

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

(Draft) Statement of Common Ground with National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)

Date: October 2024
Document Reference: 18.15
Rev: Version 1

Company:	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind		Asset:	Whole Asset		
Project:	Whole Wind Farm		Sub Project/Package:			
Document Title or Description:	Statement of Common Ground with National Grid Electricity Transmission					
Document Number:	PP01-ODOW-DEV-CS-STA-002		3 rd Party Doc No (If applicable):	N/A		
Rev No.	Date	Status / Reason for Issue	Author	Checked by	Reviewed by	Approved by
0.1	01/05/24	Draft: Issue to NGET for comment	ODOW	ODOW	NGET	
0.2	25/09/24	Response to NGET comments	ODOW	ODOW	NGET	
1	03/10/24	Deadline 1	ODOW	ODOW	S&W	ODOW

Table of Contents

Abbreviations / Acronyms	4
Definitions	4
1 Introduction	5
1.1 The Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) Project	5
1.2 The purpose of this Statement of Common Ground (SOCG)	5
1.3 Topics addressed in this Statement of Common Ground (SOCG)	5
1.4 Identification of items agreed / not agreed / in discussion.	6
1.5 Consultation undertaken to date	6
2 Statement of Common Ground	10
2.1 Project Assessment.....	10
2.2 Plant protection and safety aspects	11
2.3 Weston Marsh Substation	12
Signatures	14

List of tables

Table 1 Topics included in this SOCG	6
Table 2 Colour coding of items	6
Table 3 Engagement with National Grid.....	7
Table 4 Project Assessment	10
Table 5 Plant protection and safety.....	11
Table 6 Weston Marsh Substation.....	12

Abbreviations / Acronyms

Abbreviation / Acronym	Description
CBA	Cost Benefit Analysis
CION	Connections and Infrastructure Options Note
EGL	Eastern Green Link
G2W	Grimsby to Walpole
GW	gigawatt
HND	Holistic Network Design
NGESO	National Grid Electricity System Operator Ltd
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
ODOW	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind
OnSS	Onshore substation

Definitions

Term	Definition
The Applicant	The Applicant is GTR4 Limited (a joint venture between Corio Generation and, TotalEnergies and Gulf Energy Development), trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind.
The Project	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, an offshore wind generating station together with associated onshore and offshore infrastructure being developed by GT Round 4 Ltd.

1 Introduction

1.1 The Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) Project

1. Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (“The Project”) is a proposed offshore windfarm, with an Array Area located approximately 33 miles (54 km) off the coast of Lincolnshire. The Project has a total installed capacity of 1.5 GW which is roughly equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of over 1.6 million UK households.
2. The Project includes the offshore and onshore infrastructure required to transmit the power generated by the wind turbines to an onshore substation (OnSS) at Surfleet Marsh and subsequently into the National Grid Transmission System at Weston Marsh - the grid connection point specified by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) - in its grid connection offer for the Project.

1.2 The purpose of this Statement of Common Ground (SOCG)

3. National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) owns and operates the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. There will be an interface between the Project and NGET at locations where the Project intersects with existing NGET apparatus and where the Project’s grid connection will be made into a new substation that NGET proposes constructing at Weston Marsh. There may be interfaces between the Project and the Grimsby to Walpole Project at locations other than Weston Marsh. There may also be interfaces between the Project and EGL 3 and 4, north of the River Welland. It is possible that the Project and the G2W and EGL 3 and 4 projects could be under construction at the same time and so cooperation between the projects will be required in order that programs are coordinated.
4. The Applicant has accepted a grid connection offer for the Project for a connection at Weston Marsh.
5. This SOCG has been prepared by the Applicant and National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET). It identifies topics that are relevant to NGET’s statutory role and its assets and states whether relevant matters are agreed, not agreed or still in discussion.
6. The SOCG has been prepared with due regard to the Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2024).

1.3 Topics addressed in this Statement of Common Ground (SOCG)

7. Table 1 sets out the matters addressed by the SOCG between the Applicant and NGET, which relate to NGET’s statutory undertaking. The topics referred to are referenced against the relevant chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES), or other DCO application plans or documents.

Table 1 Topics included in this SOCG

Topic	Application Documents (Application numbers)
Project Assessment	ES Chapter 4 Site Selection and Alternatives (APP-059) Onshore Cumulative Effects Approach (APP-148)
The protection of NGET’s existing plant and apparatus	ES Project Description: Crossing Schedule (PD1-034) DCO Crossings Plans (PD1-0211) Outline Code of Construction Practice (PD1-038) Draft Development Consent Order (PD1-024AS1-024)
The protection of NGET’s proposed works and/or apparatus	N/A
Weston Marsh Substation	ES Chapter 4 Selection and Alternatives (APP-059) DCO Works Plan (PD1-004) ES Chapter 3 Project Description (APP-058)

1.4 Identification of items agreed / not agreed / in discussion.

8. This SOCG identifies the topics that are relevant to NGET and identifies them as agreed, not agreed or in discussion and uses a colour coding system. The system used throughout this document is summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Colour coding of items

Classification	Meaning
Agreed	Agreement has been reached between the parties
In discussion	This matter has not been ‘agreed’ or ‘not agreed’ but discussions are continuing, or information is to be provided with the intention of reaching agreement.
Not agreed (No material impact)	This matter has not been agreed, but discussions have been concluded and it is considered that it does not have a material impact upon the conclusions of the assessment.
Not Agreed	This matter has not been agreed, but discussions have been concluded. It is considered that it does have a material impact upon the conclusions of the assessment.

1.5 Consultation undertaken to date

9. Table 3 sets out the meetings held with NGET (the transmission system owner) and / or members of the Grimsby to Walpole (G2W) and Eastern Green Link (EGL) projects, to date and the key discussion points, following the acceptance of the Grid Connection offer. The Project has been engaging with NGET regarding grid connection options since 2021.

10. The Applicant currently has a monthly meeting with NGET, in particular the G2W and EGL project team members as required.
11. NGET have taken a lead to initiate the Lincolnshire Energy Projects Forum, which will encourage the major energy (and waste) projects in Lincolnshire to collaborