disagreement relating to assessment methodology and impacts to railway disruption. ODOW also presented and responded to comments received during the S42 consultation relating to these topics.
 - Discussions with Network Rail are about the impact to their network are ongoing, and these impacts will be considered in the ES.
 - ODOW acknowledged the lack of plans and detail due to there still being three cable route options at PEIR.
 - ODOW acknowledged that Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) approved the methodology used and advised that this could be refined further going forward.
 - ODOW welcome feedback on the decision to exclude junction capacity assessments, as they are perceived not to be required. No comments were provided during the ETG.

Air Quality

- ODOW provided updates since the last ETG, including a summary of the documents submitted for air quality at PEIR and updates to each of the technical assessments following refinement to the study areas at ES.
 - ODOW informed consultees that there will be a big update to the road traffic emissions assessment following refinement of the traffic data inputs based on the trip generation data.
- ODOW reviewed the key topics / areas for disagreement that were contained in the agreement logs, how these were addressed at PEIR and how these will be taken forward at ES.
 - ODOW anticipate further consultation on the offshore vessel emissions assessment as we work towards ES.
 - Boston Borough Council (BBC) and East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) had noted the air quality assessment approach as reasonable in their Section 42 Comments
 - ODOW advised consultees that the same method used for the cumulative assessment of dust and particulate matter at PEIR will be used at ES.
 - Once the study area has been refined, ODOW will look to reconfirm the results of the screening assessment for in-combination effects from road traffic on national and local ecological designations for ES.
 - The importance of dust control measures was highlighted by several consultees in their S42 comments. This is the addressed in the both the Outline Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) and Soil Management Plan (SMP) submitted at PEIR, both of which will be updated for ES.
- ODOW asked for comments on:
 - Feedback on whether a qualitative assessment of Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) emissions is sufficient.
 - Feedback on whether numerical screening of vessel movements is sufficient.
 - Commentary on the approach to assessment of the decommissioning phase.
 - Feedback on the use of publicly available datasets to establish the air quality baseline.
- No comments were received during the ETG.

Noise and Vibration

- ODOW provided progress updates since the last ETG, including a summary of the documents submitted for at PEIR and updates to each of the technical assessments following identification of the Onshore Substation (OnSS) location for ES.
- ODOW reviewed the key topics / areas for disagreement that were contained in the agreement logs, how these were addressed at PEIR and how these will be taken forward at ES.
 - ODOW summarised the justification for scoping out an operational vibration assessment. This included highlighting the absence of moving parts from the OnSS and impact vibrations from a percussive piling being below the limits of the nearest vibration receptor.
 - ODOW is still investigating the necessity for the use of percussive piling at the landfall and along the Onshore ECC, this will be significant in determining impacts.
 - ODOW sought clarification from ETG members that the noise rating limits set out in guidance and used for Triton Knoll are acceptable. No comments were received during the ETG.
- ODOW also presented and responded to comments received during the S42 consultation relating to these topics.
 - All S42 comments received thus far relate to management actions which will be covered off by the Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NVMP) at ES.
 - ODOW welcomed commentary on the scoping out of an operational vibration assessment.
- No comments were received during the ETG.

Human Health

- ODOW provided an update on progress since the last ETG for Human Health, including a reminder of the documents submitted at PEIR and the ongoing preparation of the ES chapter.
- ODOW provided an update on the key topics / areas for disagreement, which focus solely on the scope of the assessment methodology.
 - An Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) assessment has been undertaken and will be included at ES to justify the decision to scope it out.
 - ODOW advised that the assessment methodology for the human health assessment will be discussed and refined further following confirmation of the Onshore ECC and OnSS.
 - ODOW confirmed that compliance with National Policy Statements (NPS) will be highlighted in each of the relevant technical chapters.
- ODOW sought comments on:
 - The justification for certain elements of health being scoped out of the assessment.
 - Feedback on the decision to define and justify the extent of the Study Area in the ES, having agreed this with relevant consultation bodies.
- LCC (SJ) reiterated that the HIA needs to be about opportunities to improve population health and wellbeing (e.g., improved rights of way network and/or accessible green space) as much as mitigating against possible adverse health effects.
 - ODOW questioned whether this would come into the separate community benefit piece.
 - SJ advised that certain aspects of improvements should be sought as part of the HIA, following the extensive groundworks being undertaken and should this lead to opportunities to improve access etc. upon remediation.
 - **Action:** ODOW to consider any opportunities to improve the population's health and wellbeing within the HIA.

Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism

- ODOW provided an update on progress since the last ETG for Socio-Economics, including a reminder of the documents submitted at PEIR and the ongoing preparation of the ES chapter.
- ODOW provided an overview of the methodology implemented and the findings of the PEIR.
 - The same approach used at PEIR to identify receptors and assess impacts will be used for ES.
- ODOW informed consultees that there were no areas for disagreement outstanding from previous ETGs.
- ODOW presented and responded to comments received during the S42 consultation relating to these topics.
- ODOW asked for comments on:
 - Feedback on the inclusion of economic benefits associated with the onshore works in the ES.
 - Commentary on the inclusion of consideration of the relationship between accommodation providers and the onshore works in the ES.
- No comments were received during the ETG.

AOB


- ODOW (HM) raised a query for LCC (IF) from the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) relating to the approval process for the drainage design of the OnSS.
 - LCC (IF) advised that he would be responsible for approving the design and that on a standard outline planning application it can be conditioned. LCC needs to be able to

see that it can be done in principle and that the discharge has been accepted, the detail can be done at a later stage.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed | Update |
|-------------|--|-----------------|--------|--------|
| 29/03/2023 | ETG members are to advise ODOW of any clashes or issues with their attendance at the two remaining ETG meetings. | All ETG Members | Closed | |
| 29/03/2023 | ETG members to inform ODOW if they have preferences for how the agreement logs should be presented. | All ETG Members | Closed | |
| 29/03/2023 | CT has not attended previous ETG meetings, DM to send CT the ATC numbers across to get her up to speed. | SLR (DM) | Closed | |
| 02/08/2023 | ODOW to consider any opportunities to improve the population health and wellbeing within the HIA. | SLR (AS) | Open | |

/End

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | ODOW Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Health and Socio-Economics Expert Topic Group |
| ODOW Ref: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0034 - Revision 01 |
| Date: | 20th September 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 14:45hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <p>Sam Dewar (SD)- DPA Planning (Representing all Local Authorities) Eloise Shieber (ES) - Lincolnshire County Council Ian Field (IF) - Lincolnshire County Council Roisin Alldis (RA) - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Hugh Morris (HM) - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Adam Gailitis (AG)- SLR Consulting Andy Gregory (AG)- SLR Consulting Benedict Sarton (BS) - SLR Consulting Daniel Moran (DM)- SLR Consulting Deborah Day (DD)- SLR Consulting Jon Muns (JM)- SLR Consulting Lucy Boulton (LB) - SLR Consulting Simon Cleary (SC) - BiGGAR Economics</p> |
| Apologies: | <p>Andrew Booth (AB) - East Lindsey District Council Johanna Rhodes (JR) - Lincolnshire County Council Neil McBride (NM) - Lincolnshire County Council Fiona Hudson-Brown (FHB) - Lincolnshire County Council Sean Johnson (SJ)- Lincolnshire County Council Rachel Belcher (RB) - Lincolnshire County Council Phil Norman (PN) - South Holland District Council Abbie Marwood (AM) - Boston Borough Council Helen Mann (HM) - Natural England Adam Chambers (AC) - Natural England Paul Lane (PL) - Natural England Catherine Townend (CT) - National Highways Chris Jenner (CJ) - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Alexandra Stewart- SLR Consulting Holly Brown (HB)- SLR Consulting Andrea Carlo Magnaghi (ACM) - BiGGAR Economics Julia Bolton (LB)- GoBE Consultants Laura Vickery (LV)- GoBE Consultants</p> |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) provided an update on the status and progress of key actions from previous Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings.
 - ODOW explained how the now closed out action relating to opportunities to improve population health would be addressed by the HIA.
- ODOW provided updates on the refinements to project parameters, changes to assessments from the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) to the Environmental Statement (ES) and the Section 42 responses received.
 - ODOW has received confirmation from National Grid that its grid connection location will be at Weston Marsh, although the exact location (Western Marsh or Surfleet Marsh) is still to be agreed with National Grid.
 - One onshore export cable corridor (ECC) has been selected – the onshore ECC north of the A52.

Programme & Consultation

- Ahead of the November ETG round, ODOW will assess whether any technical topics could be dropped from future meetings to create a more targeted session.
- Autumn consultation will consist of a full Section 42 (S42) consultation, which is planned for the end of October.
- Additional consultation will provide an opportunity for local communities to have an input on the refined design and final location of the Onshore substation (OnSS).
- Submission of the DCO application is on track for the end of the year (2023).

Traffic and Transport

- ODOW provided an update on progress since the last ETG. This included reviewing section 42 responses, a continuation of work on the access route mitigation, an update on trip generation calculations for the confirmed route, and a meeting with Lincolnshire County Council to discuss construction accesses, haul road crossings and passing bays.
- **Action: ODOW advised that the trip generation calculations will be confirmed later this week (wc 18/09/23). These will be sent to Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), so that the council can have sight of this work prior to the application being submitted.**
- ODOW welcomed comments from LCC, in particular, the numbers of what is needed on routes which can be added as necessary.
- ODOW communicated variations in the local access routes from the PEIR to ES.
 - The main change is the access route on Low Road, which is to be used as a bypass to Skegness.
 - ODOW is assessing mitigation options for local access routes to be agreed post-consent.

Air Quality

- ODOW provided an update on progress since the last ETG. This includes the construction dust, offshore vessel emissions and road traffic emission assessments being updated based on the refined study area and RLB.
- ODOW presented and responded to areas of outstanding agreement including comments from Natural England and the local planning authorities (LPAs) received during the S42 consultation.
 - ODOW confirm that the air quality management plan will be incorporated into the Code of Construction Practice as advised by the LPAs.

- Natural England asked about critical loads associated with Habitats located at the coast. ODOW advised that the latest critical load data will be reviewed and checked before the ES submission.

Noise and Vibration

- ODOW provided an update on progress since the last ETG. This comprised a review of S42 responses and detailed noise modelling at landfall.
 - Relevant S42 responses are being incorporated into the noise and vibration management plan, which will be submitted as part of the OCoCP.
 - A 4m high earth bund is proposed to provide acoustic mitigation for the Anderby Marsh Local Wildlife Site during construction.
 - ODOW presented slides showing the sound level modelling at the landfall and how the incorporation of the 4m bund, the project's commitment to quieter piling techniques significantly reduces the sound levels which reach local receptors, namely the Anderby Marsh LNR.

Human Health

- ODOW provided an update on progress since the last ETG. This included an update on the status of the HIA, how the assessment will be addressed and how the S42 comments have been reviewed and considered within the assessment.
- ODOW confirmed that the ES intends to follow the same format as the PEIR, however, will the baseline and assessment will be updated in line with the latest guidance and project design changes.
- ODOW presented and responded to areas of outstanding agreement including comments received during the S42 consultation.
 - SLR stated that the first S42 response on the slide is aimed at the at the Health Security Agency. Before producing a response, SLR would like sight of the comment prior to finalising the health impact assessment. As such, **SLR will approach the health security agency bilaterally.**
 - ODOW reiterated its approach to population health and PRoW.
 - Where a negative impact is assessed, ODOW would make a recommendation to improve rights of way/ green space. However, ODOW voiced that the previous HIA did not trigger a significant impact and therefore mitigation was not required.

Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation

- ODOW provided an update on progress since the last ETG, noting there has been little change to the Socioeconomics, Tourism and Recreation chapter.
- ODOW advised that the assessment carried out in the ES will follow the same structure and cover the same receptors and impacts as PEIR, however, the cumulative impacts assessment is to be refined.
- ODOW presented and responded to areas of outstanding agreement including comments from LCC and the LPAs received during the S42 consultation.
 - ODOW informed LCC that community benefit opportunities will be explored, but this workstream sits outside that of the EIA. ODOW advised East Lindsey District Council that the Core Strategy 2018 and Settlement Proposals 2018 will be reviewed and included in the chapter.

- ODOW updated stakeholders that land use and socioeconomics technical teams are working together to establish of how the onshore works will affects agricultural output, food security and individual land holders.


AOB

- ODOW advised stakeholders that formal responses to A42 comments have been prepared and will be sent out in due course.
- ODOW informed stakeholder that upcoming discussions be informed by any subjects raised by the audience and consultees, therefore ODOW asked stakeholders to raise any topics of interest.
- ODOW informed stakeholders that the PEIR will not be updated prior to the next consultation; posters will be produced that will outline the project updates.

Summary of actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed | Update |
|-------------|--|----------------|--------|--|
| 02/08/2023 | ODOW to consider any opportunities to improve the population health and wellbeing within the HIA | SLR | Open | 20/09/2023 No negative impacts have been identified in the initial HIA, and therefore did not trigger a significant impact and thus mitigation was not required. This will be reassessed in the upcoming HIA for the ES. |
| 20/09/23 | ODOW to confirm trip generation calculations and send them to Lincolnshire County Council for review prior to submission of the DCO application. | ODOW/LCC | Open | |

/End

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | ODOW Traffic & Transport, Noise, Health and Socio-Economics Expert Topic Group (ETG) |
| Document Number: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0038 |
| Revision: | 01 |
| Revision Status: | Issued for Information |
| Date: | 20th November 2023 |
| Time: | 1400hrs to 14:45hrs |
| Location: | MS Teams |
| Attendees: | Roisin Alldis (RA) - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Hugh Morris (HM) - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Alexandra Stewart- SLR Consulting Ltd Holly Brown (HB)- SLR Consulting Ltd Benedict Sarton (BS) - SLR Consulting Ltd Daniel Moran (DM)- SLR Consulting Ltd Simon Cleary (SC) - BiGGAR Economics Sam Dewar (SD)- DPA Planning (Representing all Local Authorities) Ian Field (IF) - Lincolnshire County Council Neil McBride (NM) – Lincolnshire County Council Sean Johnson (SJ)- Lincolnshire County Council Steve Freek (SF) – National Highways |
| Apologies: | Paul Lane (PL) - Natural England Helen Mann (HM) - Natural England Adam Chambers (AC) - Natural England Fiona Hudson-Brown (FHB) - Lincolnshire County Council Rachel Belcher (RB) - Lincolnshire County Council Johanna Rhodes (JR) - Lincolnshire County Council Eloise Shieber (ES) - Lincolnshire County Council Andrew Booth (AB) - East Lindsey District Council Phil Norman (PN) - South Holland District Council Abbie Marwood (AM) - Boston Borough Council Deborah Day (DD)- SLR Consulting Ltd |
| Circulation: | External |

Project Update

Outstanding Actions

- Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) provided an update on the status and progress of key actions from previous Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings.
 - ODOW sent Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) trip generation and passing bay information on Friday 10th November.
 - **Action: LCC to review trip generation and passing bay information issued on Friday 10th November and respond to SLR’s Transport consultants.**

ETG Schedule

- 20th November 2023 is the last scheduled Traffic, Noise, Health and Socio-Economics ETG. ODOW advised that more targeted discussions could be arranged January if there are any issues outstanding after the call.

Programme

- ODOW confirmed that the application is being submitted Q1 2024.
- ODOW updated consultees on the status of the Autumn consultation, which launched 20th October 2023 and concluded on the 24th November 2023.
 - Five in person consultation events have been held and stakeholders have been consulted. ODOW are reviewing stakeholders' responses.
- The key onshore updates that ODOW consulted on include the Environmental Update Report, the updated onshore export cable corridor (ECC) and access routes, updated visualisations and the confirmed substation location.

Onshore Updates

- ODOW reminded stakeholders of the Projects order limits, including the location of the onshore substation at Surfleet Marsh and the 400kv cables that feed into the indicative search area for the National Grid substation (NGSS).
- The connection area as shown is an indicative search area for this National Grid infrastructure and is therefore being used for the purpose of assessment.

Cumulative Effects Assessment Approach

- ODOW informed stakeholders that the approach to the cumulative effects assessment (CEA) is a continuation from the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The process has been as per The Planning Inspectorates Advice Note 17.
 - ODOW revised the long list of developments in the Projects Zone of Influence. A cut off date of the end of September has currently been applied.
 - This list of approximately 570 developments has been screened to produce a short list of 15 developments where cumulative contributions are likely.
- ODOW highlighted that it is aware there are several Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) pending. At present, there is little information on these projects in the public domain, therefore ODOW will acknowledge them in the CEA chapter and the assessment is likely to be updated in examination.
- ODOW presented the draft short list of developments, which includes five residential developments and ten energy developments, primarily solar. The list was issued to relevant stakeholders on 24th November 2023 for their comments by 8th December 2023.
- ODOW asked if stakeholders had any questions or comments on the CEA approach.
 - No questions nor comments were received during the meeting

Traffic and Transport (T&T)

T&T Update

- ODOW provided an update on the revised approach to the Transport Assessment from PEIR to ES.
 - The Transport Assessment has been updated to include average figures for traffic flows including both maximum average traffic flows in any 12-month period over the

36-month construction programme, and the average across the 36-month construction period. Notably the maximum average is approximately 45% lower than the peak two months, and for the average it is even lower.

- ODOW addressed National Highways on the Strategic Road Network (SRN).
 - The SRN was scoped out of assessment. A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) is being produced as per National Highway's requirement. ODOW have extrapolated out traffic from the study area towards where it would gravitate towards from the SRN. Peak and daily traffic number will be included in here rather than in the ES chapter.
 - ODOW also confirmed that these numbers will be broken down into construction and staff vehicles.
 - National Highways agreed with this approach.
- The magnitude of impact assessed at ES is broadly similar to PEIR. With exceptions to local access routes where magnitude of impact is slightly higher.
 - ODOW highlighted that some links are new including the use of Low Road as the bypass in combination with the haul road, the route along Fen Bank towards the A16 and access at the landfall.
- ODOW provided an update on the cumulative assessment for traffic and transport.
 - The cumulative short list is the same as PEIR (three residential developments and the Boston Alternative Energy Facility) with the addition of the NGSS.
 - At present, the assessment of the NGSS is indicative. ODOW has adopted the trip generation data from the ODOW substation and assessed where that traffic might go, which will be the core access routes (A16 & A17). A narrative Assessment Approach has been undertaken for this which considers potential cumulative effects.
 - National Highways queried whether abnormal loads had been accounted for. ODOW confirmed that they have. A series of swept path drawings will be included in the transport assessment and the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP).

Temporary Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Diversions

- ODOW provided an update on impacts to PRoW.
 - Refinement of the Onshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) has reduced the number of PRoWs impacted. There are three PRoW that go through proposed temporary construction compounds (TCCs), which would be diverted around the compounds or onto other PRoWs for the duration of construction. The proposed diversion distances are relatively small and will be considered in the assessment.
- LCC informed ODOW of the Council's appointment of Andrew Fletcher as PRoW Officer, whom will be issuing comments on the Project's PRoW approach.
- **Action: Neil McBride to forward the finalised ETG slides on to Andrew Fletcher. ODOW to send a draft of the Public Access Management Plan (PAMP) to Neil McBride, which is to be forwarded on to Andrew Fletcher.**

Human Health

Human Health Update

- ODOW provided an update on the assessment of health impacts in relation to the PRoW diversions.
 - PRoW diversions are expected to have short term effect during construction period. Impacts of PRoW diversions will be assessed in the ES, for example accessing open space. The exact route of the diversion will be agreed with LCC during construction.

- The chapter will look at populations rather than the community infrastructure receptors and will continue examine Lower Super Output Areas at ES.
- ODOW explained approach to CEA taken in the human health chapter. Other topics such as T&T, Noise, Air Quality and Land Use feed into the assessment, therefore the chapter will refer to the relevant cumulative effects in these chapters.
- LCC questioned whether ODOW has identified opportunities for longer term health improvements gains, such as improvements to the PRoW network. ODOW advised that this would not be considered as part of the ES but could be considered as part of the community benefit fund. LCC approved of this approach.

Noise and Vibration

Noise and Vibration Update

- ODOW provided an update on construction noise and vibration impacts at landfall, along the onshore ECC and at the OnSS.
 - The plant for ES is much quieter than that described at PEIR. Therefore, the impact at landfall is reduced.
 - The list of plant for the ECC is also much quieter, therefore the extent of significant impacts has also been reduced.
- The list of plant for operations is also much quieter than that assessed at PEIR meaning the impacts have again reduced.
- Mitigation at the OnSS is not as onerous as PEIR, due to the quieter plant.
- ODOW reiterated the approach to cumulative assessment for noise impacts.
 - 5 developments considered have been considered in terms of operational noise from the developments themselves. But also, where these development could be effected by construction noise from the Project.
- LCC highlighted the sensitivity of the Anderby creek location, as a sensitive coastal country park. LCC also advised that the Council has secured an ecologist who will be looking at NSIPs in the county and will be considering the noise impact on those ecological receptors. Once the application is submitted, this will be looked at closely.
- Post meeting note: ODOW confirmed that residential receptors and ecologically designated sites have been included in the detailed modelling of landfall works.

Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation

Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation Update

- ODOW advised stakeholders that socio-economics, tourism and recreation impacts are similar to those presented at PEIR. The main update has been on food security and agricultural market impacts.
- The tourism assessment has been led by the cumulative effects identified in other technical chapters such seascape and landscape and visual impacts assessment.
- ODOW provided permanent and temporary land take values, which were further split into ALC grades 1 to 3. It was highlighted that only 30ha of land would be lost permanently.
- ODOW gave a high-level explanation of the food security assessment methodology.
 - The assessment draws on a worst-case scenario, that along the corridor is exclusively used for growing vegetables.
 - UK vegetable price and availability has relatively low sensitivity to changes in UK land use.
- LCC raised concerns about potential loss of agricultural land in the county across all current projects, particularly solar. LCC advised that 15,000 ha land is to be lost due to NSIP projects

across the county (this does not include solar farms going down the Town and Country Planning Act route). While each scheme has relatively minor impact, cumulatively they have an impact.

- LCC acknowledged that under a worst-case scenario 30ha would be lost permanently, but raised the concern that there is a perception that once that land is restored down the cable corridor, the agricultural land quality is not restored to what it was. LCC asked for evidence that the land retains its agricultural value, either in Lincolnshire or other counties. ODOW advised that these queries would be addressed by the land use team in the Onshore Ecology, Hydrology and Land Use ETG on 30th November. A broad assessment could be considered within the socio-economics chapter’s cumulative assessment.
- ODOW requested details on the 15,000ha previously discussed to facilitate a match up to markets. **Action: LCC to provide details on land take across other projects in the county to aid ODOW’s cumulative assessment for impacts on the agricultural market.**

AOB

- LCC queried whether construction would be carried out linearly or multiple sections constructed simultaneously. ODOW advised that this would be determined principally by the contractors, however, it is dictated also by various factors including seasonal constraints, such a bird breeding seasons for example.
 - SLR advised that a provisional construction programme will be assessed in relation to traffic movements in the transport assessment.
- ODOW asked stakeholders whether they deemed an additional ETG in January necessary. Stakeholders were encouraged to reach out if they had any further thoughts on this.

Summary of Actions:

| Date Raised | Action | Responsibility | Closed | Update |
|-------------|--|----------------|--------|--------|
| 20/11/2023 | LCC to review trip generation and passing bay information issued on Friday 10th November and respond to SLR’s Transport consultants. | LCC | Open | N/A |
| 20/11/2023 | Neil McBride is to forward the finalised ETG slides on to Andrew Fletcher, the newly appointed PRoW Officer. ODOW to send a draft of the Public Access Management Plan (PAMP) to Neil McBride, which is to be forwarded on to Andrew Fletcher. | ODOW/LCC | Open | N/A |
| 20/11/2023 | LCC to provide details on land take across other projects in the county to aid ODOW’s cumulative assessment for impacts on the agricultural market. | LCC | Open | N/A |

/End

A coastal landscape featuring a path of white sand and sparse vegetation leading towards a beach. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, suggesting an overcast day. The foreground is dominated by tall, dry grasses and small shrubs, with the path cutting through them.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex B Part 11 of 11

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024

Document Reference: 6.3.6.1




Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex B – Part 11 of 11

Natural England Derogation and Compensation Workshop Minutes

Benthic Compensation Workshop – 9th January 2024

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Benthic Compensation Workshop With Natural England |
| ODOW Ref: | PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0058 |
| Date: | 9 th January 2024 |
| Time: | 9.30-13.00 |
| Location: | In person and MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <p>ODOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chris Jenner• Greg Tomlinson• Jake Laws• Debbie Nickless• Phil New• Angie de Burgh• Niamh Workman• Laura Vickery <p>Natural England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lou Burton• Helen Mann• Paul Lane• Adam Chambers <p>The Planning Inspectorate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helen Lancaster• Claire Deery |
| Apologies: | Marie Shoemsmith, Stephanie Newman, Martin Kerby |
| Circulation: | External |

Purpose and Introduction

- It was explained by PINS that their role within this workshop is to facilitate and aid discussions, with the intention to help reach agreement between the Project and Natural England. PINS explained they are not experts within the topics so will not provide topic advice, any advice provided will have as part of Section 51 and published.
- The Project explained the purpose of the workshop was to discuss the material provided and discuss the potential compensation and derogation.

Benthic Compensation Strategy

- Natural England explained that written feedback will be submitted within 10 working days of the meeting.
- **ACTION: Natural England to provide written feedback to the Project.**

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) extension

Site Selection

- NE explained that the Defra position is that they are not supportive of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) extension. Noting this position is subject to potential change.
- NE recognise that a potential SAC extension has ecological merit and benefit. However, to make the extension have ecological function, the whole sandbank system would be required to be established as an SAC. This makes the scale required of this measure something that the Project could not do alone.
- NE also explained that an SAC extension would provide compensation for multiple projects and likely future offshore wind farm (OWF) round projects.
- NE also explained that an SAC extension would require a consultation process and would potentially take years to implement. Therefore, the ratio of compensation for this measure is important to take account of the time lag between impact occurring and compensation delivery.
 - The Project explained that the alternative protection methodologies proposed hope to reduce any lag for compensation. The Project also recognise the ecological functionality needed and that the whole system needs to be protected.

Possible Locations

Inner Dowsing, Race Bank, North Ridge (IDRBNR) SAC

- NE explained that the suggested locations for the SAC extension are not supported by themselves and other SNCBs. Within the north of the Inner Dowsing Race Bank North Ridge (IDRBNR) SAC, the sandbank being suggested does not currently have enough evidence to support designation as Annex I sandbank. . They also noted that the whole sandbank would need to be included.
- NE explained that the JNCC/ Cefas survey is used to inform the sandbanks systems. However, south of the IDRBNR SAC has not been surveyed and sandbanks are present. NE explained there is evidence from the Docking Shoals ES to support an extension at this location. This has the same ecological functionality as the sandbank being impacted, being a good habitat for sandeels and sandwich tern and would have wider ecological benefits

NE noted that the Docking shoal evidence is over 10 years old..

- The Project asked whether within Docking Shoal there is sufficient area within sandbank area within the 6nm area to minimise impact to fisheries. Or it there is sufficient area outside of the 6NM, noting the shrimp fishing in the area.
 - NE explained this was an issue for consultation and can't comment.

Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton (HHW) SAC

- NE believes there are several options within the Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton (HHW) SAC area. Directly south would be recommended for Sabellaria. The main sandbank area is to the west, noting it would be the whole sandbank system.
- NE explained that the Project need to be mindful that multiple extension areas will need to be put forward and it is likely a combination of the sites will be needed. There will be stakeholder constraints so this will restrict/lose possible areas. It is likely that Inner Dowsing SAC and HHW SAC would be suitable to be included.
- NE explained that the area currently being suggested by the Project doesn't have the sandeel functionality.

Margate and Longsands SAC

- NE explained that due to pressures around the SAC this is not supported by the SNCBs.

Location Advice

- In the absence of guidance., NE recommended that the Project look to provide area suggestions, an idea of the ratio and scale of contribution, and mechanisms that could aid the delivery process.

Site condition Monitoring

- NE recommends that the Project don't rely on the standard condition monitoring. The Project should look at the existing management measures rather than site conditions and how site conditions is being affected. The Project should look at the monitoring and compensation measures and their impact and effectiveness.
- NE explained that a possible way the Project can contribute is helping fund surveys to gain understanding of site management.
- PINS explained that at this stage the examining authority will only see outline plans so this gives uncertainty on this measure.
 - NE explained that currently there are few effective benthic compensation measures. If there are multiple R4 projects requiring benthic compensation it is likely that all will seek to contribute to an SAC extension.
- The Project asked whether there would be the option of contribution to the Marine Recovery Fund (MRF) rather than directly to an SAC extension.
 - NE explained Vanguard were unable to rely on the MRF, though this may be a tool in the future. NE suggested the Project provide the evidence and propose a plan for their contribution, stating this has the most ecological function/evidence of benthic compensation measures.
 - PINS explained the Project should structure the DCO to set up for delivery of SAC and possible contributions to the MRF, alongside back up options.

- The Project confirmed they will ensure the DCO states they can deliver compensation strategically if available.

Ratio of Compensation

- The Project asked about the ratio requirements for compensation of sandbanks and the contribution to an SAC extension.
 - NE explained that the ratio of 1:1 that the SoS put forward is not supported by SNCBs, due to too much uncertainty and time lags for delivery. It is likely the process would take years to establish due to consultation requirements.
 - The Project explained that they would need to deliver a small amount of the whole system so the ratio will need to be discussed.
- NE explained that the contribution to a large SAC extension could be in the form of funding aspects required and financial contribution. NE recommended the Project investigate how the SAC extension would be undertaken and maintained, and then look at how much they could deliver towards this.
- NE added that the MRF will start looking at how much projects need to contribute for the ratio of compensation needed.
- NE highlighted that different projects are coming to different ratios and there needs to be a unified method and national agreement. NE explained that TCE R4 suggestions have not been peer reviewed and therefore are not signed off by SNCBs.
- NE explained that within the MRF and strategic compensation discussions are likely to be where these discussions are held by Defra.
- NE explained how they would like projects to develop the ratio of their impact to financial compensation.
- NE would also like to see how projects are able to contribute to wider strategic delivery. A project would need to contribute to ecological function and focus on additional protection impacts.
- PINS explained that they suggest the Project in regard to SAC extension, present the mechanism for delivery, and the evidence and benefit of ecological function. This could then be agreed in principle but the Project will need other measures to fall back on.
- NE added that an SAC extension would be strategic so likely to cover more than different habitats as well as sandbanks. This could include Sabellaria reef and sandeels and could also link to helping SPAs. Therefore, an SAC extension has a wider nature conservation ecosystem approach. Docking Shoal and HHW SAC could offer compensation to many projects and also a range of habitats.
- The Project asked whether the existing byelaws from MMO would be extended to cover areas of the SAC extension.

- NE explained existing site management would be extended to cover the extended areas.

Cost of SAC extension

- The Project asked if NE had a view of a nominal contribution the Project could make to the MRF
 - NE explained that cost is not the concern, the ecological functionality is. The Project should look at the mechanisms needed to undertake the Extension and ensure it is monitored and managed. People will be need to be employed to deliver it, there will also be monitoring and maintenance works required. NE recommended that 3-5 people for 3 years recommended within a designated sites team would likely be required. NE also recommended the Project look at survey requirements and costs.
 - NE explained that Hornsea three spent a large amount of money undertaking litter removal which provided little compensation in their opinion, so the Project should look how to improve ecological functionality with the funding.
- The Project asked whether costing could be based per m² of impact
 - NE explained that this would be a more suitable approach than using megawatts. The footprint and the feature impacted are likely to be used to calculate financial contribution required.

Alternative Protection Methodologies (Byelaws)

- NE explained this may become an option in the future. The feasibility of this option is still being explored by DEFRA and NE as a potential strategic solution. Therefore they cannot support this measure for the ODOW project timescale because these measures would require legislative change as projects can't rely on byelaws and would need further legislative changes to protect from oil and gas activities. NE added that a new site is more challenging than an SAC extension and at the moment SNCBs can't support as it is not a secure measure.
- NE explained that MACAA and the Opred Petroleum Act would have to change, and both would require government intervention. There would be a need for join up from different parts of government which can lead to difficulties, whereas an SAC extension is just Defra which is more securable and therefore preferable.
- The Project explained that through discussions with Defra, Defra seem positive on this measure.
 - NE explained that position is likely because the SAC extension is not supported.
- NE explained that through this measure the pressures would be removed one at a time, which would unfairly affect users.
- NE added that they would recommend the examining authority to discount this as an option. NE suggest the Project acknowledge the level of challenge, highlight the issues with this measure and show SAC extension as more feasible.

Redundant Infrastructure Removal

- NE explained they support this measure. However, they don't support the removal of telecommunication cables as a stand alone measure. This is due to the fact they are small and are exposed and reburied often due to the dynamic nature of the environment. When covered the cables also don't affect the functionality of the sandbanks. NE explained unless the cables surface laid or exposed then there is no benefit from removal.
- NE added that the Project should look more at hard substrata infrastructure or hard pipelines. Scour protection and pipeline protection is also recommended. The professional judgement from NE is that telecom cables are not having a negative effect on conservation objectives. Also, the cables are so small there isn't the amount to provide the appropriate level of compensation.
- Project explained that within the COWSC meetings removal of telecom cables are being considered.
 - NE explained they are aware and have also told this feedback to COWSC.
- The Project explained that having looked at the area there ought to be the amount of telecom cables to deliver quantum of compensation. Whilst there is an absence of oil and gas infrastructure available to remove due to it being repurposed.
 - NE explained that this method has ecological merit if there is options for oil and gas infrastructure.
 - The Project added that COWSC have dropped oil and gas infrastructure as a removal option.
- NE explained that the telecommunication cables are being buried and reburied constantly so may be of benefit to Sabellaria but not sandbanks.
- The Project explained that ECSA support the Project removing the assets.
- NE suggested the Project would need to provide evidence upfront of all cables that they are exposed, evidence there is enough and that the cables are having an impact on ecological function and causing unfavourable conditions.

Removal of Aggregate Pressures

- NE explained they support this measure and this does not have to be within the IDRBNR SAC, just within a designated site. This could be a project level measure, and the measure could be the removal of part of a licence or a whole licence with another project.
- NE noted that they are reviewing aggregate extraction within sandbank features and license renewals. NE clarified that they have reviewed aggregate area 481, this is the area for beach replenishment, providing flood defence and therefore preventing risk to human life, so this license has been renewed.
- NE proposed the Project look at aggregate sites within HHW and Margate and Longsands.
- The Project asked how the level of aggregate license required should be calculated and how to convert area of impact to volume of aggregate required.
 - NE explained that this has not been undertaken before so suggest the Project explore this and propose a method.

- PINS asked how this would work as a measure and undertaken.
 - The Project explained that a commercial agreement would be agreed between the Project and aggregate operator, but this requires a willingness for the operator to sell.
- NE highlighted that there are difficulties as there is aggregate demand but there is ecological merit with this method. The project are suggested to develop a delivery method and show indication that a deal could be made.
- The Project asked whether an option could be buying a commitment from the operator to not dredge over a specific feature.
 - NE explained that the Project would need to demonstrate why that area, and that there is connectivity and ecological function. The Project would also need to show the physical processes and function of the area.
 - The Project noted that there have been initial thoughts from aggregate operators that they would be reluctant to show their operations are having negative impact on SACs.
- PINS asked what evidence would NE require for this measure.
 - NE clarified that they would require details of the area and buffer being removed, understanding of the marine processes in the area, and evidence that secondary processes are not having negative impact. The site would also need to be in a sandbank.
 - The Project asked whether off sandbank site areas with link to sedimentary change in sandbank would be appropriate.
 - NE this may work for Margate and Longsands.

Marine Debris/ Litter Removal

- NE explained that having done a review of the field report of the Hornsea Three work, they don't support this as a compensation measure. This measure has been removed from COWSC and R4 comp. NE have spoken to DESNZ to get this removed as a measure entirely.
- The Project noted there is a lack of other options of benthic compensation.
- PINS questioned why this is not considered compensation by NE.
 - NE explained that the debris/litter never hindered the conservation objectives of the site. The measure has also been shown to be hard to deliver as Hornsea Three failed to deliver even 1% of their requirements. The removal was also more harming for the environment through activities such as the vessel emissions.
- NE explained that the Hornsea Three report will be in the public domain soon so this will provide evidence that this isn't an appropriate compensation measure.

Creation of Biogenic Reef

- NE explained that Defra are publishing updated policy (expected summer 2024), that is likely to move away from non like for like compensation for sandbanks. SNCBs (JNCC and NE) also don't support non like for like. Therefore, biogenic reef is not considered as compensation for sandbank. NE will not provide comments on this method as a compensation measure for sandbank, though it would be suitable for biogenic reef (Sabellaria).
- PINS added that for Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) non like for like is allowed for measures of similar ecological benefit, could this be the same for SACs?
 - NE explained that this is about ecosystem functionality and sandbanks and reef are not the same. Ecological communities for reef and sandbanks are not the same. There is also the limitation that the reef would also need to be where reef would be expected so no benefit to the sandbanks.
- The Project explained that they have not seen the new guidance and there are limited options for benthic compensation, so will progress this as a potential measure.
- PINS ask that the term ecological function is explained, alongside other technical aspects within the written responses.
 - ACTION: Natural England within the written response will provide guide on ecological function. ***Post meeting update: Natural England provided a guide on ecological function within the written response dated 24 January 2024. Action now closed.***
- PINS added that it is still open to the Project to provide evidence for the importance of this measure.

Seagrass Bed Habitat Creation/ Restoration

- NE explained that within the IDRBNR SAC there is no seagrass present, therefore this would not be suitable as a primary compensation for the Annex I Sandbank feature of this site. Seagrass tends to be on intertidal sandbanks and there is uncertainty and lack of evidence for subtidal. Evidence of restoration success has also been limited and subtidal has not been attempted before. Therefore, this measure could only be small (less than 10%) part of a compensation package of measures.
- NE added that the Project would need to demonstrate how the creation of a subtidal seagrass bed is compensating for the loss of ecosystem function. The Project would also need to evidence how the seagrass bed would be maintained and managed during and beyond the lifetime of the Project.
- NE highlighted that this is a measure with much uncertainty. Ratios suggested would need to be around 6:1 and require lots of maintenance. If not successful the Project would also need to provide compensation through other methods.
- PINS asked whether there is evidence of successful seagrass bed restoration.

- NE explained that the studies have found that the seagrass keeps dying and there is limited success. Eutrophication of rivers is causing problems and water quality are the issue.

Benthic Conservation

Mitigation Hierarchy

NE advised that there is an additional measure being added. This is bundling of cables together. An example of a Project undertaking this is Dogger Bank A&B (using HVDC).

- 1) Avoid designated sites
 - The Project explained this is not possible. Site selection and routing was discussed early, alternatives will be presented in ES Site Selection chapter.
- 2) Reducing number of export cables through use of HVDC
 - The Project have decided to only use HVAC. This is due to engineering works, including the onshore substation and transmission elements. The reduction of cables from 6-4 has been undertaken. Engineering work is ongoing and there is the opportunity that this will reduce further.
 - The Project explained that the substation is much larger for HVDC. The main driver for using HVAC was the distance between generation point and connection point, HVAC is economic and HVDC would be uneconomical. Also, suppliers were not able to deliver by 2030. Furthermore the OTNR allocated the Project as HVAC. Additionally, using HVDC may not allow for a reduction in footprint as the number of circuits may not be reduced.
 - NE responded that these are reasonable justifications for using HVAC and to include them clearly in the report
- 3) Reducing number of cable crossings
 - The Project stated the route selected had no cable crossings within the SAC. This was part of the site selection process. There are only 2 crossings throughout the whole ECC.
- 4) Cutting and removal of disused cables to avoid crossings
 - The Project explained there is no evidence found of cables but commit to cutting them if found.
- 5) Micro siting cables around reef and other features of ecological importance
 - The Project explained they have committed micro siting the cable around known areas of reef. The Project will also submit an Outline Biogenic Reef Mitigation Plan.
 - NE explained they can't comment on mitigation until they have seen the documents but as a concept support the measure.

- 6) Sand wave levelling to reduce risk of free spanning cables and requirement for external cable protection
 - The Project confirmed they are committing to this where required.
 - NE explained they support this as a measure to reduce the need for cable protection. Would prefer emphasis on this rather than free spanning cable.
 - NE asked whether there is going to be a sandwave levelling document at the point of application.
 - The Project explained this will be available for the start of examination.
 - PINS and NE explained the preference would be at the point of application.
- 7) Reburial hierarchy
 - The Project explained that this is embedded into project design.
 - NE added that it would be helpful in the ES to know the number of passes the Project will undertake before trying an alternative.
- 8) CBRA
 - Project have undertaken CBRA and this has informed the final project design.
 - NE asked whether the Project has any bore hole data
 - The Project explained that there is currently no borehole data along the cable route. However, they have geophysical data, gravity cores and CBT data, alternating every 500m and going down to 5m to inform cable burial.
 - The Project confirmed that an outline CSIP and Scour Protection Management Plan will be submitted
- 9) guard vessels
 - The Project explained that at this stage this can't be committed to as it doesn't provide sufficient confidence in negating the requirement of rock protection. The final choice of cable route and installation methodology aims to facilitate the greatest chance of cable burial
- 10) Minimal footprint of cable protection
 - The Project explained they are not able to commit to this as can't locate The Wildlife Trusts (TWT) work.
 - NE advised contacting Tania Davy from TWT.
 - The Project confirmed if measures proposed are suitable for engineering, then the Project are likely able to deliver.
 - NE noted that it is easy to see the merit of this in hard substrate but softer substrate like that of ODOW are more difficult.
- 11) Using cable protection with the greatest likelihood of removal
 - The Project confirm they have committed to using removable rock protection in the SAC. This may be in the form of rock bags or mattresses.

- NE explained they would not like the use of rock within the SAC and mattresses are preferable. NE suggested looking at rock bags made from rock. Highlighting that the MMO and Cefas are concerned about micro plastics.
 - The Project explained they are also looking at ecologically designed cable protection which are larger and therefore could be easily removable.
 - NE added that these are a hard in a soft substrate so not recommended.
- 11) Not using Jack Up Vessels through SAC
 - The Project confirmed they have committed to this. The Offshore Reactive Compensation Platform (ORCP) will have a buffer so there will be no overlap with the SAC.
- 12) No cable protection in fishery byelaws area
 - The Project confirmed this measure is embedded into the project design. Whilst the ECC includes an area to be managed as reef, this will be avoided for all construction works, as detailed within the Outline Biogenic Reef Mitigation Plan
 - NE agreed in principle but require more information.
 - PINS asked when will the documents will become available?
 - The Project confirmed the document will be submitted with the application. They asked whether feedback could be undertaken through DAS post submission?
 - NE explained that if the information is not influencing the application, then due to resources, DAS will not be available and only statutory advice provided. NE need to focus resources relevant and written reps.
 - The Project explained that this will influence examination as it will come in early as an update.
 - PINS all changes should be made as early as possible to reduce examination.
- 13) Cable protection that mirrors geogenic reef
 - The Project have agreed to use this if available at the time of construction as appropriate/ agreed with NE and the MMO.
 - NE highlighted that it may not deliver the rock protection requirements and also the ecological benefit. If it is appropriate it could be used as compensation for annex 1 reef. ***Post meeting note received from Natural England 4/3/23: Natural England advise that in terms of hierarchy, this type of rock protection has the least likelihood of removal and therefore this is more of a last resort rather than an immediate go to.***
- 14) Detonation of UXO outside of the designated sites
 - The Project confirmed they can't commit to this at this point. This is due to the uncertainty of the UXO state so it will be considered at the point that the Project have an understanding of the UXOs and be entirely dependent on assessment of the safety of moving any UXO identified.

- NE explained they would like a commitment that this will be investigated and considered when safety aspects are known and will be implemented where possible. NE would also like a commitment to reduce craters as far as possible.
- NE asked when the Project will undertake UXO investigations?
- Project confirmed this will be post consent but depending on MMO guidance.
- The Project explained that the UXO data needs to be recent as migration of UXO is a risk and validity of survey data for the UXO contractor
- PINS asked what the MMO position was?
- NE explained the MMO want the surveys earlier to help inform the noise registry. This is 2 years before construction which means benthic surveys are then undertaken very early so not relevant.

Update on Envision work

- The Project confirmed they have contracted envision to reanalyse the geophys data. The geophys data was unable to interpret features of Sabellaria reef. Envision are also drawing in any available data, alongside the site specific data collected to help draw out the potential features. Following this there is the potential for additional site specific surveys. The envision report will be included at application and is hoped to provide confidence in micrositing.
 - NE explained that as this is going into the application, the requirement of site specific surveys from this additional report, review is available through their DAS. NE would be able to review of report and let the Project know their confidence in the report and findings.
- NE asked if the Project are considering 'without prejudice' compensation for Sabellaria reef.
 - The Project explained that no site specific data demonstrated reef, other than small patches of low grade. The Sabellaria is patchy so it is not thought that through micro siting, the cable will run through a Sabellaria area. The cable corridor is wide (2km) so the Project are confident they can avoid any areas of reef.
 - NE explained they will need to see all documents to comment on certainty/ confidence on micrositing. NE suggested the creation of biogenic reef could be a potential measure if needed




Biogenic Reef as a Potential Compensation Measure for Sabellaria

- The Project explained that this will not be put forward as a measure at application¹
- NE explained they would prefer mussels for this site, rather than oysters. This is due to evidence of a *Mytilus edulis* and Sabellaria cycle, found within a study in 2007. This is a cycle of the mussels dying and providing substrate for the Sabellaria. Additionally, Lynn and Inner Dowsing have mussels growing on them. Oysters show limited historical evidence and take a long time (25yrs) to establish and become ecologically functional. **Post Meeting Notes from ODOW: Could NE please share the study that found this cycle?**

¹ Post meeting note. SAC extension and biogenic reef have both now been put forward as without prejudice measures for Sabellaria reef.

- NE reflected on the areas suggested through the Projects habitat suitability study and suggested that areas such as south of the export cable corridor and towards the eastern side of the preferred bidder aggregate area 2103 may be suitable for biogenic reef creation. This area is suitable for mussels and is an area that reef would not be found. NE recommended the Project undertake feasibility studies on areas such as this.
- The Project asked if NE have suggestions on the ratios required?
 - NE explained that based on the ecological functionality and self sustainability, no less than 1:1 but needs to be functional.
- The Project explained that mussels bed are not stable so could be hard to maintain throughout the Project lifetime.
 - NE explained that through monitoring the bed could be adapted. If the mussel bed crashes and then cycles to Sabellaria this would still provide compensation as the area is protected and monitored. If it does not cycle to Sabellaria it may then need reseeded.

Ornithology Workshop

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| Project: | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind |
| Meeting: | Ornithology Compensation Workshop With Natural England |
| ODOW Ref: | 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000XXX-01 |
| Date: | 9 th January 2024 |
| Time: | 13.30-17.00 |
| Location: | In person and MS Teams |
| Attendees: | <p>ODOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Jenner • Greg Tomlinson • Jake Laws • Debbie Nickless • Phil New • James Miles • Mark Lewis • Niamh Workman • Laura Vickery <p>Natural England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lou Burton • Helen Mann • Paul Lane • Adam Chambers • Rebecca Hodgkiss <p>The Planning Inspectorate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Lancaster • Claire Deery |
| Apologies: | Marie Shoesmith, Stephanie Newman, Martin Kerby |
| Circulation: | External |

Introductions and Purpose

- It was explained by PINS that their role within this workshop is to facilitate and aid discussions, with the intention to help reach agreement between the Project and Natural England. PINS explained they are not experts within the topics so will not provide topic advice, any advice provided will have as part of Section 51 and published.
- PINS asked whether feedback could be provided on their involvement in the workshop.
- **ACTION: Natural England (NE) and ODOW to provide feedback on PINS involvement in the workshop.**

Assessment Methodologies

Collision Risk Modelling

- The Project explained they have adopted the advice previously given and are using the bootstrap densities in CRM. This has provided slightly lower results compare to using densities and standard deviation.
- The Project explained that they have found the densities are too low to use bootstrap in some months (e.g. density is 0.01), so propose using 0.
- **ACTION: NE to check if using 0 for bootstrap densities in CRM modelling is appropriate - This is specifically for months with insufficient observations to produce bootstrapped samples**
- NE asked whether the Project will present both models together in the ES?
 - The Project explained that they could provide this if this is the NE recommendation.
 - NE confirmed that they recommend adding the original sCRM results and methodology and StochLAB where used, alongside the bootstrap method. As the StochLAB is still in beta, NE recommend presenting this as a separate document within the application.
 - PINS added that if the NE option is based on the StochLAB work, the examiner is likely to ask for this.
- The Project explained that the bootstrap method needs the same number surveys per months, as some months had different number of surveys this meant the model had to be run separately. Therefore, this is a recommendation to develop into the model.

MCRM tool

- The Project explained that they believe that the MCRM tool is more robust than using that the old method that uses the band method.
 - NE explained that they hope to support this method but it is linked to Stochlab which is still in beta, it is recommended using both at this point.
- **ACTION: NE to provide timeline of when the StochLAB and mCRM tools will be reviewed and position papers published. *Post meeting update: NE provided written feedback on the 24/1/24 – action now closed.***

Displacement

- The Project confirmed that the displacement rates will be provided over the full range specified by the NE guidance.

Apportioning

- The Project would like to seek agreement on Project apportioning rates for each key species
- The Project explained for kittiwake apportioning they are using the NatureScot method. The Project would like agreement that it is appropriate to include offshore breeding kittiwakes in the apportioning process.
 - The Project explained that the preliminary results are 93% with offshore breeders excluded and 61% if offshore breeders are included, apportioned to FFC SPA. This

will be done using a precautionary approach as it only includes breeding birds within 20km of the project (and therefore only a proportion of offshore nesting birds), and assumes they are all 20 km away (when all these breeding birds are closer than 20km from the array).

- NE said this seems agreeable but will review and confirm position. NE added they would like both approaches presented at ES.
- The Project explained they are planning to apportion all gannet to FFC SPA and all sandwich tern to North Norfolk coast.

Guillemot

- The Project asked whether the NE position on guillemot apportioning (to apportion 100% of birds to FFC SPA and 100% as adults, with no sabbaticals included) has changed?
 - NE confirmed their position remains the same as stated in the ETG.
- The Project propose using two bioseasons - non breeding and breeding
- **ACTION: NE to suggest the number of bioseasons to be used and apportioning approach they would recommend for guillemot.**
- PINS asked whether the Project will present both methodologies where there are differing methods suggested by the Project and NE?
 - The Project explained they are seeking agreement of one methodology where possible but in cases that this is not achieved will present both.
 - NE welcome this approach as this allows NE comment and feedback.

Population Sizes

- The Project explained that there are multiple ways to define population sizes for different species. They asked whether NE could their recommended approach for population sizes for different species. Currently the Project is defining the breeding populations, by calculating adult breeding birds and associated immatures within the BDMPS region.
- **ACTION: ODOW to provide note for approach for breeding population sizes for different species – COMPLETE, sent to NE.**
- **ACTION: NE to provide timeframe for the advice for the population sizes to be used in the assessment – if not within 10 days.**
- NE asked when the working cut off point for the Project?
- The Project explained that outside of the 10 days post meeting, numbers can be adjusted but models not rerun so it is unlikely the updates could be made for application.
- The Project ask if there are options for populations sizes that NE are exploring, could the Project be aware to prepare the work for examination?

Mortality Rates/Demographic rates

- The Project propose using demographic rates using Horswill and Robinson (2015) numbers to calculate mortality rates.
- NE explained that the Horswill and Robinson (2015) is out of date and there is an update coming but timeframe will be after application submission.
- The Project explained that they can copy a recently submitted project (e.g. SEP&DEP) but unsure how they got the numbers.
 - NE explained that the SEP and DEP rates were agreed by NE and would be recommended.

Head Room

- NE confirmed that for gannet at FFC SPA, they will not require compensation for the round 4 (R4) projects.
- **ACTION: NE Area team to provide definitive position on gannet compensation requirement.**
- The Project asked NE whether they agree that the cumulative numbers should be adjusted for macro avoidance for project alone and cumulative which is the same as SEP and DEP?
 - NE agreed this approach is appropriate.
- The Project asked whether there had been a change of approach recommended for razorbill.
 - NE confirmed their position hasn't changed from SEP and DEP and concluding adverse effect.
- **ACTION: NE to provide confirmation on position on razorbill compensation.**

Displacement Rates

- NE explained that the 70:5 rates were advised for Hornsea 4 due to case-specific issues, and it is likely that the standard 70:2 rates will continue to apply to the majority of projects.

De Minimis

- The Project asked whether the current impact of 0.2 for Sandwich Tern, less than 0.15 for Lesser Black Backed Gull and Puffin 0.4 could be considered de minimis?
 - NE explained that they have differing views as to what de minimis is and would prefer the term 'no material contribution' used. They explained that they would confirm their formal position if the Project provide a list of species they believe would be 'no material contribution'. They recommended looking at SEP and DEP.
- **ACTION: NE to provide formal position on when an impact has 'no material contribution'.**
- **ACTION: ODOW to provide species list that they believe would be 'no material contribution' – COMPLETE, sent to NE.**

Cumulative

- The Project asked what NE would consider the appropriate threshold.
- The Project explained there has been a 0.1% increase in baseline as no material contribution.
 - NE confirmed the increase in baseline mortality is useful. A specific threshold across the board is difficult and should be species by species.

Compensation Strategies

ANS

Number of Structures

- The Project explained that the preliminary results are collision mortality of 31 kittiwakes unapportioned. The Project asked what NE position would be on a project alone single ANS structure, only for kittiwake compensation?
- NE asked whether the Project could provide update on the R4 compensation strategy?
 - The Project explained that due to confidentiality they are unable to discuss. However, there is a need to provision for a situation where ODOW could deliver project alone compensation.
 - NE noted that this could cause confusion to the examining authority using plan and project level ANS. NE suggest providing statement from The Crown Estate (TCE) to clarify and show the hierarchy of project options.
 - PINS added that TCE have been in touch to register as an interested party into examination. They asked whether the R4 strategic compensation is not the main form of compensation for the Project?
 - The Project confirmed that this the project alone measures are a fall back. Clarity will be provided at examination as TCE plan must be sent off before application.
- The Project asked whether NE had a position on using multiple structures or a single structure.
 - NE explained that multiple structures offer resilience which is particularly important with the uncertainty for multi species structures.
- The Project explained that the impacts for kittiwake are much lower than previously thought. Hornsea Four used a single structure and has found it has redundancy. The Project have also followed a similar site selection process to Hornsea Four and will have less of an impact.. The Project asked if compensation is not required for other species, could a single structure be provided? Adding that ANS is not the primary measure for other species as it is for kittiwake.
- **ACTION: NE to review whether a single ANS (solely for Kittiwake) would be acceptable compensation as a project alone measure.**
- NE advised the Project look at advice from COWSC. Potentially an ANS for kittiwake and then another for other species could be appropriate.

Proximity of Structures

- The Project asked whether NE have any recommendations on multiple ANS proximity to each other?
 - NE recommended that further away increases the likelihood of success for the structures, as this spreads the risk of colonisation being affected by issues in a particular area.
- The Project explained that for application submission the ANS search areas will be refined. The refinement criteria will be provided in a technical note.

Lead in Time

- The Project explained that they are calculating the lead in time from the worst-case assumption based on precedent, which is four years (four full breeding seasons) for one structure. They asked if having two structures could reduce this time?
 - NE explained that multiple structures wouldn't reduce the lead in time but will consult with team.

Plemont Seabird Reserve

- The Project explained that is the primary Auk compensation measure being proposed.
- The Project explained that for this measure there is a large range of values at play but that this measure could provide from 20 to 300 based on the Applicants preferred method. They explained that on a 1:1 basis using NEs preferred methods, the Project is likely to need compensation for 1500- 3000 birds.
- The Project explained that Plemont could deliver compensation but they are aware that the proportion of this depends where the decision maker ends up in terms of the required compensation quantum given the range of values. Therefore, the project is looking at other sites to potentially improve in the South West of England.
- NE welcomed the potential other options being investigated by the Project as they have concerns about feasibility of Plemont reserve and its success in isolation. NE would like the Project to talk to experts in predator eradication and control, and the likelihood of reinvasion from intertidal zone.
 - PINS added asking whether the predator eradication is a one off event?
 - The Project explained that experts have been involved and ongoing management and monitoring of the site would be undertaken.
- NE suggested that the Project expand auk management to colonies in the wider area, particularly in the south west.
 - The Project confirmed they have looked at the colonies and created long and short list. They are focusing on sites with declining population and possible drivers for this. The Project asked whether NE have any knowledge to help inform this?

- **ACTION: NE to prompt south west area teams for a meeting regarding potential pressures on auk populations or recommend other contacts for a discussion. Pass on contacts to the Project.**
- The Project confirmed they are talking to National Trust and RSPB as well and this was welcomed by NE.
- NE added that a potential compensation measure could help aiding the investigating the decline in south west colonies and contribute to efforts in reducing the decline.
- The Project explained the consultation for Plemont is currently undergoing so more details can be provided at point of application. The Project are providing the funding for the project and monitoring and maintenance.
 - NE explained there is merit in the Plemont site but need more information about the ongoing biosecurity and details of the Project's long term commitment.
- The Project asked whether NE are happy for a non-British compensation measure and connectivity?
 - NE explained there are possibly some issues for connectivity and site network, which are potential logistical issues with securing the measure.
- The Project asked NE for suggestions on how to quantify benefits of the compensation?
 - NE explained they recognise the difficulties and longer term projects would provide benefit by managing recreational disturbance.
- The Project explained that there is the option to look at one colony and identify multiple pressures or to look at many colonies for one main pressure. A possible wider measure could be the creation of an app to make walkers and climbers more aware. Another is the implementation of more buoys around areas where colonies are to prevent boats disturbing them, for example Berry Head in Brixham has a colony there and Harbour Authority have a sign that protected area but no water side signage.
 - NE explained they wouldn't support an awareness campaign as a primary measure, it could only as part of a package of measures. The measure sounds positive but more contributing to biodiversity net gain.
 - NE suggested the Project look at management scheme and Flamborough head by the Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership. This had success for reducing recreational disturbance and have an emerging evidence base that would be useful to see how they collected evidence.
- The Project asked whether NE would have the same view for the reduction of predator pressures as recreational pressures?
 - NE explained that it a site could be in decline due to a combination of pressures so built in adaptive management would be required.
 - PINS added that a well worked out adaptive management measures will provide confidence to the examining authority.

- The Project explained that the ideal scenario is to provide this fully formed, but a lot of the detail will be provided post consent in steering group.
- PINS and NE explained that there is a need to show feasibility of the measures and then other present alternative options and adaptive management if the measures are unsuccessful.
 - The Project explained that they would focus energy on a few key colonies and their multiple pressures, and then look at adaptive management and possible expansion to different sites.
- **ACTION: NE to share the site details with local teams in the south west.**

Compensation Calculations

Kittiwake and Guillemot

- The Project confirmed they are using Hornsea Four method and for kittiwake and guillemot. This is due to the numbers for guillemot required increasing hugely (double) using the Hornsea Three method. The Project believes that the Hornsea Three method takes into account the philopatry rate twice, within stage 1, and within stage 2, when using the productivity required to maintain the colony. Therefore, the numbers are inflated twice because dispersal is already taken into account at stage 1. It was also noted that kittiwake colonies also don't maintain through productivity, therefore there are other factors that need to be considered.
 - NE –explained that they prefer Hornsea three method for kittiwake and auks. This is supported by a NIRAS report looking at the methods that argues the Hornsea three method is more ecologically robust.
 - ***Post meeting note from Natural England, received 4/3/24: In the NE post meeting response dated 24-Jan 2024, NE requested further clarification on the Projects concerns with the HP3 method and a demonstration that this is the case.***
- NE explained the timeframe doesn't allow for discussion.
- The Project confirmed that they will present the Hornsea Four method at ES¹.
 - PINS explained that it is likely the Hornsea Three will asked to be presented through examination.
 - The Project explained that the method has been presented (using the applicants predicted collisions) in the Round 4 Kittiwake Strategic Compensation Plan and that this will be presented in the application. Therefore, both the applicants and Natural England's preferred methods will be presented.

¹ Post meeting note from the Project. The Project will include both the Hornsea 4 and Hornsea 3 Part 2 methods in the ES.

- ***Post meeting note from Natural England, received 4/3/24: Natural England welcomes the Projects post meeting note that both the Hornsea 4 and Hornsea 3 Part 2 methods will be included in the ES.***
- NE suggested going back through mitigation hierarchy as the guillemot numbers are very high.
 - The Project explained that the 1500 calculated is based on the array reductions in which hot spots were considered. The northern and eastern boundary is where guillemot are mostly found and these areas were reduced.
 - NE explained that the Project should look to provide how much the array area could be reduced further and the guillemot numbers using further mitigation. This would add justification to why the numbers are necessary. Noting NSIP reforms and SoS are encouraged by evidence of Projects showing the mitigation hierarchy.

Ratios

- The Project explained that using the Hornsea three method negates the need to apply a ratio.
- NE explained that predator control has a lot of uncertainty, therefore a ratio is still required. They highlighted that ratios need to be applied on a consistent basis taking into account project specifics
- **ACTION: NE to provide update on NE ratio approach across all projects**
- **ACTION: NE to review HOW03 and HOW04 approach to compensation quantum calculations. Consider whether the approach to ratios should be different based on the discussions regarding the different methods.**
- The Project explained they are using the worked example of guillemot for Hornsea Four.
 - NE explained Hornsea Four method was under precautionary, it is the best you have but there needs to be a standard approach. Ratios are based on the efficiency of the compensation measure and removing the uncertainty.

Other species

- The Project confirmed that for red throated diver, sandwich tern and lesser black backed gull, they are not putting together a 'without prejudice' case.
- NE explained that they will review the species that may be on the edge of 'no material contribution'.
- The Project explained that for red throated diver, the array area is far enough from the Greater Wash SPA the need for compensation is not likely. The cable route may be an issue due to vessel movement so the Project are looking at mitigation such as reducing frequency of vessels and using maintenance and routes away from known areas.
 - ***Post meeting note from Natural England, received 4/3/24: NE advises that in addition to the array and vessel movements, consideration of the potential impact***

of displacement to red throated dive from installation of the ORCPs should be included in the assessments.

- NE explained that surveys for red throated diver were undertaken but the data will be released too late to be used for the application. NE recommend looking to reduce in combination effects.
- NE explained that for gulls, the Project are likely to not require compensation.
- **ACTION: NE to confirm cumulative impact position on gulls (EIA).**

Guillemot Apportioning

- The Project explained that they have collected four data points (four monthly surveys) throughout the breeding season and this has gone some way to increase certainty in the impacts. Data is from across the whole breeding season and has shown large inconsistent peaks in April. In 2021 the April peak was nearly as high as whole breeding season. These numbers are not found in other months so we suspect these birds are not all breeding at FFC SPA and that there is migration of guillemots through the site. Additionally, flight direction shows strong northerly movement and surveys further north shows peak in April. Guillemot are also shown moving elsewhere in March. Therefore, the Project is suggesting migration is happening within the site in March and April.
- NE explained they understand the Project have two years of data and this is showing inter annual variation. NE explain projects should normally go with worst case scenario. NE also asked whether there is evidence where the guillemot would be migrating to?
 - The Project explained most guillemot colonies are further north and the Scottish colonies are large.
 - NE asked whether these are protected colonies?
 - The Project explained they can apportion with the Biologically Defined Minimum Population Scales (BDMPS).
 - NE added that if they are killed on route and therefore not going back to their colonies, compensation may still be required.
- The Project explained that information from tracking studies and egg laying suggests the majority of eggs are laid in May. Therefore they propose that the March and April peaks are not all considered to be breeding birds. In April 2021 there are three data points, early April is much higher than the other months (around 20,000 and 10,000 respectively).
- NE explained that NE will review the full 24 months of data. There is uncertainty what is influencing the changes in guillemot and 100% apportioning to FFC SPA is precautionary. NE need to review evidence to see if there is enough to give confidence in the Project proposal.
- NE explained that guillemots are attending the FFC SPA colonies in the winter, noting they may not be breeding but they are part of the SPA.
- NE explained that there is colony abundance data that the Project should investigate. The RSPB undertook a winter attendance study 2023 and breeding season tracking data.
- **ODOW to discuss with RSPB FFC SPA colony attendance report, cc in NE**

Adult Apportioning

- The Project propose using survival and productivity rates instead of assuming 100% adult populations.
 - NE explained they remain of the position that, unless there was robust evidence, 100% should be assumed. Project specific evidence would be better but other evidence can be used.
 - The Project explained in April non adult guillemots have not got their plumage, therefore would like to use wider evidence to estimate population age. The population is likely to be a range of ages.
 - NE asked if there is room to further the evidence base?
 - Project explained a comparison of apportioning approaches for guillemet show a large range in potential compensation quantum's. Could NE please confirm that 70:2 would be the maximum scenario in table 15,
 - NE confirmed yes this would be the maximum, but would be based on the upper 95% CI- table 16.
 - ***Post meeting note from Natural England, received 4/3/24: NE will need to review the impact assessment in full before advising the Project which rates are appropriate to base their compensation requirement on***
- **ACTION: NE to review the Oil and gas platform census and confirm whether they agree with the approach (inclusion of offshore kittiwake colonies) to apportioning.**
- **ACTION: NE to feedback on Plemont document – a list of uncertainties for the project to address.**

A coastal landscape featuring a path that winds through dunes covered in tall, golden-brown grasses. The path leads towards a wide, flat expanse of sand and water, possibly a beach or tidal flat, under a sky filled with soft, grey clouds. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex C Part 1 of 9

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024

Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex C – Part 1 of 9

Derogation and Compensation Consultation Logs

The Consultation Logs presented in this document have been drafted on the basis of the EPP Terms of Reference and previous logs issued to relevant ETG meeting participants. The template has been updated in response to feedback from Natural England. The information presented is based upon that previously issued to stakeholders and derived from ETG meeting minutes (Annex B). The information and agreements included in the Consultation Logs presents the Applicant's interpretation of the points discussed during ETG meetings.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Derogation & Compensation Expert Topic Group

11/01/2022, ETG Round 1, Project Introduction

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000114

Invitees:

| | | |
|---------|----------------------|---------|
| MMO | Natural England RSPB | |
| Present | Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | MMO | NE | RSPB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---|--|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|---|---|--|
| Derogation and Compensation | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Project Introduction | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Issuing a scoping report without a confirmed grid connection location is an appropriate approach | No Comment | Disagreed | No Comment | | <p>NE (a) Raised concerns around the usefulness of feedback by issuing a scoping report without a confirmed grid connection location, (noting that the RWE experience was not useful).</p> <p>NE(b) <i>Action: NE to send Natural England's advice on Dogger Bank South's Scoping Report to ODOW.</i></p> <p><i>(Post-meeting note: advice provided via email on 12/01/21).</i></p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Confirmed that a different approach was being taken to RWE. The ODOW scoping report will be broken down into modular areas, for both onshore and offshore.</p> <p>ODOW understood that stakeholder comments on the scoping report would be general.</p> |
| 1.2 Compensation Rating Criteria | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | There are no concerns with DEFRA guidance, particularly ranking for options. | No comment | Disagreed | Disagreed | | <p>RSPB RSPB have concerns with Defra guidance, particularly rankings for options.</p> <p><i>Action: RSPB to check if they can share response to Defra guidance with ODOW.</i></p> <p>NE Noted that Defra will be releasing overview of responses and will be updating guidance in due course.</p> | <p>Project response to RSPB and NE Noted NE's concerns and preferences around non-like for like options.</p> |
| 1.3 General Approach | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | There are sufficient site-specific options available | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>NE Noted the lack of site-specific options available and the need for increased focused on the avoid, reduce mitigate hierarchy and expectation that SoS may start to require more focus on this at an early stage.</p> | <p>Project response to NE Acknowledged.</p> |

1 Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Derogation & Compensation Expert Topic Group

07/03/2022, ETG Round 2, Scoping Phase

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000199-01 Presentation

Invitees:

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|---------|
| RSPB | Natural England | MMO |
| Present | Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | RSPB | NE | MMO | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|--|--------|------------|------------|---|---|--|
| Derogation & Compensation | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Surveys | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | The project approach to Intertidal ornithology surveys is appropriate | Agreed | No Comment | No Comment | | RSPB response to project RSPB confirmed that this was a good approach. | Project to stakeholders Project stated that Intertidal ornithological surveys were ongoing and survey effort was being doubled for the aerial seabird surveys providing an additional 7 surveys. Project explained that there would be two surveys undertaken each month between March and September 2022 inclusive. |
| 1.1.2 | Barometric pressure should be collected as part of the data from the FLiDAR surveys. | Agreed | No comment | No comment | | RSPB RSPB noted that FLiDAR surveys usually have the ability to also collect barometric data which would be considered useful to verify altitude data from tags. | Project response to RSPB Post meeting note: Confirmed by ODOW that barometric pressure would be collected as part of the data from the FLiDAR. |
| 1.2 General Approach to Development of Compensation Options | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Shortlisted options for compensation development are appropriate. | Agreed | Agreed | No comment | | RSPB and NE response to the project RSPB and NE agreed that the options on the shortlists were reasonable options for further exploration, noting a number of potential data gaps surrounding the various measures which were recommended to be considered as part of any evaluation of the feasibility of the listed measures. | Project to stakeholders <i>Project explained the following shortlist:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Via discussion with the Derogation ETG, ODOW plan to develop proposals for possible compensation measures to support a “without prejudice” derogation case. ▪ A longlist of compensation measures was developed and using criteria to assess the effectiveness, deliverability, conservation value, delivery lag and scale to the measures, ODOW have reduced the longlist to produce a shortlist. ▪ For Kittiwake the shortlist presented included offshore artificial nesting structures, onshore artificial nesting structures and supplementary feeding. ▪ For Gannet the shortlist presented included offshore artificial nesting structures, establishing a new onshore colony, bycatch mitigation and removal of plastic/fishing debris. |

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| | | | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Guillemot & Razorbill the shortlist presented included bycatch mitigation, offshore artificial nesting structures, onshore artificial nesting structures and predator eradication. |
| 1.3 Strategic Research and Collaboration | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | There is a need for identification and agreement on critical research. | Agreed | No comment | No comment | | <p>RSPB RSPB expressed the importance of interlinkages with strategic research and collaboration.</p> <p>RSPB would like to see a focus on identifying and agreeing on the critical research in order to generate a robust evidence base for each seabird species.</p> | <p>Project response to RSPB Project noted that they were involved in a number of industry groups which were exploring strategic and collaborative compensatory measures.</p> |
| 1.4 Artificial Nesting Structures | | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 | There does not need to be consideration of nesting preferences | Disagreed | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>RSPB and NE (a) RSPB and Natural England noted that for creation of artificial nest sites, there needs to be consideration of nesting preferences to ensure that non-target species will not exclude the target species from the structure.</p> <p>NE (b) Natural England expressed an interest in knowing more about the nesting preferences of large auks on offshore structures.</p> <p>RSPB (b) Advised that the Birds Directive does not allow for the designation of new SPAs as a compensation measure, unlike the Habitats Directive.</p> | <p>Project response to stakeholders Acknowledged.</p> |
| 1.5 Removal of Plastic | | | | | | | |
| 1.5.1 | Removal of plastics have no impacts to gannet nests. | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | | <p>RSPB RSPB provided an example from Grassholm where the majority of gannet nests are structurally dependent on plastics and removal of plastic from the SPAs could be detrimental. It was noted that removal of plastics from the sea may not be effective without control of the terrestrial sources of plastic.</p> | <p>Project response to RSPB Acknowledged.</p> |
| 1.6 Fisheries Management | | | | | | | |
| 1.6.1 | Fisheries exclusion zones is a sufficient measure by itself. | Disagreed | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>NE and RSPB Natural England explained that fishery exclusion zones are potentially only effective when the fishing quota is also reduced, so that pressure is not simply displaced. Need to implement both measures together however, Natural England and RSPB acknowledged that fisheries management measures were not in the gift of individual developers and would require Government intervention to implement.</p> | <p>Project response to NE and RSPB Acknowledged.</p> |
| 1.7 Additional Data Acquisition | | | | | | | |
| 1.7.1 | The two planned survey activities for the 2022 season are appropriate approaches. | Agreed | Agreed | No comment | | <p>RSPB and NE RSPB and Natural England were broadly supportive of the planned survey work.</p> | <p>Project response to RSPB and NE Confirmed that this was part of the data planned for collection.</p> |

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| | | | | | RSPB noted that it would be important to consider what makes some structures more appealing than others. | |
| 1.7.2 | There are no concerns with the data that would derive from the survey campaigns for the 2022 season and how it could be used. | Disagreed | Disagreed | No comment | <p>RSPB RSPB had reservations about how the data could be used within the assessment process.</p> <p>NE Natural England communicated that collaboration would benefit this type of work and recommended a discussion with JNCC to discuss the census planned for this year.</p> <p>Action: Natural England to provide contact details for JNCC specialists to GoBe to discuss collaborative work further.</p> | <p>Project response to stakeholders Acknowledged. Action: GoBe stated that they would set up a meeting to discuss further once a tagging team had been established.</p> |

1 Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Derogation & Compensation Expert Topic Group

12/07/2022, ETG Round 3, Scoping Phase

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000288-01

Invitees:

| MMO | Natural England | RSPB |
|---------|-----------------|--------|
| Present | Present | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | MMO | NE | RSPB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------|-----------|------------|---|--|---|
| Derogation & Compensation | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Stakeholder Engagement | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Stakeholders can provide detailed comments prior to confirmation of grid connection post. | No Comment | Disagreed | No Comment | | NE Natural England noted that it was difficult to provide detailed comments on broad scoping boundaries and queried why ODOW has not waited for confirmed grid connection post. Natural England noted that scoping response would be relatively high level and to manage expectations. | Project response to NE The offshore scoping boundary and a separate slide showing the onshore scoping boundary was shared. The project explained that the decision taken to commence engagement with stakeholders on broader scoping boundary would allow early engagement which could be used to inform cable route selection (eg route around towns, villages, etc). ODOW noted that the OTNR process had experienced delays and therefore intention was to capture stakeholder feedback to allow further refinement of options ahead of PEIR. |
| 1.2 Ornithology | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Disturbance effects for O&M should be scoped out | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | NE (a) Natural England queried whether disturbance effects for O&M were scoped out. NE (b) Natural England noted that they may ask that this is scoped back in as associated boat traffic can be significant. Natural England also noted that lighting may need to be scoped in, clarifying that this was mainly in regards to seabirds and water birds, but that this is unlikely to be a significant issue. NE (c) Natural England clarified that it would depends on size of impact, but the focus is whether it can be scoped out now. As | Project response to NE (a) GoBe confirmed this was the case within the Export Cable Corridor (ECC). Project response to NE (b) GoBe queried whether Natural England would be happy to scope out Red Throated Diver for disturbance and displacement from O&M activities. Project response to NE (c) ODOW confirmed further information is included within the Scoping Report. |

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| | | | | | | the O&M port is not yet confirmed, unable to know the level of traffic so it might be premature to scope out now. Natural England noted the interrelationship between disturbance and barrier effects. This would be for transiting and for those residing in the area. | |
| 1.2.2 | Screening out Fulmer from Flamborough and Filey Coast (FFC) SPA is justified. | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | NE Natural England queried where Fulmar from Flamborough and Filey Coast (FFC) SPA were scoped in, noting that the Planning Inspectorate will want to know why Fulmer is screened out, urging ODOW to present rationale. | Project response to NE Noted that further justification is included that in our evidence for the screening report, building on how this has been dealt with in other projects. |
| 1.3 Assessment Methodology | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | Use of use of NatureScot apportioning is appropriate. | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | NE Natural England noted that they have some reservation re use of NatureScot apportioning south of the boarder as Scotland has multiple colonies who may be experiencing pressures, but in the SNS its almost just Flamborough so it may be better to use site specific data. | Project response to NE Acknowledged. |
| 1.3.2 | Bycatch reduction - Approach to Guillemot and Razorbill measures are appropriate. | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | NE Natural England queried whether the opportunity to buy out fisheries to reduce effort instead of trying to mitigate against effort. | Project response to NE GoBe confirmed this is something that is being explored but has considerable challenges. Action: GoBe to provide update at next ETG regarding the most suitable locations for bycatch reduction and mechanisms. |
| 1.3.3 | The most appropriate measure for compensation (subject to additionality) may be improving the availability of forage fish | No comment | Agreed | No comment | | NE Natural England noted that the most appropriate measure for compensation (subject to additionality) may be improving the availability of forage fish but recognise that may not be within the gift of an individual project level as needs Government intervention. | Project response to NE ODOW agreed and suggested that this may be something Defra would consider and enable developers to take forward. |

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Derogation & Compensation Expert Topic Group

29/09/2022, ETG Round 4, Initial Post Scoping Opinion

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000332-02

Invitees:

| MMO | RSPB | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | Environment Agency | Natural England |
|---------|---------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Present | Present | Present | Present | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | MMO | RSPB | LWT | EA | *NE | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|---|---|--|
| Derogation & Compensation | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Artificial Nesting Structures | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | ANS should take opportunities to reduce disease spread, e.g., through incorporating separators between nest spaces. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | Agreed | | NE Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advises that ANS design takes opportunities to reduce disease spread, e.g., through incorporating separators between nest spaces, as seen in some kittiwake ANS designs. | Project response to NE For kittiwake, the Project stated they were also considering adaptive management options, such as supplement feeding which may potentially compliment the offshore nesting structures. This could be fed into the design. Also, for kittiwake, a new novel idea was stated to be in the early stages of concept by the Project, which took into consideration the potential impact of avian influenza on populations, is urban deterrents. It was understood that artificial nesting structures rely on non-breeders of a population to 'move in' and occupy breeding sites on structures. |
| 1.1.2 | Offshore ANS will be an effective compensation measure for gannet. | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | NE Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England note the emerging evidence on large auk usage of rigs, and RSPBs reservations regarding them. At this stage Natural England are broadly content for ANS to be considered for this species, although as part of a package of measures given this would be a novel approach and effectiveness is largely unknown. Natural England is not persuaded that offshore ANS will be an effective compensation measure for gannet, and in the light of HPAI it seems even less likely that nest space availability will be an issue for gannet. RSPB | Project response to NE Acknowledged. |

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| | | | | | | | | For gannet, RSPB do not consider there to be any viable evidence available for artificial nesting structures. | |
| 1.1.3 | Offshore ANS will be an effective compensation measure for guillemot and razorbill. | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>RSPB (a) For guillemot and razorbill, RSPB are aware of the information presented for Hornsea Four, but RSPB would like to see a lot more evidence on the usage. RSPB are aware from the OWIC case study that there is reference to Swedish example, also detailed within the ODOW Project briefing notes. This would need to be carefully considered as it appeared that the growth in the use of the artificial structure was very slow out of a colony of approx. 10,000 pairs.</p> <p>RSPB (b) RSPB's level of support, for strategic or project level compensation, depend on the level of evidence available and have reasonable confidence the measures will work.</p> | <p>Project response to RSPB (a) The Project noted RSPB's comments and confirmed that artificial structures were not the primary method of compensation being considered by the Project for any of the mentioned species in which RSPB had concerns over.</p> |
| 1.2 Additional Data Acquisition | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | The novel approach proposed by the project provides the ability to catch throughout the season. | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>RSPB RSPB confirmed with normal catching methods for kittiwake the time to catch the birds is restricted to the incubation or early hatching period. However, due to the novel approach being proposed by the Project, RSPB confirmed that the Project would have the ability to catch throughout the season and therefore stagger the tagging which would provide a wider window for data.</p> | <p>Project response to RSPB Acknowledged.</p> |
| 1.3 Site Selection and Design | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | There is sufficient detail pertaining to site selection | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | <p>NE (a) Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England's view is that sufficient detail on location and design – with a location specified - is required during the Examination so that the SoS can have confidence that the compensation is secured, and that appropriate public consultation has been carried out. Natural England are finding that securing locations post-consent for ANS is proving highly challenging for those developers not committing to specific locations, albeit this is principally relating to onshore issues.</p> <p>NE (b) Action: RSPB and Natural England to confirm agreement on the Project's approach to site selection criteria.</p> <p>Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England do not feel enough information has been provided at this stage given Natural England were unable to attend this meeting and await further info at next ETG and in PEIR.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Four main selection criteria included outside of core foraging range from Flamborough and Filey Coast (FFC) SPA, connectivity with FFC SPA, avoiding all constraints (SPAs, SACs, pipelines etc.) and overlay the foraging hotspots and/or prey habitat. Further detail would be provided in the PEIR and discussed at the next expert topic group (ETG) meeting.</p> |
| 1.4 Urban Deterrent Improvement | | | | | | | | | |

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| 1.4.1 | Kittiwake urban deterrent improvement approach is clear. | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | <p>NE (a) Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England notes that badly maintained netting in the Newcastle Gateshead colony has been a well-publicised issue and remedial action has been taken in a number of instances. There is therefore a high level of awareness in this location. It is unclear whether there are colonies that would provide the opportunity for a significant 'uplift' by improving deterrents.</p> <p>NE (b) Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advise speaking to the Tyne Kittiwake Partnership regarding their position on and experience of AviShock and other alternative deterrents.</p> <p>RSPB (a) RSPB would like to discuss this measure with their RSPB technical colleagues that deal with urban gulls, as well as their legal team.</p> <p>RSPB (b) and NE (c) Action: RSPB and Natural England to provide comments on the novel measure of urban deterrent improvement for kittiwake.</p> <p>Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: As already suggested by the Applicant, the level of mortality currently present would need to be quantified, which may be tricky given that any current methods being used should not in theory be causing mortality? Also, there are concerns over value of this measure given the number of new onshore ANS proposed by other projects.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) The project stated that there were several less impactful alternatives (e.g. AviShock) but they were generally more expensive than cheaper options such as netting.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) The Project were looking at funding to maintain deterrents and/or funding to supplement organisations using deterrents to upgrade to a less invasive option.</p> <p>Some challenges the Project foresaw included determining the current mortalities from deterrents, as well as support from stakeholders.</p> <p>The Project were keen to understand what stakeholder's initial thoughts were on this as a measure and what information/evidence would stakeholders require to have confidence in the measure.</p> <p>Project response to RSPB (a) The Project were still considering this option as an appropriate measure and would appreciate stakeholders' comments.</p> |
| 1.5 Bycatch Reduction | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5.1 | Gannet - It is feasible to conduct compensation outside of UK waters. | | | | | | <p>RSPB RSPB confirmed consideration needs to be given to connectivity and the evidence of effective measures against the relevant fleet/vessel types, and secondly how receptive other countries (such as the Portuguese) authorities would be. RSPB referred the Project to their Hornsea Four submission in which RSPB's bycatch experts fed in, although noting this is a different species. Hornsea Four's predator eradication measure is outside of the UK, therefore if the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) decide Hornsea Four's submission is an appropriate way forward, then BEIS will need to form an opinion on the proposed use of waters outside of the UK. Although Hornsea Four is a different measure, RSPB would expect the principle will remain the same.</p> <p>NE (a) Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England suggest Defra and BEIS are the best</p> | <p>Project response to RSPB Acknowledged.</p> |

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| | | | | | | | <p>organisations to speak to regarding any concerns around governance and enforceability.</p> <p><u>RSPB (b) and NE (b)</u></p> <p><i>Action: RSPB and Natural England to confirm if it is feasible to conduct compensation outside of UK waters and if this is viable going forward, as well as what information/evidence would stakeholders require to have confidence in the bycatch reduction measure.</i></p> <p><u>NE (c)</u></p> <p>Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advise that it is theoretically feasible but as stated previously, there would need to be consideration for both the degree of connectivity and whether it is practically feasible to undertake the measure, and whether it could be shown to be secured. Regarding the information/evidence needed to have confidence in the bycatch method, the Applicant would need to quantify the level of bycatch in a fishery, and reliably quantify the effectiveness of the proposed method of reducing it.</p> | |
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A coastal landscape featuring a sandy path winding through dunes covered in tall, dry grasses. The path leads towards a beach and the ocean under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex C Part 2 of 9

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024

Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex C – Part 2 of 9

Marine Ecology, Coastal Processes Consultation Logs

The Consultation Logs presented in this document have been drafted on the basis of the EPP Terms of Reference and previous logs issued to relevant ETG meeting participants. The template has been updated in response to feedback from Natural England. The information presented is based upon that previously issued to stakeholders and derived from ETG meeting minutes (Annex B). The information and agreements included in the Consultation Logs presents the Applicant's interpretation of the points discussed during ETG meetings.

1 Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Ecology & Coastal Processes Expert Topic Group

11/01/2022, ETG Round 1, Project Introduction

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000115-01

Invitees:

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Environment Agency | CEFAS | Natural England | MMO |
| Present | Present | Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | Environment Agency | CEFAS | Natural England | MMO | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---|--|--------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|---|--|---|
| Marine Ecology & Coastal Processes | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Marine physical processes from a benthic ecology perspective appear to be appropriate at this stage. | No Comment | Agreed | No Comment | No Comment | | Cefas Stated all impacts and plans seem sensible so far from a Benthic Ecology perspective. | Project response to Cefas There were no further comments. |
| 1.1.2 | Consideration of non-native species (NNS) is sufficient | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | | Cefas Stated that consideration of the possibility of the introduction of non-native species (NNS) should have been given and suggested more evidence would be required to state there will not be a negative effect. | Project response to Cefas Confirmed that more evidence would be sought to support that this would not result in a significant effect. |
| 1.1.3 | The ability to detect natural change from development is clear/sufficient. | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | NE (a) Raised concerns surrounding the ability to detect natural change from development and queried if there are enough sample stations. Raised concern that there must be a need to establish if natural changes occur before work started. NE (b) Queried whether ODOW could access data from other developer's pre-construction surveys and suggested it would be good to look at the most recent information. LB also flagged Natural England has provided comments on Viking Link for a reef, which Viking Link were unable to avoid, which has caused considerable concern as this is a priority habitat, although noted it is not designated. | Project response to NE (a) Noted this concern and stated other surveys and data sets could provide this information to support this. |

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| | | | | | | | Post meeting note: Confirmed that the data used to inform the benthic ecology baseline should ideally be no more than ten years old. If there is an intention to use older data, then justification should be provided. | |
| 1.2 Fish and Shellfish Ecology | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Approach to Fish and Shellfish ecology baseline, EIA and embedded mitigation is sufficient. | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | | <p>Cefas (a) Noted there were no proposed fisheries surveys, and queried what data are being used. GE confirmed that the age of data from Triton Knoll is becoming outdated for fisheries.</p> <p>Confirmed ODOW should be mindful that some data is becoming outdated and may no longer be robust.</p> <p>Cefas (b) Noted that there is a localised spawning ground, identified by Triton Knoll, and ODOW might partially overlap that area. The grab sites and coverage should be over those herring spawning areas to see if it even suitable for herring spawning.</p> <p>Confirmed Cefas is not comfortable with the scoping out of the direct damage impacts due to herring and sand eel. GE requested these are scoped in for the Scoping Report phase.</p> | <p>Project response to Cefas (a) Noted this point and stated that other developer surveys which overlapped with some of the study area for this project would be used as well as other side data. Project confirmed the Scoping Report would have a full list of resources, including age of data, being used.</p> |

1 Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Ecology and Coastal Processes Expert Topic Group

11/07/2022, ETG Round 2, PEIR Phase

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000271-01

Invitees:

| MMO | CEFAS |
|---------|---------|
| Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | MMO | CEFAS | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|--|------------|-----------|--|--|---|
| Marine Ecology & Coastal Processes and Derogation & Compensation (Benthic focus) | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Baseline Characterisation – Benthic | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Known baseline characterisation presented was sufficient | No Comment | Disagreed | | <u>Cefas</u> Enquired about which layers ODOW are using to produce the baseline characterisation maps. After it was confirmed that JNCC data layers were displayed on the map in the slides, it was recommended that Natural England and MMO data layers are also used going into PEIR stage to incorporate additional areas of management. | <u>Project response to Cefas</u> Confirmed that these had been used in the benthic sampling location planning. It was confirmed that environmental risk assessments were used as well as consideration of engineering constraints to ensure the ECC area has been defined to minimise cable crossings and overlap with SACs. Action: GoBe to incorporate MMO and Natural England data layers for baseline characterization at PEIR stage. |
| 1.2 EIA Approach – Benthic | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Scoping out INNS and EMF is an appropriate approach | No comment | Disagreed | | <u>Cefas</u> Queried whether INNS and EMF should be scoped out, as there are studies to show that both elements have presented themselves with similar projects and subsea cables. Cefas advised that despite INNS already being present, additional species could still be introduced. | <u>Project response to Cefas</u> Acknowledge that INNS are already present in the area, and the Project have scoped INNS out on the bases that the Project would not increase this spread. Recent studies in EMF are 10-fold higher as they are not shielded cables, whereas the project would be using shielded cables and would not expect significant exposures to EMFs. |

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Ecology and Coastal Processes Expert Topic Group

12/10/2022, ETG Round 3, PEIR Phase

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000338-02

Invitees:

| MMO | CEFAS | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | Environment Agency | Natural England |
|---------|---------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Present | Present | Present | Present | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | MMO | CEFAS | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | Environment Agency | Natural England | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---|---|------------|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|
| Marine and Coastal Processes | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Marine Physical Processes | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Scoping in seabed scouring is sufficient | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | NE Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advise that secondary scour around the edge of scour and cable protection should also be considered and assessed. | Project response to NE Acknowledged |
| 1.1.2 | Scoping out features located above MHWS in the marine physical processes assessment is justified. | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | NE Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advise that some supratidal features (e.g., dunes, cliff faces), may be present at landfall which could be affected by construction or operation of the development. Therefore, supratidal coastal features should remain scoped in. | Project response to NE Acknowledged |
| 1.2 Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Data sets included for assessment are sufficient. | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | NE Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England confirmed all post construction monitoring reports are missing. | Project response to NE Acknowledged |
| 1.2.2 | The site-specific surveys are sufficient | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | NE Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England advises that further information and assessment is required before we can provide comment of the sufficiency of the of surveys. | Project response to NE Acknowledged |
| 1.2.3 | Impacts scoped out are appropriate | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | Cefas | Project response to Cefas Once the benthic data had been appraised, any sensitive features or where |

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| | | | | | | | | Confirmed they have no comments on accidental pollution or EMF. However, with regards to the change in Physical Processes, the Scoping Report indicated that 5% of array area would be affected, working out to be approximately 15km ² . This is considered a large area of disturbance. Cefas queried if the affected 5% would be reduced with scour protection. Cefas also questioned whether features of conservation interest can be avoided. Cefas confirmed if the footprint is 15km ² , this impact should not be scoped out. | infrastructure is proposed to be laid, the Project stated they would attempt to mitigate where possible. With regards to the size of the area affected, the Benthic and Physical Processes teams would discuss this further. The Project confirmed that any sensitive areas, particularly biogenic reef, would be identified and Annex 1 guidance would be followed. Action: GoBe's technical teams (Benthic Ecology and Physical Processes) to discuss if 5% of array area would be affected and whether this would be reduced with scour protection. |
| 1.2.4 | Measures to prevent introduction of MINNS are sufficient | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | Cefas With regards to MINNS, Cefas accepted the measures in place to prevent introduction of MINNS. However, Cefas confirm the installation of infrastructure would create hard habitats which would act as steppingstone to facilitate MINNS. Cefas requested the Project consider the potential for infrastructure to be colonized by MINNS and consider connection between structures. | Project response to Cefas The Project noted Cefas' concerns and confirmed the consideration of including an appraisal of the impact with the PEIR assessment. The Project acknowledge that all stakeholders agree embedded mitigation would significantly reduce impacts from MINNS and further appraisal will provide reassurance. |
| 1.3 Fish and Shellfish | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | Reliance on the existing fisheries data is sufficient | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | NE Post meeting note from Natural England received on 02 November 2022: Natural England is concerned about the reliance on the existing fisheries data in particular when there are wider ecosystem concerns in relation to potential impacts to prey availability and foraging ability. This is something which is becoming an increasing concern for projects within the Greater Wash and being flagged in Application responses. | Project response to NE Acknowledged. |
| 1.3.2 | Ten years of IHLS data used to inform the assessment of impacts on spawning herring | No comment | Agreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | Cefas Cefas welcome a full ten-year dataset being assessed. | Project response to Cefas Acknowledged. |

1 Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine and Coastal Processes Expert Topic Group

02/12/2022, ETG Round 4, PEIR Phase

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000362-02

Invitees:

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------|--------------------|
| Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | WildlifeMMO | Natural England | CEFAS | Environment Agency |
| Present | Present | Present | Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | MMO | Natural England | CEFAS | Environment Agency | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---|--|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|---|--|--|
| Marine Ecology and Coastal Processes | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Other cumulative impacts such as habitat loss do not need to be considered | No Comment | No Comment | Disagreed | No Comment | No Comment | | <p>NE Post meeting note from Natural England received 06 January 2023: The only impact to be considered cumulatively is temporary increase in suspended sediment and sediment deposition. Consideration may need to be given to other cumulative impacts such as permanent habitat loss.</p> <p>Cefas Agreed with scoping in INNS and queried if this could be considered within the cumulative assessments in consideration with other projects.</p> | <p>Project response to NE Confirmed that the following operation and maintenance phase impacts would be included within the assessment (1) Changes to seabed habitats arising from effects on physical processes, including scour, effects and changes in the sediment transport and wave regimes resulting in potential effects on benthic communities; (2) Increased risk of introduction or spread of Marine INNS due to presence of infrastructure and vessel movements (e.g. the discharge of ballast water) may affect benthic ecology and biodiversity.</p> <p>Project response to Cefas Confirmed this impact would be considered for inclusion in the cumulative effects assessment if the project alone effect is deemed higher than a negligible magnitude (as per the guidance on cumulative assessment)</p> |
| 1.2 Physical Processes | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Proposed methodology sufficient | EIA is No comment | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | | <p>NE Post meeting note from Natural England received 06 January 2023: Natural England suggested where numerical modelling is presented in the PEIR, it would be helpful to also include visual representation on a map, particularly in relation to the sediment plume modelling. This would also be useful to include for the benthic chapter.</p> | <p>Project response to NE Acknowledged.</p> |
| 1.3 Fish and Shellfish Ecology | | | | | | | | | |

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| 1.3.1 | The manner in which the epi-benthic trawl survey data was being used for sandeels is appropriate | No comment | No comment | No comment | Agreed | No comment | | <p><u>Cefas (a)</u> Queried how the epi-benthic trawl survey data was being used for sandeels and when the data was collected.</p> <p><u>Cefas (b)</u> Agreed with approach and advised that the Project look at commercial fishery data within the area to strengthen sandeel data.</p> | <p><u>Project response to Cefas (a)</u> Confirmed that they were recent and were being used for present/absence not abundance.</p> <p><u>Project response to Cefas (b)</u> Confirmed at that time, sandeel were not fished commercially within the area but would look for updates.</p> |
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Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Ecology and Coastal Processes Expert Topic Group

17/03/2023, ETG Round 5, PEIR Updates

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000416-01

Invitees:

| WSP | Natural England | Environment Agency | CEFAS | MMO |
|---------|-----------------|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Present | Present | Present | Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | Environment Agency | CEFAS | MMO | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------|------------|------------|---|--|---|
| Marine Ecology and Coastal Processes | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Marine Processes | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | The proposal for supratidal features to be scoped out is justified because the project is committing to the use of trenchless cable installation methodology to not impact this feature. | Disagreed | Disagreed | No Comment | No Comment | | <p>NE (a) Confirmed that at this point Natural England cannot agree and would like to take this away and provide comments post meeting.</p> <p>EA Raised that the Project should consider historic rates of erosion due to siting of the directional drilling rig and infrastructure for landfall. Site launch points should be far enough onshore to allow for the depth below the features and not be impacted by coastal erosion. It was added that more discussion on this topic is welcomed, and this could be moved from an area of disagreement to awaiting data or seeking agreement.</p> <p>NE (b) Confirmed Natural England will provide comments post meeting.</p> | Project response to NE and EA (a) Confirmed that discussions were ongoing with engineers, and they were taking into consideration the factors, hoping to provide information at PEIR and further clarity at ES. |
| 1.2 Benthic Ecology | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Debris removal is a suitable compensation for habitat loss. | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>Cefas Noted that debris removal may be not a suitable compensation for habitat loss, noting this is ultimately a decision for NE.</p> | Project response to Cefas Acknowledged. |
| 1.3 Fish and Shellfish | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | Not using the Hawkins <i>et al.</i> (2014) behavioural threshold is justified due to | No comment | No comment | Disagree | No comment | | Cefas (a) | Project response to Cefas (a) |

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| <p>the difference in noise in the study area and the Project area.</p> | | | | | <p>Confirmed that the Cefas stance is that they still disagree. 135dB should be presented due to the herring at Flamborough head, they are aware of limitations of the data but it is the best available evidence. Alternative evidence is welcomed but at the current point this remains the position.</p> <p>Cefas (b) Explained that limitations should be included, and the contours will be taken as subjective and proportionate. If there is an overlap with spawning ground, then this is the main concern. ODOW is further south, Triton Knoll had restrictions due to the spawning ground. It was suggested modelling will help as the location of ODOW has uncertainty with the proximity to the spawning grounds.</p> <p>Cefas (c) Welcomed this and would like to consult on this. Noting it would allow overlaps to be identified and suggest whether restrictions would be needed. Further adding new noise abatement methods are also being developed and this should also be looked into for the Project.</p> | <p>Asked if there were suggestions on how to contextualise with the issues associated with the reactions of the fish to noise in this location and the variability and response of the fish to the receptors to different sound level with factors such as Mackerel present.</p> <p>Project response to Cefas (b) Noted this and asked whether 5dB increments could be presented and then discussed with Cefas.</p> <p>Project response to Cefas (c) This was noted by the Project and stated that if this could not be provided at PEIR, would be something that they seek further consultation on.</p> |
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1.4 Derogation and Compensation

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| <p>1.4.1 Creation of biogenic reef - the project does not need to present that the features were historically there</p> | <p>Disagreed</p> | <p>No comment</p> | <p>No comment</p> | <p>No comment</p> | <p>NE (a) Asked what type of reef the project was proposing?</p> <p>NE (b) Explained that this is an SAC so the Project would need to present that the features were historically there and therefore this effort would be restoration. Adding that the introduction of oysters and mussels would hinder Sabellaria developing within that area. It was highlighted that this is not a like for like measure.</p> <p>Also added that the whole SAC could not be added as a compensation area.</p> <p>NE (c) Added that the SEP and DEP reef creation is different as this is within an MCZ and not an SAC that has specific features.</p> <p>Further added that the impact that is affecting Sabellaria is fishing pressures and bylaws are being put in place to stop bottom tow trawling so recovery may start happening. Restoration may happen and then when the compensation measures are going to be delivered this may not be appropriate.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Project confirmed they were proposing native oyster and blue mussel.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) Confirmed that the whole area had been included at that time to allow for consultation and recommendations to refine the area from consultation.</p> |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Ecology, Coastal Processes and Compensation & Derogation Expert Topic Group

7/08/2023, ETG Round 6, S42 Consultation Feedback
 ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM0018

Invitees:

| MMO | CEFAS | Natural England | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust |
|---------|---------|---|---|
| Present | Present | *Not part of ETG meeting but relevant to discussion | *Not part of ETG meeting but relevant to discussion |

| ID | Agreement | MMO | CEFAS | Natural England | LWT | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------------|------------|---|--|---|
| Benthic Ecology and Coastal Processes | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Underwater Noise | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | 135 decibel (dB) (SELs) startle response (as per Hawkins et al. (2014) is not a needed approach | Disagreed | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | | <p>MMO Requested previously that additional noise modelling was presented at Banks herring spawning ground based on the 135 decibel (dB) (SELs) startle response (as per Hawkins <i>et al.</i> (2014).</p> <p>Cefas Explained that as long as a 135db increment is presented then this is an acceptable method.</p> | <p>Project response to MMO The Project explained they still believed this was overly precautionary. They proposed presenting the potential behavioural impact ranges as 5dB increments from the piling source alongside a literature review of impacts from underwater noise to fish species.</p> |
| 1.1.2 | Noise abatement needs to be considered | Agreed | Agreed | No comment | No comment | | <p>MMO Highlighted that with the large scale of developments of offshore wind in the North Sea, it is vital discussions are held regarding noise abatement.</p> <p>Cefas (a) Explained that Cefas will wait until they see the noise modelling to comment.</p> <p>Cefas (b) Agreed that this would be welcomed, noting they are undertaking survey work in September but could find a colleague to cover.</p> | <p>Project response to MMO It was confirmed that the Project would take this into consideration. The requirement for mitigation measures would be considered following completion of the assessment as appropriate.</p> <p>It was noted that the Project had committed to considering the use of noise abatement in the MMMP, which whilst not focused on fish, would therefore still provide benefits if implemented.</p> <p>Project response to Cefas (a) Added that the Project were proposing that post design refinement, a meeting would be set up to discuss the noise modelling with stakeholders to agree on final modelling locations and address any queries with the model.</p> |

| 1.2 Habitat Disturbance | | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|---|
| 1.2.1 | Habitat disturbance impacts on herring and sandeel do not need further consideration and/or clarification | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>MMO Recommended that further consideration and clarification is provided in the ES chapter regarding habitat disturbance impacts on herring and sandeel.</p> <p>Project response to MMO It was confirmed that the physical process models of sediment dispersion and deposition would be updated to help inform the assessments for herring and sandeel once the final project design is available.</p> <p>The Project noted that any additional data sources stakeholders were aware of that could be used to inform the assessments would be welcomed.</p> |
| 1.3 Increased SSC and Deposition Assessment | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | There are no concerns with the increased redeposition of sediments on sandeel populations, particularly over the sandbanks within the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SAC. | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | Disagreed | | <p>LWT Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust raised concerned about the increased redeposition of sediments on sandeel populations, particularly over the sandbanks within the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SAC.</p> <p>Cefas (a) Noted that the approach is suitable, the Project need to ensure that the model's calibration and validation is included.</p> <p>Recommended that the Project look at sediment climatology and provided the link - Monthly average non-algal Suspended Particulate Matter concentrations - Cefas (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science). Noting that this data is only for the surface but gives an idea of the variability within the area.</p> <p>Cefas (b) Explained that Cefas will defer to Natural England, unless there is effect on benthic species.</p> <p>Project response to stakeholders It was confirmed the Project were updating physical processes modelling and that engineering work is ongoing to refine the worst-Case Scenario. It was stated that these would be used to inform the assessments and conclusions within the ES chapter.</p> <p>Project response to stakeholders (a) Noted that this comment from LWT, whilst raised in relation to sandeel, had implications for commitments made to mitigate impacts to the features of the SAC around the retention of sediment within the system. It was asked whether any stakeholders could talk about their views on deposition of sediment across the SAC?</p> |
| 1.4 Potential Impacts to Prey Species of Annex 1 Species | | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 | Due consideration does not need to be given to potential impacts to Annex I species. | Disagreed | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>MMO and NE The MMO and Natural England noted the ecological importance of sandeels to support marine predators in the study area and recommended that the Project gives due consideration to potential impacts to Annex I species.</p> <p>Project response to MMO and NE The Project confirmed that assessments would be updated to address the potential for these impacts to occur and the data sources recommended would be utilised accordingly.</p> |
| 1.4.2 | Considering regional scale impacts is an appropriate approach. | Agreed | Agreed | No comment | No comment | | <p>MMO The MMO noted the high occurrence of sandeels recorded in the drop-down videos.</p> <p>Cefas Explained that whilst the PEIR was right to look at population scale impacts, it is also necessary to consider regional scale impacts and so effects on these populations are important to understand and they are pleased that the Project are addressing this and taking the comments on board.</p> <p>Project response to MMO The Project stated that they would look to map the populations in time to present them at the next ETG, so the regional scale impacts could be assessed.</p> |

| 1.5 Project Parameters | | | | | | | | |
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| 1.5.1 | At this stage qualitative assessment of the benthic features is appropriate. | Agreed | Agreed | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>NE (a) Natural England previously raised that there is a lack of quantitative assessment in the MDS for UXO detonation.</p> <p>MMO (a) and NE (b) It was noted that the MMO and Natural England have agreed within the section 42 responses with the approach to not licence UXO clearance at this stage.</p> <p>Cefas Cefas believe this sounds reasonable but cannot comment on Natural England's behalf.</p> <p>MMO (b) MMO also agree but defer the comment to Natural England.</p> | <p>Project response to stakeholders It was explained that the Project had not undertaken any surveys and were not planning on licensing UXO detonation within the DCO/ deemed marine licences at this stage. Therefore, there was a lack of certainty to enable a quantitative assessment of this impact. The worst case, in terms of charge sizes was based on Sofia and Hornsea Two and it was expected that the Project would be within these. At this stage it was proposed that qualitative assessment to the benthic features is undertaken.</p> |
| 1.6 Baseline Data | | | | | | | | |
| 1.6.1 | Post-construction monitoring reports do not need to be included in the assessment. | Disagreed | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>NE Noted in the Scoping Opinion that post construction monitoring reports are missing and suggested OneBenthic data should be appraised.</p> <p>MMO Action: MMO – to liaise with post consent team for HOW01 to check all the data is on the register.</p> | <p>Project response to NE ODOW confirmed that the data highlighted was added to the relevant assessments within PEIR.</p> <p>The Project asked if data from Projects such as Hornsea One would be on the MMOs MCMS system.</p> |
| 1.6.2 | Further ground truthing investigation is not required to conclude that the sites with hard substrate do not constitute Annex I reef/NERC Priority Habitats | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>NE Natural England advised that to be able to conclude that the sites with hard substrate do not constitute Annex I reef/NERC Priority Habitats, further ground truthing investigation would be required.</p> | <p>Project response to stakeholders It was confirmed the Project had committed to pre-construction surveys of the proposed development in order to determine the location, extent and composition of any Annex I reef/NERC Priority Habitats. The Project had also committed to micro-siting infrastructure where practicable.</p> |
| 1.7 Environmental Impact Assessment | | | | | | | | |
| 1.7.1 | It is appropriate how the impacts of temporary disturbance from construction activities within the sandbanks features in the IDRBNR SAC and the Greater Wash SPA has been considered separately from those of non-designated sandbanks. | No comment | Agreed | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>NE Natural England noted it is unclear how the impacts of temporary disturbance from construction activities within the sandbanks features in the IDRBNR SAC and the Greater Wash SPA has been considered separately from those of non-designated sandbanks.</p> <p>Cefas Explained that they do not have any issues or concern with this approach but would defer to Natural England to confirm their position.</p> | <p>Project response to NE It was explained that the Project considered the designation status of sandbanks in the assessment but for brevity combined the overall assessments into a single section. The Project were content to provide separate assessments under separate subheadings for these impacts.</p> <p>The Project asked whether this approach was acceptable to resolve this concern.</p> |
| 1.7.2 | The impact of colonisation on project infrastructure is calculated accurately | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>MMO Explained that the MMO spotted a miscalculation of the impact of colonisation on Project infrastructure.</p> | <p>Project response to MMO It was explained that this would be updated for ES but was not considered to impact on the conclusions drawn within the PEIR.</p> |
| 1.8 Potential Sabellaria Reef | | | | | | | | |

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| 1.8.1 | The benthic characterisation surveys were able to delineate Annex I biogenic reef features from the acquired acoustic data. | Disagreed | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>MMO and NE MMO and Natural England advised that the benthic characterisation surveys were unable to delineate Annex I biogenic reef features from the acquired acoustic data. Therefore, more information is required to inform these assessments.</p> <p>Cefas Noted that the results have to be accurate or precautionary, if you can achieve one of these then they believe the methodology is satisfactory. They added that the quality of reef may not determine the conservation value and would have to defer to Natural England for this.</p> | <p>Project response to MMO and NE It was confirmed that the data had identified no clear areas of reef and shows no signs of well-established reef. The reef found within the ground truthing has been low grade.</p> <p>It was explained that the Project undertook a high sampling strategy for the baseline characterisation ground-truthing campaign. This found some areas of low-grade reef, supporting the geophysical data results.</p> <p>Confirmed that the Project had committed to pre-construction surveys and micro-siting of infrastructure.</p> |
| 1.9 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) | | | | | | | | |
| 1.9.1 | There is sufficient evidence to conclude no adverse effect to the IDRBNR SAC. | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | Disagreed | | <p>NE and LWT Natural England and LWT advised that there is insufficient evidence to conclude no adverse effect to the IDRBNR SAC.</p> | <p>Project response to stakeholders It was confirmed that the Project were looking to refine assessments and make them robust with additional supporting evidence.</p> <p>It was added that updated supplementary advice had been released since the assessments were undertaken and this would be considered within the updated assessments.</p> |
| 2.1 Compensation Strategy | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1.1 | It is clear how the Project will facilitate the extension of the IDRBNR SAC. | No comment | Agreed | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>NE (a) Natural England asked for more specific details on how the Project will facilitate the extension of the IDRBNR SAC including further details on how this would be undertaken and attributed to the Project.</p> <p>NE (b) Natural England asked for evidence that the recreation of biogenic reef would not impact on the conservation objectives of the existing features of the IDRBNR SAC.</p> <p>Cefas (a) Noted that this sounds like an appropriate approach but defer to Natural England.</p> <p>Cefas (b) Added that at this stage there are no additional comments.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) It was confirmed that the Project was progressing road mapping for this strategy and were meeting with Defra regularly (6 weekly) to discuss this and other matters. It was noted that the extension of the SAC was not within the power of the developer and could only be undertaken by the government.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) The Project confirmed that work was being undertaken to refine potential areas for the establishment of reef. They planned to consult stakeholders to find areas which were considered suitable.</p> <p>Project response to stakeholders Asked whether any stakeholders could provide technical advice about the biology of reef that may be beneficial.</p> |
| 2.1.2 | The project does not need to undertake a habitat suitability study | No comment | Disagreed | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>Cefas (a) Added that they believe Natural England would want to make sure that restoration doesn't compromise conservation features. They asked which type of reef is being suggested for this biogenic reef recreation.</p> <p>Cefas (b) Agrees Sabellaria reef establishment has not been successful. Natural England are concerned that the</p> | <p>Project response to Cefas (a) It was explained Mytilus edulis or native oyster (Ostrea edulis) is being proposed.</p> <p>Project response to Cefas (b) This was welcomed by the Project, and it was noted that this would be explored.</p> |

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| | | | | | | | creation of new reef will take up areas of potential Sabellaria reef. It was recommended the Project undertake a habitat suitability study focusing on areas only suitable for mussels and oysters and not for Sabellaria. Noting if this is feasible it may help resolve this issue. | |
| 2.1.3 | The removal of redundant oil and gas infrastructure is an option for the project | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | NE For removal of redundant infrastructure removal as a potential compensation measure, Natural England advised that oil and gas is unlikely to be an option for Offshore Windfarms as this should be a responsibility of oil and gas industry. | Project response to NE The Project noted this and were looking to discuss with Natural England potential options for this measure. |
| 2.1.4 | Marine debris removal is an effective compensation method | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | NE Natural England advised that marine debris removal is an ineffective compensation method. | Project response to NE It was explained that the Project were considering their position in relation to this measure due to this advice and based on the difficulties other projects are experiencing. |
| 2.2 Scope Consultation | | | | | | | | |
| 2.2.1 | Features above MHWS do not need to be included within assessments. | Disagreed | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | MMO and NE It was explained that Natural England and MMO advised that features above MHWS should be included within assessments. Cefas Explained that due to the dynamic system and the beach nourishment Impact 3 (littoral transport and coastal behaviour at landfall during construction); Impact 8 (littoral transport and coastal behaviour at landfall during decommissioning) should be investigated. JR added that they advise the Project to look to how the Project would affect the beach nourishment that the EA have committed to. They advised investigating what triggers the nourishment and whether if the case is the Project speeds up the process, will this mean the EA replenish rapidly? | Project response to MMO and NE It was confirmed that the dunes noted by Natural England to be included in the assessments had been included in the onshore assessments. It was added that the Project had committed to trenchless cable techniques at landfall. It was noted that the beach also undergoes annual beach replenishment by the Environmental Agency (EA). Project response to stakeholders Project asked if the MMO (and Natural England) could advise on the proposed assessment on impacts above MHWS given the presence of annual beach nourishment? |
| 2.3 Assessment Methodology | | | | | | | | |
| 2.3.1 | There are a number of mitigation measures yet to be considered | No comment | Agreed | Agreed | No comment | | NE Natural England advised there are a number of mitigation measures not being considered. Cefas Noted that this seems like an appropriate approach. | Project response to NE The Project explained the consideration of mitigation measures was ongoing and as the project evolves. The engineers were refining the project design and this included the use of mitigation measures. |
| 2.3.2 | Predicted impacts and proposed mitigation measures do not need further clarification and evidence | No comment | Disagreed | Disagreed | No comment | | NE Natural England want further clarification and evidence for predicted impacts and proposed mitigation measures to address them. Cefas Agreed that evidence-based assessments were preferable to value-based assessment where possible. | Project response to NE The Project have noted this and will be providing further evidence within the ES. Project response to Cefas The Project confirmed that assessments have used all publicly available data and have included a suite of geophysical and benthic surveys. |

| 2.4 Impacts on Sandbank and Sandwave System | | | | | | | | |
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| 2.4.1 | The project should look at sediment mobility and the rate before and after construction | No comment | Agreed | No comment | No comment | | <p><i>*ODOW explained that Natural England have commented on how the data has been used to determine the recoverability of the sandbank system.</i></p> <p>Cefas Explained that due to the form and function of sandbanks it is very difficult to demonstrate that there has not been an impact and the natural dynamics will not be impacted. They recommended the Project look at sediment mobility and the rate before and after construction. If the Project can demonstrate the impact is within the natural variability of sandbanks then this is as far as you can conclude.</p> <p>Recommended data from the ORE catapult funded study (Partrac) be investigated. Noting he is working on the study.</p> | <p>Project response to Cefas It was confirmed the project were aware of this data for the assessments.</p> |
| 2.4.2 | Using data from Race Bank OWF to support sandwave recoverability is an appropriate approach | No comment | Disagreed | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>NE Natural England stated uncertainty on using the data from Race Bank OWF to support sandwave recoverability.</p> <p>Cefas Noted that they did see wave bathymetry of the sandbanks reestablishing after Race Bank OWF cabling work. They did note there should have been surveys post construction and this was missing.</p> | <p>Project response to NE It was noted the Project could not find the Relevant Representation to Norfolk Boreas where this uncertainty had been expressed on the PINS site and would ask if this can be shared by Natural England.</p> |
| 2.5 Scour Protection | | | | | | | | |
| 2.5.1 | Secondary scour needs to be fully assessed | Agreed | Agreed | No comment | No comment | | <p>MMO MMO noted scour protection is proposed in areas where scour would be predicted to occur, adding that secondary scour can occur and needs to be fully assessed.</p> <p>Cefas Explained the interface between scour protection and structure and the scour protection and the substrate need to be assessed. Noting other Projects including some by Orsted have struggled with this so taking this into account will be key.</p> | <p>Project response MMO The Project confirmed this would be fully assessed in ES. This would use evidence from other OWFs.</p> |
| 2.6 Nearshore and Landfall Works | | | | | | | | |
| 2.6.1 | Avoiding cable protection in the shallow nearshore is an appropriate approach | No comment | Agreed | No comment | No comment | | <p>Cefas Explained they agree with the view. this has been looked at before with cable protection and the risk of bentonite slurry blow outs. This should be considered in the worst-case scenarios.</p> | <p>Project response to Cefas Acknowledged.</p> |

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Benthic Ecology, Coastal Processes and Compensation & Derogation Expert Topic Group

14/09/23, ETG Round 7, ES Updates

ODOW Reference: Minutes – PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0027

Invitees:

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|-----------------|---------|---------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Natural England | MMO | CEFAS | Environment Agency | Eastern IFCA | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust |
| Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | NE | MMO | CEFAS | EA | IFCA | LWT | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|---|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---|--|--|
| Benthic Ecology, Coastal Processes and Compensation & Derogation | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Benthic Ecology | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | The maximum design scenario and impact assessment for UXO detonation undertaken by the Project is appropriate | Disagreed | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | <p>NE (a) No indication that UXO detonation has been considered as a cause of temporary habitat disturbance during the construction phase. A UXO assessment and plan needs to be produced to establish how UXO impacts to the seabed will be managed, both inside and outside of the designated sites.</p> <p>NE (b) LB explained this strategy is not consistent with recent projects and Natural England would like this considered as part of the application and the effects on benthic ecology.</p> <p>NE (c) – received 20/10/2023 The SEP and DEP Offshore SoCG agreement was: UXO clearance will be a separate Marine Licence and not part of DCO submission. However, assessments based on potential worst-case for UXO will be provided for information in the ES, Information for the HRA report, and draft MMMP for UXO. Therefore, Natural England advise this information is also included in the Project application. SEP and DEP provided an assessment of potential seabed disturbance impacts from UXO clearance within Cromer MCZ. We advise a similar</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) The Project stated they were not looking to include UXO detonation at this stage, a separate marine license will be sought post consent and so do not intend to present a quantitative assessment.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) ODOW reviewed recent applications and the approach ODOU took is consistent with that taken on recent OWF project applications to PINS including Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects and Hornsea Project Four.</p> <p>Project response to NE (c) Acknowledged.</p> <p>Project response to NE (d) Project stated this was done and in the area, there is a wide range of UXO numbers across the projects so this would be taken into account for the qualitative assessments.</p> |

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| | | | | | | | | | document is also included within the ODOW application. NE (d) LB explained that there has to be rationale to the potential UXO numbers, estimates need to be made based on evidence from surrounding projects and the assessments need to show a range of possible impacts. | |
| 1.1.2a | Baseline Data – Post-construction monitoring reports and OneBenthic data are provided within PEIR documentation | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | NE (a) Confirmed all post construction monitoring reports are missing. NE (b) Suggested OneBenthic data should be appraised. | Project response to NE (a, b) ODOW confirmed that OneBenthic data and post-construction OWF monitoring data were presented within the PEIR documentation. |
| 1.1.2b | Baseline Data – conclude that sites with hard substrate do not constitute Annex I reef/NERC Priority Habitats | Disagreed | Disagreed | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | NE and MMO Advised that to be able to conclude that the sites with hard substrate do not constitute Annex I reef/NERC Priority Habitats, further ground truthing investigation to confirm the absence of the characteristic species would be required. As this data is unlikely to be available until pre-construction, we query what commitments the Applicant can make now to minimise the impacts should stony reef be found. Cefas Due to the challenge to separate the signature of the reef, could the Project take a more conservative approach such as avoiding areas of mixed sediment? | Project response to NE and MMO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project stated that they committed to pre-construction surveys in order to determine the location, extent and composition of any Annex I reef/NERC Priority Habitats. The Project also committed to micro-siting infrastructure where practicable. Project response to Cefas The sediments in the area would not really allow this. The project stated they are revisiting the data. |
| 1.1.2c | Baseline Data – Benthic characterisation surveys were able to delineate Annex I biogenic reef features from the acquired acoustic data | Disagreed | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | NE and MMO Advised that as the benthic characterisation surveys were unable to delineate Annex I biogenic reef features from the acquired acoustic data the project needs to be able to draw conclusions on the impacts that it may have on this sensitive habitat and assess whether proposed mitigation measures would be feasible and effective. Information on extent and distribution of this habitat within the project red line boundary and, where applicable, the wider zone of impact is required to inform these assessments. | Project response to NE and MMO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well established 'reef' often evident as irregular ridges. Low grade <i>S. spinulosa</i> within mixed sediment is increasingly difficult to delineate. The Project undertook a high sampling strategy for the baseline characterisation ground-truth campaign. <i>S. spinulosa</i> that was found during surveys was low-grade and patchy in nature, supporting the geophysical results. The Project stated they committed to pre-construction surveys to identify the quality and extent of <i>S. spinulosa</i> and enable robust micro-siting of infrastructure to occur. |

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| 1.1.3a | Environmental Impact Assessment - PEIR is clear how the impacts of temporary disturbance associated with construction activity on Annex I sandbanks feature within the IDRBNR SAC and the Greater Wash SPA have been assessed. | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | NE Stated that PEIR is currently unclear how the impacts of temporary disturbance associated with construction activity on Annex I sandbanks feature within the IDRBNR SAC and the Greater Wash SPA have been assessed. The impact of temporary habitat disturbance on this feature should be covered separately. | Project response to NE Project stated If it was deemed more appropriate, a subheading for the SAC and SPA would be applied to the impact temporary habitat disturbance, for additional clarity. Project asked if stakeholders could confirm if the use of subheading is acceptable to close out this concern? |
| 1.1.3b | Environmental Impact Assessment - Impact of colonisation on Project Infrastructure is calculated correctly | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | MMO Identified a miscalculation of the impact of colonisation on Project infrastructure. | Project response to MMO The Project confirmed this typo, the total area should be presented as 8km ² (rather than 0.8km ²). This does not impact the project conclusions; however, the assessment will be updated accordingly within the ES. |
| 1.1.4a | Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) – Sufficient evidence to conclude no AEol. | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | NE and LWT General advice on the HRA includes stating that there is insufficient evidence to support conclusions of no AEol. | Project response to NE and LWT The Project noted this advice and will be working hard to support the conclusions of the HRA with additional supporting evidence where information is deemed missing. |
| 1.1.4b | Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) –IDRBNR SAC site integrity is not hindered and is able to meet site conservation objectives. | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | NE highlighted the latest supplementary advice on the conservation objectives for the site. We consider that the installation of hard structure already installed within the IDRBNR SAC is likely hindering site integrity and compromising the ability of the site to meet conservation objectives. | Project response to NE The Project stated that they were progressing mitigation options internally and a ‘without prejudice’ compensation strategy would be submitted alongside Application. |
| 1.1.5 | Development of the Inner Dowsing Race Bank and North Ridge (IDRBNR) SAC – Mitigation Hierarchy is fit for purpose | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | | Project to NE As advised by Natural England, the project stated that mitigation was being developed with engineers. The Project stated that they would evidence each of the measures with suitability and feasibility. The project stated that the following was being considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce the number of export cables though the use of high voltage direct current (HV/DC) system or coordinated approach with other projects; ▪ Micro siting cables around reef and other features of ecological importance; ▪ Sandwave levelling to reduce risk of free spanning cables and requirement for external cable protection; |

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| | | | | | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adoption of the reburial hierarchy with external cable protection being the last resort; ▪ At the pre-consent stage – finalise the cable burial risk assessment using Geotechnical data to focus cable protection requirements to areas where cables are likely to be sub-optimally buried ; ▪ Requirement to install cable protection with the minimal footprint; ▪ Not using jack up barges/ vessels along export cable routes through benthic SACs; ▪ Designing rock armouring to mirror the structure and function of geogenic reef; and ▪ Detonation of UXO outside of designated sites to avoid the creation of a crater. <p><u>Project query to NE</u> Project understood that this was a generic list of mitigation. Can NE provide some additional feedback and discussion?</p> |
| 1.1.6a | Feasibility and Development of the 'without prejudice' Compensation Strategy – Detail pertaining to Extending the IDRBNR SAC is currently sufficient | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p><u>NE (a)</u> The project needs to commit to providing additional specific detail on how it will commit to contributing towards the designation process beyond providing monitoring data and how an area of suitable compensation will be calculated.</p> <p><u>NE (b)</u> Natural England has no further comments, and this measure still has ecological merits. Defra will provide advice on their policy position.</p> <p><u>Project response to NE (a)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Project stated they were progressing road mapping this strategy, including working with Defra as the key stakeholder. ▪ It was noted that the designation of a new SAC or extension to an existing SAC is not within the power of a developer and can only be undertaken by Government. Thus, this measure is being progressed solely as a strategic measure and will inherently be less detailed in the final submission. ▪ A memorandum of understanding with other Projects requiring this measure is being developed. <p>Understood that the Natural England are supportive of this measure from an ecological perspective. However, the implementation is to a large degree dependent on ministerial approval of the MPA/SAC extension as a compensation measure.</p> |

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| 1.1.6b | Feasibility and Development of the 'without prejudice; Compensation Strategy – Site-specific evidence pertaining to Re-creation of Biogenic Reef demonstrates no impact to IDRBNR SAC conservation objectives | Disagreed | TBC | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>NE The project would need to demonstrate using robust site-specific evidence that new reef would not impact on the conservation objectives for the existing features of the IDRBNR SAC.</p> <p>EIFCA EIFCA confirmed that they were supportive of this measure. However, stated the Project needed to investigate the creation of biogenic reef as a compensation measure within the SAC and an additional reef that could be outside of the SAC for the purposes of fishing. A biogenic reef could also be created within the intertidal area of the Wash SAC (as a preliminary study was already undertake by EIFCA but could not be funded).</p> <p>MMO response to Project Action: MMO to consult with teams about the extension of the SAC bylaws the to the recreated biogenic reef.</p> | <p>Project response to NE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project was progressing with road mapping this strategy, including refinement of the proposed areas for the re-creation of biogenic reef that would limit the impact to availability for natural <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> reef creation, based on habitat suitability. The Project presented evidence within the PEIR of the historical presence of non-<i>S. spinulosa</i> biogenic reef within the SAC, demonstrating that these species would naturally co-exist. <p>Project response to EIFCA Acknowledged.</p> <p>Project question to MMO Only areas of known reef or areas managed as reef are protected by bylaws. Project asked if the MMO could extend the bylaws to protect re-created biogenic reef features within the SAC?</p> |
| 1.1.6c | Feasibility and Development of the 'without prejudice' Compensation Strategy – Detail pertaining to the removal of redundant Infrastructure is sufficient. | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>NE Whilst this can be considered as being appropriate from an ecological perspective, further detail is required on the locations of proposed infrastructure to understand what features are likely to be compensated for.</p> <p>NE also advise that the availability of redundant Oil and Gas infrastructure is unlikely to be an option for OWF compensation going forwards as the onus is for carbon capture and underground storage projects to use existing infrastructure. This is in addition to operation and maintenance works on live pipelines which are also likely to require the adoption of compensation measures to be provided by the Oil and Gas industry.</p> | <p>Project response to NE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project agreed with NE advice and stated this option was looking difficult to progress further with the lack of available redundant infrastructure within the area of interest. The Project stated they would re-assess the removal of other anthropogenic pressures, but this was presented in the long-list originally and was not short-listed due to feasibility. <p>The project stated they would continue to monitor progress through COWSC expert group 4 to assess the feasibility of this a viable measure.</p> |
| 1.2 Fish and Shellfish | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1a | Underwater Noise Assessment (Behavioural Impacts) – Proposed | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | MMO (a) | Project response to MMO (a) |

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| | updated underwater noise modelling locations are sufficient. | | | | | | | | Requested that Outer Dowsing models and presents additional underwater noise modelling at the Banks herring spawning grounds based on the 135 decibel (dB) (SELs) startle response (as per Hawkins <i>et al.</i> (2014)) to predict the impact ranges for behavioural responses of herring. MMO (b) Action: MMO to pass on the modelling locations for the underwater assessments to Cefas underwater team. | The Project agreed to display the 135dB SELs contour within the assessment – this would be contextualised alongside 5dB increments and a literature review of the response of fish to underwater noise at various noise levels. |
| 1.2.1b | Underwater Noise Assessment – Mitigation Measures consider the utilisation of noise abatement measures during piling operations | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | MMO The MMO highlighted that given the wider context of the current ramp up of offshore wind development at unprecedented scale in the North Sea it is vital that discussions are held regarding the utilisation of noise abatement measures during piling operations. | Project response to MMO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project stated revised noise modelling will be undertaken based on the updated array area. If significant effects are identified, appropriate mitigation measures would be considered, including noise abatement. All relevant NAS would be considered as relevant. It was noted that noise abatement may be required either through changes to government policy or as a result of non-fish assessments. If required through other routes, this would still provide direct benefit to fish receptors. |
| 1.2.3 | Habitat Disturbance Assessment – Impacts on substrate dependent spawners have been fully considered | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | MMO Recommended that further consideration and clarification is provided in the ES chapter regarding habitat disturbance impacts on herring and sandeel. | Project response to MMO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project stated that revised physical processes modelling was being undertaken based on the revised project parameters. Due consideration would also be given to the impacts to current and historical spawning grounds for herring and sandeel, and sediment suitability for potential future recolonisation. |
| 1.2.4 | Potential for Impacts to Prey of Annex 1 Species – Potential impacts to prey species of Annex 1 features of the Southern North Sea SAC and the Greater Wash SPA are considered. | Disagreed | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | MMO and NE Noted the ecological importance of sandeels to support marine predators in the study area and recommended that Outer Dowsing gives due consideration to potential impacts to Annex 1 species resulting from regional adverse impacts to sandeel populations. | Project response to MMO and NE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was noted and the assessment would be updated accordingly to address the potential for impacts to prey species of Annex 1 features of the Southern North Sea SAC and the Greater Wash SPA. Project noted that the MMO had suggested the use of additional data sources to inform this assessment of the presence and distribution of prey species (specifically sandeel), these will be utilised accordingly. |

1.3 Marine Processes

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| 1.3.1 | Dune features located above MHWS – detail pertaining to dune features is sufficient | Disagreed | Disagreed | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | | <p>MMO Recommends that impacts above MHWS are included in Impact 3, Impact 4, and Impact 8. This is to include the beach evolution over the lifespan of the project and to consider impacts of sea level rise on the beach profile, which could change the MHWS line.</p> <p>NE Advise that this impact should remain scoped into the EIA until it can be demonstrated that morphological change along the coastal frontage is unlikely. This should be based on analysis of recent data on dune frontage and beach profile change.</p> <p>Environment Agency Regarding the dunes and features about MHWS, the Environment Agency would like to see more detail of the impacts and also the impact on flooding.</p> | <p>Project response to MMO and NE The Project stated that dunes were present at the top of the intertidal area for the landfall, however, no impacts to these features are expected as the Project has committed to the use of trenchless cable installation methodologies at the landfall. Features located above MHWS were therefore not included within the Marine Processes assessment at PEIR but instead were captured within the onshore aspects.</p> <p>Project asked if MMO/NE could advise on the proposed assessment on impacts above MHWS given the presence of annual beach nourishment?</p> |
| 1.3.2 | Sandwave: Sandbank System – Construction and operational impacts due to ODOW will not hinder site integrity and conservation objectives | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>NE A number of pressures are already being exerted on IDRBNR SAC, including Race Bank OWF. We consider that the extent, distribution, structure and function attributes of the Annex I sandbank feature have already been affected by the installation of Race Bank OWF. We are, therefore, concerned that construction and operational impacts due to ODOW may further hinder site integrity and further compromise the ability of the site to meet its conservation objectives. The mitigation hierarchy should be applied and in the first instance every effort should be made to avoid an adverse effect on site integrity altogether; but if this is not possible impact reduction measures should be applied.</p> | <p>Project response to NE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project asked if NE could provide the evidence to support the conclusion that the extent, distribution, structure and function attributes of the Annex I sandbank have been affected by the installation of the Race Bank OWF? Project also asked for advise on whether it was the installation or the O&M phase of the Race Bank OWF that has resulted in these effects? |
| 1.3.3 | Sandwave Recovery – Supporting evidence for sandwave recovery based on Race Bank OWF is suitable for ODOW. | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>NE The supporting evidence for sandwave recovery at ODOW has been based on evidence collected at Race Bank OWF. We would not advise using this evidence as an analogue for ODOW sandwave recovery at IDRBNR SAC. We expressed our uncertainty (NE Relevant Representations to Norfolk Boreas, 2019) as to whether or</p> | <p>Project response to NE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project asked if Natural England could provide the referenced Relevant Representation to Norfolk Boreas where this uncertainty has been expressed? (not available on PINS website). Project asked if Natural England agreed with the approach and conclusions |

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| | | | | | | | | | not full recovery of Annex I sandbanks was achievable from Race Bank OWF sandwave sweeping. We continue to have reasonable scientific doubt and our advice remains unchanged. Natural England advise the Project to adopt a project-specific approach to establishing likelihood of sandwave recovery following sandwave levelling/clearance rather than using Race Bank OWF as an analogue. | presented in the Norfolk Boreas Appendix 7.1 ABPmer Sandwave Study? Project also asked if they could also advise on the recommended approach on establishing the likelihood of sandwave recovery as an alternative to monitoring data from Race Bank OWF? |
| 1.3.4 | Nearshore and Landfall Works (Cable protection in nearshore areas) – Potential cable protection measures will not impact the shallow/nearshore areas | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | NE Cable Protection in nearshore areas: shallow/nearshore areas could modify waves and flows and in turn interrupt sediment transport pathways. Natural England advise that cable protection should be avoided in shallow nearshore areas which would cause disruption to longshore sediment transport. | Project response to NE Whilst acknowledging that Natural England would advise cable protection to be avoided within the depth of closure, are there other methods of cable protection which would be preferred by Natural England within the nearshore? |

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Benthic Ecology, Coastal Processes and Compensation & Derogation Expert Topic Group

8/11/23, ETG Round 8, Finalisation of ES

ODOW Reference: Minutes – PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0036

Invitees:

| Natural England | CEFAS | Environment Agency | MMO |
|-----------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| Present | Present | Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | CEFAS | EA | MMO | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| Marine Ecology and Coastal Processes | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Marine Processes | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Race Bank data is suitable for the project to investigate sandwave recoverability | Disagreed | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | NE Post meeting note received from Natural England 12/12/23: Natural England advised that the Project also use a document from Dudgeon OWF (MMT. 2018. Dudgeon OWF – ST18692. Sand wave migration analysis North Sea, September-October 2018. Report to Equinor, November 2018). | Project response to NE The Project were unable to find this online. Therefore, they requested if this could be shared. |
| 1.1.2 | The Larson (2019) data is suitable for the project to use for sandwave recoverability investigations. | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | NE Post meeting note received from Natural England 12/12/23: As per advice provided at the September ETG, Natural England advise that ODOW need to consider their own site and to try to establish a baseline now against which future morphological change can be gauged. The inherent difficulty in monitoring sandwave recovery is in trying to differentiate between change due to natural processes operating on the site and those influenced by the construction and presence of the OWF. As per our advice to the SEP/DEP project, to do this there is a requirement to utilise bathymetry data sets from different time periods to better inform quantification of trends. Analysis of datasets over different time periods is needed to establish whether bedform changes and migration rates are due to natural or anthropogenic drivers. The first step would be to characterise the contemporary seabed morphology and look at any historical data to establish trends and rates of bedform change. To help ODOW, Natural England recommend the methods used in the Larsen paper. There is a possibility that data presented in Larsen paper and other data acquired from race bank and the surrounding area may be | Project response to NE Acknowledged. |

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| | | | | | | <p>useful in providing the historical context as mentioned above. Historical data should be used to support specific site data only in the context of informing trends for the development site either in the condition which it currently exists or to support predictions of foreseeable future trends within the red line boundary.</p> <p>Action: Natural England to check if recommended Dudgeon OWF document can be sent to ODOW as unable to find online – request to be sent.</p> <p>Post meeting note received from Natural England 12/12/23: Natural England are unable to provide this evidence report as it belongs to Equinor and was used to provide supportive evidence to the marine processes technical note submitted during examination. We suggest contacting Equinor directly. The advice that we gave Equinor on sandwave characterisation and recovery during examination for their Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Project remains applicable to this project and is available via the PINS website. A summary of this advice is presented within the following document: 13.5 Marine Processes Technical Note (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</p> <p>EA</p> <p>Action: Environment Agency to respond to the questions within the meeting minutes from ODOW.</p> | |
| 1.2 Benthic Ecology | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Development of the 'Without Prejudice' compensation strategy – SAC extension – this approach has ecological merit. | Agreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | <p>NE (a) Natural England have previously stated that this measure has ecological merit but it requires ministerial approval.</p> <p>NE (b) Explained that some of the data is publicly available data. They recommended that data from the Docking Shoal ES, and IFCA and JNCC data relating to HHW would be helpful. It was added that Vattenfall may also have useful information.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Mentioned that previously Natural England had obtained evidence on some of the SAC extensions and asked whether this was publicly available?</p> |
| 1.2.2 | Removal of redundant oil and gas infrastructure is a viable compensation measure. | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | <p>NE (a) From previous discussions NE stated that oil and gas infrastructure is not able to be explored as an option for this measure. Telecoms cables are being investigated as an option, however it has been explained by Natural England that the cables have to be exposed.</p> <p>NE (b) Natural England noted that they would provide advice separately on this matter.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) The Project explained that the nature of the cables in the dynamic features changes between exposed and covered so this was being investigated.</p> <p>Explained they were reassessing anthropogenic pressure removal. The Project were investigating fishing pressures but based on the evidence up to that point, this was not looking like a measure to progress.</p> <p>ODOW explained they were also investigating the removal of aggregate pressure within the SAC. When reading some of the active licences within the SAC the aggregate activities have conditions to not cause Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEoI) on the SAC.</p> |

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| | | | | | | | | Therefore, the Project were looking to understand whether this could be a compensation measure if the actions are not causing AEol. |
| 1.2.3 | Re-creation of biogenic reef re-creation of native oyster reef habitat is an appropriate a compensatory measure. | Agreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | NE Explained that native oysters were not found in the area so therefore were not listed. However, the annex 1 feature is biogenic reef so oyster reef is included as they are native and biogenic reef. They recommended that the Project look at COWSC as native oysters are being listed as an option. It was added that Sabellaria are a priority habitat under NERC. Post meeting note received from Natural England 12/12/23: To clarify - reef formed by <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> is a habitat of principal importance under S.41 of NERC act. <i>Sabellaria spp.</i> as individuals are not protected. | Project response to NE Explained that they had undertaken habitat suitability model looking at mussel and oyster and <i>Sabellaria</i> to find suitable areas for the creation of reef. The Project confirmed they planned to add fishing pressures and historical evidence to further find suitable areas. All habitat mapping and methodology would be included in compensation documents. |
| 1.2.4 | Seagrass creation/restoration - Intertidal seagrass is classed as compensation | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | NE Explained that intertidal seagrass is not classed as compensation by Natural England. | Project response to NE Acknowledged. |
| 1.3 Fish and Shellfish | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | Underwater noise modelling - single strike sound exposure levels at the spawning grounds should be included in the assessment. | No comment | No comment | No comment | Agreed | | MMO (a) Post meeting note received from MMO 8/12/23: In the meeting, ODOW confirmed that the 135 dB threshold will be presented in the ES alongside the literature review previously discussed. MMO look forward to reading the ES chapter, with the expectation that single strike sound exposure levels at the spawning grounds will be included in the assessment. MMO (b) Post meeting note received from MMO 8/12/23: It was mentioned during the meeting held on the 08 November 2023, that new noise modelling is being undertaken for the revised array area so it is MMO's understanding the figures provided maybe subject to change and if significant effects are identified, appropriate mitigation measures will be considered, including noise abatement. Ambient noise monitoring is also being used to inform the ES assessment. MMO look forward to reading the updated modelling conducted in the ES chapter and what mitigation measures are proposed, it is especially good to see that noise abatement is mentioned as a potential option for mitigation. Cefas (a) Explained the maps will need to be looked at further post meeting to comment and it would be beneficial to see alongside the tables at ES stage. Action: Cefas to respond to the noise modelling presented post meeting. Post meeting note received from MMO 8/12/23: Unfortunately, Cefas UWN are unable to comment fully on the underwater noise modelling presented from the two stand-alone figures provided in the presentation slides. MMO requests a detailed description of the methodology and parameters used to conduct the noise modelling | Project response to MMO (a) Stated that new modelling was being undertaken for the revised array area; if significant effects were identified appropriate mitigation measures would be considered, including noise abatement. Project response to MMO (b) ODOW showed the noise modelling using the interim array area. This showed no overlap with the main spawning ground around Flamborough Head site. ODOW added that the modelling had also been undertaken for the ANS and ORCP. Due to the bathymetry the impact ranges were higher, but the modelling shows no overlap with Flamborough Head. ODOW noted that the images shared used the full 10-year data set so does not identify the inter-annual variation in the precise location of the hotspot. Project response to Cefas (b) Confirmed this would be undertaken for ES. |

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| | | | | | | <p>and output tables/ description from results of the modelling which is expected to be provided during the Environment Statement (ES). MMO also notes that it was previously agreed that more detailed would be provided on the modelling during the ES, as noted in the Marine Mammal Agreement Log: 'Underwater noise assessment should include full details of the noise modelling methodology and model parameters and assumptions.'</p> <p>Cefas (b) Noted the comment regarding the inter-annual variability which will not show in 10-year dataset used for the modelling presented and proposes using yearly maps to help show this in more resolution.</p> <p>MMO (c) Post meeting note received from MMO 8/12/23: As discussed during the meeting, the figures shared (slides 27-28) used the full 10-year IHLS data set, so do not demonstrate the inter-annual variation in herring spawning activity/intensity. It was confirmed that ODOW would present individual years of IHLS data in the Environmental Statement (ES) to demonstrate the inter-annual variability in the locations and intensity of herring spawning activity. MMO supports this, but if ODOW wishes to provide the results of the noise modelling in advance of the ES, MMO will also welcome the opportunity to review and provide further comments.</p> <p>Post meeting note received from MMO 8/12/23: Presentational Comments: Figures in slides 27-28 display the 135 decibel (dB) Single-strike sound exposure level (SELs) contour, which have been 'contextualised' using 5dB increments alongside. Please can ODOW explain how having multiple contours in 5dB increments on a map 'contextualises' the 135dB? In terms of presentation, showing multiple 5dB increments alongside the 135dB noise contour results in the maps being rather 'busy' and is less easy to interpret, especially in the case of slides 27-28, where boundary lines representing ANS areas, herring spawning grounds at the 135dB contour are all in shades of pinks & purples (perhaps contrasting primary colours may be more appropriate). In summary, the fewer the number of noise contours on the map, the better for clarity, ease of interpretation, and transparency. Please consider these comments for the ES. The same approach should be applied when presenting modelled noise contours for mortality, potential mortal injury and temporary threshold shift (TTS) (e.g., 213 dB peak, 207 dB peak, and 186 dB SELcum, from Popper et al. (2014)), in the sense that the only noise contours that need to be displayed on the figures are those for relevant thresholds for fish.</p> | |
| 1.4 AOB | | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 | There are no concerns with the approach to the projects agreement logs | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | <p>NE (a) Explained that Natural England have concerns around the agreement logs. A discussion around the agreement logs was held between ODOW and Natural England. It was raised that the agreement logs are not able to be used to gain areas of agreement and was more of a consultation log.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Acknowledged the issues raised by NE and noted Natural England had already provided these comments by email. The project stated they would consider Natural England's feedback and discuss further in the Project's next monthly meeting with Natural England.</p> |

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| | | | | | | <p>NE (b) Shared the link Draft SoCG Natural England (Offshore) (planninginspectorate.gov.uk) and advised the Project to refer to Annex I multi-party Agreement Logs. The template Natural England suggested follows the format as presented in this document capturing all agreements from Expert Topic Groups.</p> | |
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A coastal landscape featuring a path of white sand and dunes covered in tall, dry grasses. The path leads towards a beach and the ocean under a cloudy sky.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex C Part 3 of 9

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024

Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex C – Part 3 of 9

Offshore Ornithology Consultation Logs

The Consultation Logs presented in this document have been drafted on the basis of the EPP Terms of Reference and previous logs issued to relevant ETG meeting participants. The template has been updated in response to feedback from Natural England. The information presented is based upon that previously issued to stakeholders and derived from ETG meeting minutes (Annex B). The information and agreements included in the Consultation Logs presents the Applicant's interpretation of the points discussed during ETG meetings.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Offshore Ornithology Expert Topic Group

18/01/2022, ETG Round 1, Introductory

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000122-01

Invitees:

| MMO | Natural England | RSPB |
|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Present | Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | MMO | Natural England | RSPB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|---|--|--|
| Offshore Ornithology | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Evidence Plan Process | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Additional data is not required | No Comment | Agreed | No Comment | | NE Asked if ODOW was considering collecting additional data, to complement the DAS and to look at other aspects due to the ongoing discussions surrounding flight height and connectivity. | Project response to NE Project confirmed the project was at an early stage and is considering how to ensure the project is synergizing the approach being taken with the wider industry. |

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Offshore Ornithology Expert Topic Group

12/07/2022, ETG Round 2, Scoping Phase

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000288-01

Invitees:

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| MMO | Natural England RSPB | |
| Present | Present | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | MMO | Natural England | RSPB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---|--|--|
| Offshore Ornithology | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Disturbance Effects for O&M | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Disturbance effects for O&M should be scoped out | No Comment | Disagreed | No Comment | | <p>NE (a) Query whether disturbance effects for O&M are scoped out?</p> <p>NE (b) noted they may ask that this is scoped back in as associated boat traffic can be significant.</p> <p>NE also noted that lighting may need to be scoped in, clarifying that this was mainly in regards to seabirds and water birds, but that this is unlikely to be a significant issue.</p> <p>NE (c) Clarified that it would depends on size of impact, but the focus is whether it can be scoped out now. As the O&M port is not yet confirmed, unable to know the level of traffic so it might be premature to scope out now.</p> <p>Noted the interrelationship between disturbance and barrier effects. This would be for all species transiting and for those residing in the area, with the emphasis on migratory waterbirds</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Confirmed this was the case within the Export Cable Corridor (ECC).</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) Queried whether Natural England would be happy to scope out Red Throated Diver for disturbance and displacement from O&M activities.</p> <p>Project response to NE (c) Confirmed further information was included withing the Scoping Report.</p> <p>Project confirmed that SPAs and Ramsar's were identified and then followed the four site selection criteria. Key sites screened in or out as detailed on slide 11.</p> |
| 1.1.2 | Migratory water birds (e.g. transiting water birds from the wash) have been screened appropriately | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>NE (a) Queried how migratory water birds (e.g. transiting water birds from the wash) were considered.</p> <p>NE (b)</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Noted that The Wash had not been screened in at this stage and further information on the approach would be presented in briefing notes that would follow.</p> |

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| | | | | | | Natural England will consider the notes and provide further advice where required. NE (c) Query if Fulmer from Flamborough and Filey Coast (FFC) SPA scoped in, noting that the Planning Inspectorate will want to know why Fulmer is screened out, urging ODOW to present rationale. | Project response to NE (c) Noted that further justification was included in the project's evidence for the screening report, building on how this had been dealt with in other projects. |
| 1.2 Apportioning Approach | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Proposed apportioning approach is sufficient | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | NE Natural England noted that they have some reservation re use of NatureScot apportioning south of the boarder as Scotland has multiple colonies who may be experiencing pressures, but in the SNS its almost just Flamborough so it may be better to use site specific data. | Project response to NE Acknowledged |
| 1.3 Approach to Mitigation | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | Bycatch reduction (Gannet) mitigation approach has been fully considered | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | NE Natural England noted challenges in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Governance outside UK jurisdiction ▪ Additionality and what the EU has planned for bycatch reduction in those areas (which should form part of the baseline) ▪ Specific fisheries which are causing the impact and what might work with those specific fisheries as success is very fisheries specific. ▪ Natural England noted that in principle, this could be a viable compensation option but requires approval of approach from Defra and BEIS | Project response to NE Acknowledged, |
| 1.3.2 | Bycatch reduction (Guillemot and Razorbill) mitigation approach has been fully considered | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | NE Queried whether the opportunity to buy out fisheries to reduce effort instead of trying to mitigate against effort. GoBe confirmed this is something that is being explored but has considerable challenges. | Project response to NE <i>Action: GoBe was actioned to provide update at the next ETG regarding the most suitable locations for bycatch reduction and mechanisms.</i> |
| 1.3.3 | Predator eradication mitigation approach has been fully considered | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | NE Natural England noted that project must consider whether BEIS would be confident committing to regions out with their control. Natural England recommended recent SOWEC report by CMS on additionality. | Project response to NE Acknowledged |
| 1.3.4 | Availability of forage fish is the most appropriate measure for compensation (subject to additionality) | No comment | Agreed | No comment | | NE Natural England noted that the most appropriate measure for compensation (subject to additionality) may be improving the availability of forage fish but recognise that may not be within | Project response to NE Agreed and suggested that this may be something Defra would consider and enable developers to take forward. |

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Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Offshore Ornithology and Derogation & Compensation Expert Topic Group

28/11/2022, ETG Round 4, Further Scoping Updates and PEIR Phase
 ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-IP-000051-01

Invitees:

| Natural England | MMO | RSPB |
|-----------------|---------|--------|
| Present | Present | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | MMO | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---|---|-----------------|------------|---|---|---|
| Offshore Ornithology and Derogation & Ornithology | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Site Specific Surveys | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Screening approach is sufficient | Disagreed | No Comment | | <p>NE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted that puffin and herring gull are part of the assemblage for FFC SPA and should be assessed as such. Noted that Forth Islands SPA may need to be assessed. Advised that justifications for screening out Fulmar should be clear, whether screened out as no LSE or if screened in and concluded as no AEoI. Confirmed that NE were content Sandwich tern are screened in for collision but not for displacement. <p>Action: Natural England to confirm that Little Gull and Common Tern should only be considered for migratory collision risk.</p> <p>Post Meeting Natural England Response: Natural England confirm they are happy for little gull and common tern to only be considered for migratory collision risk.</p> | <p>Project response to NE</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> |
| 1.2 Assessment Methodology | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | The application of new avoidance rates to previous projects for the cumulative impact assessment is appropriate | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>NE (a)</p> <p>Noted that Natural England were working on this at the moment but initially think this would be appropriate though with some caveats for certain projects and species.</p> <p>Action: NE to provide advice after the meeting re. the use of the stochastic model and whether to apply variance within the flight height distributions from Johnston et al. (2014).</p> <p>NE (b)</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a,b)</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> |

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| | | | | | <p>Post Meeting Natural England Response: Natural England now support the use of the stochastic CRM (sCRM, McGregor et al 2018) as per the Natural England draft updated Collision Risk Modelling parameters. With regards to applying variance within the flight height distributions, we would advise Outer Dowsing to use the default option within the application, which uses the Johnston (2014) bootstrap samples to draw from in the simulation.</p> | |
| 1.2.2 | Use of interim avoidance rate guidance for collision risk and published NE advice for the displacement analysis is appropriate | Agreed | No comment | | <p>NE (a) Queried the minimum tip height which the project may be using for PEIR.</p> <p>NE (b) Following a discussion around the most appropriate guidance to be used for assessments on gannets, NE advised to used interim avoidance rate guidance for collision risk and published NE advice for the displacement analysis. Action: NE to confirm the above approach.</p> <p>Post Meeting Natural England Response: Natural England can confirm the approach is suitable.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Confirmed that the minimum tip height would be 30m for PEIR, with the final tip height for ES being evidence driven by a combination of environmental assessment, survey data (including ground conditions) and engineering factors to drive the final identified tip height, noting that this may vary between different turbine sizes.</p> |
| 1.2.3 | RTD methodology is sufficient | Disagreed | No comment | | <p>NE Noted that Lawson et al 2016 data is quite old now and that a resurvey was undertaken this winter - unsure when the data will be available.</p> <p>Suggested that stated approach is ok for PEIR, though maybe look at the HOW04 approach which was slightly varied.</p> <p>Noted concerns re: vessel based disturbance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion around how impacts from this can be mitigated - suggestion that more effort is put into providing clarity on vessel types and how those may impact on the features of the Greater Wash SPA as this can help to identify activity-based mitigation measures or exclude specific vessels from needing to be considered from impact. | <p>Project response to NE Acknowledged, no further comment.</p> |
| 1.2.4 | Apportioning approach is appropriate | Agreed | No comment | | <p>NE (a) Acknowledged that even for FFC, some kittiwake could be attributed to non-SPA colonies.</p> <p>Confirmed to have impact from compensated project be considered as zero</p> <p>NE (b) Queried whether design-based or model-based distributions would be presented.</p> <p>NE (c) Noted that model-based may aid in identifying high risk areas when considering the array area reduction.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (b) Confirmed that the expectation at that time was for design-based.</p> |

1.3 Gannets

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| 1.3.1 | Gannet does not need to be considered for compensation | Agreed | No comment | | NE Agreed the revised avoidance rates are likely to reduce the need to provide compensation but unable to confirm at this stage due to data from the Round 4 projects not yet available Natural England requested if ODOW could share any contacts regarding gannet bycatch with Defra/OWEAP as may be progressed at a different level. | Project response to NE Action: ODOW to consider whether contacts can be shared with Defra/OWEAP. |
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Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Offshore Ornithology Expert Topic Group

27/03/2023, ETG Round 5, PEIR Updates

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000419-01

Invitees:

| Natural England | MMO | RSPB |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Present | Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | MMO | RSPB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| Offshore Ornithology and Derogation & Compensation | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Array Area Reduction | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | The approach to reduce the array area (to 300km ²) is sufficient | Agreed | No Comment | No Comment | | <p>NE (a) Asked when the Project will be reducing the array area to 300km².</p> <p>NE (b) Queried whether the 24 months of data be used to inform the reduction.</p> <p>NE (c) Welcomes this approach to reduce the array area and provide assessments and evidence before examination.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Confirmed that PEIR array area would be 500km² and, it was anticipated that the ES array area will be approx 300km² to allow for the assessments to be on the final area footprint. Work is ongoing and progressing through the constraints and scenario modelling for the site area reduction. PEIR and section 42 comments will then inform this and help finalise the reduction.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) Confirmed all receptors were being looked at; the 18-month data report will be used to inform PEIR and the 24-month report will be used to inform ES.</p> |
| 1.2 Assessment Approach | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | All species will be assessed using the Furness (2015) BDMPS bio-seasons | | | | | <p>NE (a) Queries if this is for this migration free breeding season.</p> <p>NE (b) Added that sandwich tern should have a larger breeding season for the migration free breeding season (suggesting April to August).</p> <p>NE (c) Explained that looking at the information there are a number of species not reflecting full breeding season.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Confirmed that the migration free breeding season had been used where appropriate.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) Asked whether there are any further species of particular concern.</p> <p>Project response to NE (c) Confirmed that PEIR will explain the Project's reasoning and justification behind the use of the breeding seasons presented at PEIR.</p> |

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| | | | | | | <p>Action: Natural England to confirm which species need to be updated to reflect the full breeding season.</p> <p>NE (d) Explained that there are ongoing differences of approach between England and Scotland regarding the recent Hornsea Project Four advice for guillemot. Natural England highlighted the need to see numbers to advise on the approach to take.</p> | |
| 1.2.2 | The minimum tip height for collision risk being used (30m mean-sea level) is clear | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | | <p>NE Explained that the Project needs to be clear in what is being presented and in their definition of air gap.</p> | <p>Project response to NE Explained that the MSL was being used for minimum tip height. Project stated this would be explained clearly within PEIR.</p> |
| 1.3 BDMPS and Apportioning | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | BDMPS and apportioning based on the Nature Scot guidance is an acceptable method | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | | <p>NE response to project (a) Explained that Lawson et al data is 15 years old so welcomes update. NE unsure if this data will be available for ES.</p> <p>NE response to project (b) Explained that unless you can provide site specific data then they are not accepted by NE and to assume all are breeding birds unless there is evidence.</p> <p>NE response to project (c) Explained that Natural England did not agree with approach that Niras took within plan level HRA.</p> <p>NE response to project (d) Explained that with the absence of the full 24-month data at PEIR, Natural England's focus of their response to the section 42 consultation would be on the methodology rather than the conclusions drawn.</p> <p>NE response to project (e) Explained this has not been done yet. Natural England are aware the Nature Scot apportioning tool is being updated. Suggesting if an overview and plan of what is being proposed was provided it would allow Natural England to comment.</p> <p>NE (f) Asked whether this data has been submitted to the Seabird Monitoring Program (SMP).</p> <p>NE response to project (g) Explained that for PVA the Project should look at Hornsea Project Four and how PVA is interpreted. Adding that sites and species vary and thresholds will vary depending on the area. Best to provide a</p> | <p>Project question to NE (a) Asked whether there was any feedback or comments regarding red-throated diver (RTD) and common scoter within the ECC and using a 2km displacement around cable laying vessels. Noting this was said to be appropriate for PEIR but maybe an alternative method is recommended at ES.</p> <p>Project question to NE (b) Asked whether the inclusion of sabbaticals within the assessments would be appropriate.</p> <p>Project question to NE (c) It was stated that there was not enough evidence to support including sabbaticals.</p> <p>Project question to NE (d) Questioned that if this was included at PEIR could feedback still be provided by NE.</p> <p>Project question to NE (e) Queried whether Kittiwakes breeding on offshore platforms could be apportioned in the assessments.</p> <p>Project response to NE (e) Explained that apportioning to kittiwakes on platforms within the assessment could be done using a maximum distance of 20km away as a precautionary approach.</p> <p>Project response to NE (f) Explained that due to sensitivity with the platform owners this has not currently been shared.</p> <p>Project question to NE (g) Queried if there were any comments on the threshold for material contribution to baseline</p> |

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| | | | | | <p>reasonable worst case, reasonable best case and mean assessment.</p> <p>Added that the impacts of avian influenza need to be considered.</p> <p>NE (h) Explained that gannet is generally apportioned to 100% for Flamborough and Filey SPA. Wakefield 2013 produced a paper on space partitioning to evidence this. It is not recommended apportioning around 40% of the gannets to Bass Rock and this is something Natural England are likely to push back on. Within the English North Sea most projects use 100% Flamborough and Filey SPA.</p> <p>NE (i) Queried whether the Project are proposing using migration free breeding season.</p> <p>NE (j) Recommended that for the biogeographic regional assessments that full breeding seasons are used. PEIR to provide justification of the Projects methods that deviate from this.</p> <p>RSPB (a) Queried whether with regards to gannet apportionment is it for the Project to set out why change in approach?</p> | <p>mortality. It was explained that for lesser black backed gulls and sandwich terns there is little impact from the Project. This information will be presented at PEIR.</p> <p>PVA has not be conducted at PEIR but this will be outlined and feedback welcomed on the species that are being planned to be assessed.</p> <p>Project response to NE (h) The Project will apportion 100% of impacts to FFC SPA at PEIR.</p> <p>Project response to NE (i) Project confirmed that they were looking at migration-free breeding season for most species and full breeding season for guillemot, puffin, little gull, herring gull, GBBG.</p> <p>Project response to NE (j) Acknowledged.</p> <p>Project response to RSPB (a) Confirmed this was the case and more detail would need to be provided to allow for comment.</p> |
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Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Offshore Ornithology Expert Topic Group

31/07/2023, ETG Round 6, Initial S42 Consultation Feedback
 ODOW Reference: Minutes – PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0014

Invitees:

| MMO | RSPB | Natural England |
|---------|---------|-----------------|
| Present | Present | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | MMO | RSPB | NE | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| Offshore Ornithology | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Bioseasons Used Within the Assessment | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | A species-by-species basis on the justification of the use of the bioseasons is an appropriate approach. | No Comment | Agreed | No comment | | RSPB Explained that the Project approach sounds sensible in principle. | Project response to RSPB Acknowledged. |
| 1.2 Negligible Impacts Screened into Cumulative Assessments | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | All SPAs should be considered within the project assessment included within the in-combination assessments, including those that are considered negligible. | No comment | No comment | Agreed | | NE Natural England would like all SPAs considered within the project alone assessment included within the in-combination assessments, including those that are considered negligible | Project response to NE The Project stated they would have liked a discussion with Natural England as to what could be counted as a negligible impact and whether a case-by-case basis for sites could be used to agreed where significant effects for cumulative or in-combination were unlikely to occur. A discussion if this only refers to species and SPAs within Mean Max +1SD foraging range would also be welcomed. |
| 1.3 Migratory Collision Risk | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | Artic skua, Great Skua and Arctic tern do not need to be included in the migratory CRM. | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | NE Natural England requested Artic skua, Great Skua and Arctic tern to be included in the migratory CRM. | Project response to NE It was confirmed these would be included at ES. Added that there was a new mCRM tool developed by Marine Scotland that the |

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| | | | | | | | Project were proposing to use and would like stakeholder feedback if this was suitable. |
| 1.4 Operational Displacement | | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 | The upper and lower confidence intervals for each species do not need to be considered within the operational displacement. | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | NE Natural England provided feedback that they would like the upper and lower confidence intervals for each species considered within the operational displacement. | Project response to NE Confirmed that they considered the mean abundance data to be the most suitable but would present the whole range in the displacement appendix. |
| 1.5 Gannet | | | | | | | |
| 1.5.1 | The headroom for the current in-combination impacts to FFC SPA will not conclude AEol | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | RSPB Noted that the RSPB are not accepting large scale avoidance for Gannets for Hornsea Four. For SEP and DEP, it is likely that RSPB also disagree with the in-combination decision. Noted that this is an instance where RSPB and NE agree to disagree. | Project response to RSPB Acknowledged comment. |

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Offshore Ornithology and Compensation & Derogation Expert Topic Group

20/11/2023, ETG Round 8, Finalisation of ES

ODOW Reference: Minutes – PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-042

Invitees:

| Natural England | MMO | RSPB |
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| Present | Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | MMO | RSPB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| Offshore Ornithology and Compensation & Derogation | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Apportioning | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Approach to apportioning of Guillemots in the breeding season is sufficient | Disagreed | No Comment | No Comment | | <p>NE (a) <i>In response to Project proposing that it is unlikely all individuals are breeding at FFC SPA – NE explained that similar methodologies have been proposed by other projects. However, for FFC SPA there is a lack of colony-specific data. There is also evidence that in the winter populations regularly return to the FFC SPA so therefore the population may be dispersive rather than migratory. It was recognised that there are a lot of guillemot within the North Sea and further north but not a lot of understanding regarding variations in the timing of migratory movements. It could be that the guillemots are ready for breeding season and close to the FFC SPA in April.</i></p> <p>It was added that there is evidence for guillemot remaining close to the breeding site outside of the breeding season and there could be a number of ecological reasons for the April peak, so this needs to be taken into account.</p> <p>Further added that Natural England are unable to change their position and would still like 100% apportioning to FFC SPA presented, and therefore welcome this being presented alongside the Project's proposed method.</p> <p>NE (b) the NE approach may not be that precautionary, noting that the Nature Scot methodology requires 100% apportioning of individuals within the mean max foraging range +1sd at all times of the year. Consideration should also be taken to how to handle guillemot in the molt and chick rearing phase. One of Natural England's concerns is that additional sensitivity and possible heightened colony contributions through August to</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Confirmed that both methods would be presented at ES.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) Explained the April peak was not found in the data for razorbill so this approach was not being undertaken. It was just thought there were inflated numbers for guillemot.</p> <p>The Project shared a photograph of guillemots nesting on an offshore structure with eggs. It was noted that it may have been pertinent to be taken into account for the apportioning of the array individuals to FFC SPA.</p> |

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| | | | | | September period for guillemot. Would like discussion when they are able to see the data. NE asked whether this approach is being adopted to razorbill. NE (c) Responding to the photograph, NE explained that this could be considered but would need quantitative evidence to do so. | |
| 1.1.2 | Apportioning of Kittiwakes in the breeding season is sufficient | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | NE (a) Explained that Natural England would like more detail on survey methods for the census surveys and a full survey report would be useful to see the exact numbers going into calculations. There are concerns with the differing dates and number of surveys across the two years, and that some structures were only surveyed in one year. NE (b) Agreed that offshore populations should be factored into the apportioning. However, the platforms show variability, and this is likely to be an unstable nesting environment given their nature so more resolution would provide more confidence. They suggested that providing a range would be better given the lack of data. NE (c) Confirmed the Project's approach is reasonable in principle but would like to see input values used for FFC SPA colony. NE (d) Asked if there were any further surveys planned. Adding more data would help add confidence to this approach. | Project response to NE (a) Confirmed that the reports could be shared, however, aspects of the reports may need to be redacted due to commercial agreements in place with the operators. ODOW confirmed that they recognised the timing of the 2022 survey was not ideal but that it was a result of delays arising from procurement and commercial discussions. Therefore the 2023 survey timing was earlier. Action: ODOW to share the platform census survey report with Natural England Project response to NE (b) Noted that the numbers used for the apportioning was based only on the AONs and excluded other birds counted in the surveys to avoid inflating the numbers. Project response to NE (c) Added that as these numbers were just AON there was a wider offshore population. It was added that the Project had also not used the Hornsea Four data of the platforms which would further reduce the numbers apportioned to FFC SPA. Project response to NE (d) Explained there were none planned but this was an option, although they would not be able to feed into the ES but may be available for examination. |
| 1.1.3 | Guillemot and Kittiwake apportioning approaches – differences between project and NE approaches | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | NE Explained that the apportioning should be based on DAS age data rather than population distribution. Added that Natural England do not accept sabbatical rates and the Project should assume all are breeding adults. Natural England welcomed both approaches being presented at ES. | Project response to NE Acknowledged. |
| 1.2 Gannet Macro Advice | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Cumulative and in-combination impacts can be adjusted using new macro | Agreed | No comment | No comment | NE (a) Explained that Natural England have accepted this previously. They advised looking at SEP & DEP's Examination submissions on this matter as well as Natural England advice to them. Natural England would want to see the Projects methodology to confirm any recalculations are robust. | Project question to stakeholders (c) Asked whether Projects that had compensated for their impacts could be removed from the in-combination assessments. Project question to stakeholders (d) Asked whether the updated avoidance rates could be used to adjust previous collision estimates of other projects. |

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| avoidance rates | | | | <p>Action: Natural England to provide the guidance provided to SEP&DEP regarding the gannet macro avoidance and cumulative effects.</p> <p>Post meeting note from NE received 14/12/2023: SADEP applicant submission (includes summary of NE feedback): https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010109/EN010109-001502-13.2.1%20Collision%20Risk%20Modelling%20(CRM)%20Updates%20(EIA%20Context)%20Technical%20Note%20(Revision%20B)%20(Tracked).pdf</p> <p>RSPB (a) Explained that the RSPB are not supportive of the macro avoidance approach and will provide position.</p> <p>Action: RSPB to provide their position of using the updated gannet macro avoidance on projects within the cumulative and in-combination assessments.</p> <p>NE (b) Post Meeting Note from Natural England received 14/12/23: At this time, the range of macro-avoidance rates recommended by Natural England remain as per the Natural England draft updated Collision Risk Modelling parameters (July 2022) note i.e. 65% - 85% (or a single rate of 70%). Natural England are currently in the process of reviewing the recently published Natural England commissioned report written by HiDef (Pavet et al. 2023). There remains uncertainty around potential sources of variation in macro avoidance, including seasonality (breeding vs. non-breeding season) and the effect of adverse weather, that are yet to be fully addressed, and it is worth noting that NatureScot are currently not advocating the use of macro avoidance for gannet during the breeding season. Natural England believe that the current advised rates of 65-85% are consistent with our range-based and precautionary approach, the latter of which is appropriate particularly given the current uncertainties over the long-term impacts of HPAI on gannet.</p> <p>NE response to project (c) Advised that DESNZ are of the view that the outputs need to be shown with the compensation included and without, so this is likely to be sought. Natural England recommend looking at the likelihood of the compensation success and taking this into account. Both Hornsea Four and SEP&DEP provided both.</p> <p>RSPB response to project (c)</p> | |
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| | | | | | <p>Explained they will find previous advice RSPB submitted regarding this.</p> <p>Action: RSPB to share advice given regarding the inclusion of projects that have compensated for their impacts within the in-combination assessments.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note received from RSPB 20/11/23: Excluding from in-combination calculations the impacts of projects required to provide compensation measures: Norfolk Boreas: submission to post-examination consultation dated 21 October 2021 – see section 5 (para 5.21 onwards).</p> <p>NE response to project (d)</p> <p>Advised SEP&DEP undertook this and Natural England agreed with this methodology. They agreed this approach is doable and recommend the Project adopt the SEP&DEP values.</p> <p>Action: Natural England to provide documents relevant to SEP&DEP adjusting previous collision estimates using updated avoidance rates. Post Meeting Note from Natural England received 14/12/23: SADEP applicant submission (includes summary of NE feedback):</p> <p>https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010109/EN010109-001502-13.2.1%20Collision%20Risk%20Modelling%20(CRM)%20Updates%20(EIA%20Context)%20Technical%20Note%20(Revision%20B)%20(Tracked).pdf</p> | |
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1.3 Plémont Seabird Reserve

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| 1.3.1 | The reserve as a predator control project is sufficient | Disagreed | No comment | Disagreed | <p>NE (a)</p> <p>Explained to assess this measure Natural England need to understand the baseline of the area in terms of conservation initiatives and then can understand the potential benefits of the project. Also need to understand the drivers of the population declines.</p> <p>NE (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Asked whether the report will cover the extent of eradication. ▪ NE explained that this is a control measure so there will be ongoing aspects of monitoring, maintenance and predator control. ▪ Asked about the community involvement for the Project. ▪ Confirmed there is involvement from a local hedgehog conservation group and non-lethal and lethal traps will be used for different species to manage community concerns. ▪ Added that Hornsea Four proposed predator eradication in the Channel Islands, so recommended looking at the Natural England advice. There are concerns about the connectivity of the seabird network and how this would benefit FFC SPA. <p>Post Meeting Note from Natural England received 14/12/23: Deadline 7 Submission - Natural England's End of Examination Position on the Applicant's Proposed Compensatory Measures -</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explained that more details could be provided, and they offered that a representative of the reserve could be invited to a meeting in the new year. ▪ Project added there was a report by Birds on the Edge of the proposed project and the Project would provide additional information. ▪ Project shared information about the current seabird populations within the reserve. The seabird populations were historically very high showing potential and that there was suitable habitat. ▪ Project shared the number of recorded predators, showing potentially high predation pressure at the site. <p>Project response to RSPB</p> <p>For Auks the project proposed a package of measures to help reduce uncertainty.</p> <p>Project also provided an overview of additional sites for auk compensation using predator eradication and human disturbance reduction (site dependent based on pressures). All the sites are around the Southwest coast of England and have existing populations that are in decline. They are offshore and onshore sites.</p> |
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| | | | | | <p>https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010098/EN010098-001970-Natural%20England%20-%20Comments%20on%20any%20submissions%20received%20at%20Deadline%206%201.pdf.</p> <p>Action: Natural England to share the note on the protection of the coherence of the national site network provided to HOW04.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note from Natural England received 14/12/23: Natural England review of G3.4 Compensation measures for FFC SPA: Compensation Connectivity Note - Revision: 01 [REP3-032]: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010098/EN010098-001479-Natural%20England%20-%20Comments%20on%20any%20submissions%20received%20at%20Deadline%203%201.pdf</p> <p>RSPB RPSB also have concerns regarding the evidence that birds benefited will have connectivity to the UK population. Raising the measure could be a positive conservation measure but may not have a benefit to the FFC SPA.</p> <p>Action: RSPB to share their views on HOW04 decision letter regarding the predator eradication and the connectivity of the seabird network.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note received from RSPB 20/11/23: Connectivity to the UK SPA network from compensation measures in the Channel Islands (lack of evidence base, pointing to where evidence would need to be provided)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hornsea 4: REP5-120, including paras 3.21-3.23. ▪ Hornsea 4: REP6-069 – see Tables 1 (predator eradication) and 4 (bycatch reduction). Section 5 of this document also includes a detailed assessment of the information required in respect of any predator eradication or control measure proposed as compensation and would be relevant to the Jersey proposal described briefly this morning. ▪ Hornsea 4: Post-examination consultation. RSPB submission dated 9 March 2023 – see numbered page 21. <p>NE (c) Natural England would want to see more detail and evidence of the pressures on the populations.</p> <p>NE (d)</p> | <p>Project response to NE (c) Explained the measure was in early development so would be progressed as far as possible by application and continue development through examination. NE asked if the identified sites had any designations, as this could be hard to determine from the SMP entries.</p> <p>Project response to NE (e) Action: ODOW to provide an overview of the designations of the proposed sites for auk compensation.</p> <p>Project response to NE (f) Explained the plan was to provide the report ahead of the meeting in January.</p> |
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| | | | | | <p>Post Meeting Note from Natural England received 14/12/23: Natural England advise the Project check that the sites Cow and Calf, Woody Bay 1 & 2, may be within West Exmoor Cliffs and Coast SSSI, also the site North Cliffs 1 may be in Godrevy Head to St. Agnes SSSI.</p> <p>NE (e) Explained that the approach of developing multiple compensation sites for auks is welcomed. They recommended also exploring the potential for sites in Dorset.</p> <p>NE (f) Asked when it is likely that the Birds on the Edge report will be available.</p> | |
| 1.4 ANS Auk Nesting | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 | | | | | <p>RSPB <i>In response to the project showing a photograph of guillemot nesting and breeding on an ANS structure within proximity to the array</i> RSPB explained this does not provide information of breeding success and fledging. More data is required to allow this to support the compensation measure.</p> | <p>Project response to RSPB Added that the census survey was undertaken from below the nesting sites, so the photo presented in the ETG was the only direct evidence of offshore breeding, however, suggested that where guillemots were displaying breeding behaviour that it was feasible, they were breeding.</p> |
| 1.5 AOB | | | | | | |
| 1.5.1 | Considerations within ANS design for Auks and the location of the structures are sufficient | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | <p>NE (a) Asked whether there were considerations within ANS design for Auks and the location of the structures.</p> <p>NE (b) Asked whether there were gulls and other predators found close to the structures in the census surveys. Adding predator protection needs to be taken into account for the design.</p> <p>NE (c) Added that if the ANS is multi-species it needs to consider the species that nest and those that do not and consider egg rolling, specifically in terms of the texture of the ledges.</p> <p>NE response to Project (d) Natural England can provide DAS advice on these numbers.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Confirmed the project were looking at a multi-species ANS. They explained the aim was to have some of the ecological work that fed into ANS design available to present for ES and examination. The site selection reporting at PEIR focused on kittiwake suitability. Razorbill and guillemot were also included in the site selection and evidence would be provided at ES.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) Confirmed within the census numbers there were small numbers, not large aggregations.</p> <p>Project response to NE (c) Confirmed this would be taken into account in the design.</p> <p>Project to stakeholders (d) Noted that they were content with Natural England sharing the estimated number of kittiwake collisions and indicative compensation requirements shared separately with the wider case team.</p> |

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| | | | | | | | <p>It was noted that the numbers provided were not based on the revised array but are based on the 40m minimum tip height so should only decrease.</p> <p>Project (e)</p> <p>Action: ODOW was to provide note on the interim numbers for the ES.</p> |
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Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Offshore Ornithology and Compensation & Derogation Expert Topic Group

20/11/2023, ETG Round 8, Finalisation of ES

ODOW Reference: Minutes – PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-042

Invitees:

| Natural England | MMO | RSPB |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Present | Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | MMO | RSPB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|---|-----------------|------------|------------|---|--|---|
| Offshore Ornithology and Compensation & Derogation | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Apportioning | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Approach to apportioning of Guillemots in the breeding season is sufficient | Disagreed | No Comment | No Comment | | <p>NE (a) <i>In response to Project proposing that it is unlikely all individuals are breeding at FFC SPA – NE explained that similar methodologies have been proposed by other projects. However, for FFC SPA there is a lack of colony-specific data. There is also evidence that in the winter populations regularly return to the FFC SPA so therefore the population may be dispersive rather than migratory. It was recognised that there are a lot of guillemot within the North Sea and further north but not a lot of understanding regarding variations in the timing of migratory movements. It could be that the guillemots are ready for breeding season and close to the FFC SPA in April.</i></p> <p>It was added that there is evidence for guillemot remaining close to the breeding site outside of the breeding season and there could be a number of ecological reasons for the April peak, so this needs to be taken into account.</p> <p>Further added that Natural England are unable to change their position and would still like 100% apportioning to FFC SPA presented, and therefore welcome this being presented alongside the Project's proposed method.</p> <p>NE (b) the NE approach may not be that precautionary, noting that the Nature Scot methodology requires 100% apportioning of individuals within the mean max foraging range +1sd at all times of the year. Consideration should also be taken to how to handle guillemot in the molt and chick rearing phase. One of Natural England's concerns is that additional sensitivity and possible heightened colony contributions through August to</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Confirmed that both methods would be presented at ES.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) Explained the April peak was not found in the data for razorbill so this approach was not being undertaken. It was just thought there were inflated numbers for guillemot.</p> <p>The Project shared a photograph of guillemots nesting on an offshore structure with eggs. It was noted that it may have been pertinent to be taken into account for the apportioning of the array individuals to FFC SPA.</p> |

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| | | | | | September period for guillemot. Would like discussion when they are able to see the data. NE asked whether this approach is being adopted to razorbill. NE (c) Responding to the photograph, NE explained that this could be considered but would need quantitative evidence to do so. | |
| 1.1.2 | Apportioning of Kittiwakes in the breeding season is sufficient | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | NE (a) Explained that Natural England would like more detail on survey methods for the census surveys and a full survey report would be useful to see the exact numbers going into calculations. There are concerns with the differing dates and number of surveys across the two years, and that some structures were only surveyed in one year. NE (b) Agreed that offshore populations should be factored into the apportioning. However, the platforms show variability, and this is likely to be an unstable nesting environment given their nature so more resolution would provide more confidence. They suggested that providing a range would be better given the lack of data. NE (c) Confirmed the Project's approach is reasonable in principle but would like to see input values used for FFC SPA colony. NE (d) Asked if there were any further surveys planned. Adding more data would help add confidence to this approach. | Project response to NE (a) Confirmed that the reports could be shared, however, aspects of the reports may need to be redacted due to commercial agreements in place with the operators. ODOW confirmed that they recognised the timing of the 2022 survey was not ideal but that it was a result of delays arising from procurement and commercial discussions. Therefore the 2023 survey timing was earlier. Action: ODOW to share the platform census survey report with Natural England Project response to NE (b) Noted that the numbers used for the apportioning was based only on the AONs and excluded other birds counted in the surveys to avoid inflating the numbers. Project response to NE (c) Added that as these numbers were just AON there was a wider offshore population. It was added that the Project had also not used the Hornsea Four data of the platforms which would further reduce the numbers apportioned to FFC SPA. Project response to NE (d) Explained there were none planned but this was an option, although they would not be able to feed into the ES but may be available for examination. |
| 1.1.3 | Guillemot and Kittiwake apportioning approaches – differences between project and NE approaches | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | NE Explained that the apportioning should be based on DAS age data rather than population distribution. Added that Natural England do not accept sabbatical rates and the Project should assume all are breeding adults. Natural England welcomed both approaches being presented at ES. | Project response to NE Acknowledged. |
| 1.2 Gannet Macro Advice | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Cumulative and in-combination impacts can be adjusted using new macro | Agreed | No comment | No comment | NE (a) Explained that Natural England have accepted this previously. They advised looking at SEP & DEP's Examination submissions on this matter as well as Natural England advice to them. Natural England would want to see the Projects methodology to confirm any recalculations are robust. | Project question to stakeholders (c) Asked whether Projects that had compensated for their impacts could be removed from the in-combination assessments. Project question to stakeholders (d) Asked whether the updated avoidance rates could be used to adjust previous collision estimates of other projects. |

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| avoidance rates | | | | <p>Action: Natural England to provide the guidance provided to SEP&DEP regarding the gannet macro avoidance and cumulative effects.</p> <p>Post meeting note from NE received 14/12/2023: SADEP applicant submission (includes summary of NE feedback): https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010109/EN010109-001502-13.2.1%20Collision%20Risk%20Modelling%20(CRM)%20Updates%20(EIA%20Context)%20Technical%20Note%20(Revision%20B)%20(Tracked).pdf</p> <p>RSPB (a) Explained that the RSPB are not supportive of the macro avoidance approach and will provide position.</p> <p>Action: RSPB to provide their position of using the updated gannet macro avoidance on projects within the cumulative and in-combination assessments.</p> <p>NE (b) Post Meeting Note from Natural England received 14/12/23: At this time, the range of macro-avoidance rates recommended by Natural England remain as per the Natural England draft updated Collision Risk Modelling parameters (July 2022) note i.e. 65% - 85% (or a single rate of 70%). Natural England are currently in the process of reviewing the recently published Natural England commissioned report written by HiDef (Pavet et al. 2023). There remains uncertainty around potential sources of variation in macro avoidance, including seasonality (breeding vs. non-breeding season) and the effect of adverse weather, that are yet to be fully addressed, and it is worth noting that NatureScot are currently not advocating the use of macro avoidance for gannet during the breeding season. Natural England believe that the current advised rates of 65-85% are consistent with our range-based and precautionary approach, the latter of which is appropriate particularly given the current uncertainties over the long-term impacts of HPAI on gannet.</p> <p>NE response to project (c) Advised that DESNZ are of the view that the outputs need to be shown with the compensation included and without, so this is likely to be sought. Natural England recommend looking at the likelihood of the compensation success and taking this into account. Both Hornsea Four and SEP&DEP provided both.</p> <p>RSPB response to project (c)</p> | |
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| | | | | | <p>Explained they will find previous advice RSPB submitted regarding this.</p> <p>Action: RSPB to share advice given regarding the inclusion of projects that have compensated for their impacts within the in-combination assessments.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note received from RSPB 20/11/23: Excluding from in-combination calculations the impacts of projects required to provide compensation measures: Norfolk Boreas: submission to post-examination consultation dated 21 October 2021 – see section 5 (para 5.21 onwards).</p> <p>NE response to project (d)</p> <p>Advised SEP&DEP undertook this and Natural England agreed with this methodology. They agreed this approach is doable and recommend the Project adopt the SEP&DEP values.</p> <p>Action: Natural England to provide documents relevant to SEP&DEP adjusting previous collision estimates using updated avoidance rates. Post Meeting Note from Natural England received 14/12/23: SADEP applicant submission (includes summary of NE feedback):</p> <p>https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010109/EN010109-001502-13.2.1%20Collision%20Risk%20Modelling%20(CRM)%20Updates%20(EIA%20Context)%20Technical%20Note%20(Revision%20B)%20(Tracked).pdf</p> | |
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1.3 Plémont Seabird Reserve

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| 1.3.1 | The reserve as a predator control project is sufficient | Disagreed | No comment | Disagreed | <p>NE (a)</p> <p>Explained to assess this measure Natural England need to understand the baseline of the area in terms of conservation initiatives and then can understand the potential benefits of the project. Also need to understand the drivers of the population declines.</p> <p>NE (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Asked whether the report will cover the extent of eradication. ▪ NE explained that this is a control measure so there will be ongoing aspects of monitoring, maintenance and predator control. ▪ Asked about the community involvement for the Project. ▪ Confirmed there is involvement from a local hedgehog conservation group and non-lethal and lethal traps will be used for different species to manage community concerns. ▪ Added that Hornsea Four proposed predator eradication in the Channel Islands, so recommended looking at the Natural England advice. There are concerns about the connectivity of the seabird network and how this would benefit FFC SPA. <p>Post Meeting Note from Natural England received 14/12/23: Deadline 7 Submission - Natural England's End of Examination Position on the Applicant's Proposed Compensatory Measures -</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explained that more details could be provided, and they offered that a representative of the reserve could be invited to a meeting in the new year. ▪ Project added there was a report by Birds on the Edge of the proposed project and the Project would provide additional information. ▪ Project shared information about the current seabird populations within the reserve. The seabird populations were historically very high showing potential and that there was suitable habitat. ▪ Project shared the number of recorded predators, showing potentially high predation pressure at the site. <p>Project response to RSPB</p> <p>For Auks the project proposed a package of measures to help reduce uncertainty.</p> <p>Project also provided an overview of additional sites for auk compensation using predator eradication and human disturbance reduction (site dependent based on pressures). All the sites are around the Southwest coast of England and have existing populations that are in decline. They are offshore and onshore sites.</p> |
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| | | | | <p>https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010098/EN010098-001970-Natural%20England%20-%20Comments%20on%20any%20submissions%20received%20at%20Deadline%206%201.pdf.</p> <p>Action: Natural England to share the note on the protection of the coherence of the national site network provided to HOW04.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note from Natural England received 14/12/23: Natural England review of G3.4 Compensation measures for FFC SPA: Compensation Connectivity Note - Revision: 01 [REP3-032]: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010098/EN010098-001479-Natural%20England%20-%20Comments%20on%20any%20submissions%20received%20at%20Deadline%203%201.pdf</p> <p>RSPB RPSB also have concerns regarding the evidence that birds benefited will have connectivity to the UK population. Raising the measure could be a positive conservation measure but may not have a benefit to the FFC SPA.</p> <p>Action: RSPB to share their views on HOW04 decision letter regarding the predator eradication and the connectivity of the seabird network.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note received from RSPB 20/11/23: Connectivity to the UK SPA network from compensation measures in the Channel Islands (lack of evidence base, pointing to where evidence would need to be provided)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hornsea 4: REP5-120, including paras 3.21-3.23. ▪ Hornsea 4: REP6-069 – see Tables 1 (predator eradication) and 4 (bycatch reduction). Section 5 of this document also includes a detailed assessment of the information required in respect of any predator eradication or control measure proposed as compensation and would be relevant to the Jersey proposal described briefly this morning. ▪ Hornsea 4: Post-examination consultation. RSPB submission dated 9 March 2023 – see numbered page 21. <p>NE (c) Natural England would want to see more detail and evidence of the pressures on the populations.</p> <p>NE (d)</p> | <p>Project response to NE (c) Explained the measure was in early development so would be progressed as far as possible by application and continue development through examination. NE asked if the identified sites had any designations, as this could be hard to determine from the SMP entries.</p> <p>Project response to NE (e) Action: ODOW to provide an overview of the designations of the proposed sites for auk compensation.</p> <p>Project response to NE (f) Explained the plan was to provide the report ahead of the meeting in January.</p> |
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| | | | | | <p>Post Meeting Note from Natural England received 14/12/23: Natural England advise the Project check that the sites Cow and Calf, Woody Bay 1 & 2, may be within West Exmoor Cliffs and Coast SSSI, also the site North Cliffs 1 may be in Godrevy Head to St. Agnes SSSI.</p> <p>NE (e) Explained that the approach of developing multiple compensation sites for auks is welcomed. They recommended also exploring the potential for sites in Dorset.</p> <p>NE (f) Asked when it is likely that the Birds on the Edge report will be available.</p> | |
| 1.4 ANS Auk Nesting | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 | | | | | <p>RSPB <i>In response to the project showing a photograph of guillemot nesting and breeding on an ANS structure within proximity to the array</i> RSPB explained this does not provide information of breeding success and fledging. More data is required to allow this to support the compensation measure.</p> | <p>Project response to RSPB Added that the census survey was undertaken from below the nesting sites, so the photo presented in the ETG was the only direct evidence of offshore breeding, however, suggested that where guillemots were displaying breeding behaviour that it was feasible, they were breeding.</p> |
| 1.5 AOB | | | | | | |
| 1.5.1 | Considerations within ANS design for Auks and the location of the structures are sufficient | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | <p>NE (a) Asked whether there were considerations within ANS design for Auks and the location of the structures.</p> <p>NE (b) Asked whether there were gulls and other predators found close to the structures in the census surveys. Adding predator protection needs to be taken into account for the design.</p> <p>NE (c) Added that if the ANS is multi-species it needs to consider the species that nest and those that do not and consider egg rolling, specifically in terms of the texture of the ledges.</p> <p>NE response to Project (d) Natural England can provide DAS advice on these numbers.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Confirmed the project were looking at a multi-species ANS. They explained the aim was to have some of the ecological work that fed into ANS design available to present for ES and examination. The site selection reporting at PEIR focused on kittiwake suitability. Razorbill and guillemot were also included in the site selection and evidence would be provided at ES.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) Confirmed within the census numbers there were small numbers, not large aggregations.</p> <p>Project response to NE (c) Confirmed this would be taken into account in the design.</p> <p>Project to stakeholders (d) Noted that they were content with Natural England sharing the estimated number of kittiwake collisions and indicative compensation requirements shared separately with the wider case team.</p> |

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| | | | | | | | <p>It was noted that the numbers provided were not based on the revised array but are based on the 40m minimum tip height so should only decrease.</p> <p>Project (e) Action: ODOW was to provide note on the interim numbers for the ES.</p> |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|

A coastal landscape featuring a sandy path winding through dunes covered in tall, dry grasses. The path leads towards a beach and the ocean under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex C Part 4 of 9

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024

Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex C – Part 4 of 9

Seascape & Landscape Visual Impact Assessment and Marine & Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Consultation Logs

The Consultation Logs presented in this document have been drafted on the basis of the EPP Terms of Reference and previous logs issued to relevant ETG meeting participants. The template has been updated in response to feedback from Natural England. The information presented is based upon that previously issued to stakeholders and derived from ETG meeting minutes (Annex B). The information and agreements included in the Consultation Logs presents the Applicant's interpretation of the points discussed during ETG meetings.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Archaeology, Cultural Heritage, SLVIA & LVIA Expert Topic Group

13th July 2022, ETG Round 1, Scoping Phase

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000282-01

Invitees:

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| OpEn | Natural England | Historic England | Linconshire County Council |
| Present | Present | Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | OpEn | Natural England | Historic England | Linconshire County Council | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--------------|---|------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| LVIA | | | | | | | | |
| 1.0.1 | The LVIA (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment) study area, including buffers, was presented | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.0.2 | There are no overlaps with AONBs, indicating no direct impacts anticipated. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.0.3 | The use of a design envelope and working to a worst-case scenario was emphasized | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| SLVIA | | | | | | | | |
| 2.0.1 | SLVIA is undertaken using Rochdale envelope and maximum design scenario. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.0.2 | While it is expected the WCS will be maximum turbine tip height, it could be a larger number of smaller turbines. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.0.3 | The offshore reactor station has an AoS between the array area and the landfall and is likely to be located approximately halfway between the two. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.0.4 | Due to the distance of the array area and the location behind Triton Knoll and it being in a seascape with a baseline that has many turbines present already, we do not expect the array area and turbines to create significant impacts. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.0.5 | Study Area needs to consider the location of the offshore reactor station and would seek feedback on that, to ensure content with the approach given the distance from shore. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | NE: raised a query regarding the radius, suggesting an increase to 70-80km and requesting avoidance of the SAC for the reactor station. | |

| ID | Agreement | OpEn | Natural England | Historic England | Linconshire County Council | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---|--|------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| | | | | | | | NE: Natural England suggested looking at the scoping opinion for Five Estuaries and North Falls. Natural England confirmed they had no concerns with the 30km, but in terms of being environmentally led, but requested the SAC is avoided for the reactor station, should ODOW require this. | |
| 2.0.6 | The theoretical visibility extends to the closest areas of coastline, but it is notable to mention that its only parts of the rotors and the blade tips at that distance. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.0.7 | Details regarding viewpoints and wirelines have been provided, and due to the minimal magnitude of change, ODOW suggests excluding the assessment of impacts on the array area. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | | | | | | | | |
| 3.0.1 | Baseline Characterisation detailed the Study Area as the offshore area plus a 1km buffer to MHWS. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 3.0.2 | The preference for UKHO over NRHE due to accuracy, with a total of 213 unique records. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 3.0.3 | Aside from 2 aircraft, there are no other designated sites within the AoS, however, there is potential to find more due to the potential for other receptors to be present. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 3.0.4 | Two SSSIs on the coast which have preserved paleoenvironmental deposits consisting of Holocene sediments and special geological features which could inform understanding of submerged landscapes in the area. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 3.0.5 | Maritime Archaeology confirmed that Method Statements had been provided to feed into the 2021 and 2022 geophysical campaigns and confirmed that the data assessed will be utilized in the PEIR. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |

| ID | Agreement | OpEn | Natural England | Historic England | Lincolnshire County Council | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|--|------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| 3.0.6 | Maritime Archaeology also confirmed a WSI would be produced. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 3.0.7 | Offshore and Onshore teams will work collaborative | No Comment | No Comment | Agree | No Comment | | HE: With all of the OWFs and cable routes within the area, particularly in the intertidal zone, make sure there is coherence between the onshore and offshore chapters. | |
| Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | | | | | | | | |
| 4.0.1 | Impacts of offshore infrastructure has been scoped out | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 4.0.2 | Lincolnshire Node option has more designated heritage assets within the AoS for the Substation Location than Weston Marsh, but it is acknowledged that the longer cable corridor of Weston Marsh does have more designated heritage assets | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 4.0.3 | 500m buffer from the cable route and substation to inform direct effects and a 2km buffer to consider the longer-term effects of the presence of the substation | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| | At the point where any geotechnical investigations do begin, the Project should ensure geoarchaeological involvement to maximise the opportunities to obtain data | No Comment | No Comment | Agree | No Comment | | HE: raised a query regarding the desk-based assessment (DBA), and whether this will include a geoarchaeological assessment | Projects response to HE: If the opportunity arises to monitor the geotechnical investigations, a geoarchaeologist will make observations to support the baseline characterisation. |

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Archaeology, Cultural Heritage, SLVIA & LVIA Expert Topic Group

13th July 2022, ETG Round 1, Scoping Phase

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000282-01

Invitees:

| Natural England | Historic England | Lincolnshire County Council |
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| SLVIA | | | | | | | |
| 2.0.1 | SLVIA is undertaken using Rochdale envelope and maximum design scenario. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.0.2 | While it is expected the WCS will be max turbine tip height, it could be a larger number of smaller turbines. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.0.3 | The offshore reactor station has an AoS between the array area and the landfall and is likely to be located approximately halfway between the two. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.0.4 | Due to the distance of the array area and the location behind Triton Knoll and it being in a seascape with a baseline that has many turbines present already, we do not expect the array area and turbines to create significant impacts. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.0.5 | Study Area needs to consider the location of the offshore reactor station and would seek feedback on that, to ensure content with the approach given the distance from shore. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | NE: raised a query regarding the radius, suggesting an increase to 70-80km and requesting avoidance of the SAC for the reactor station. | |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | Historic England | Lincolnshire County Council | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| | | | | | | NE: Natural England suggested looking at the scoping opinion for Five Estuaries and North Falls. Natural England confirmed they had no concerns with the 30km, but in terms of being environmentally led, but requested the SAC is avoided for the reactor station, should ODOW require this. | |
| 2.0.6 | The theoretical visibility extends to the closest areas of coastline, but it is notable to mention that its only parts of the rotors and the blade tips at that distance. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.0.7 | Details regarding viewpoints and wirelines have been provided, and due to the minimal magnitude of change, ODOW suggests excluding the assessment of impacts on the array area. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | | | | | | | |
| 3.0.1 | Baseline Characterisation detailed the Study Area as the offshore area plus a 1km buffer to MHWS. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 3.0.2 | The preference for UKHO over NRHE due to accuracy, with a total of 213 unique records. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 3.0.3 | Aside from 2 aircraft, there are no other designated sites within the AoS, however, there is potential to find more due to the potential for other receptors to be present. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 3.0.4 | Two SSSIs on the coast which have preserved paleoenvironmental deposits consisting of Holocene sediments and special geological features which could inform understanding of submerged landscapes in the area. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 3.0.5 | Maritime Archaeology confirmed that Method Statements had been provided to feed into the 2021 and 2022 geophysical campaigns and confirmed that the data assessed will be utilized in the PEIR. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |

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|--|--|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| 3.0.6 | Maritime Archaeology also confirmed a WSI would be produced. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 3.0.7 | Offshore and Onshore teams will work collaborative | No Comment | Agree | No Comment | | HE: With all of the OWFs and cable routes within the area, particularly in the intertidal zone, make sure there is coherence between the onshore and offshore chapters. | |
| Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | | | | | | | |
| 4.0.1 | Impacts of offshore infrastructure has been scoped out | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 4.0.2 | Lincolnshire Node option has more designated heritage assets within the AoS for the Substation Location than Weston Marsh, but it is acknowledged that the longer cable corridor of Weston Marsh does have more designated heritage assets | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 4.0.3 | 500m buffer from the cable route and substation to inform direct effects and a 2km buffer to consider the longer-term effects of the presence of the substation | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| | At the point where any geotechnical investigations do begin, the Project should ensure geoarchaeological involvement to maximise the opportunities to obtain data | No Comment | Agree | No Comment | | HE: raised a query regarding the desk-based assessment (DBA), and whether this will include a geoarchaeological assessment | Projects response to HE: If the opportunity arises to monitor the geotechnical investigations, a geoarchaeologist will make observations to support the baseline characterisation. |

A photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, a narrow, sandy path winds through tall, dry grasses and dunes. The path leads towards a flat, sandy beach that meets the ocean. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, suggesting an overcast day. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex C Part 5 of 9

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024

Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex C – Part 5 of 9

Seascape and Landscape Visual Impact Assessment Consultation Logs

The Consultation Logs presented in this document have been drafted on the basis of the EPP Terms of Reference and previous logs issued to relevant ETG meeting participants. The template has been updated in response to feedback from Natural England. The information presented is based upon that previously issued to stakeholders and derived from ETG meeting minutes (Annex B). The information and agreements included in the Consultation Logs presents the Applicant's interpretation of the points discussed during ETG meetings.

1 Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Seascape & Landscape Visual Impact Expert Topic Group

12th December 2022, ETG Round 3, Further Scoping Updates and PEIR
 ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000366-01

Invitees:

| Natural England | South Holland DC | Marine Management Organisation |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Present | Present | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | South Holland DC | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|--|-----------------|------------------|---|---|---|
| SLVIA | | | | | | |
| 1.0.1 | The project is assessing the character of the coast and seascape alongside changes in visual amenities. | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.1 Scope of the assessment | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Light touch approach will be taken at PEIR for the array area. | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.2 Data source | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Project is implementing Met Office visibility data from the Donna Nook observation point. | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.3 Study area | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | Study area consist of a 60km buffer study area for the array area and the proposed 30km study area for the RCS | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.4 Site specific surveys | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 | Surveys to be continued through to January | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.5 Designated sites and key receptors | | | | | | |
| 1.5.1 | Viewpoint will be micro-sited | Disagree | Disagree | | <p>NE: queried what has LPA feedback been?</p> <p>SH DC: suggested looking at Gibraltar Point as it is a slight promontory and a Wildlife Trust site.</p> <p>NE(a): recommended checking the viewpoints used for Viking Link and Triton Knoll and how these compared to those selected for the Project.</p> <p>NE(b): requested the rationale behind the viewpoints to allow for more detailed comments</p> | Project will provide memo outlining rationale behind the selection of viewpoints to NE to follow meeting notes. |
| LVIA | | | | | | |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | South Holland DC | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2.1 Scope of the assessment | | | | | | |
| 2.1.1 | Impact of the onshore substation is expected to be the greatest effect | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.2 Study area | | | | | | |
| 2.2.1 | There are two options for the onshore cable route | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.3 Site specific surveys | | | | | | |
| 2.3.1 | Site reconnaissance and viewpoint photography has taken place, and it has been found that the flat landscape combined with natural and manmade shielding means at a distance of 2 to 3km the visibility is rapidly reduced | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.3.2 | Landscape character and designated landscapes are being reviewed for DCO application | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.4 Viewpoint plan | | | | | | |
| 2.4.1 | Lincolnshire Node is not fixed yet, so 5 viewpoints are being assessed, considering human use, PRoW, and settlements | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.5 LVIA EIA methodology | | | | | | |
| 2.5.1 | Methodology will be similar as for SLVIA | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.6 Mitigation Planting | | | | | | |
| 2.6.1 | There is a compensation opportunity to reduce landscape and visual effects and would help the work on the landscape and ecology biodiversity plan. | No Comment | No Comment | | | |

1 Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Seascape & Landscape Visual Impact Expert Topic Group

27th march 2023, ETG Round 4, PEIR Updates

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000418-0]

Invitees:

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Natural England | MMO |
| Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | MMO | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------|---|---|--|
| Updates | | | | | | |
| 1.2 Evidence Base | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | SLVIA and LVIA photography will feed into PEIR. Post PEIR, more photography may be anticipated where appropriate as a result of section 42 consultation | Agreed | Agreed | | | |
| 1.3 SLVIA | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | two offshore reactive compensation platforms (ORCPs) will be assessed. Both ORCPs will be within the offshore cable corridor. | Disagreed | No Comment | | <p>NE: Raised concerns about the ORCPs and recommends looking at the Hornsea Project Three's application for the Kittiwake artificial nesting structures (ANS) as this had objections. Natural England advise the structures should be much further offshore. The ORCP structures are larger than the ANS proposed by Hornsea Project Three therefore there are concerns of objections. It was recommended that a WCS is not used, and the least impactful scenario should be presented is one which is as far offshore as possible.</p> <p>NE(a): explained that the Hornsea Project Three ANS' are now 10 or 12km offshore and are smaller and in the backdrop of existing windfarm (East Anglia Two). Natural England advised this is taken into consideration by the Project.</p> | <p>The Project explained that the search zone for the Project's ORCPs has considered visual impact, and that Hornsea Project Three's ANS' were only 1km offshore. The Projects ORCPs are planned for further offshore.</p> <p>The Project is looking at how the ORCPs could be within the background of the other windfarms in the area such as Lincs.</p> |
| Agreement Logs | | | | | | |
| 2.0.1 | Samples of agreement logs where shown, highlighting the areas of non-agreements. | Disagreed | No Comment | | <p>NE: Confirmed that Natural England will not comment on the agreement logs and have concerns surrounding the process and</p> | |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | MMO | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | | | presentation of the logs. Natural England will provide feedback on how to make this process more effective and improved. LB added that Helen Mann (HM) will provide examples of agreement log processes that they would recommend following. | |
| 2.1 SLVIA | | | | | | |
| 2.1.1 | Offshore receptors and sea users near to the array area should be considered in the SLVIA | Agreed | No Comment | | | The Project initially thought this could be scoped out but have now been added into the assessments with viewpoints from the ferry routes and supported through wireline visualisations. |
| 2.1.2 | Justification for the 30km ORCP study area radius will be provided at PEIR with supporting evidence. | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.1.3 | Is there any further recommendation regarding baseline data sources | Agree | Agree | | NE: will get a formal stance on the potential for further baseline information on new proposed heritage coast to consider MMO: will review and provide comments after the meeting. | |
| 2.2 LVIA | | | | | | |
| 2.2.1 | At the point of DCO application the impacts of the landfall can be addressed as more details will be known. The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (OLEMS) will address this and help assess where mitigation is needed and required | No Comment | No Comment | | NE: The LPA will need to be consulted. | The Project confirmed that ETG meeting invites were issued to the LPA and, if appropriate, additional meetings may be held with the LPA to consult on this. |
| 2.2.2 | Use of photography for the assessment at PEIR. | Agreed | No Comment | | NE: LB queried how completed the photography will be for the assessments within PEIR NE : LB questioned whether this presents a thorough visual impact assessment at PEIR. | The Project confirmed the photography was completed for the proposed viewpoints between November 2022 and January 2023. Any need for further photography will be as a result of the section 42 consultation. The Project confirmed that it is thorough, however it is proportionate to the likely impact. The assessment is robust but focusses on the more likely significant effects of the ORCPs. |
| 2.2.3 | Consultation may highlight that assessments may need to be supported by further viewpoints but areas likely to be impacted have been included at PEIR. | Agreed | No Comment | | NE: LB agreed that this rationale is appropriate. | The Project added that viewpoints focus along the coastline and then from the inland designated sites (including Lincolnshire AOB and Lincolnshire Wolds). Inshore the land is low lying and has sandbanks, so this has driven the selection to mostly coastal viewpoints. |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | MMO | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|-------|--|-----------------|-------------------|---|--|-------------------------|
| 2.2.4 | LVIA has three onshore substation study areas and for the DCO application it is proposed to refine to one onshore substation study area. | Agreed | No Comment | | NE: LB suggested that Neil McBride from Lincolnshire County Council will be able to provide tree species within the area to help with planting mitigations. | |

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Seascape & Landscape Visual Assessment Expert Topic Group

27th July 2023, ETG Round 5, Initial S42 Consultation Feedback

ODOW Reference: Minutes – PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0013

Invitees:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| DPA Planning (representing the LPAs) | AHH Planning | Marine Management Organisation | Natural England | East Lindsey District Council | Lincolnshire County Council | South Holland District Council | Boston Borough Council |
| Present | Present | Absent | Absent | Absent | Absent | Absent | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | DPA Planning | AHH Planning | Annex/ Reference applicable) | Document Notes from Stakeholders (if applicable) | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|---|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Project | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Programme | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Project is expecting a grid connection offer in Early August 2023. | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| SLVIA | | | | | | |
| 1.2 Effects on Landscape Character | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Impacts on the Landscape Character Types (LCTs) located outside the ZTV and/or inland from the coast were scoped out. | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.2.2 | Effects of the array area on LCTs are unlikely to be significant and can be scoped out of the ES. | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.3 Landfall and Onshore Cable Route | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | Effects of export cable landfall during operation and maintenance to be scoped in | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.4 Location of Representative Viewpoints | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 | Six or seven viewpoints would represent visual receptors in the local area of the final onshore substation | No Comment | No Comment | | | |

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind SLVIA and LVIA Expert Topic Group

22nd September 2023, ETG Round 7, ES Updates

ODOW Reference: Minutes – PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0026

Invitees:

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| DPA Planning (representing LPAs) | Marine Management Organisation | Lincolnshire County Council | AAH Planning | Natural England | East Lindsey District Council | South Holland District Council | Boston Borough Council |
| Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Absent | Absent | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | DPA Planning | Marine Management Organisation | Lincolnshire County Council | AAH Planning | Natural England | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|--|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|--|--|
| SLVIA | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Effects of the Offshore Array Area | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Offshore array area on onshore seascape, landscape and visual receptors are unlikely to be significant and can be scoped out of the ES. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | Disagreed | | <p>NE: Advised that the offshore array area could be scoped in to ensure all interested parties have an opportunity to voice their opinion.</p> <p>DPA P: will come back to project on further feedback on scoping out the offshore array area.</p> <p>LCC: no analysis has been undertaken, therefore will remain neutral on the matter.</p> | |
| 1.2 Effects of the ORCPs, Study Area and Viewpoints. | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Two ORCPs (90m x 90m x 90x) will now be located a minimum distance of 12km from the coast, doubling the distance assumed during PEIR assessment. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | <p>NE: previously advised their only concern is with effects of ORCPs, however s42 comments advise that OCRPs will not result in significant effects on designated landscapes.</p> | The Project proposed a study area for ES assessment of ORCPs to be 30km radius, with assessment focused on effects from coastline between Chapel Six Marshes, Mablethorpe and Saltfleet, with effects on designated landscapes to be scoped out. |
| 1.3 Designations and Heritage Coasts | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | Project confirmed that the ES will give no weight or consideration to the Heritage Coast proposal. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | <p>NE: Advice has not changed since PEIR. However, Natural England recommend future proofing assessments. Natural England further advised that there may be other interested parties' interest in this (e.g. The Wildlife Trusts).</p> | |
| LVIA | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 Landfall and Onshore Cable Route | | | | | | | | | |

| ID | Agreement | DPA Planning | Marine Management Organisation | Lincolnshire County Council | AAH Planning | Natural England | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---|--|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|---|--|--|
| 2.1.1 | ES will present more detail on the effects of the landfall and onshore cable route. | Agreed | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.2 Location of Representative Viewpoints | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.2.1 | The aim is to have seven viewpoints to represent visual receptors in the local area of the final onshore substation. | Disagree | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | <p>DPA P: There should be more viewpoints.</p> <p>DPA (post meeting note): request for more middle and distant range viewpoints, representation of the settlements of Gosberton and Surfleet Seas End and including a total of ten viewpoints in the LVIA.</p> | <p>The Project confirmed that after the site visit (25/09/23) the Project will consider further viewpoints.</p> <p>Project's action: These comments were taken into consideration during the site visit.</p> |
| 2.3 List of Cumulative Developments | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.3.1 | Cumulative long list to be updated for relevant stakeholders to comment upon | Agreed | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.4 Worst Case Scenarios | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.4.1 | GIS and AIS onshore substations will be considered | Agreed | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.5 Presentation of Visualisations | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.5.1 | Mitigation planting will be added to represent 15 years of growth | Disagreed | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | S&ELCP (SD) raised concerns regarding the 15 years of growth approach. | The Project confirmed that this is standard industry best practice and displayed examples of how this looked at PIER |
| 2.6 Relevance of Lincolnshire Worlds AONB | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.6.1 | Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is no longer relevant to the LVIA as the Lincolnshire Node search zone has been discounted as a potential option to locate the onshore substation. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | Agree | | Natural England (LB) confirmed they were content with this approach. | |

1 Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind [Title] Expert Topic Group

[20th November 2023, ETG Round Number, Project Phase]

ODOW Reference: Minutes – [PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0039]

Invitees:

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| DPA Planning (representing LPAs) | Lincolnshire County Council | AHH Planning | Marine Management Organisation | Natural England | East Lindsey District Council | South Holland District Council | Boston Borough Council |
| Present | Present | Present | Absent | Absent | Absent | Absent | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | DPA Planning | Lincolnshire Council | CountyAHH Planning | Annex/ Reference (If applicable) | Document Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---|---|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| LVIA | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 LVIA Updates | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | An assessment of cumulative effects has been developed from long list and short list. Focusing on interaction between the NGSS and the Project. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.2 Onshore Cable Route | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | There are few losses of hedgerows and trees due to the extensive use of trenchless techniques and careful routing to avoid settlements along the onshore ECC. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.3 Onshore Substation | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | A 5km study area around the OnSS has been confirmed. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.4 Landscape Designations | | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 | There are no landscape designations within the study area | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.5 Updated Viewpoints | | | | | | | |
| 1.5.1 | Number of viewpoints increased from 5 to 10 | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.6 Surfleet Marsh OnSS Mitigation Planting | | | | | | | |
| 1.6.1 | The aim is to produce a layered mitigation planting plan, for near and middle-distance range planting. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.6.2 | Planting around the substation is predicted to reach 7-8m high in 15 years. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |

| ID | Agreement | DPA Planning | Lincolnshire Council | CountyAHH Planning | Annex/ Reference (If applicable) | Document Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1.6.3 | Planting would be actioned away from the building and closer to receptors. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.6.4 | The visualisations indicate that at all viewpoints, significant visual effects are likely to be mitigated within 10-15 years, with some significant effects being lost between year 5 and year 10. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.7 Cumulative Assessment | | | | | | | |
| 1.7.1 | A detailed assessment of the cumulative effects will be on the LLCA. | No Comment | Agreed | No Comment | | <p>LCC: Raised questions around the inclusion of additional infrastructure and Projects that aren't currently in the public domain.</p> <p>LCC(a): Also raised that during examination the first developer in line may be expected to update the cumulative impacts throughout examination for others to see.</p> | The Project outlined that where information and a footprint for upcoming Projects is not yet freely in the domain, there will be a cutoff date for Projects to be included in the CEA. |
| 1.8 Next Steps | | | | | | | |
| 1.8.1 | Agreement on the updated viewpoint list from LCC and LPAs | Agreed | Agreed | Agreed | | | |
| 1.8.2 | The representation of the OnSS employs two different models, AIS and GIS, to illustrate a worst-case scenario (WCS) based on the 'Rochdale Envelope' project design. | Agreed | Agreed | Agreed | | | |

A photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, a narrow, sandy path winds through tall, dry grasses and dunes. The path leads towards a flat, sandy beach area in the distance. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, suggesting an overcast day. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex C Part 6 of 9

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024

Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex C – Part 6 of 9

Marine and Onshore Archaeology & Cultural Heritage Consultation Logs

The Consultation Logs presented in this document have been drafted on the basis of the EPP Terms of Reference and previous logs issued to relevant ETG meeting participants. The template has been updated in response to feedback from Natural England. The information presented is based upon that previously issued to stakeholders and derived from ETG meeting minutes (Annex B). The information and agreements included in the Consultation Logs presents the Applicant's interpretation of the points discussed during ETG meetings.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine and Onshore Archaeology & Cultural Heritage Expert Topic Group

25/01/2023, ETG Round 3, Further Scoping Updates and PEIR
 ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000365-01

Invitees:

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| MMO | Lincolnshire County Council | Historic England |
| Present | Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | MMO | LCC | HE | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|---|--|
| AOB | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Geophysical Surveys | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Evaluation phase - A full suite is not needed for geophysical surveys | No Comment | Disagreed | No Comment | | <p>LCC (a) Asked what are the next steps for archaeology for evaluation phase?</p> <p>LCC (b) Added that within the scoping opinion a full suite was recommended to be required for all areas that haven't been previously fully evaluated.</p> <p>Full geophysical survey of the area.</p> <p>LCC (c) Explained this needs to be laid out and justified and suggested that post med archaeology should be considered in Geophys surveys.</p> <p>Asked will there be archaeological presence at GI?</p> <p>LCC (d) Welcomed ongoing dialogue and results to be shared as they come.</p> <p>LCC (e)</p> | <p>Project response to LCC (a) It was confirmed the Project were undertaking Geophysical surveys for section 6 and above and Lidar for the southern sections. Any anomalies found from this would then be investigated through channel trenching.</p> <p>Project response to LCC (b) Added that south of Section 6 (Steeping River to Ivy House Farm/Marsh Yard) the land was underwater from the Mesolithic period, so the project stated the potential for archaeology was reduced. As such, it was considered that a combination of LiDAR and targeted Geophys should be sufficient. However, the project would investigate if a Geophys of the whole area should have also been completed.</p> <p>Project response to LCC (c) It was confirmed that site investigation works at launch pits would have archaeological investigations.</p> <p>Project response to LCC (d) Appreciated this and stated that they would share results as they became available.</p> <p>Action: (ODOW) to send Geophysical WSI to LCC</p> <p>Project response to LCC</p> |
| 1.1.2 | Quality control check for data should be carried out | No comment | Agreed | No comment | | <p>LCC (a) Queried is the plan to do full width Geophys surveys across the whole ECC search area (300m).</p> <p>LCC (b)</p> | <p>Project response to LCC (a) It was confirmed that the full width is being assessed.</p> <p>Project response to LCC (b) This was acknowledged by the Project and agreed.</p> |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|--|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | <p>Asked whether one Geophys company was completing all the surveys and if multiple were being used then there should be a quality control check for the data.</p> | |
| 1.1.3 | There are no more considerations for the geophysical survey approach | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | <p>HE (a) Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suggested that for the Geophys surveys deposit modelling be used to inform selection of techniques; ▪ Utilise geophys experts within Historic England; ▪ Made the project aware that when using arch mapping explorer – HE mapping stops south of Skegness due to budget cuts; ▪ Regarding route ways and boundary moving, for water dependent heritage assets that temporary or french drains be looked into how they would affect hydrology and condition of remains; ▪ Added that as part of the onshore used to be underwater that effort should be made between the offshore and onshore reports to ensure they are overlapping and complimentary to eachother; and ▪ Suggested that the Project seek opportunity for synergies for ground investigations for geo arch to avoid repetition of data collection. <p>HE (b) Encouraged the deposit modelling approach.</p> <p>LCC (a) Suggested that regarding the AP resource air photo lidar assessment would be really useful.</p> <p>Asked whether the Project had been in contact with the advisor for Heritage Lincolnshire.</p> <p>LCC (b) Also raised that earth work restoration needs surveys to be before any work on a site-specific basis and directional drilling needs to be assessed at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>LCC (c) Added that their recommendation for the approach remains consistent with scoping opinion that it needs to be site specific.</p> | <p>Project response to HE (a) Agreed and stated that they had looked at GI contracts and ensured archaeology is present where appropriate for all the engineering surveys.</p> <p>Project response to LCC (a) It was confirmed the Project had been in contact with Heritage Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Project response to LCC (b) Confirmed this would be done before and would be conditioned. An outline WSI would inform what would be done and there would be a commitment to mitigate as necessary.</p> <p>Project response to LCC (c) Action: ODOW to send draft DBA (when available) and deposit model to JA and MN (HE) to discuss further work and arrange meeting.</p> |

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine & Onshore Archaeology & Cultural Heritage Expert Topic Group

23/03/2023, ETG Round 4, PEIR Updates

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000417-01

Invitees:

| | | | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| MMO | Lincolnshire County Council | Historic England | Maritime Archaeology | SLR | East Lindsey District Council | South Holland District Council |
| Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Absent | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | MMO | LCC | HE | MA | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|---|--|---|
| Marine & Onshore Archaeology & Cultural Heritage | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Marine Archaeology | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1a | It should be made clear that all known archaeological receptors will get an AEZ | No Comment | No Comment | Agreed | No Comment | | <u>HE</u> HE advised that it should be made absolutely clear that all known archaeological receptors will get an Archaeological Exclusion Zone (AEZ) and geophysical anomalies assessed as having archaeological potential will receive AEZs. | <u>Project response to HE</u> Acknowledged. |
| 1.1.2a | It should be made clear that geophysical anomalies assessed as having archaeological potential will receive AEZs. | No comment | No comment | Agreed | No comment | | <u>HE</u> HE advised that it should be made absolutely clear that all known archaeological receptors will get an Archaeological Exclusion Zone (AEZ) and geophysical anomalies assessed as having archaeological potential will receive AEZs. | <u>Project response to HE</u> Acknowledged. |
| 1.2 Onshore Archaeology & Cultural Heritage | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Air photo assessment is not needed. | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | | <u>LCC</u> LCC understood that an air photo assessment would not be included in the PEIR but is keen to have air photos of the full impact area for the ES. | <u>Project response to LCC</u> The project was keen to avoid abortive work. *ODOW and LCC stated they would continue discussions about inclusion of air photos in the ES. |
| 1.2.2 | Standard archaeological evaluation for the area of impact, the substation and all other impacts, needs to be a robust assessment. | No comment | Agreed | No comment | No comment | | <u>LCC</u> LCC is expecting a robust assessment of standard archaeological evaluation for the area of impact, the substation and all other impacts. | <u>Project response to LCC</u> Acknowledged. |
| 1.2.3 | There are no concerns with secondary impacts of mitigation and alternations to hydrology. | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | <u>HE</u> HE raised concerns about the secondary impacts of mitigation and alternations to hydrology. | <u>Project response to HE</u> ODOW advised that drainage was a high priority issue and would be referenced |

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine & Onshore Archaeology & Cultural Heritage Expert Topic Group

25/07/2023, ETG Round 5, Initial S42 Consultation Feedback
 ODOW Reference: Minutes – PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0012

Invitees:

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------|----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| DPA Planning | Lincolnshire County Council | South Holland District Council | Boston Borough Council | Historic England | SLR | Maritime Archaeology | MMO | East Lindsey District Council |
| Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Absent | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | DPA Planning | LCC | SHDC | BBC | HE | Annex/ Document Reference (if applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|---|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---|---|--|
| Marine Archaeology | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Assessment Methodology | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | The study area is appropriate | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | Agreed | | <u>HE</u> The study area is appropriate. | <u>Project response to HE</u> The Project agreed with Historic England that the study area was appropriate and would be further defined in all future project stages and associated project documents. The Project confirmed that the study area and subsequent baseline assessment would be amended in line with the newly established export cable corridor. |
| 1.1.2 | Impacts from penetration should be separately assessed from compression impacts | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | <u>Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS</u> " The Applicant should ensure that these effects are fully explained in the ES, in order to explain the nature of compression impacts and establish whether there is potential for two different types of effect". | <u>Project</u> The Project agreed that impacts from penetration would be separately assessed from compression impacts and would be explained thusly in the ES. |
| 1.2 Impact Assessment Methodology | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | There are data gaps and uncertainties. | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | Agreed | | <u>HE</u> HE note that the archaeological analysis and assessment of geophysical data collected for the array area will be presented in the PEIR. It is therefore relevant that the PEIR also sets out the mitigation strategy to be adopted by this project in consideration of "key receptors" presently identified, which should also qualify other anomalies of possible archaeological interest. Historic England are concerned to see that the archaeological assessment of geophysical data collected for the Offshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) will not be | <u>Project response to HE</u> The Project agreed with comments made by Historic England regarding data gaps and uncertainties. The Project explained that geophysical data was not available at the time of PIER, thus ECC data was based upon desk-based data. The Project confirmed that geophysical data was being assessed for ES and WSI. |

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| | | | | | | | | | included in the PEIR and therefore we will not be in a position to offer advice regarding mitigation strategies. It is therefore very important that post PEIR data analysis is adequately completed to inform the content of any ES subsequently produced. | |
| 1.3 Legislation and Policy | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | The legislation and policy table is extensive. | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | | HE This entire table, which covers 32 pages, requires revision as we must question why almost all paragraphs in the UK Marine Policy Statement under Section 2.6.6 (Historic environment) are included with repetitive, generic text used in the “comments addressed” column. The same is apparent for inclusion of almost all paragraphs from National Policy Statements (NPSs) as published 2011 or draft in 2023. The use by the Applicant of repetitive statements or simply referencing other section of the PEIR is not efficient. We have looked at other thematic chapters for this PEIR and it is apparent that a far more succinct policy table is required. | Project response to HE The Project agreed the table was extensive and will look at other thematic chapters and amend the table as necessary. |
| 1.4 Evaluation | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 | The depot modelling gives confidence in fully understanding the wider landscape | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | | HE Raised concern regarding depot modelling giving confidence in fully understanding the wider landscape. | Project response to HE Confirmed a letter was sent to Historic England in which areas were highlighted by LIDAR. CD confirmed that these had been included and survey areas were targeted. Stated the geophysical results were coming back therefore there would be opportunities to revisit any anomalies. |
| 1.5 Post Consent Works | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5.1 | There are no concerns regarding the potential for unevaluated/unexpected archaeological assets appearing later. | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | | HE Raised concern regarding the potential for unevaluated/unexpected archaeological assets appearing later. | Project response to HE Confirmed that post trenching there would be a period to work out whether anything needs to be done prior to construction. |
| 1.5.2 | HDD at Slackholme would be an acceptable mitigation strategy | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | Agreed | | | HE Would need to understand logistical parameters but confirms HDD or going around could be an option. HE queries why room in PIER boundary was not allowed to go around. | Project response to HE Confirmed that other factors were likely to be the reason but would take away and confirm. Action: ODOV to confirm why going around was not considered in the PIER boundary. |
| 1.6 Baseline Environment | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.6.1 | Regarding areas of dry land assessed through geomorphological methods, a | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | Agreed | | | HE Consultation on the terrestrial geophysical survey has been positive. This work has we understand now commenced | Project response to HE The Project confirmed they agreed with Historic England’s request of a nuanced approach to the |

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| | nuanced approach to the deployment of survey techniques is appropriate | | | | | | | (too late for inclusion in the PEIR) hence cannot be discussed at length here. We would note however the importance of a nuanced approach to the deployment of survey techniques in particular on the cable run along the coastal silts where within those areas of low potential there are evident areas of more solid ground with medieval and later archaeological features which should be targeted in their geomorphological context (i.e., not just the features visible on lidar but the 'dry' landscape component as a whole). It will be important to test 'blank areas' for methodological rigor in addition to positive targets. | deployment of survey techniques, regarding areas of dry land assessed through geomorphological methods. |
| 1.6.2 | Trial trenching is not required. | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | LCC Requests trial trenching of full footprint of impact at the pre-determination stage. HE Request trial trenching as soon as possible. | Project response to LCC and HE In response the project proposed a reduced scope of predetermination trenching – of high-risk areas with other trial trenching undertaken as a condition of consent? This is in accordance with planning policy. |
| 1.7 Mitigation Strategy – Outline WSI | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.7.1 | A WSI for archaeological mitigation does not need to be submitted prior to determination. | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | LCC LCC would require a WSI for mitigation to be submitted prior to determination. HE Historic England welcomes the WSI for archaeological mitigation to be approval during the DCO process. | Project response to LCC and HE Acknowledged. |
| 1.8 Air Photo Assessment | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.8.1 | A sample area should be reviewed to determine the necessity for full assessment. | No comment | Agreed | No comment | No comment | Agreed | | LCC (a) Full Air Photo assessment across the impact zone of all available oblique and vertical photos including the Historic England archive and the Cambridge University Collection of Air Photos and those held by Lincolnshire County Council. S42 Comment from LCC (b) Desk-based assessment should include a full aerial photographic assessment. | Project response to LCC (a) The Project confirms it was previously agreed that a sample area should be reviewed to determine the necessity for full assessment. The agreement of this sample area has been delayed until route selection, therefore agreement will be forthcoming. A suggested sample area will be circulated to Historic England and LCC. This is likely to be the substation footprint or other area of extended disturbance. Action: ODOW to confirm a sample area for air photo assessment. Project response to LCC (b) Given the undertaking of a geophysical survey, and the planned targeting of aerial photographic assessment to a sample area – the project asked if consultees still considered that full aerial photographic assessment was absolutely necessary? The NPPF references appropriate desk-based assessment. A targeted approach would not be non-compliant with policy. |
| 1.9 Map Regression | | | | | | | | | |

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| 1.9.1 | A full map regression for impact footprint is not required. | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | LCC Requests a full map regression for impact footprint. | Project response to LCC The Project proposes a broad assessment with historic Ordnance Survey and HLC with targeted assessment as appropriate based on time depth and potential? The NPPF references appropriate desk-based assessment. A targeted approach would not be non-compliant with policy. |
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1 Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine and Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Expert Topic Group

19/09/23, ETG Round 6, ES Updates

ODOW Reference: Minutes – PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0025

Invitees:

| | | | | | |
|------------------|---------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Historic England | MMO | Lincolnshire County Council | DPA Planning | South Holland District Council | Boston Borough Council |
| Present | Present | Present | Present | Absent | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | HE | MMO | LCC | DPA | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|---|---|---|
| Marine and Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 MDS Table | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | The Suction Bucket Jackets (SBJ) represents the option for greatest physical disturbance of seabed. | Disagreed | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | HE Historic England raised the concern that SBJ does not represent the option for greatest physical disturbance of seabed. | Project response to HE The Project acknowledged this concern and stated they would amend as necessary. |
| 1.2 Technical Report - Known Wrecks | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Approach to identifying significant heritage assets is clear | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | HE Questioned whether sites being determined as assets are of archaeological significance. Historic England encourages the Project to establish a tangible way to identify significant heritage assets. | Project response to HE Acknowledged. |
| 1.3 Trial Trench Evaluation | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | The proposal to undertake the first campaign of archaeological trial trenching and any geoarchaeological boreholes following submission in early spring 2024 is an appropriate approach. | No comment | No comment | Agreed | No comment | | LCC (a) This approach was acknowledged by LCC as an approach that has been undertaken by other NSIPs but it was suggested that a rolling trenching programme could commence sooner. LCC (b) LCC acknowledged the difficulties of Winter working and confirmed that this approach would be acceptable subject to the Inspector's agreement. | Project response to LCC (a) The Project advised that a full baseline from geophysical survey was the preferred basis on which to commence intrusive works and that works over the Winter should be avoided due to adverse ground conditions |
| 1.4 Historic Air Photo Assessment | | | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 | Desk-based assessment should include a full aerial photographic assessment. | No comment | No comment | Agreed | No comment | | LCC (a) | Project response to LCC (a) Explained that NMP data did not discover any data additional to the geophysical surveys (thus far). The |

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| | | | | | | <p>LCC are of the opinion that the desk-based assessment should include a full aerial photographic assessment.</p> <p><u>LCC (b)</u></p> <p>LCC do not agree with this approach and encouraged the project to complete a full air photo assessment but acknowledged that a sample area as discussed may move this disagreement forwards.</p> | <p>Project are therefore not proposing to complete a full aerial photo assessment as the geophysical survey should make this not necessary.</p> <p>The Project and LCC discussed a sample area to test this method. A sample area at Slackholme was suggested.</p> <p>Action: The Project will liaise with stakeholders to agree a sample area for historic air photo assessment.</p> |
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Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine and Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Expert Topic Group

30/11/23, ETG Round 7, Finalisation of ES

ODOW Reference: Minutes – PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0015

Invitees:

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|------------------|---------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Historic England | MMO | Lincolnshire County Council | DPA Planning | Heritage Lincolnshire |
| Present | Present | Present | Present | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | HE | MMO | LCC | DPA | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|--|---|
| Marine and Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Marine Archaeology | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | A smaller boundary and increase of turbines raise no concerns | Disagreed | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | HE Historic England raised concern that the smaller boundary and increase of turbines would result in more turbines in a smaller space. | Project response to HE Explained that the Project needed to meet minimum power density requirements set out by The Crown Estate that must be complied with post-consent, as such the change in boundary does not change the spacing of turbines within the Project's maximum design scenario. |
| 1.2 Onshore Archaeology | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | General Order Limits - the use of geophysical surveys instead of aerial surveys is an appropriate approach. | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | | LCC Lincolnshire County Council raised concern with the Project regarding the use of geophysical surveys instead of aerial surveys. Lincolnshire County Council explained that it would be beneficial to use both techniques together to provide more information. | Project response to LCC The Project acknowledged these concerns and explained that a full LIDAR assessment has been conducted to support geophysical data. The LiDAR assessment reviewed GoogleEarth imagery and a recent aerial survey conducted by ODOW such that aside of historic photographs, the Project footprint has been subject to some aerial photographic assessment. ODOW remain of the opinion that the Project does not require both geophysical survey and aerial surveys, based on what is already known. |
| 1.3 AOB | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | The project will need a written plan to how adequate resourcing during examination will continue. | Agreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | HE Historic England acknowledged that the Project will be busy during the examination period, therefore requests whether the Project will have a written plan to how adequate resourcing during examination will continue. | Project response to HE The Project explained they would reflect on this. |

A coastal landscape featuring a path of white sand and dunes covered in tall, dry grasses. The path leads towards a beach and the ocean under a cloudy sky.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex C Part 7 of 9

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024

Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex C – Part 7 of 9

Marine Mammals Consultation Logs

The Consultation Logs presented in this document have been drafted on the basis of the EPP Terms of Reference and previous logs issued to relevant ETG meeting participants. The template has been updated in response to feedback from Natural England. The information presented is based upon that previously issued to stakeholders and derived from ETG meeting minutes (Annex B). The information and agreements included in the Consultation Logs presents the Applicant's interpretation of the points discussed during ETG meetings.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Mammals Expert Topic Group

19/01/2022, ETG Round 1, Project Introduction

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000123-01

Invitees:

| MMO | CEFAS | Natural England | The Wildlife Trusts |
|---------|---------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Present | Present | Present | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | MMO | CEFAS | Natural England | Annex/ Document Reference (if applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|
| Marine Mammals | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Baseline | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Proposed data sources are appropriate | No Comment | No Comment | Agreed | | <p>NE (a) Noted that the list appeared appropriate and acknowledged the uncertainty around BND.</p> <p>Recommended that ODOW keep an eye on new data which may be available including SCANS IV which is planned for 2022.</p> <p>NE (b) Asked about the site-specific data availability at PEIR and if 2 years would be available for PEIR.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) SMRU - noted that the hope was that some density estimates would be available to inform ES but not guaranteed.</p> <p>The project also stated that TWT were invited to the ETG but were unable to attend that time.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) Noted that this was unlikely but would have interim 1-year report with density estimates.</p> |
| 1.2 Impact Screening | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Impacts screened in – The approach to low order UXO clearance thresholds is appropriate | No comment | No comment | Agreed | | <p>NE Noted that the 5km EDR is acceptable for established LO techniques where sufficient data is available (i.e. deflagration), other LO techniques would need further data to demonstrate equivalent sound levels to justify this EDR.</p> | <p>Project response to NE Acknowledged.</p> |

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Mammals Expert Topic Group

26/09/2022, ETG Round 2, Initial Post Scoping Opinion

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000330-01

Invitees:

| MMO | CEFAS | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | Natural England | Wildlife Trust |
|---------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Present | Present | Present | Absent | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | MMO | CEFAS | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | Natural England | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| Marine Mammals | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Scoping Opinion | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Accidental pollution, barrier effects during operation and electro-magnetic fields can be scoped out. | Agreed | Agreed | No Comment | No comment | | <p>MMO Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: It was agreed by the Marine Mammal ETG that accidental pollution, barrier effects during operation and electro-magnetic fields would be scoped out. It was confirmed by the MMO that details of mitigation for accidental pollution will be included in the project's Environmental Monitoring Plan and its constituent Marine Pollution Contingency Plan or the Code of Construction Practice.</p> <p>Cefas Based on the justification presented, Cefas confirms agreement for scoping out barrier effects and electro-magnetic fields, and the inclusion of accidental pollution with subsequent report documentation.</p> | <p>Project response to MMO and Cefas Acknowledged.</p> |
| 1.1.2 | The baseline characterisation report needs to be updated with more recent references. | Agreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>MMO Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: it was confirmed that the Baseline Characterisation Report will be updated with more recent references. MMO agree that the assessment should use the most current, peer-reviewed guidance available.</p> | <p>Project response to MMO Acknowledged.</p> |
| 1.1.3 | Assessment of TTS magnitude, sensitivity or significance does not need to be included in assessment. | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>MMO Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: The MMO do not agree that assessment of TTS magnitude, sensitivity or</p> | <p>Project response to MMO Acknowledged.</p> |

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| | | | | | | significance is not included. The reasons for including TTS significance were set out in a Cefas Position Paper dated 13th February 2018. However, it was agreed that as a minimum, TTS impact ranges and the number of animals predicted to be at risk should be presented. | |
| 1.1.4 | Natural England's suggested tiers for cumulative impact assessment are an appropriate approach for the PEIR and ES. | Agreed | No comment | No comment | Agreed | <p>NE (a) In their scoping response Natural England recommended using Natural England's suggested tiers for cumulative impact assessment (CIA).</p> <p>MMO Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: MMO agree that Natural England's suggested tiers for cumulative impact assessment be included in the PEIR and ES.</p> <p>NE (b) Post meeting note from Natural England received on 19th October 2022: This is included within Natural England's 'Offshore Wind Marine Environmental Assessments: Best Practice Advice for Evidence and Data Standards'. Requests to access this document should be sent to NEEOffshoreWindStrategicSolutions@naturalengland.org.uk. The Tiers can be found within Phase III Expectations for Data Analysis and Presentation at examination for OWF Applications Section 11 Cumulative and in-combination assessments p108 Table 11.1.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Action: The Project formally requested Natural England to issue a copy of Natural England's suggested tiers for cumulative impact assessment.</p> <p>Project response to MMO and NE (b) Post meeting note from ODOW: The Project confirmed that the PEIR would use the recommended tiers.</p> |
| 1.1.5 | UXO disturbance assessment - 26km Effective Deterrent Radius (EDR) for high-order for all species is an appropriate approach. | Agreed | No comment | No comment | Agreed | <p>MMO and NE Both MMO and Natural England agreed 26km EDR for high-order.</p> | <p>Project response to MMO and NE Acknowledged.</p> |
| 1.1.6 | UXO disturbance assessment – 5km EDR for low order on all species is an appropriate approach. | Disagreed | Disagreed | No comment | Disagreed | <p>MMO and NE (a) Recommended 5km EDR for low-order is only used for porpoise, not other species.</p> <p>NE (b) Action: Natural England to confirm why 5km EDR for low-order was only to be used for porpoise.</p> <p>Post meeting note from Natural England received on 19th October 2022: Natural England agreed on the 5km for harbour porpoise within the SNS SAC as EDR for low-order during the consultation process for a particular OWF. Thus, this advice was given for a specific case, and it was not the intention that this range is used widely and for other species. Hence, if the Applicant plans to apply the same range, we request further justification, evidence or modelling to be provided. We also refer to the Best Practice Advice (Phase III) document where we state that the</p> | <p>Project response to MMO and NE (a) Queried why 5km was only to be used for porpoise?</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) Post meeting Action: The Project would assess the applicability of the 5km EDR and provide further justification. Natural England and MMO to confirm agreement with approach prior to the PEIR being submitted.</p> <p>Project response to Cefas (a) The Project understanding was that JNCC 2020 guidance only considered high-order detonations, not low-order. Sofia was the first Marine Licence application to propose low-order and based on discussions with MMO and JNCC, it was agreed 5km was appropriate for use in HRA assessments for Southern North Sea. Environmental impact assessments were not discussed. Since Sofia, several</p> |

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| | | | | | | <p>applicability of the EDR ranges to other species and locations is unknown, and therefore its use is not recommended for other species.</p> <p>Cefas (a) Confirmed there was uncertainty over where 5km has come from.</p> <p>Cefas (b) Requested that it would be useful for the Project to include justification for numbers used, particularly if reference to other OWFs, in both PEIR and ES.</p> <p>MMO (b) Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: The Project proposes to use a 5km EDR (Effective Deterrent Radius) for UXO clearance using low order disposal. However, JNCC, Natural England and DAERA guidance (2020) on the assessment of impacts from underwater noise on harbour porpoise, does not provide any guidance on an EDR for low order disposal UXO clearance. An EDR of 5km may be reasonable but the applicant should provide more justification/ detail here. For example, underwater noise monitoring for low order clearance would provide some empirical data to confirming this EDR is appropriate. Cefas queried the use of a 5km EDR during the Marine Licence application for the Sofia OWF and did not receive a justification as to why this value was used. Therefore, full justification should be provided to support the use of this 5km EDR for low order.</p> <p>MMO (c) Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: MMO do not consider it appropriate to use the TTS-onset thresholds as a proxy for disturbance as initially stated in our previous response to the scoping report. The UXO blast signal (for high-order detonation) is a particularly loud signal, so applying caution is necessary in this case. The MMO acknowledge that the applicant will also be including the 26km EDR for high order disposal for all species. In the PEIR and ES a clear distinction needs to be made to ensure there is no misconceptions/misunderstandings in the use of PTS, TTS, and behavioural assessments.</p> <p>Cefas (c) Cefas agree to the Project using both 26km EDR and TTS-onset. Cefas also requested the Project refer to more recent references rather than Southall et al (2007).</p> <p>MMO (d)</p> | <p>other OWFs had used 5km low-order detonations in Marine Licence applications.</p> <p>Project response to Cefas (b) Given there was no guidance for low-order detonations, the Project would provide justification in PEIR to explain logic used for 5km EDR.</p> <p>Project response to MMO (b) the Project were proposing to present 26km EDR for high-order all species alongside TTS-onset as a proxy and would prefer to include TTS-onset for additional context. Southall <i>et al.</i> (2007) recommended the use of TTS-onset for single pulses (excluding multiple pulses for example piling). The Project acknowledged TTS was not technically a behavioural response but could be used as a proxy in the absence of a behavioural response threshold.</p> <p>Project response to stakeholders (c) The Project requested Natural England confirmation on the proposal to present 26km EDR for high-order all species alongside TTS-onset as a proxy and include TTS-onset for additional context in the PEIR and ES.</p> <p>Cefas (d) The Project confirmed the tagging would be for ornithology only, with the particular species being targeted as kittiwake. However due to avian flu, there was a delay in the ability to obtain licences.</p> |
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| | | | | | | <p>Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: As set out in MMO response to the scoping report, the MMO do not agree that there should be no requirement to assess the potential significance of temporary threshold shift (TTS), and the MMO have previously issued position statements on this matter. Nevertheless, in the interest of moving forward (during consultations for previous developments), it was agreed that as a minimum, assessments should include TTS impact ranges and the number of animals predicted to be at risk. The MMO are pleased to see that the project will include both TTS onset ranges and the number of animals within the impact range in both the PEIR and ES. On the question of significance of TTS for individuals and populations, this is no different than the same question for permanent threshold shift (PTS), except in the scale of severity – an animal has its primary sensory modality impaired for a temporary period, rather than permanently.</p> <p>NE (c) Post meeting note from Natural England received on 19th October 2022: Natural England agree on the proposed approach to include TTS-onset for additional context. We also concur with Cefas that more recent references are to be used.</p> <p>Cefas (d) Cefas queried which species the Project will be tagging.</p> | |
| 1.2 PEIR | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Detail pertaining to temporal impacts do not need to be included in the PEIR and ES. | Disagreed | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | <p>Cefas Cefas requested that detailed information about the temporal impacts as opposed to just spatial impacts are included in the PEIR and ES.</p> <p>MMO Post meeting note from MMO received on 10th October 2022: The MMO are pleased that the project has confirmed that detailed information about the temporal aspects of the construction programme will be presented in the PEIR. Furthermore, regarding the inclusion of bottlenose dolphin within the PEIR and ES, the MMO agree with this inclusion as well as the justification of its density (numbers/km²).</p> | <p>Project response to Cefas The Project confirmed that a construction programme would be presented as part of PEIR. The Project boundary overlaps with the northern area of SAC only, not the southern area. Up to 100 turbines would be installed within array area and therefore piling will cover all seasons.</p> |
| 1.2.2 | Using two different density estimates for PEIR to assess bottlenose dolphin is an appropriate approach | No comment | No comment | Agreed | Agreed | <p>LWT Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust have no direct comments on the Project proposal and agree including both options sounds like the most sensible approach given lack of data.</p> | <p>Project response to LWT and NE Acknowledged.</p> |

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| | | | | | | NE Post meeting note from Natural England received on 19th October 2022: Natural England agree on the proposed approach and the reasoning behind it. | |
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Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Mammals Expert Topic Group

23/01/2023, ETG Round 3, Further Scoping Updates and PEIR
 ODOW Reference: Minutes – 23-ODO-CON-K-GM-000367-01

Invitees:

| MMO | CEFAS | Natural England |
|---------|---------|-----------------|
| Present | Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | MMO | CEFAS | Natural England | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|----------------------|---|------------|------------|-----------------|---|--|---|
| Marine Mammals | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Underwater Noise | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | UXO - The justification for the use of 5km EDR for low order is clear | Disagreed | No Comment | No Comment | | <p>MMO Post meeting note from MMO received 20th February 2023: Following from previous advice full justification should be provided to support the use of this 5km EDR for low order.</p> <p>NE Asked if 26km will be used as worst-case scenario for UXO?</p> <p>Cefas Will 26km for UXO be used for the assessment for all species?</p> | <p>Project response to MMO Post meeting note from ODOW: It was confirmed that the justification would be presented within the PEIR chapter.</p> <p>Sofia monitoring report had been submitted to MMO and was not public at this stage but hoped to be available to include at ES.</p> <p>Project response to NE It was confirmed this would be the case for high order and TTS would also be used for the assessments.</p> <p>Project response to Cefas It was confirmed this was the case in the absence of any guidance for other species.</p> |
| 1.1.2 | Cumulative Impact Assessment for underwater noise – Cumulative effects of non-oil and gas pre-construction surveys do not need to be investigated | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | <p>NE (a) PL queried whether the cumulative effects of non-oil and gas preconstruction surveys are being captured within the assessments?</p> <p>NE (b) Suggested that this should be investigated and also recommended CCS be considered within the assessments.</p> <p>NE (c) Action – Natural England (MK) – investigate the progress of the report.</p> <p>Action closed: Information provided about the progress of report 9th February 2023.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) It was confirmed this hadn't been included in the cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) It was added that the offshore construction schedules for the projects included in the assessments had been investigated using the publicly available information but there was lack of details as to when construction works would take place.</p> <p>It was also confirmed that UXO had been assumed to be in the year prior to the piling. For the worst-case scenario, the UXO had been assumed at any time, which was predicted to have a greater impact than the geophysical surveys. It was stated that there was uncertainty where the geophysical surveys would be so this was captured in conservatisms.</p> |

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| | | | | | | <p>Cefas (a) Asked whether the ICES noise registry had been reviewed to inform the assumptions.</p> <p>Cefas (b) Added that UK data about military UXO and sonar noise has recently been added and could be considered.</p> | <p>Queried that there was an invitation to tender the previous year about the transmission of geophysical and geo technical equipment and asked if anyone knew if this was likely to be published before ES submission?</p> <p>Project response to Cefas (a) It was confirmed this had not been consulted but the Project would look into whether this could be used to aid the assessments.</p> <p>Project response to Cefas (b) Confirmed that the project was hoping to use JNCC data to refine and take a less precautionary approach at ES as the PEIR approach at that time, is highly precautionary.</p> |
| 1.1.3 | Committing to a UXO Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP) is appropriate | No comment | No comment | Agreed | | <p>NE Post meeting note from Natural England received 9th February 2023: Natural England are pleased to see the project has committed to a UXO MMMP.</p> <p>Cefas Asked where did the one-off effect from an explosion quote on the slide come from?</p> | <p>Project response to NE The Project stated they would look at consenting UXO clearance post-DCO if the Project would be granted consent.</p> <p>Project response to Cefas It was confirmed it was from the JNCC guidance on assessing underwater noise impacts on harbour porpoise SACs (JNCC et al. 2020).</p> |
| 1.1.4 | The cumulative impact assessment has full clarity when it comes to approaches | No comment | Disagreed | Disagreed | | <p>Cefas Queried whether this has been done on an annual basis or has summer and winter variance (temporal) been taken into account?</p> <p>NE Added that poor weather for all projects may cause more activities within the summer months.</p> <p>It was noted that for example, Scottish projects have not shown a specific preference for piling in summer as a greater limitation has been seen to be vessel availability</p> | <p>NE response to Cefas It was explained that the level of information was not fine scale enough so assumptions were that the levels would be the same across the whole annual period.</p> <p>Project response to NE Explained the approach was hugely precautionary, assuming all tier 1 to 3 projects are constructing at the same time</p> |
| 1.2 Piling | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Committing to a piling MMMP to mitigate the effects of PTS from piling to negligible, is appropriate | No comment | No comment | Agreed | | <p>NE (a) Post meeting note from Natural England received 9th February 2023: Natural England are pleased to see the project has committed to a piling MMMP.</p> <p>NE (b) Replied that at this stage there is not much more available.</p> <p>Cefas Added that DEFRA are looking at measures to manage underwater noise for pile drivers.</p> <p>Also confirmed EU OSPAR are hopefully releasing chapter for piling and UXO in 2024.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) The project stated that the assessment would be refined post consent to determine appropriate mitigation to allow for changes/advancements in mitigation methods and changes in the modelling.</p> <p>ODOW confirmed the Project were aware of the proposals to develop nature-based designs standards but that details had not been shared with industry stakeholders as yet.</p> |
| 1.3 Seismic Surveys | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | The approach for seismic surveys is justified | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | <p>NE (a) Asked on slide 19 for the seismic surveys, how precautionary is the maximum of four oil and gas surveys per day?</p> <p>NE (b)</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) It was explained that the approach taken is for four large surveys taking place at the same time. The Project will have another look at the noise register to re-evaluate this.</p> |

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| | | | | | Explained the Project should look at making the case that this is reasonable. | |
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Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Mammals Expert Topic Group

03/04/2023, ETG Round 4, PEIR Phase

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000368-01

Invitees:

| CEFAS | MMO | Natural England | SMRU Consulting |
|---------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Present | Present | Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | CEFAS | MMO | Natural England | Annex/ Document Reference (if applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| Marine Mammals | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Seal Haul-Out Sites | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Disturbance at seal haul-out sites needs to be scoped into the assessments | No Comment | No Comment | Agreed | | NE Asked whether the Project are scoping in disturbance at seal haul-out sites into the assessments. | Project response to NE Confirmed that disturbance at seal haul-outs had been scoped in. Since scoping the cable corridor had been refined and this was assessed at PEIR. |
| 1.2 UXO Clearance | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | High order should be used within worst-case scenario | No comment | No comment | Agreed | | <p>NE (a) Explained that with UXO clearance the position seems to be shifting throughout projects and recommends that the Project use high order within the worst-case scenario.</p> <p>NE (b) Queried whether a scenario will be presented with the reasonable worst-case scenario, assuming high order is needed.</p> <p>NE (c) Asked when the Project plan the magnetometry to take place to address the uncertainty.</p> <p>NE (d) Asked whether the MMO could provide any update of the progress of the evidence requirements for UXO license.</p> <p>MMO response to NE (d) <i>Action: MMO to provide update of the progress of the evidence requirements for UXO license.</i></p> <p>Post Meeting Note from the MMO received 24/04/23: With regards to the submissions for UXO clearance, the process has changed slightly. Now, a marine licence application is made for UXO investigation activities first. Then, once potential UXOs are</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Confirmed that low order would be the primary method used but high order was expected to be needed for a discrete number of UXOs, so this would be assessed.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) Explained that at PEIR the number of UXO was not presented. The Project explained that they would take the projects in the region to estimate numbers, however large variance was observed across the projects.</p> <p>Project response to NE (c) Confirmed this would be post-consent and pre-construction. At this point, the marine license would be applied for.</p> <p>Project response to MMO Noted this and explained there were concerns from developers about timescales if this had to be provided pre-application.</p> <p>Project response to NE (e) Explained that one project had used it, but the report is not public yet.</p> <p>SMRU Consulting added - there was a BEIS-funded (now DESNZ) offshore UXO study that had been looking at low-order UXO detonation (by deflagration) on historic UXO in Danish waters, with success on even highly degraded UXO, with results expected imminently. However, this</p> |

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| | | | | | <p>confirmed, a marine licence application is made which requests the clearance of the confirmed UXOs. This helps the management of the Southern North Sea SAC as it gives detailed knowledge of the exact amount of clearance activities that will take place.</p> <p>At the short-term noise workshop in January, the MMO identified a series of actions to investigate implementing going forward.</p> <p>2.3. Investigate the production of guidance on low-order technology evidence requirements.</p> <p>3.3. Review the evidence required to demonstrate that developers are attempting to coordinate activities. MK explained that within recent cases there has been difficulty if there isn't detailed UXO work when the license comes in. This risks taking up a proportion of the Southern North Sea SAC threshold. It may be recommended in the future that assessments are undertaken pre-license application to allow for more evidence-based assessments.</p> <p>NE (e) Queried how much opportunity there has been to learn about the success of low order.</p> <p>NE (f) Explained a balance there is a requirement to find a way to apply the study's findings to different contractors, technologies and real-world situations.</p> <p>Explained a balance there is a requirement to find a way to apply the study's findings to different contractors, technologies and real-world situations.</p> <p>NE (g) Noted that it will be worthwhile for the Project to look at any new data that emerges before ES submission.</p> <p>NE (h) Asked whether the data for marine mammals has shown any spatial patterns and whether this could inform the array reduction post PEIR.</p> | <p>had been done in collaboration with a specific very experienced UXO clearance contractor (EODEX) and so success rate may not be applicable across all such contractors. A further phase of the BEIS-funded project was allowing multiple contractors to prove their technology in a controlled (quarry) setting to increase confidence.</p> <p>Project response to NE (f) SMRU Consulting - explained there was also uncertainty and difficulty with estimating how many UXO may be required for high- and low-order detonations.</p> <p>The project also explained that recently within other projects the MMO had limited high-order detonations to 10% and this had not been a problem for the projects.</p> <p>NE (g) Explained that the Project were hoping that the information was available and could allow for discussions post PEIR and in the following ETGs in July and September.</p> <p>NE (h) Explained that within the 12 months of data that had been assessed up to that point, there were no obvious patterns. The data was stated to be very variable with no patterns seen. There had been one white-beaked dolphin seen, no minkes and no patterns shown in porpoise distribution.</p> |
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1 Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Mammals Expert Topic Group

01/08/2023, ETG Round 5, Initial S42 Consultation Feedback
 ODOW Reference: Minutes – PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0015

Invitees:

| SMRUC | MMO | CEFAS | Natural England | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust |
|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Present | Present | Present | Absent | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | MMO | CEFAS | Natural England | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| Marine Mammals | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 UXO Assessment Methodology | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | The TTS onset thresholds should be used as a proxy for disturbance | No Comment | No Comment | Disagreed | | <p>NE NE do not agree the TTS onset thresholds should be used a proxy for disturbance given that TTS occurs at higher sound exposures.</p> <p>MMO the MMO believe similarly to Natural England that it is not appropriate to use TTS-onset thresholds as a proxy for disturbance from UXOs. They acknowledge there is a lack of empirical data available.</p> | <p>Project response to NE Agreed that there was a lack of empirical data for both low and high order thresholds. However, there are currently no other recommended thresholds for low order, and this is why the Project presented a range of methods.</p> <p>The Project explained they were seeking further consultation with stakeholders and welcome stakeholder feedback.</p> <p>Project response to MMO The Project noted this and provides a range of approaches in the absence of data to represent a range of thresholds.</p> |
| 1.1.2 | The assigned magnitude and sensitivity within the assessments are sufficient | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | <p>NE Natural England did not agree with the assigned magnitude and sensitivity used within the assessments.</p> | <p>Project response to NE Explained that they would have liked further consultation on this with stakeholders. Adding that the scores aligned with other projects such as Hornsea Four that were recently accepted.</p> |
| 1.1.3 | A draft UXO MMMP is not needed as part of the ES | Disagreed | No comment | Disagreed | | <p>NE Natural England asked the Project to provide a draft UXO MMMP as part of the ES.</p> <p>MMO Explained that the MMO are having issues for MMMPs for already consented projects. It is being found that projects are stating they are too far down the development track to incorporate the changes requested by MMO</p> | <p>Project response to NE Noted that the Project were not, at that time, proposing to consent UXO clearance at DCO. A UXO MMMP would be drafted when the marine licence for UXO clearance using best practice at the time.</p> |

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| | | | | | | and Cefas at the point of consultation on the MMMP. They added that having a draft MMMP at this stage would help reduce these problems later on. | |
| 1.1.4 | The 26km Effective Deterrence Range (EDR) is an appropriate approach | Agreed | No comment | No comment | | MMO The MMO welcomed the 26km Effective Deterrence Range (EDR), acknowledging this is likely to be conservative as this is recommended for harbour porpoise and not other marine mammal species. | Project response to MMO Acknowledged. |
| 1.1.5 | Justification for the use of 5km EDR for low order UXO clearance is clear | Disagreed | Disagreed | No comment | | MMO The MMO recommended further evidence to justify using the 5km EDR for low order UXO clearance. Cefas Noted this is a problem among projects and will take this to the team and discuss. Action: MMO to ask the team at MMO and discuss the position on whether a UXO MMMP would be preferred for ES submission where the activity is not being licensed. Cefas to ask within the team can the MMO/Cefas make any recommendations on best disturbance thresholds to be used for low order UXO clearance. | Project response to MMO It was explained that, at that time, there was no advised EDR for low order UXO clearance. The Project were hoping to have had more data to inform the EDR disturbance but at that moment, the Project believe it was best to keep assessing a range of thresholds it was noted that Sofia data was published on MCMS recently but none of the low order UXO clearance were successful so this could only be used for noise of the detonation. It was asked if the MMO could make any recommendations on best disturbance thresholds to be used for low order UXO clearance? |
| 1.2 Piling Assessment | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | PTS from piling is a 'Negligible' magnitude | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | NE Natural England did not agree with the assigned 'Negligible' magnitude for PTS from piling. | Project response to NE It was explained that this magnitude score was assigned after the consideration of the UXO MMMP which will reduce the risk of PTS to negligible levels. Noting that the Project had committed to the implementation of a UXO MMMP (to minimize the risk of auditory injury to negligible levels). Natural Englands s42 comments stated that the mitigated magnitude should be low, however the Project believed that this should be negligible as this is what they had committed to via the UXO MMMP. |
| 1.2.2 | The various magnitude and sensitivity scores within the assessment are appropriate | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | NE Natural England do not agree with various magnitude and sensitivity scores within the assessment. MMO Asked whether the scores have been agreed through the evidence plan or by PINs through the consent. | Project response to NE It was explained that scores (based on the magnitude and sensitivity definitions) align with projects, such as Hornsea Four, that had these values accepted previously so the Project sought clarification. SMRUC response to MMO |

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| | | | | | | | Explained that the magnitude and sensitivity scores were not raised in examination as an area that Natural England did not agree on. |
| 1.2.3 | The proximity of the Offshore Reactive Compensation Platforms to the Wash SAC is not an issue | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | NE Natural England raised concern about the proximity of the Offshore Reactive Compensation Platforms to the Wash SAC and that this has the potential for higher disturbance on harbour seals. | Project response to NE It was noted that the Project were taking this away and reviewing the conclusions for ES, taking into consideration the duration of piling as one of the potential factors needing to be assessed. |
| 1.3 Cumulative | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | Non-oil and gas preconstruction surveys do not need to be investigated | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | NE Natural England suggested that non-oil and gas preconstruction surveys should be investigated and also recommended Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) be considered within the assessments. Cefas Noted that Cefas largely defer to Natural England for comments on cumulative assessment. | Project response to NE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Project confirmed that CCS would be screened into the assessment. ■ The Project stated they would like to discuss with Natural England to confirm what should have been included in the non-oil and gas pre-construction surveys. ■ The project confirmed that the cumulative long list would be updated from PEIR and projects such as Scot Wind will be assessed at ES. ■ ODOW confirmed Site Integrity Plan would be produced for ES submission. ■ ODOW explained that underwater noise from pile driving would be the focus for the worst-case scenarios for offshore wind farm projects and as the impacts from other activities (surveys, dredging, vessels, etc.) would be lower. ■ Further confirmed that based on Natural England comments any changes to the magnitude and sensitivity would be carried throughout the assessments, including the cumulative assessment. ■ ODOW added that any changes in prey would be considered based on the updated fish and shellfish assessments. • It was confirmed that collision risk would also be considered, noting the commitment for a Vessel Management Plan (VMP) by the Project. Through the VMP the Project had committed to reducing the impact to negligible where possible. <p>It was asked whether stakeholders can provide the Project with publicly available information regarding planned surveys?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Explained that noise data in the noise registry is limited and does not show the number of surveys that occur concurrently. |

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| | | | | | | | Action: MMO please can the MMO speak to ORPED and provide any data on historical levels of geophysical/seismic surveys in the North Sea. |
| 1.4 Data Sources | | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 | Using the latest versions of the IAMMWG report and the reference for seal Mus is an appropriate approach to data sources | No comment | No comment | Agreed | | NE Natural England agrees with the Project that using the latest versions of the IAMMWG report is used and the reference for seal MUS are included. | Project response to NE It was confirmed the Project would update the baseline for ES using the IAMMWG (2023) report and the seal MU size would be estimated using most recent SCOS report for August haul-out counts. It was noted the Scottish ministers had signed off on the SCOS report and this would be available on the SMRU website w/c 31st July. |
| 1.4.2 | The baseline presented at PIER does not need to be updated at the ES | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | NE Natural England would like an updated baseline presented at ES, clearly presenting the mother-juvenile pairs. | Project response to NE It was confirmed that the ES assessment would include a discussion on harbour porpoise calves and apportioning of unidentified sightings. |
| 1.4.3 | More detail on vessel and collision risk on marine mammals is not required | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | NE Natural England agreed that the impacts assessed are appropriate but wanted more detail on vessel and collision risk on marine mammals. | Project response to NE It was confirmed this would be provided at ES. The collision risk assessment would be qualitative. It was also noted that the Project had committed to a VMP to reduce the impact to negligible levels as far as possible. |

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Marine Mammals Expert Topic Group

11/09/2023, ETG Round 6, ES Updates

ODOW Reference: Minutes – PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0026

Invitees:

| CEFAS | MMO | Natural England |
|---------|---------|-----------------|
| Present | Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | CEFAS | MMO | Natural England | Annex/ Document Reference (if applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| Marine Mammals | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Refined Project Parameters from PEIR to ES | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Updated noise modelling locations are suitable | Agreed | No Comment | No Comment | | <p>Cefas As long as water depths have been taken into account, the modelling locations are suitable.</p> <p>MMO To confirm whether the updated noise modelling locations are suitable for the assessments.</p> | <p>Project response to NE Project explained that the water depth was taken into account, alongside the location to areas of high densities of harbour seals.</p> |
| 1.2 UXO Assessment | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | The TTS onset thresholds should be used as a proxy for disturbance | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | <p>NE (a) Previously Natural England commented that they do not agree that the TTS onset thresholds should be used as a proxy for disturbance.</p> <p>NE (b) Welcomes the Projects proposed methodology to provide a range of thresholds within the assessment They added that it is important to keep the evidence base under review and that low order UXO ongoing discussions are being held with the relevant bodies.</p> <p>Post meeting note received 11/10/23 from Natural England: Natural England would like to also reiterate our comments in the PEIR that we will be considering the worst-case scenario.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Explained there was a lack of set thresholds. The Project took a range of assessment methods forwards to address the lack of clarity with the thresholds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ODOW confirmed the Project was using the JNCC guidelines for harbour porpoise (26km EDR for high-order UXO clearance) for all species. ODOW confirmed TTS onset was being used as a proxy for disturbance (per Southall et al., 2007) for both high and low order UXO clearance. 5km EDR for low order UXO clearance for all species. |
| 1.2.2 | Evidence for the maximum 800kg UXO size is clear | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | <p>NE In relation to 800kg being a realistic WCS, NE asked if the evidence for this could be provided.</p> | <p>Project response to NE ACTION: ODOW to provide the evidence for the maximum 800kg UXO size.</p> |
| 1.2.3 | 'Negligible' magnitude for PTS from piling and UXO clearance is suitable | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | <p>NE Explains they think this approach sounds sensible, but without sight of MMMP could not agree for definite with the negligible</p> | <p>Project response to NE Acknowledged.</p> |

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| | | | | | <p>magnitude. Natural England would like to see the magnitude presented before the mitigation measures and after the mitigation measures, as suggested by ODOW.</p> <p>Consensus amongst the NE team - agreed it was a good idea and would help add clarity, noting they would also like to see MMMP.</p> | |
| 1.2.4 | Various magnitude and sensitivity scores within the assessment are appropriate. | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | <p>NE (a) Natural England in the Section 42 comments raised they do not agree with various magnitude and sensitivity scores within the assessment.</p> <p>NE (b) Explained Natural England assesses each project on a case by case basis, therefore it is not appropriate for a like for like comparison. It is noted that HOW04 matrix has different levels that are considered significant and not significant.</p> <p>Post meeting note received 11/10/23 from Natural England: With regards to the sensitivity scores used in Hornsea 4, Natural England notes that HOW4 used a 4 level scale: very high, high, medium and low. ODOW also uses a 4-level scale but calls the levels differently: high, medium, low and negligible. Such that Medium in HOW4 is the same as Low in ODOW. Even if the definitions are the same, the terminology is different and this does downplay the impact. Having looked into the comparison further, our main concern is how sensitivity and magnitude are taken forward to the impact matrix. For example, in the Hornsea 4 impact matrix, a combination of a moderate magnitude and a medium sensitivity was assigned to be significant; however, in ODOW impact matrix, the equivalent combination (low sensitivity and medium magnitude) was assigned as not significant.</p> <p>NE (c) Explained that the differing wording within the matrix level was causing discomfort but the main issue was the comparison between the Hornsea 4 impact matrix.</p> <p>Post meeting note received 11/10/23 from Natural England: Regardless of the comparison to HOW4, Natural England still has concerns regarding the downplaying of impacts within this assessment (as outlined in the PEIR). We understand that ODOW will be reviewing the significance matrix and significance levels (as indicated by the previous action) and the sensitivity scores.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Explained that the Project sensitivity scores aligned with other OWF assessments (e.g. Hornsea 4) that had been recently consented and there were no issues raised. The sensitivity was based on the impact to the individual animal and not based on the scale of the impact. The Project were unsure why Natural England questioned the sensitivity scores at that time. The Project acknowledged that as more would be learnt then the sensitivity may change but there was uncertainty why Natural England felt the sensitivity scores were not justified given the lack of additional data since the scores were determined for Hornsea 4.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) Action: ODOW to review the EIA significance matrix and the significant levels.</p> <p>Asked if the wording of High/med/low/neg vs very high/high/med/low, matter if the definitions of sensitivity were the same?</p> <p>Project response to NE (c) Added that the animal sensitivity to an impact source was not project specific, the species would have a sensitivity score to each impact source, however it was the magnitude which would be highly Project specific.</p> |
| 1.3 Cumulative Effect Assessment | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | Non-oil and gas preconstruction surveys do not need to be considered within cumulative assessments. | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | <p>NE (a) Comments raised that non-oil and gas preconstruction surveys should be considered within cumulative assessments.</p> <p>NE (b) Explained that there is a lot going on within the southern North Sea, including offshore windfarms and hydrogen interconnectors</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Confirmed the CEA was being updated. Also asked for clarification of which projects should have been included for preconstruction surveys.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b)</p> |

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| | | | | | <p>so Natural England wanted to make sure these are being considered.</p> <p>NE (c) Asked whether it is possible to acknowledge which projects have been looked into but cannot be included due to a lack of timeline.</p> | <p>Confirmed CCUS, interlinks and cables had been screened in the longlist. The longlist included projects constructing at same time as the Project and projects constructing before were considered within the baseline. They raised that CCUS, and offshore developments lacked timelines in the publicly available information making it difficult to include quantitatively.</p> <p>Project response to NE (c) Confirmed this information was within the longlist and the screening process that would be provided at ES.</p> |
| 1.3.2 | The justification for the number of geophysical surveys in the North Sea at one time, is clear | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | <p>NE (a) In the Section 42 comments, NE asked for justification for the number of geophysical surveys in the North Sea at one time. Previously it was suggested that the Project look at marine registry data to investigate the historic and future number of surveys at one time. However, this information could not be pulled from marine registry due to lack of resolution of the data.</p> <p>NE/MMO (b) Explained that the regulator OPRED would be the best to get this information from.</p> <p>The MMO was also recommended to seek planned survey information. It was added that surveys tend to be short notice, so this makes collecting this information difficult.</p> <p>NE (c) Agreed 4 is a sensible precautionary number.</p> <p>Action: Natural England (EM) to discuss with teams whether a realistic WCS to use for assessments for the number of seismic surveys within the area at the same time is 4.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Asked whether Natural England had any information that may help inform this.</p> <p>Project response to NE/MMO (b) Added that within PEIR the WCS assessed four seismic air gun surveys occurring on the same day. This was thought to be precautionary, and evidence would be provided at ES to justify this based on historical evidence.</p> |
| 1.4 Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 | Noise abatement measures do not need to be considered | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | <p>NE (a) Natural England in the Section 42 comments advises noise abatement measures to be considered.</p> <p>NE (b) Advised the Project to look at Hornsea 4 and SEP&DEP. Natural England are hoping projects will commit to include measures pre consent and then remove them if they are not necessary. The Project should look at future likely scenarios and incorporate noise abatement early, noting this is started to be seen for Round 3 projects.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) Project welcomed and stated that they would continue engagement. The Project stated they were also aware of the RenewableUK letter and MMO response.</p> |
| 1.4.2 | Natural England in the Section 42 comments raised that based on the updated conservation advice for the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC, the significance has been downplayed. | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | <p>NE Natural England in the Section 42 comments raised that based on the updated conservation advice for the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC, the significance has been downplayed.</p> | <p>Project response to NE Confirmed the new data of population figures would be included in the EIA assessments and RIAA assessments. Embedded mitigation would also use to help reduce key impacts to harbour seals.</p> |

| 1.5 Underwater Noise | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|------------|------------|------------|--|--|
| 1.5.1 | The Subacoustech report has enough information/detail in relation to simultaneous piling. | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>Cefas There is a clarification request for Subacoustech report to add more information on the simultaneous piling.</p> <p>Project response to Cefas Action: ODOW to provide MMO and Cefas justification and additional information for simultaneous piling assessment.</p> <p>POST MEETING NOTE from ODOW received 13/9/23: The difference in calculated areas was a consequence of rounding, and rounding was generally up. All ranges and areas presented were to two significant figures, and thus (as an example), if the SW area was modelled at 415 km² (rounded to 420) and the NE area was modelled at 1250 km² (rounded to 1300) then the actual area would be 1,665 km², which would be rounded to 1700 km².</p> <p>ODOW confirmed that there was a need for precautions for the magnitude scores and the matrix would be revisited and further justification would be provided in the ES if the matrix was not adjusted.</p> |
| 1.6 AOB | | | | | | |
| 1.6.1 | There is enough detail/information in relation to harbour porpoises | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | | <p>NE (a) Asked whether the Project has any more thoughts of observations of mother-juvenile pairs from the baseline, as there is not much known on porpoise nursery grounds.</p> <p>NE (b) Explained they would like to see detail on locations and times of years for the calves. This can then be used to investigate how this would affect the piling schedule.</p> <p>Also asked why this information has not been included for other projects.</p> <p>Project response to NE (a) Confirmed that any additional information about the mother-juvenile pairs within the Southern North Sea would be included within the ES chapter. The project explained that the presence of the pairs may not mean it was a nursery ground, however this was being investigated. The impact assessment considered PTS and was looking at calve survival rates.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) Explained SAS data was not included in other projects, so it was not known if the surveys had these details included.</p> <p>Action: ODOW to talk to DAS survey providers to gain any additional information about harbour porpoise mother-calve pairs.</p> |

A photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, a narrow, winding path of white sand or silt cuts through a marshy area with tall, dry grasses. The path leads towards a body of water in the distance. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, suggesting an overcast day. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex C Part 8 of 9

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024

Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex C – Part 8 of 9

Onshore ecology, Hydrology and Land Use Consultation Logs

The Consultation Logs presented in this document have been drafted on the basis of the EPP Terms of Reference and previous logs issued to relevant ETG meeting participants. The template has been updated in response to feedback from Natural England. The information presented is based upon that previously issued to stakeholders and derived from ETG meeting minutes (Annex B). The information and agreements included in the Consultation Logs presents the Applicant's interpretation of the points discussed during ETG meetings.

1 ETG Round 1: July 2022 Onshore Ecology, Hydrology & Ground Conditions Expert Topic Group

[19th July 2022, ETG Round Number 1, Scoping Phase]

ODOW Reference: Minutes – [123-ODO-CON-K-GM- 000286-01] Presentation –[123-ODO-CON-K-IP-000039-01]

Invitees:

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Lincolnshire County Council | Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board | Environment Agency | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | Welland & Deepings Internal Drainage Board | Water Management Alliance | Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board | Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board | Dalcour Maclaren |
| Present/Absent | Present/Absent | Present/Absent | Present/Absent | Present/Absent | Present/Absent | Present/Absent | Present/Absent | Present/Absent |

| ID | Discussion Point | Lincolnshire County Council | Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board | Environment Agency | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | Welland & Deepings Internal Drainage Board | Water Management Alliance | Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board | Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board | Dalcour Maclaren | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|----|------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|----|------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|

Project Update

1.1 Connection Options

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|--|---|
| 1.1.1 | A connection Lincs Node (previously known as East Midlands connection) with a connection date of 2031, or alternatively a connection to Weston Marsh with a connection date of 2028/29. | No Comment | Disagreed | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | WFDIDB: suggested that challenges can arise from the same areas being used for power lines at landfall, if the same areas are being used each time local communities may push back and ask questions due to the repeated disruption. | Response to WFDIDB: ODOW expressed that currently there is substation at Weston Marsh but instead it is a T junction of overhead lines, and it is understood that regardless of overhead or underground lines, the Project could be connecting to Weston Marsh. However as this is outside the ODOW Project's control and sits with National Grid, that at present it cannot be confirmed until the final decision from National Grid |
|-------|---|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|--|---|

1.2 Onshore Scoping Report Boundary

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 1.2.1 | Landfall area does not | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | Witham Fourth District Internal | |
|-------|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|---------------------------------|--|

| ID | Discussion Point | Lincolnshire County Council | Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board | Environment Agency | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | Welland & Deepings Internal Drainage Board | Water Management Alliance | Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board | Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board | Dalcour Maclaren | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| | overlap with any SSSIs and that geophysical and geotechnical investigations will be required in order to confirm ground conditions and suitability for construction. | | | | | | | | | | | Drainage Board made ODO aware that the IDB's all have biodiversity action plans which include detailed audits of their districts and may hold some local information that could be useful for cable route refinement. | |
| Onshore Ecology and Ornithology | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.0.1 | No potential impacts or ecological receptors have been scoped out of the assessment, as the onshore layout of the onshore infrastructure is unknown. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| Hydrology and Flood Risk | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | A desk-based baseline has been built for the Scoping Report using publicly available and opensource data. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | LCC: added there's a re-mapping exercise underway for ancient woodland around the county. The previous survey was in the 80s and only looked at sites over 0.5 acres, the GLNP | |

1 ETG Round 2: October 2022 Onshore Ecology, Hydrology and Ground Conditions Expert Topic Group

[12th October 2022, ETG Round Number 2, Project Phase: Phase 1 Consultation]

ODOW Reference: Minutes – [123-ODO-CON-K-IP-000045-01]

Invitees:

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|---------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Environment Agency | Lincolnshire County Council | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | LMDB | Welland IDB | Water Management Alliance | W4 IDB | Natural England |
| Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | Environment Agency | Lincolnshire County Council | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | LMDB | Welland IDB | Water Management Alliance | W4 IDB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------|---|--|-------------------------|
| 1 Project Update | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 | A single Development Consent Order (DCO) application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (The Inspectorate). | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | Scoping opinion confirms agreement to Scope Out Impact on ancient woodland | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.2 | Rescoping data collection to include expanded areas for bat roosts, WEBS data, LWS, candidate LWS, and Natterjack toads. | No Comment | No Comment | Agree | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | LWT: seeks to include expanded areas for bat roost, WEBS data, and other ecological factors. | |
| 2.3 | Inclusion of mitigation measures for INNS and drilling fluid breakout plan | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.4 | Trenchless techniques for waterbodies and smaller fields | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |

| ID | Agreement | Environment Agency | Lincolnshire County Council | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | LMDB | Welland IDB | Water Management Alliance | W4 IDB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| 2.5 | Ongoing wintering bird surveys with expanded buffer zones | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | NE (post-meeting): Maintaining positions on wintering bird surveys, emphasizing ongoing monitoring and mitigation. | |
| 3 Hydrology and Flood Risk | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1 | Accidental spillages and leakages of polluting substances - Construction, O&M, and Decommissioning: Mitigation measures will be detailed within the CoCP and cross-referenced within the PEIR chapter. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | W4IDB: Due to their delivery of considerable capital works they would like to understand the implications of any projects W4IDB have over the next 5/6 years and any potential for clashes with the Project | |
| 3.2 | Impact on Water Framework Directive (WFD) status for surface water or groundwater bodies - O&M to be scoped out and agreement will be referenced in the PEIR chapter | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 3.3 | Transboundary hydrology, hydrogeology, and flood risk effects has been agreed to be scoped out and will be referenced in the PEIR chapter. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |

1 ETG Round 3: January 2023 Ecology, Hydrology, Ground Conditions and Land Use Expert Topic Group

26th January 2023 [ETG Round Number 3, Project Phase: End of Phase 1 Consultation]

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000402-01

Invitees:

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Boston Borough Council | Lindsay Marsh IDB | Witham Fourth IDB | Environmental Agency | South Holland IDB | Lincolnshire County Council | Natural England | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | Black Sluice IDB |
| Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Not Present | Not Present | Present |

| ID | Agreement | Boston Borough Council | Lindsay Marsh IDB | Witham Fourth IDB | Environmental Agency | South Holland IDB | Lincolnshire County Council | Black Sluice IDB | Annex/ Document Reference (if applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|-------------------|---|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---|---|--|
| Project Update | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Project Recap | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | ODOW provided an update on the Project progress to date | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | [Stakeholder notes on their position/ route to agreement] | [Project response to stakeholder position] |
| 1.1.2 | Original Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) published in August 2022, following Phase 1 public consultation events an updated version has recently been published, to include an additional consultation phase (Phase 1A) | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.2 Programme | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | PEIR report submission is now anticipated to be Q2 2023, as a result of a new proposed route for the Weston Marsh Grid Connection option following feedback received from the information from the Phase 1 public consultation. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |

| ID | Agreement | Boston Borough Council | Lindsay Marsh IDB | Witham Fourth IDB | Environmental Agency | South Holland IDB | Lincolnshire County Council | Black Sluice IDB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|--|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | <p>Two additional public consultation events for Rev1A are being held in February 2023.</p> <p>DCO submission anticipated to be Q4 2023.</p> | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3 Onshore Surveys | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | <p>ODOW provided an overview on the surveys that are upcoming and have been undertaken.</p> | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.4 Onshore Update | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 | <p>The Project is expecting the Grid offer by the end of March, both options to Lincolnshire Node and Weston Marsh are still under consideration by National Grid at this time. With this uncertainty, both the possible connection options will be assessed in PEIR, with one of options and associated the onshore cable routes dropped after the National Grid appraisal has concluded. A connection point for the project is confirmed.</p> <p>The Project is expected to be offered either they would either connect into the existing overhead lines circuits at Weston Marsh or a new National Grid Substation Lincolnshire Node.</p> | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 1.5 Public Consultation Event Feedback | | | | | | | | | | | |

| ID | Agreement | Boston Borough Council | Lindsay Marsh IDB | Witham Fourth IDB | Environmental Agency | South Holland IDB | Lincolnshire County Council | Black Sluice IDB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.5.1 | <p>ODOW provided an overview of the new alternative route (Rev1a), outlining the process of consideration when determining a series of alternative routes.</p> <p>The preferred alternative route is being surveyed and consulted upon, to allow for all the possible routes to be compared at PEIR, Phase 2 consultation and Section 42 consultation.</p> | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| Onshore Ecology and Ornithology | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 Scope of Assessment | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1.1 | <p>ODOW provided an overview of the scope of assessment identifying 11 broad scale impacts which will be detailed in the PEIR and ES.</p> | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.2 Study Area | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.2.1 | <p>ODOW provided an overview of the study area.</p> <p>Minor amendments following Stakeholder feedback including adding the new alternative route Rev1a to Weston Marsh and extending the area to 5km for bat roost studies.</p> <p>Wintering birds extent considered is also 400m beyond the PEIR boundary following consultation.</p> | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| 2.3 Habitat Surveys | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.3.1 | <p>90-95% of the habitat types are agricultural land with low</p> | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |

| ID | Agreement | Boston Borough Council | Lindsay Marsh IDB | Witham Fourth IDB | Environmental Agency | South Holland IDB | Lincolnshire County Council | Black Sluice IDB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|--|------------------------|-------------------|--|--|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|---|
| | <p>ecological value. Focusing around landfall and designated sites (around landfall and across the cable route corridor).</p> <p>Focusing on field margins, hedgerows, ditches and small areas of woodland for direct impacts.</p> | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.4 Wintering Birds | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.4.1 | <p>Surveys still ongoing therefore no detailed analysis of the data has been undertaken.</p> <p>The general pattern to date has been areas of sensitivity are within the vicinity of wetland sites, nature reserves whereas the agricultural land is not showing any consistently high numbers of target species.</p> | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <p>ODOW provided an overview of the Scope of assessment for Hydrology as agreed through the Scoping Opinion.</p> <p>Agreed through the Scoping Opinion that accidental spillages and leakages of polluting substances could be controlled through embedded mitigation in the Code of Construction Plan (CoCP).</p> <p>Separate flood risk assessment undertaken for the substation area and one for the cable route.</p> | No Comment | No Comment | EJ raised that the IDBs gathered after the last round of ETGs to discuss a way forward for providing the Project with a consistent approach to consenting requirements across IDBs. Suggested a guidance document may be | RS raised that the Landfall location is within an area the Environment Agency nourish annually. Any further discussions on this should be directed through RS. | No Comment | No Comment | AS followed on from RS's point to confirm Statement of Common Ground had been produced with Triton Knoll and Viking Link. Agreed that the aspirations could be shared ahead of a SoCG being drafted up. | | | <p>ODOW confirmed these works at the Landfall are known by the Project team.</p> <p>ODOW confirmed if the IDBs could set out their aspirations, this would be welcomed and to be shared with the engineers. A follow up call can then be set up between ODOW and the IDBs.</p> <p>ODOW confirmed this will be fed back into the Project</p> |

| ID | Agreement | Boston Borough Council | Lindsay Marsh IDB | Witham Fourth IDB | Environmental Agency | South Holland IDB | Lincolnshire County Council | Black Sluice IDB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------|---|--|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------------|--|
| | <p>Aware there are users of ground water in the area including domestic and agricultural extraction and some Source Protection Zones (SPZs) in the north of the study area.</p> <p>Requirement for the management of surface water runoff driven by a separate site-specific drainage plan in accordance with national and local SUDs guidance with Local Flood Authority signoff.</p> | | | <p>produced and asked how the Project would approach this?</p> <p>- EJ raised that the IDBs are operational on the ground all year round due to maintenance and that the Rev1A may have a higher impact than the original route due to the IDBs being a lot more condensed in that area so higher activity.</p> | | | | | | | |
| Geology and Ground Conditions | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <p>ODOW provided an update of the scope of assessment for Geology and Ground Conditions as agreed through the Scoping Opinion.</p> <p>Risks posed to sensitive surface water and groundwater resources will be assessed as part of the Hydrology Chapter.</p> | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
| Land Use | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <p>ODOW provided an overview of the study area for the land use which is restricted to the red line boundary (RLB) as areas beyond the RLB are unlikely to be impacted.</p> | | | <p>EJ requested a shapefile for Rev1A route for internal use at board meetings.</p> | <p>RS additionally requested a shapefile for the other routes.</p> | | | | | | <p>ODOW confirmed these will be pulled together and circulated to the IDBs and Environment Agency.</p> |

| ID | Agreement | Boston Borough Council | Lindsay Marsh IDB | Witham Fourth IDB | Environmental Agency | South Holland IDB | Lincolnshire County Council | Black Sluice IDB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|----|--|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | <p>Main areas of impact include:</p> <p>ALC Grades 1 and 2 around the southern corridor and ALC Grade 3 to the north;</p> <p>English Coastal Path;</p> <p>National Cycle Route (RCR) 1; and</p> <p>Localised PRoW.</p> | | | | | | | | | | |

1 Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Ecology, Hydrology, Ground Conditions and Land Use Expert Topic Group

30th January 2023 [ETG Round Number 3, Project Phase: End of Phase 1 Consultation]

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000405-01 Presentation – 123-ODO-CON-K-IP-000053-01

Invitees:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Natural England | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust |
| Present | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Project Update | | | | | |
| 1.1 Project Recap | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | <p>ODOW provided an update on the project progress to date.</p> <p>The Grid connection is still being decided by National Grid. There are two viable options of Weston Marsh and Lincolnshire Node.</p> <p>Both connection points are being assessed at PEIR, phase 2 consultation and section 42 with one of the routes dropped after the National Grid appraisal has concluded.</p> <p>Original Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) published in August 2022, following Phase 1 public consultation events an updated version has recently been published, to include an additional consultation phase (Phase 1A)</p> | No Comment | | | |
| 1.2 Programme | | | | | |
| | <p>PEIR report submission is now anticipated to be Q2 2023, as a result of a new proposed route for the Weston Marsh Grid</p> | No Comment | | | |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------|---|
| | <p>Connection option following feedback received from the Phase 1 public consultation.</p> <p>Two additional public consultation events for Rev1A are being held in February 2023.</p> <p>DCO submission anticipated to be Q4 2023.</p> | | | | |
| Onshore Ecology and Ornithology | | | | | |
| | <p>ODOW provided an overview of the scope of assessment identifying 11 broad scale impacts which will be detailed in the PEIR and ES.</p> | <p>Natural England raised some questions which ODOU agreed to action and feedback to the SLR Lead Ecologist. Action for ODOU/SLR to provide a formal response to Natural England on the below questions.</p> <p>Natural England asked for a justification around the decision for:</p> <p>the 2km study area for mobile species?</p> <p>the 5km study area for bats/bat roosts?</p> <p>Natural England asked that for bat activity surveys, will the Project be covering the migration period (Sept/Oct – May)? CJH outlined that being along the coast, Barbastelle and Nathusius' pipistrels will be migrating. Has the survey extent been considered for species of bats and the timing of that?</p> <p>Natural England raised that Pink Feet geese have been abundant in this area last winter and this winter, finding their foraging range is up to 40km due to farming practices around the Wash changing (reduction of farming of sugar beet crops).</p> | | | <p>ODOW provided an overview of the embedded mitigation measures in place.</p> <p>ODOW raised the question to stakeholders where feedback would be appreciated:</p> <p>In line with the scoping report and best practice guidelines, we propose the following approach for GCN surveys:</p> <p>HSI for all ponds within 250m and wet/ seasonally wet ditches within 100 m.</p> <p>eDNA for all ponds and ditches with 'average' or above suitability within 250m of permanent or 100m of temporary habitat loss.</p> <p>population class assessments for ponds (only) within 250m of permanent or 100m of temporary habitat loss.</p> <p>appropriate mitigation and licensing for all waterbodies with evidence of GCN presence.</p> <p>Do the consultees support this approach? No points were raised during the call from Stakeholders.</p> <p>Action for Natural England to take these points away to discuss with the species licensing team and provide a formal response.</p> |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|-----------------|--|---|---|-------------------------|---|
| | | ODOW acknowledged the above and Natural England's concern around the 15km buffer if Pink Feet are found in the area. LB outlined that the Pink Feet population are likely from the North Norfolk SPA. | | | |
| Habitat Surveys | | | | | |
| | 90-95% of the habitat types are agricultural land with low ecological value. Focusing around landfall and designated sites (around landfall and across the cable route corridor). Focusing on field margins, hedgerows, ditches and small areas of woodland for direct impacts. | No Comments | | | |
| Wintering Birds | | | | | |
| | Surveys still ongoing therefore no detailed analysis of the data has been undertaken. The general pattern to date has been areas of sensitivity are within the vicinity of wetland sites, nature reserves whereas the agricultural land is not showing any consistently high numbers of target species. Similar picture at the substation search areas. | Natural England asked how passage birds which are utilizing around The Wash will be covered in the surveys? | | | ODOW confirmed that the non-breeding bird surveys commenced in September and will run through until end of March to cover these. |
| AOB | | | | | |
| | Agreed that the hydrology, land use and geology slides would not be presented during the call, however the slides would be included for review when issuing. | No comments | | | Natural England to discuss the questions outlined in the 'Next Steps' section above and outlined below around the approach to GCN surveys with the species licensing team and provide the Project with a formal response. |

1 ETG Round 4: March 2023 Ecology, Hydrology, Ground Conditions and Land Use Expert Topic Group

16th March 2023 [ETG Round Number 4, Project Phase: Phase 1A Consultation]

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM- 000422-01

Invitees:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Natural England | Environmental Agency | Water Management Alliance | Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board | Lincolnshire County RSPB Council | Welland Internal Drainage Board | South Holland District Council | Boston Borough Council | Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust |
| Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Absent | Absent | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | Environmental Agency | Water Management Alliance | Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board | Lincolnshire County RSPB Council | Welland Internal Drainage Board | South Holland District Council | Boston Borough Council | Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|----|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|----|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|

Project Update

1.1 Update

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---|--|
| 1.1.1 | ODOW provided an overview of key topics and actions from the previous ETG. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | Several attendees flagged that they were unable to open the shapefiles circulated by ODOW showing the various routes. | SLR to reissue the shapefiles for the Lincs Node, Weston Marsh Rev1 and Rev1a routes to the stakeholders. Attendees to confirm access. |
|-------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---|--|

1.2 Programme

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|--|
| 1.2.1 | ODOW provided an update on the Project Programme. Which hasn't changed since the last ETG in January | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | |
|-------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|--|

1.3 Evidence Base

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1.3.1 | ODOW provided an | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | ODOW is not in a position to present |
|-------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|--------------------------------------|

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | Environmental Agency | Water Management Alliance | Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board | Lincolnshire County Council | RSPB | Welland Internal Drainage Board | South Holland District Council | Boston Borough Council | Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|--|
| | update on the Evidence Base and outlined that an evidence-based document was prepared and shared with the Steering Group. A summary slide was presented outlining the evidence expected to be collected across each topic specific to this ETG. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | all of the data at PEIR that will have been collected, as such a cut-off date of 28th February has been selected for inclusion within the PEIR. Data collected after this period will be presented to the ETGs post PEIR as a supplementary document |
| Onshore Ecology and Ornithology | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Separating the Ornithology Chapter from the Ecology Chapter for both the PEIR report and the ES is an appropriate approach. | No comment* | No Comment | No comment* | No comment* | No Comment | Disagreed | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | RSPB: expressed concerns about ongoing data collection post-DCO application submission and emphasized the ideal situation of avoiding new data during examination. This could imply some disagreement or concern about the proposed approach. NE: Sought clarification on | ODOW responses: Clarifying survey methods: ODOW is working on detailed plans for surveys and has discussed them with Natural England for specific areas like GCN and breeding birds. Timing of data collection: ODOW understands stakeholders' worries about |

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | <p>certain aspects of the proposal, such as GCN and the wintering bird survey methodology. While they didn't outright disagree, their requests for clarification indicate a need for further discussion or potential areas of concern.</p> <p>Listening to stakeholders: WMA & BSIDB: echoed the sentiment that no comment does not imply agreement. While this doesn't directly address ODOW's proposal, it suggests a general atmosphere of caution and a desire for clarity and agreement.</p> | <p>when data is collected, especially concerning the project's application. They'll use incomplete data for some assessments but promise to include full data in the final report.</p> <p>Taking action: ODOW is open to hearing stakeholders' concerns and ideas for making meetings and processes more efficient. They'll go back to some areas to gather more data based on feedback.</p> <p>ODOW is acting on certain tasks raised in the meeting, like closing out unnecessary surveys and discussing when completed reports will be ready.</p> |
| Hydrology and Flood Risk | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ODOW provided an update on the | Agreed | Agreed | Agreed | Agreed | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | Environment Agency raised the need to protect | ODOW will coordinate discussions with |

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| | survey programme and the production of relevant documents. | | | | | | | | | | | | | <p>assets through legal agreements and consider the cumulative impacts and timings with IDB Projects.</p> <p>Water Management Alliance clarified that strike plates are only required for open cut drains.</p> <p>Water Management Alliance confirmed the validity of their comment regarding widening drains.</p> <p>RSPB queried cable depth's impact on wetland habitats and maximum depths for habitat creation.</p> <p>Natural England advised on the inclusion of an 'Outline Bentonite Management Plan'.</p> <p>Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board confirmed</p> | <p>Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board and project engineers about crossing depth. Environment Agency capital works info will be included. Feedback will be given to engineers on Water Management Alliance's strike plate comment. ODOW will internally discuss plans to widen drains. SLR information on Frampton Marsh project will be shared and consulted with ecology and engineers. Location for the Bentonite Management Plan will be confirmed. ODOW welcomes IDB's aspirations document.</p> |

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progress on aspirations document.

Geology and Ground Conditions

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| | ODOW updated on the survey program and document production. They also reviewed agreed point in the log. Additionally, they're working on obtaining data from the contaminated land register from East Lindsey Council | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|

Land Use

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| | ODOW outlined updates to scope refinement activities. | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|

1 ETG Round 5: August 2023 Onshore Ecology, Hydrology & Ground Conditions Expert Topic Group

[6th August 2023, ETG Round Number 5, Consultation Log]

ODOW Reference: Minutes - PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0016

1 ETG Round 6: August 2023 Onshore Ecology, Hydrology & Ground Conditions Expert Topic Group

- 1.1 Onshore Ornithology
- 1.2 Onshore Ecology
- 1.3 Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk
- 1.4 Geology and Ground Conditions
- 1.5 Land Use

| Stakeholder | NE | EA | Water Management Alliance | Black Sluice IDB | Witham Fourth IDB | Welland IDB | RSPB | DPA Planning | LCC |
|----------------|--------|---------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| Present/Absent | Absent | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present |

1.1 Onshore Ornithology

| ID | Agreement | NE | EA | Water Management Alliance | Black Sluice IDB | Witham Fourth IDB | Welland IDB | RSPB | DPA | LCC | Annex/ Document Reference (if applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| 1 | ETG [02/08/2023] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Survey Scope – Wintering Bird Surveys | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1a | Extension of the buffer zone for wintering birds beyond 400m | Agreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | NE NE support any extension of the buffer beyond 400m as this may be helpful with supporting assessment conclusions, addressing uncertainties in relation to scale and significance of impacts and in identifying potential mitigation measures utilising the surrounding habitats. But the extent of any extension of the buffer | Project response to NE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Final position in the agreement log was 'awaiting data'. ▪ The survey buffer from the final order limit was between 400m and 620m, following the refinement of the corridor from 300m to 80m. It was stated that data would be available from supporting habitats for comparison from those route corridors |

| ID | Agreement | NE | EA | Water Management Alliance | Black Sluice IDB | Witham Fourth IDB | Welland IDB | RSPB | DPA | LCC | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| | | | | | | | | | | | | <p>area is dependent on the Annex I species that are observed and therefore we are unable to advise further until that is known.</p> <p>NE response to Project A response was received from NE on 16th November 2023 stating "Natural England advises that the surveys should align as much as possible to account for inter annual variability. However, we are unable to confirm if further survey data and/or assessment is required until the second year of survey data has been presented. Again we advise that suitable mitigation measures are adopted to avoid, reduce and mitigate impacts to functionally linked land for The Wash SPA Annex I and Assemblage Features."</p> | <p>deleted from the final project design. Information on Annex 1 species was provided in the PEIR.</p> <p>Project question to NE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Project asked if NE agreed that the additional areas surveyed for winter birds, was likely to be sufficient to inform/support assessment conclusions in the ES? ▪ It was also queried if NE considered that a 400m survey buffer for wintering birds in 2023-24 would be appropriate, given those are Year 2 surveys? |
| 1.1.1b | Less than two years of survey data is sufficient | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>NE (a) Two years of survey data is required. This allows for interannual variations to be considered in more depth. <i>NE (Scoping Opinion):</i> If less than two years of data is collected, then consideration should be given to extending the 400m buffer area either side of the cable corridor in order to obtain further</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Final position in the agreement log was stated to be 'awaiting data'. ▪ The Project committed to undertaking an additional season of winter surveys from September 2023. The survey data and updated assessment was stated to be submitted |

| ID | Agreement | NE | EA | Water Management Alliance | Black Sluice IDB | Witham Fourth IDB | Welland IDB | RSPB | DPA | LCC | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| | | | | | | | | | | | | <p>data to help demonstrate the relative importance of the cable corridor with the surrounding habitats.</p> <p>NE (b) Advise that the assessment of 2 years of survey data on the distribution of passage and overwintering Annex I birds from The Wash SPA and Ramsar is required to inform any impact assessment and mitigation measures in order to ascertain the risk of AEoI occurring. We advise that there is a risk of further examination and/or determination delays if this critical data is not available at the time of Application.</p> <p>NE response to Project Natural England reiterated their previous position on the two years.</p> | <p>following completion of surveys in March 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project stated that the survey buffer exceeds 400m due to the reduction in the ECC corridor width from 300m to 80m. It was also mentioned that there will also be data available from supporting habitats for comparison from those route corridors deleted from the final project design. WeBS data would also be obtained for those count sectors in proximity to the final ECC. <p>Project response to NE (b) The Project stated that One year of wintering bird survey data will be collected prior to ES submission, Year 2 surveys will however commence in September 2023.</p> <p>Project question to NE The Project asked if NE agreed that the additional areas surveyed for winter birds, were likely to be sufficient to demonstrate the relative importance of the ECC?</p> |
| 1.2 Survey Scope – Breeding Bird Surveys | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1a | Targeted surveys for breeding birds within a minimum of 100m of the route | Agreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>NE Welcome targeted surveys for breeding birds within a minimum of 100m of the route corridor in areas where: Schedule 1 species could</p> | <p>Project response to NE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final position in the agreement log was 'awaiting data'. The survey buffer from the final order limit is |

| ID | Agreement | NE | EA | Water Management Alliance | Black Sluice IDB | Witham Fourth IDB | Welland IDB | RSPB | DPA | LCC | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|--|--|
| | corridor in areas | | | | | | | | | | | <p>occur; Wetland, scrub and woodland habitats potentially supporting sensitive and declining species; and where Permanent above ground infrastructure will be built.</p> <p>NE response to Project A response was received from NE on 16th November 2023 stating “We note that these surveys have probably been undertaken. But can confirm that based on the information provided the approach seems reasonable. However, we advise as with all works during the breeding season that suitable mitigation measures are adopted to avoid, reduce and mitigate impacts to breeding birds.”</p> | <p>between 100m and 320m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project stated that the details of the breeding bird surveys will be provided in the ES. <p>Project questions to NE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project asked if NE agreed with the survey methodology described in a letter to NE dated 06 March 2023, which provided further details to the outline method described above? |
| 1.3 Nesting Birds Mitigation | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | Production of a nesting birds mitigation plan will not be required | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>NE Natural England advises that there is a requirement for the project to produce a plan to demonstrate how they will mitigate the effects it may have on suitable nesting habitat for ground nesting birds. We advise that this plan is included within an OLEMS upon submission of the project into Examination.</p> | <p>Project response to NE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project stated that the results of the breeding bird surveys will be provided in the ES. Also stated that mitigation will be included in the OLEMS to ensure legal compliance regarding nesting birds during the construction phase. Measures would also be included to minimise impacts on nesting birds. |

| ID | Agreement | NE | EA | Water Management Alliance | Black Sluice IDB | Witham Fourth IDB | Welland IDB | RSPB | DPA | LCC | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|---|------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|---|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project affirmed that nesting birds mitigation plan will be included within OLEMS. |
| 1.4 The Wash SPA and Ramsar | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 | An Outline Annex I species mitigation management plan not expected | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>NE</p> <p>In addition to the comments in relation to Point 1, we further advise that we expect to see an Outline Annex I species mitigation management plan for designated features of the SPA which have been identified as foraging outside of the SPA within the Project's Red Line Boundary.</p> | <p>Project response to NE</p> <p>Project stated that the Outline Annex 1 species mitigation plan will be included within OLEMS.</p> |
| 1.5 RSPB Frampton Marsh and Greater Frampton Vision Landscape Recovery Project | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5.1 | Based on the PEIR, there is no potential for the cable route to affect the reserve and the Landscape Recovery Project | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | | <p>NE</p> <p>When two years of survey data are made available the RSPB will want to explore in detail the potential implications of construction disturbance on these species through the relevant Expert Working Group, considering areas of potential sensitivity and any mitigation that may be necessary".</p> <p>Based on the information set out in the PEIR, we consider there is potential for the cable route to affect both the reserve and the Landscape Recovery Project. Therefore, we would welcome further</p> | <p>Project response to NE</p> <p>Outer Dowsing team stated that they will continue engagement with RSPB on these matters.</p> |

| ID | Agreement | NE | EA | Water Management Alliance | Black Sluice IDB | Witham Fourth IDB | Welland IDB | RSPB | DPA | LCC | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| | | | | | | | | | | | | detailed discussions and consultation with the Outer Dowsing project team, to ensure that the cable routing avoids these reserves and any land that is key to the objectives of the Landscape Recovery Project. | |

1.2 Onshore Ecology

| ID | Agreement | Canals and River Trust | LWT | NE | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---|---|------------------------|------------|------------|---|--|---|
| 2 | ETG - 02/08/2023 | | | | | | |
| Attendance | | Present | | | | | |
| 2.1 Fish and Aquatic Invertebrate Surveys | | | | | | | |
| 2.1.1 | Fish and aquatic invertebrate surveys are not required | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | | <p>Canals and River Trust</p> <p>The potential for sediment mobilisation from the riverbed should be assessed and invertebrates and fish species surveys should be undertaken to assess the sensitivity of these species to potential sediment movement.</p> <p><i>*No Section 42 comments received in relation to fish/aquatic invertebrate surveys</i></p> | <p>Project response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stated that Fish and aquatic invertebrate surveys will be undertaken only if the results of the hydrological and ground investigation surveys conclude that sediment mobilisation cannot be resolved by methods set out in the outline COCP. If required, a fish habitat quality and spawning suitability assessment would also be undertaken 250m upstream and downstream from the crossing points of main watercourses. |
| 2.2 Great Crested Newts | | | | | | | |
| 2.2.1 | Including ponds within 250m and ditches within 100m for Great Crested Newt HIS/eDNA surveys is sufficient | No comment | No comment | TBC | | <p><i>*Awaiting comments</i></p> <p><i>*No Section 42 comments received specific to GCN</i></p> <p>Generic comments relating to protected species</p> <p>NE recommend impact assessment for protected species undertaken in line with standing advice, mitigation management plan provided in the OLEM and Letters of No Impediment secured prior to submission of application to The Inspectorate.</p> | <p>Project response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ODOW provided an update on the full suite of ongoing and completed ecology surveys. ODOW's proposed methodology for GCN surveys was submitted to Natural England via a Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) request in May 2023. A response was not received. However, the methodology adopted was undertaken with reference to the standard methodology for HSI, eDNA and Population Size Class Assessment. |

| ID | Agreement | Canals and River Trust | LWT | NE | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------|-----------|--|---|--|
| 2.2.2 | Further section 42 comments | No comment | Disagreed | Disagreed | | <p>LWT Timing: Timescales for delivery of the project are driven by factors beyond the consultants' control, and the applicant is aware of the risks.</p> <p>NE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence gaps, request submission of impact assessments to ETG prior to submission; Protection of bat flight lines during construction; Request for Bentonite Outbreak Management Plan to be included in the OLEMS; INNS request for biosecurity management plan. Impacts to SSSI: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sea Banks Clay Pits SSSI – consider/mitigate impacts of trenchless techniques on hydrology of site; Chapel Point to Wolla Bank SSSI – consider/mitigate impacts on geological component of site. | <p>Project response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project noted LWT's response. A Bentonite Outbreak Management Plan will be submitted as part of the OCOCOP. Principles for bentonite breakout management included in an Outline Onshore Pollution Prevention and Emergency Incident Response Plan (document reference 8.1.4) provided as part of the Outline CoCP (document reference 8.1). Biosecurity management is provided within Section 3.4 of the OLEMS (document reference 8.10). A final biosecurity management plan will be provided as a standalone document with the Environmental Management Plan (EMP). Impacts to SSSI have been included within the Onshore Ecology assessment (document reference (6.1.21)). |
| 2.3 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment | | | | | | | |
| 2.3.1 | Commitment to investigating opportunities for Biodiversity Net Gain | No comment | Agreed | Agreed | | <p>NE (a) Strongly advises that the project engages with BNG at an early stage to maximise positive environmental impact and in order to ensure your project is future proofed.</p> <p>NE (b) Further detail required and promotion of holistic approach to integrate with SuDS etc.</p> <p>LWT Urge proper, detailed assessment of BNG (both terrestrial and marine), using the appropriate metrics, going forward.</p> | <p>Project response to NE (a) and LWT Following confirmation of the Project's grid connection option, the Project stated that they will progress conversations on BNG with local stakeholders and conservation bodies. The Project consulted keenly on BNG up to that point and hoped that the BNG assessment that will be submitted at ES can be supported by potential opportunities.</p> <p>Project response to NE (b) The Project has set out its approach to BNG within the Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Principles and Approach) (document reference: 9.5).</p> |

1.3 Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk

| ID | Agreement | Environment Agency | South Holland IDB | Lindsey Marsh IDB | Other IDB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 | ETG - 02/08/2023 | | | | | | | |
| Attendance | | Present | Present | Present | Present | | | |

| ID | Agreement | Environment Agency | South Holland IDB | Lindsey Marsh IDB | Other IDB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|---|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|---|--|
| 3.1 Baseline Environment – Data sources | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1.1 | Data sources are sufficient to inform the baseline for PEIR and ES. | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>EA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaison with Local Authorities is recommended to obtain details on private and domestic water supplies. Guidance available on pollution prevention and passive dewatering. The applicant should check if they need a licence to abstract water which may be relevant for dewatering. | <p>Project response</p> <p>Details on private and domestic water supplies were requested from Local Authorities and will be included in the ES.</p> |
| 3.2 Assessment Methodology | | | | | | | | |
| 3.2.1 | Impacts scoped out are appropriate | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>EA</p> <p>Yes, if pollution prevention guidelines are followed to prevent deterioration of groundwater and surface water quality. The Applicant must mitigate all impacts and ensure that water quality is not degraded. The Applicant should refer to the Catchment Data Explorer for up-to-date classifications in the year construction is carried out. The justification for scoping out ‘potential for damage to flood defence or surface water drainage infrastructure’ is that onshore cables would be left in situ and therefore no effects would result from decommissioning. Further consideration and information should be provided on the decommissioning elements. We would want to ensure that any elements left in situ would not impact our future maintenance or improvement works. Furthermore, the reinstatement works to remove above ground infrastructure may potentially take place within areas at risk of flooding. The flood risk of this activity will need to be assessed and mitigation measures put in place.</p> <p>EA Section 42 comment</p> <p>Report should consider flood defence crossings as well as watercourse crossings” and “Further consideration and information should be provided on the decommissioning and mitigation measures put in place.</p> | <p>Project response</p> <p>The Project stated that this will be considered further within the ES chapter.</p> |
| 3.3 Assessment Methodology – Flood Risk Impacts | | | | | | | | |
| 3.3.1 | Data sources are sufficient to inform the onshore flood risk | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>EA</p> <p>The impacts of flood risk arising from the development (particularly concerning increased flood risk impacting on people and property) does</p> | <p>Project response</p> <p>The Project stated that this will be considered within the ES chapter and FRA.</p> |

| ID | Agreement | Environment Agency | South Holland IDB | Lindsey Marsh IDB | Other IDB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---|--|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|---|--|
| | baseline for PEIR and ES. | | | | | | <p>not appear to be considered. For example, crossing flood defences poses a significant risk (and large consequence) and mitigation will be required. We would expect flood risk to people and property to be considered as part of the FRA and address any potential mitigation required.</p> <p>EA Section 42 comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Environment Agency noted that residual flood risk has not been considered. ▪ Impact on crossing flood defences could be significant. ▪ Flood risk posed to third parties or surrounding areas must be considered and set out any potential mitigation required. | |
| 3.4 Supporting Documents – FRA and SWDS | | | | | | | | |
| 3.4.1 | Preparation of Flood Risk Assessment and Surface Water Drainage Strategy is considered appropriate | Agreed | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | | <p>EA At this early stage, the overall scope is considered appropriate. Paragraph 8.5.45 states that an FRA and Surface Water Drainage strategy will be prepared, the scope of these will need to be agreed and they will need to address any large areas of impermeability that may be created (particularly during construction) such as plant compounds, access roads, the increased run off will need to be determined and mitigated in accordance with SUDS principles.</p> <p>SHIDB The LLFA will be consulted to determine the level of detail required for the surface water drainage strategy for the OnSS. Please be aware that if the OnSS falls within the Board's IDD then you would require consent from the Board under Byelaw 3 to discharge any surface water to a watercourse. Consequently, in addition to engaging with the LLFA we would also advise that the Board is consulted.</p> <p>SHIDB Section 42 Comments SHIDB have requested the Project discuss with the Board the SWDS should the OnSS fall within their area.</p> | Project response to SHIDB Project stated that consultation with the LLFA/ relevant IDB will be undertaken once the location of the OnSS has been determined. |
| 3.5 Construction Methods – Water Crossings | | | | | | | | |
| 3.5.1 | Open trench cable construction and use of | Agreed | Agreed | Agreed | No comment | | EA Welcome the use of methods to reduce impacts to designated sites, to include the use of HDD below | Project response |

| ID | Agreement | Environment Agency | South Holland IDB | Lindsey Marsh IDB | Other IDB | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---|--|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|---|---|---|
| | HDD to avoid obstructions | | | | | | <p>interest features...there is a risk of a potential bentonite break out where HDD is used beneath water courses...This should be considered, fully assessed, and mitigated for...detailed specification be included in EIA of the HDD process and protocols be put in place to prevent break outs or frack-outs...</p> <p>LMIDB Welcome early discussions on the sea defence and main river crossings, particularly on the methodology and temporary works to facilitate the cable installation...all watercourses to be crossed by means of HDD at a depth no less than 2 metres PLUS the cable safety distance below the hard bed level of all watercourses...</p> <p>SHIDB A strike plate be placed 1 m above the cable, at 1 m below the hard bed. In some instances, we also ask that this level (and potentially the strike plate) be maintained for min. 3-5 m either side of the current watercourse brink.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Project committed to trenchless cable laying techniques under watercourses that are either IDB managed; and / or ▪ defined as main rivers by the Environment Agency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Since the Project committed to trenchless cable crossings over IDB maintained watercourses and main rivers, the WMA, on behalf of the IDBs, acknowledged that strike plates were no longer necessary in these instances and agreed that marker posts are a suitable alternative. ▪ The Project noted that strike plates would not be possible due to HDD techniques employed. The Project suggested that marker posts may be offered in lieu of this. ▪ Maintaining a depth of 2m below the bed for between 3-5m each side of the asset would require further discussion with the IDBs and Environment Agency. |
| 3.6 Consenting Requirements – IDB Approach | | | | | | | | |
| 3.6.1 | Consistent approach to consenting requirements for Project engineers | No comment | TBC | TBC | TBC | | <p><u>South Holland IDB, Lindsey Marsh IDB, Black Sluice IDB, Witham Fourth IDB and Welland and Deepings IDB</u></p> <p>IDBs gathered after the last round of ETGs to discuss a way forward for providing the Project with a consistent approach to consenting requirements across IDBs.</p> | <p><u>Project response</u></p> <p>Aspirations were stated to be set out by the IDBs and discussed with the Project team.</p> |

1.4 Geology and Ground Conditions

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire CC | Boston LPA | South Holland LPA | National Farmers Union | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---------------------|---|-----------------|------------|-------------------|------------------------|---|---|--|
| 4 | ETG - 02/08/2023 | | | | | | | |
| Attendance | | Present | Present | Present | Present | | | |
| 4.1 Land Drainage | | | | | | | | |
| 4.1.1 | Land drainage | Agreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p>LCC However inevitably during the construction phase, drains will be severed and dislodged. Some very shallow drains may be affected by topsoil removal whereas the majority will be deeper but mostly above the depth of trench excavation. As such any land drains in the working area are likely to be affected and it is important that a full survey of drainage is undertaken to ensure any damaged drains are fully reinstated, or new drains provided where repair/reinstatement is not possible.</p> | <p>Project response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project appointed a local drainage contractor to ensure our pre and post construction drainage schemes are designed in a harmonic way with the current drainage systems. An outline drainage strategy will be submitted at ES. |
| 4.2 Soil Management | | | | | | | | |
| 4.2.1a | Soil damage during construction considerations are sufficient | Agreed | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | | <p>LCC During the construction phase many of the areas will affect soil and water issues. Appendix 3 sets out a basic Soil Management Plan that should be established as part of the Construction Phase, to minimise the impact on soil resources." A list of recommended headings for inclusion within the SMP was included within the consultation response.</p> <p>BLPA Whilst the use of the register is correct, the Grade 1 soils in the region are exceptional high quality marine silts. This detail is critical as silt soils have complex and often difficult physical properties, not least they have a tendency to "run"... Given the nature of the soils I doubt that the soil management practices to restore the field is sufficient (noted in your appendix).</p> <p>Specific comments from a member of Freiston Parish Council have been received and officers share these concerns. In relation to this topic the following has been raised: Soil management practices may need further evidence and investigation with relation to</p> | <p>Project response to LCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project stated that the list would be reviewed and considered. The SMP would be updated where considered necessary. Testing and surveying commitments (as outlined in the following slide) were confirmed and will be included in the updated SMP. <p>Project response to BLPA The concern was noted and as described on the previous slide, the SMP would be updated to include further management practices and commitments.</p> |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire CC | Boston LPA | South Holland LPA | National Farmers Union | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---|--|--|
| | | | | | | | marine silts. Methodologies to prevent silt slurries should be presented as these pose a dangerous environmental risk. | |
| 4.2.1b | ALC Survey is sufficient | Disagreed | No comment | No comment | No comment | | LCC Predictive verses Actual ALC The ALC report is not fully in line with the MAFF 1988 guidance, which recommends auger borings at 1-hectare intervals, and soil pits dug in representative soils types. The report relies on existing published data which is not site specific. | Project response Project stated that the ALC survey would occur post consent, pre-construction to inform the construction method statements. The survey proposed to be every 100m or 1 per field if there are multiple fields within the 100m interval. In addition, the project committed to doing British standard testing on both topsoil and subsoil. |
| 4.2.1c | Soil Management Plan is sufficient | No comment | No comment | Disagreed | Agreed | | SHLPA Soil stockpiles should be sealed to reduced fugitive dust emissions. NFU The NFU is pleased to see that this section has been included but the detail is lacking on what will be needed in a pre-soil statement." A list of recommended wording for inclusion within the SMP was included within the consultation response. | Project response to SHLPA The concern was noted, and a commitment was made to, where appropriate, include seal and/or seed stockpiles within the SMP. Project response to NFU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project stated that the NFU wording would be reviewed and considered. The SMP would be updated where considered necessary. Project stated that discussions were ongoing internally to agree testing and surveying commitments to be included in the commitments register and SMP. |

1.5 Land Use

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire CC | Freiston Parish Council | Weston Parish Council | National Farmers Union | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|--|---|
| 5 | ETG - 02/08/2023 | | | | | | | |
| Attendance | | Present | Present | Present | | | | |
| 5.1 Assessment methodology – General | | | | | | | | |
| 5.1.1 | The assessment methodology is sufficient to inform a robust impact assessment. | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | *No comments received Consultee response to Project No stakeholder comment received. | Project notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magnitude of Impact was based on IEMA's 'A New Perspective on Land and Soil in Environmental Impact Assessment'. Project stated, for construction, sensitivity of the farm holdings as receptors was dependent on scale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larger holdings are considered low sensitivity; and |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire CC | Freiston Parish Council | Weston Parish Council | National Farmers Union | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|--|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smaller holdings are considered medium sensitivity. ▪ IEMA guidance specified that permanent loss of 5ha to 20ha results in moderate magnitude of impact, for operation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Significant major adverse effect; ○ Acceptable within the context of the development; and ○ If not, seek to scale effect at local and regional levels. <p>Project question to consultees Project queried if consultees agreed with the methodology for assessing the magnitude of impacts on agricultural holdings?</p> |
| 5.2 Assessment Methodology – Impacts Scoped into ES | | | | | | | | |
| 5.2.1a | The scope of assessment is sufficient to inform the land use assessment for the PEIR and ES. | Disagreed | Disagreed | Disagreed | Disagreed | | <p><i>*No comments received</i></p> <p>LCC Section 42 Comments In considering the impact on the overall farming enterprises both locally and across the District or County, it may be necessary to seek additional information on the impact on the individual farms themselves.</p> <p>Concerned that the land use section scoped out drainage in respect of 'The potential impacts on agricultural drainage systems, which could lead to a loss of agricultural productivity.</p> <p>FPC Section 42 Comments The impact assessment has not properly considered potential effects on food security... via disruption to cropping plans, rotation plans, the splitting of fields, access disruptions for all farming operations etc.</p> <p>WPC Section 42 Comments Disturbance of the land for the cabling would have a long-term impact on the agricultural use of the land.</p> <p>NFU Section 42 Comments (a) Link Boxes: Above ground infrastructure [Link box manhole covers] within fields would increase the area of land taken out of</p> | <p>Project notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Those that were assessed at PEIR. ▪ Project stated that refined ES Study Area allows for more granular approach to be taken when assessing utilities, tourism sites and prospective planning applications. ▪ Agricultural drainage and soil quality was assessed in the Geology and Ground Conditions Chapter at PEIR and would be at ES. <p>Project response to LCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The concerns regarding individual farms were noted and will be considered as the Study Area refines for the final ES assessment. ▪ The impacts on agricultural drainage systems were assessed in Volume 1, Chapter 23: Geology and Ground Conditions. ▪ The Project appointed a local drainage contractor to ensure our pre and post construction drainage schemes are designed in a harmonic way with the current drainage systems. <p>Project response to FPC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impacts on ALC grade land were considered in the Land Use Chapter, the outcome of this assessment demonstrated that there would not be a material impact on food security given the limited scale and duration of the works. ▪ The Project committed to ongoing discussions with landowners to minimise impacts to ongoing agricultural activities, once a final ECC is selected the |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire CC | Freiston Parish Council | Weston Parish Council | National Farmers Union | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|--|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | | | | | <p>agricultural production due to machinery having to work around them.</p> <p>NFU Section 42 Comments (b) Heat Dissipation: Confirm whether the effect of heat dissipation on soils has been addressed and the measures that will be taken to reduce the impact of heat dissipation from the scheme?</p> <p>NFU Section 42 Comments (c) Agricultural businesses must be considered in the development of the project.</p> <p>NFU Section 42 Comments (d) Consider the impact of construction on agri-environmental schemes and aim to avoid these areas where possible and consider what notification could be given to landowners/occupiers where derogations may be needed.</p> | <p>Project stated they will be in a position to further discuss our potential impacts on individual landholdings.</p> <p>Project response to WPC Project stated that the potential long-term indirect impacts on agricultural usage of the land as a result of the cable route construction will be assessed in the Land Use chapter. The results of the assessment will determine the appropriate mitigation measures, and these will be outlined and secured through the Soil Management Plan.</p> <p>Project response to NFU (a) Project stated that the land take of the final scale and location of link boxes will be considered in the ES assessment.</p> <p>Project response to NFU (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project stated that the Impacts of cable heat dissipation is dependent on the final location of the cable route, along with the relevant soils and agricultural activities. Project stated that a cables study was being undertaken by the Project to ensure the design of the cables considers heat dissipation. The results of this will be used to support any assessment of impacts and will be included in the ES. Any potential impacts identified related to agricultural productivity would be assessed within the Land Use chapter in the ES. <p>Project response to NFU (c) Agricultural businesses would be considered within the Socio-Economic chapter.</p> <p>Project response to NFU (d) This concern was noted and will be considered within the ES Land Use chapter, and other potentially relevant chapters.</p> <p>Project question to consultees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project asked if consultees had any comments regarding the additional scope? Also asked if consultees agreed with assessing the above impacts within the Land Use Chapter? |
| 5.3 Assessment Methodology – Embedded Mitigation | | | | | | | | |
| 5.3.1 | The embedded and additional mitigation measures are sufficient | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <p><i>*No comments received.</i></p> <p>Section 42 Comments</p> | <p>Project notes Project stated that PEIR mitigation would be continued at ES:</p> |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire CC | Freiston Parish Council | Weston Parish Council | National Farmers Union | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|---|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|---|--|
| | for managing and mitigating land use effects. | | | | | | <i>None in relation to the sufficiency of the mitigation measures. Comments related to specific Plans have been addressed in their relative Chapters.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Route optimisation; ▪ Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP); ▪ HDD at crossing points of sensitive receptors such as rivers; ▪ Land reinstatement; ▪ Early engagement and signage; ▪ Access Management Plan (AMP); and ▪ Soil Management Plan (SMP). <p><u>Project question to consultees</u> Project asked if consultees agreed that the above mitigation is sufficient for the topic?</p> |
| 5.4 Assessment Methodology – Scope of Study Area | | | | | | | | |
| 5.4.1 | The scope of the study area is sufficient for the PEIR and ES | No comment | No comment | No comment | No comment | | <i>*No comments received.</i> | <p><u>Project notes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Study Area for the Assessment would be confined to the Red Line Boundary of the ES. ▪ This scope was shared for the cumulative impacts at PEIR. ▪ Ongoing discussions were taking place regarding the cumulative scope at ES. <p><u>Project question to consultees</u> Project asked if consultees had any feedback regarding the extent of the assessment Study Area and the cumulative scope?</p> |

1 ETG Round 6: September 2023 Onshore Ecology, Hydrology, Geology and Land Expert Topic Group

18th September 2023 – Round 6 - [Project Phase: Post Phase 2 Consultation]

ODOW Reference: Minutes – [PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0035]

Invitees:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Natural England | Environment Agency | Water Management Alliance | Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board | Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board | Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board | Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board | Lincolnshire County Council | RSPB | SELCP | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | East Lindsey District Council | South Holland District Council |
| Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Present | Absent | Absent | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | Environment Agency | Water Management Alliance | Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board | Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board | Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board | Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board | Lincolnshire County Council | RSPB | SELCP | Annex/ Document Reference (if applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders (If applicable) | Project Response/ Notes |
|----|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|------|-------|---|---|-------------------------|
|----|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|------|-------|---|---|-------------------------|

Project Update

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|--|---|
| | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) provided an update on the status and progress of key actions from previous Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings. | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | | | |
| | DOW provided updates on the refinements to project parameters, changes to assessments from the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | | | One onshore export cable corridor (ECC) has been selected – the onshore ECC north of the A52. |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | Environment Agency | Water Management Alliance | Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board | Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board | Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board | Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board | Lincolnshire County Council | RSPB | SELCP | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders (If applicable) | Project Response/ Notes |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|--|--|
| | to the Environmental Statement (ES) and the Section 42 responses received. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2 Programme and Consultation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Autumn consultation will consist of a full Section 42 (S42), which is planned for the end of October | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | | | Ahead of the November ETG round, ODOW will assess whether any technical topics could be dropped to create a more targeted session. |
| Onshore Ecology | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | There were limited changes to the updated desk study data. | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | | | |
| | Sea Banks Clay Pits SSSI and Chapel Point Bank SSSI now lie outside the refined ES red line boundary (RLB). Therefore, the approach to mitigation is now by avoidance. | Agreed | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | | NE: queried whether the surveys acknowledge that it won't assess the impact on water inputs. | Response of ODOW to NE: ODOW clarified that geological impacts are being considered. |
| | ODOW presented and responded to comments received | Agreed | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | | NE: advised that ODOW would need a letter of no impediment and queried whether | Response to NE: ODOW confirmed that this would be in place in time for submission |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | Environment Agency | Water Management Alliance | Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board | Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board | Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board | Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board | Lincolnshire County Council | RSPB | SELCP | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders (If applicable) | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|--|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|--|--|
| | during the S42 consultation. | | | | | | | | | | | | this process was underway. | |
| Onshore Ornithology | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | A seasonal restriction to construction works has been confirmed at the RSPB Frampton Marsh Reserve and the Wash SPA/Ramsar. | Agreed | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | | NE: asked to collate the ornithology mitigation and methodology queries presented in the ETG into a specific email request for Natural England's review and response. | ODOW welcomed feedback on the updated mitigation proposed since PEIR |
| Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ODOW advised that the baseline and assessment reporting are being updated in line with the new RLB and that flood modelling for the substations area is also underway. | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | | EA: reiterated that its response is due 29th September 2023. | ODOW to confirm internally where the Bentonite Management Plan will sit. |
| Geology and Ground Conditions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | The assessment reporting is being updated in line with the new RLB. | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | | NE: queried whether ODOW is using the MAF 1988 Guidelines | ODOW response to NE: confirmed that this guidance is being used for the agricultural land classification (ALC) surveys. |
| Land Use | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| ID | Agreement | Natural England | Environment Agency | Water Management Alliance | Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board | Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board | Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board | Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board | Lincolnshire County Council | RSPB | SELCP | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders (If applicable) | Project Response/ Notes |
|----|---|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|---|--|
| | ODOW presented and responded to comments relating to best and most versatile (BMV) land and food security received during the S42 consultation. | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | | NE: queried whether BNG is being considered in relation to land use and BMV. | Response to NE: ODOW confirmed that the need for balance between these two issues is well understood by the technical teams. Until the substation location is defined ODOW is not able to finalise the entire RLB, which is required for the BNG baseline calculations. |
| | Food security will be addressed within the Socio-Economics chapter as a UK wide economic issue rather than a site-specific issue. Food security will be assessed qualitatively in the ES. | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | No Comments | | | |

A coastal landscape featuring a narrow, winding path through a wetland area. The path is flanked by tall, dry grasses and shrubs. The ground is a mix of sand and shallow water, with some vegetation scattered throughout. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.1 – Annex C Part 9 of 9

Volume 3 Appendices

Date: March 2024

Document Reference: 6.3.6.1

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Rev: 1.0

Appendix 6.1 – Evidence Plan – Annex C – Part 9 of 9

Traffic and Transport Consultation Logs

The Consultation Logs presented in this document have been drafted on the basis of the EPP Terms of Reference and previous logs issued to relevant ETG meeting participants. The template has been updated in response to feedback from Natural England. The information presented is based upon that previously issued to stakeholders and derived from ETG meeting minutes (Annex B). The information and agreements included in the Consultation Logs presents the Applicant's interpretation of the points discussed during ETG meetings.

1 ETG Round 1: July 2022 Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Noise & Health and Socio-economics ETG

[19/07/22, ETG Round Number 1, Introductory]

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000287-01 Presentation – 123-ODO-CON-K-IP-000040-01

Invitees:

| Lincolnshire County Council | National Highways | South Holland District Council | Boston Council | Natural England | East Lindsey Council |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Present | Absent | Absent | Absent | Absent | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Renewable energy | | | | |
| 1.1 Promote environmental stewardship | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Project aim to promote environmental stewardship while contributing to UK government goal of reaching 50 GW of renewable energy by 2030. | No Comment | [Stakeholder notes on their position/ route to agreement] | [Project response to stakeholder position] |
| Communication | | | | |
| 2.1 Engagement | | | | |
| 2.1.1 | Project informed about the initiation of engagement with Local MPs & Councillors, with briefing sessions scheduled; and with landowners that has also commenced. | No Comment | | |
| Project Update | | | | |
| 3.1 Connection options | | | | |
| 3.1.1 | Project made it clear that a final decision on the connection location will be taken by National Grid, with a decision expected in Sept 2022 and that the Scoping Report Boundary therefore includes both connection locations (as presented in the accompanying slide pack). | No Comment | | |
| 3.1.2 | Project informed about key updates including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental and engineering constraints mapping has narrowed down the possible landfall connections which in turn will influence the routing of the potential export cable corridor. | No Comment | | |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|-----------------------|--|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the location of Triton Knoll, there is a challenge in avoiding Silver Pitt which is unviable from an engineering and challenging from an ecological perspective (noting currently consultation on designated Silver Pit a Highly Protected Marine Area (HPMA)). This is pushing the offshore cable route south of Triton Knoll and as a result, the geophysical surveys will continue in this area, at project risk, to ensure the project is moving as proactively as possible in collecting environmental information. | | | |
| Traffic and Transport | | | | |
| 4.1 Scoping impacts | | | | |
| 4.1.1 | Project shared the impacts that are being scoped out | No comments | | |
| 4.1.2 | Project shared the discussion points to all attendees and a written response was requested | Agree Lincolnshire County Council confirmed they will provide written responses to scoping questions for Traffic & Transport and all other topics covered later in the ETG, but thus far no issues have been identified. | | |
| Onshore Air quality | | | | |
| 5.1 Scoping impacts | | | | |
| 5.1.1 | Project shared the details of scoped out impacts. | No comments | | |
| Noise and Vibration | | | | |
| 6.1 Scoping impacts | | | | |
| 6.1.1 | Project shared the details of scoped out impacts. | No comments | | |
| Land use | | | | |
| 7.1 Scoping impacts | | | | |
| 7.1.1 | Project clearly stated the impacts that are being scoped out | No comments | | |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Human Health | | | | |
| 8.1 Scoping impacts | | | | |
| 8.1.1 | Project clearly stated the impacts that are being scoped out | No comments | | |
| Socio-Economics, Tourism & Recreation | | | | |
| 9.1 Scoping Impacts | | | | |
| 9.1.1 | Project clearly stated the impacts that are being scoped out | No comments | | |

1 ETG Round 2: October 2022 Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Noise & Health and Socio-economics ETG

[13/10/22, ETG Round Number 2, Initial Post Scoping Opinion]

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000341-01 Presentation – 123-ODO-CON-K-IP-000047-01 ODOW_ETG002

Invitees:

| Stakeholder | Lincolnshire County Council | National Highways | South Holland District Council | Boston Council | Natural England | East Lindsey Council |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Present/Absent | Present | Absent | Absent | Absent | Absent | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | Annex/ Document Reference (if applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---|--|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| Socio-Economic | | | | | |
| 1.1 Scoping Opinion confirm agreement to Scope Out: | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Project seeks agreement to scope out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transboundary effects; • Demographic and service demand during Operation and Maintenance (O&M) stages. | No Comment | | | |
| 1.1.2 | Based on the comments from scoping opinion, Project shared the following details: 1) Socio-Economics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of demographic and services demands assessment during decommissioning unless demonstrated it's not required; and • Inclusion of impacts of decommissioning unless their exclusion is justified. Further clarification is needed for the perspective of decommissioning. | No Comment | | | |
| 1.2 Tourism & Recreation | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 | Project shared the approach to decommissioning that needs agreement from relevant stakeholders including the following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ES to demonstrate how temporary closures of tourism land use facilities during O&M would be avoided. | | | | Project highlighted that an agreement will be required with the relevant stakeholders on the proposed approach to decommissioning |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|----------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment to be included in the ES for the effects of visual effects on offshore receptors during all phases of ODOW. When drafting the chapters, the Socio-Economic team will work with the teams drafting the land use and LVIA chapters so that there is consideration of any interactions with what's outlined in those chapters. | | | | |
| 1.3 Socio-economics next steps | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 | <p>Project asked the following questions from the stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTION: Do you agree with the proposed approach to decommissioning that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under a worst-case scenario, assumption is that the decommissioning impacts will be at most similar in magnitude to construction impacts; Using Government-recommended discount factors would result in decommissioning impacts limited in scale (Greenbook guidance quantifies using a 3.5% discount rate, further impacts are in the future the greater the impact of discounting); and Lack of information on available decommissioning technology at the time and knowledge of future baseline. ACTION: Is there any other issues from a socio-economic perspective you'd like to raise at this stage? | <p>Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) outlined that with respect of tourism for other cable routes in area (such as Viking Link), there were concerns when cable route is constructed.</p> <p>LCC further asked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How likely can the construction works avoid the tourism season? What sort of mitigations could be put in place to ensure construction works have minimal effects on tourism industry? Is there scope to avoid construction works taking place in summer period | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project insisted that their Socio-economic perspective is appropriate at this stage Project (SLR) queried what were the main concerns for the other projects (e.g. traffic users and movements; construction workers taking up beds; inaccessibility)? |
| 1.3.2 | <p>The embedded mitigation measures considered as part of the Project such as a haul road constructed through the length of the cable route which will encourage construction traffic off main roads. Therefore, this will mitigate the concerns the following:</p> | <p>LCC outlined that where the tourism season clashes with the construction works which may reduce the number of tourists in the area in the season. Local businesses were concerned potentially losing income due to works taking place to avoid the area during construction on other similar projects</p> | | | <p>ACTION: The Project team to input into the tourist section of the PEIR and ES, the duration of works will need to be considered with engineering input to balance both requirements.</p> |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|----------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the tourism season clashes with the construction works which may reduce the number of tourists in the area in the season. Local businesses concerns about potentially losing income due to works taking place to avoid the area during construction on other similar projects | | | | Project (SLR) suggested that with the ongoing beach replenish works currently ongoing, there may be scope to look at the existing works and compare these to the Project works as the area of the beach which will have works on will be smaller than the area currently shown on the plan to give locals and idea of the scale of the works and likely affect. |
| 1.3.3 | The Project is still currently under design phase and the section from the west side of the road to the beach is under consideration to be engineered using trenchless techniques, with the aim to bypass this area and reduce any direct effect on the land and the area can remain open. | LCC queried if the works around the landfall point at Wolla Bank will impact on the county's coastal park? Suggested a similar concern around timing and possible mitigation measures. | | | ACTION: Discuss internally with the Project team the potential to review existing works and compare these to the Project. |
| Traffic and Transport | | | | | |
| 2.1 Scoping opinion | | | | | |
| 2.1.1 | <p>In line with the scoping opinion, the Project confirmed that it is scoping out the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction traffic noise; Anticipated road vehicle movements during O&M; Significant impacts on Traffic and Transport (T&T) during decommissioning; Cumulative traffic noise to be addressed in noise chapter; Transboundary effects unlikely to occur as effects are likely to be localized. | No comment | | | |
| 2.1.2 | <p>Project confirmed the areas of disagreement including the Two linking points around disruption to the railway services during construction and cumulative disruption.</p> <p>Project outlined that discussions will be progressed with National Rail on this and technical business clearance and asset protection clearance with the aim to keep the line open and avoid any disruption, with the aim to scope this out.</p> | No comment | | | |
| 2.1.3 | The Project will progress the identification of the engineering techniques being used at each crossing (open trenched or trenchless techniques), allowing this to will feed into the assessment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCC confirmed that Ian Field may want to provide additional feedback following issue of the ETG slides and minutes. | | | Project (SLR) confirmed that the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan will set out a range of measures that would be implemented during construction and an outline Travel Plan to minimise these movements. |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCC offered assistance in providing the Council team contact details who can provide a definitive list of the PRoW network. LCC added that from observation on other projects, it is at the construction stage when most complaints for traffic are received. LCC suggested the Project should provide their commitments and outline what measures will be put in place so that construction traffic follow the allocated routes. | | | Final versions of these documents will be prepared post consent, with firm details of the measures to be implemented. |
| Land Use | | | | | |
| 3.1 Land use stakeholder questions | | | | | |
| 3.1.1 | Project stated that the aspects of the Land Use assessment may be more appropriate in other chapters where similar elements and assessments are included and that a discussion is needed with the relevant stakeholder in this regard. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCC suggested that the preference would be that Land Use retains its own chapter, particularly outlining ALC, BMV land, land classification for clarity to stakeholders for finding the information. LCC outlined that with food security being a sensitive topic at present for Lincolnshire County Council, they are keen to understand the impacts and what mitigation measures are in place to reduce this. LCC queried is there a suggestion that when the land is restored there would not be an overall loss of land? | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project (SLR) outlined that the construction of a substation would result in permanent losses of agricultural land. For the purposes of the cable route, the Project is anticipating temporary effects which with implementation of the soil management plan, the correct reinstatement of soil horizons and drainage structures, the land is anticipated to recover to its original condition. Project (SLR) queried whether following other similar projects such as Triton Knoll, there have been any issues raised by landowners or feedback that the land is being effected or yields have differed and if soil management has been successful. The LCC confirmed that no feedback has been provided which suggested this has been an issue. |
| Human Health | | | | | |
| 4.1 Human Health Stakeholder questions | | | | | |
| 4.1.1 | | The LCC provided comment around the cumulative impacts raising the NSIP schemes in proximity to the Project included Boston Alternative Energy NSIP which a decision is due on Friday 14th October, however, this has been delayed. | | | |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| | | LCC also raised the Lincolnshire Green Project, discussion that this project is included in ongoing Project discussions around the grid connection. | | | |
| Noise and Vibration | | | | | |
| 5.1 Noise and Vibration Stakeholder Questions | | | | | |
| 5.1.1 | Noise Team confirmed that the feedback being provided from East Lindsay and South Holland Environmental Health Teams is a part of the scoping process, this will be circulated to them as part of the group of relevant stakeholders. | The LCC asked whether feedback being provided from East Lindsay and South Holland Environmental Health Teams? | | | ACTION: SLR to circulate the scoping document to all relevant stakeholders for approval outlining the proposed monitoring locations and assessment methodologies ensuring all the necessary stakeholders are asked to provide comment. |
| Air Quality | | | | | |
| 6.1 Air Quality Stakeholder questions | | | | | |
| 6.1.1 | Construction dust is one of the main considerations in terms of the construction phase. Part of the assessment process will help identify the relevant mitigation measures and they'll be recommended for inclusion in the Code of Construction Practice and aligned with the assessment outcomes. | The LCC queried whether dust from construction phase be considered? Also, will the relevant mitigation measures be implemented? | | | ACTION: Project team to send out the list of relevant representatives we have for the ETG calls to the County Council so they can confirm all relevant members are included in the next round of ETG discussions. |

1 ETG Round 3: January 2023 Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Noise & Health and Socio-economics ETG

[23/01/23, ETG Round Number 3, Initial Post Scoping Opinion]

ODOW Reference: Minutes –123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000364-01 Presentation – 123-ODO-CON-K-IP-000054-01

Invitees:

| Lincolnshire County Council | National Highways | South Holland District Council | Boston Council | Natural England | East Lindsey Council |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Present | Absent | Present. | Absent | Absent | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | South Holland District Council | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| Traffic and transport | | | | | |
| 1.1 Update and questions | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Project provided detailed updates including schedule and route selection options. | LCC added that they had no questions, the Project is progressing well and considering all the topics that they would want to be considered. • LCC suggested that the Project look at potential for additional damage to the highways from the construction. | No comments | No comments | Project confirmed both PRE and POST condition surveys are planned. |
| Air quality | | | | | |
| 2.1 Update and questions | | | | | |
| 2.1.1 | Project provided detailed updates about the methodology of air quality impacts assessment and asked if there were any questions | LCC explained they would be keen to stay involved and will provide any more public data that becomes available | No comments | No comments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project asked whether the Boston Borough council air quality areas have been considered? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project confirmed these have been considered and there has been contact to incorporate these into the assessments. |
| Noise and Vibration | | | | | |
| 3.1 Update and questions | | | | | |
| 3.1.1 | Project provided an overview of next steps and how the assessments and mitigations will be refined. Project asked should access to the remainder of locations be secured, | LCC explained that the monitoring locations have been previously agreed, noting that more advice would need to be sought. | No comments | No comments | No comments |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | South Holland District Council | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| | would these surveys be considered to be suitably thorough? | | | | |
| Socio-economics | | | | | |
| 4.1 Scope of assessment questions | | | | | |
| 4.1.1 | <p>Project shared the updates and asked for any questions. Updates included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overview of the guidance and approach used for; Economic impacts; Demographic and social impacts; and Tourism and recreation. • an overview of the embedded mitigation for socio-economic impacts. • an overview of the key data sources used for; Strategic; Socio-economic; and Tourism and recreation. | LCC queried on whether in the contracts awarded there will be support for training and apprentices? | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was confirmed that currently a procurement strategy is being developed. Local content is being investigated and the Project are looking to incorporate into supply chain to economically benefit the local region. As well as the requirements under CFD for local economic benefit. This process is trying to be accelerated so when the DCO is submitted the procurement process is developed further than historical projects. ○ It was also added that there have been meetings with local MPs to ensure that the Project is learning from lessons from previous projects in the area and ensuring the Project is evolving the process. |

1 ETG Round 4: March 2023 Air Quality, Noise, Health and Socio-Economics Expert Topic Group

[29/03/2023, ETG Round 4, Pre-PEIR]

ODOW Reference: Minutes – 123-ODO-CON-K-GM-000421-01 Presentation –123-ODO-CON-K-IP-000077-01

Invitees:

| Stakeholder | National Highways | Lincolnshire County Council | South Holland District Council | Boston Council | Natural England | East Lindsey Council |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Present/Absent | Present | Present | Absent | Absent | Absent | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | National Highways | Lincolnshire County Council | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|--|--|---|---|-------------------------|--|
| Traffic and Transport | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Update on route 1A, site visit, trip generation and PIER documents | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Project provided an update since the last ETG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtained ATC data and speed data for route 1A. Site visit looking at which routes might need interventions. Assessing trip generation. Finalising PEIR documents | Agree- National Highways believe that it appears there will be limited impact to the Strategic Road Network given the distance and numbers of vehicles. | No Comment | | | Action: CT (National Highways) has not attended previous ETG meetings, DM (project) to send CT numbers across to get her up to speed. |
| 1.1.2 | Project is minded to not conduct junction assessments at PEIR for the A16 - A52 roundabout, A16 - A158 junctions, and the A128 junctions as they are only marginally over the threshold. | No comment | Agree- Lincolnshire County Council does not foresee any problems with capacity and suggested that additional vehicles numbers at junctions be referred to in percentage terms. | | | |
| 1.1.3 | Project compared the baseline for HGV numbers with DfT data and applied a factor to lower the baseline. | No comment | Agreed with the approach | | | |

| ID | Agreement | National Highways | Lincolnshire County Council | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| 1.1.4 | Project has considered the impacts on seasonality on the baseline and will opt for a neutral month as worst-case scenario | No comment | Comment: Lincolnshire County Council flagged that the A158 through Horncastle gets very busy in August and advised that seasonality is addressed in the construction management plan. | | | |
| Air Quality | | | | | | |
| 2.1 Overview of Progress | | | | | | |
| 2.1.1 | Project gave updates on overview of progress including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to the study area and subsequent sensitive receptors • Inclusion of the alternative route in the PEIR chapter. • Preparation of specific air quality briefing note that provides more detail on the dispersion methodology, which is to be circulated to ETG members, local authorities and Natural England. | No comment | No comment | | | |
| 2.1.2 | Project gave a brief overview of the agreement log focusing attention on areas of non-agreement noting, however, that the relevant ETG members for air quality were not present on the call | No comment | No comment | | | |
| Noise and vibration | | | | | | |
| 3.1 Overview of Progress | | | | | | |
| 3.1.1 | Project provided an overview of noise and vibration progress including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of baseline monitoring | No comment | No comment | | | |

| ID | Agreement | National Highways | Lincolnshire County Council | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project flagged that ODOW has not received confirmation from the local authorities that the scope of monitoring is sufficient. | | | | | |
| 3.1.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project provided an overview of the agreement log focusing attention on areas of non-agreement. Project explained that an operational vibration assessment for the substation would not be necessary. He confirmed that this would instead be assessed qualitatively in the PEIR and may warrant further consultation. | No comment | No comment | | | |
| Human Health | | | | | | |
| 4.1 Update | | | | | | |
| 4.1.1 | <p>Project provided an overview of the agreement log focusing attention on areas of non-agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project is working towards ensuring that all electrical infrastructure is below the ICMRP Guidelines to mitigate EMF, however this will not be in time for PEIR. Cumulative effects of non-radiative impacts and extent of the study area for impacted populations will be discussed with the relevant stakeholders once the final export cable corridor and onshore substation sites are agreed. Issue ID's 14 and 16 have been updated to agreed. | No comment | No comment | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no human health stakeholders present on the call. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ODOW has reached out to Sean Johnson from Lincolnshire County Council, but he has been unable to attend the ETGs to date. |

| ID | Agreement | National Highways | Lincolnshire County Council | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|
| Socio Economics | | | | | | |
| 5.1 Update | | | | | | |
| 5.1.1 | Project provided an update on the socio-economic progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed assessment of economic impact Finalising tourism and recreation assessment for the PEIR | Agreed | Agreed | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All issues have been agreed for socio-economics, as such there was no need to run through the log. |
| AOB | | | | | | |
| 6.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No additional comments were raised by stakeholders. Agreement logs are to be recirculated with the minutes. | No comments | No comments | | | |

1 ETG Round 5: August 2023 Traffic and Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Health and Socio-Economics Expert Topic Group

[02/08/2023, ETG Round 5]

ODOW Reference: Minutes – PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0017 Presentation – PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-PRS-0022

Invitees:

| Stakeholder | Lincolnshire County Council | South Holland District Council | Boston Council | Natural England | East Lindsey Council |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Present/Absent | Present | Absent | Absent | Absent | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | Annex/ Document Reference (if applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
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| Traffic and Transport | | | | | |
| 1.1 Update after PIER | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | <p>Project provided an update on progress since PEIR including a detailed review of trip generation, construction vehicle access routes and construction accesses and haul road crossings.</p> <p>Project acknowledged that Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) approved the methodology used and advised that this could be refined further going forward.</p> <p>Project welcomed feedback on the decision to exclude junction capacity assessments, as they are perceived not to be required. No comments were provided during the ETG.</p> | No Comment | No Comment | No Comment | |
| Air Quality | | | | | |
| 2.1 Overview of Progress | | | | | |
| 2.1.1 | <p>Project asked for comments on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Feedback on whether a qualitative assessment of Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) emissions is sufficient. o Feedback on whether numerical screening of vessel movements is sufficient. | No comment | No comment | No Comments | No comments were received during the ETG. |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|---|---|---|-------------------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Commentary on the approach to assessment of the decommissioning phase. o Feedback on the use of publicly available datasets to establish the air quality baseline. | | | | |
| Noise and Vibration | | | | | |
| 3.1 Overview of Progress | | | | | |
| 3.1.1 | <p>Project sought clarification from ETG members that the noise rating limits set out in guidance and used for Triton Knoll are acceptable.</p> <p>Project also presented and responded to comments received during the S42 consultation relating to these topics</p> | No comment | No comment | No Comments | No comments were received during the ETG. |
| Human Health | | | | | |
| 4.1 Overview of Progress | | | | | |
| 4.1.1 | <p>Project sought comments on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The justification for certain elements of health being scoped out of the assessment. o Feedback on the decision to define and justify the extent of the Study Area in the ES, having agreed this with relevant consultation bodies. | LCC (SJ) reiterated that the HIA needs to be about opportunities to improve population health and wellbeing (e.g., improved rights of way network and/or accessible green space) as much as mitigating against possible adverse health effects. | No comment | No Comments | Project questioned whether this would come into the separate community benefit piece. |
| 4.1.2 | Continued from above. | LCC (SJ) advised that certain aspects of improvements should be sought as part of the HIA, following the extensive groundworks being undertaken and should this lead to opportunities to improve access etc. upon remediation. | | | Action: Project to consider any opportunities to improve the population's health and wellbeing within the HIA. |
| Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism | | | | | |
| 5.1 Overview of Progress | | | | | |
| 5.1.1 | <p>Project ODOW asked for comments on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Feedback on the inclusion of economic benefits associated with the onshore works in the ES. | No comment | No comment | No Comments | No comments were received during the ETG. |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|----|---|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | o Commentary on the inclusion of consideration of the relationship between accommodation providers and the onshore works in the ES. | | | | |

1 ETG Round 7: November 2023 Traffic and Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Health and Socio-Economics Expert Topic Group

[20/11/2023, ETG Round 7, Autumn Consultation]

ODOW Reference: Minutes – PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-MOM-0038 Presentation – PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-PRS-0046

Invitees:

| Stakeholder | Lincolnshire County Council | National Highways | South Holland District Council | Boston Council | Natural England | East Lindsey Council |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Present/Absent | Present | Present | Absent | Absent | Absent | Absent |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | National Highways | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Project Update | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Review | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Project asked LCC to review to review trip generation and passing bay information issued on Friday 10th November and respond to SLR's Transport consultants. | No comment | No comment | - | - | - |
| 1.1.2 | Project reminded stakeholders of the Projects order limits, including the location of the onshore substation at Surfleet Marsh and the 400kv cables that feed into the indicative search area for the National Grid substation (NGSS). | No comment | No comment | - | - | - |
| Traffic and Transport | | | | | | |
| 2.1 Overview of Progress | | | | | | |
| 2.1.1 | Project seeked agreement from National Highways regarding the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SRN was scoped out of assessment. A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) is being produced as per National Highway's requirement. ODOW have extrapolated out traffic from the study area towards where it would gravitate towards from the SRN. Peak and daily traffic number will be included in here rather than in the ES chapter. | No comment | Agreed | - | - | - |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | National Highways | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|--|---|--|-------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These numbers will be broken down into construction and staff vehicles. | | | | | |
| 2.1.2 | <p>Project asked for comments on the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cumulative assessment for traffic and transport. The cumulative short list is the same as PEIR (three residential developments and the Boston Alternative Energy Facility) with the addition of the NGSS. At present, the assessment of the NGSS is indicative. ODOW has adopted the trip generation data from the ODOW substation and assessed where that traffic might go, which will be the core access routes (A16 & A17). A narrative Assessment Approach has been undertaken for this which considers potential cumulative effects. | National Highways queried whether abnormal loads had been accounted for. | - | - | - | Project confirmed that they have. A series of swept path drawings will be included in the transport assessment and the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). |
| Temporary Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Diversions | | | | | | |
| 2.2.1 | <p>Project provided an update on impacts to PRoW.</p> <p>Refinement of the Onshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) has reduced the number of PRoWs impacted. There are three PRoW that go through proposed temporary construction compounds (TCCs), which would be diverted around the compounds or onto other PRoWs for the duration of construction. The proposed diversion distances are relatively small and will be considered in the assessment.</p> | LCC informed ODOW of the Council's appointment of Andrew Fletcher as PRoW Officer, whom will be issuing comments on the Project's PRoW approach. | No comment | No Comments | - | Project confirmed that Neil McBride will forward the finalised ETG slides on to Andrew Fletcher. Project also agreed to send a draft of the Public Access Management Plan (PAMP) to Neil McBride, which is to be forwarded on to Andrew Fletcher. |
| Human Health | | | | | | |
| 3.1 Overview of Progress | | | | | | |
| 3.1.1 | Project explained approach to CEA taken in the human health chapter. Other topics such as T&T, Noise, Air Quality and Land Use feed into the assessment, therefore the chapter will refer to the relevant cumulative effects in these chapters. | LCC questioned whether ODOW has identified opportunities for longer term health improvements gains, such as improvements to the PRoW network. | No comment | No Comments | No Comments | Project advised that this would not be considered as part of the ES but could be considered as part of the community benefit fund. LCC approved of this approach. |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | National Highways | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|---|---|--|-------------------|---|--|---|
| Noise and Vibration | | | | | | |
| 4.1 Update | | | | | | |
| 4.1.1 | <p>Project reiterated the approach to cumulative assessment for noise impacts.</p> <p>5 developments considered have been considered in terms of operational noise from the developments themselves. But also, where these development could be effected by construction noise from the Project.</p> | <p>LCC highlighted the sensitivity of the Anderby creek location, as a sensitive coastal country park. LCC also advised that the Council has secured an ecologist who will be looking at NSIPs in the county and will be considering the noise impact on those ecological receptors. Once the application is submitted, this will be looked at closely.</p> | No comment | No Comments | No Comments | <p>Post meeting: Project confirmed that residential receptors and ecologically designated sites have been included in the detailed modelling of landfall works.</p> |
| Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism | | | | | | |
| 5.1 Update | | | | | | |
| 5.1.1 | <p>Project gave a high-level explanation of the food security assessment methodology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment draws on a worst-case scenario, that along the corridor is exclusively used for growing vegetables. UK vegetable price and availability has relatively low sensitivity to changes in UK land use. | <p>LCC raised concerns about potential loss of agricultural land in the county across all current projects, particularly solar. LCC advised that 15,000 ha land is to be lost due to NSIP projects across the county (this does not include solar farms going down the Town and Country Planning Act route). While each scheme has relatively minor impact, cumulatively they have an impact.</p> <p>LCC acknowledged that under a worst-case scenario 30ha would be lost permanently, but raised the concern that there is a perception that once that land is restored down the cable corridor, the agricultural land quality is not restored to what it was. LCC asked for evidence that the land retains its agricultural value, either in Lincolnshire or other counties.</p> | No comment | No Comments | <p>It was also agreed that LCC will provide details on land take across other projects in the county to aid Project's cumulative assessment for impacts on the agricultural market</p> | <p>Project advised that these queries would be addressed by the land use team in the Onshore Ecology, Hydrology and Land Use ETG on 30th November. A broad assessment could be considered within the socio-economics chapter's cumulative assessment.</p> <p>Project requested details on the 15,000ha previously discussed to facilitate a match up to markets.</p> <p>It was also agreed that LCC will provide details on land take across other projects in the county to aid Project's cumulative assessment for impacts on the agricultural market</p> |

| ID | Agreement | Lincolnshire County Council | National Highways | Annex/ Document Reference (If applicable) | Notes from Stakeholders | Project Response/ Notes |
|-------|-----------|--|-------------------|---|-------------------------|--|
| AOB | | | | | | |
| 6.1.1 | | LCC queried whether construction would be carried out linearly or multiple sections constructed simultaneously | No comment | No Comments | | <p>Project advised that this would be determined principally by the contractors, however, it is dictated also by various factors including seasonal constraints, such a bird breeding seasons for example.</p> <p>Project further advised that a provisional construction programme will be assessed in relation to traffic movements in the transport assessment</p> <p>Project asked stakeholders whether they deemed an additional ETG in January necessary. Stakeholders were encouraged to reach out if they had any further thoughts on this</p> |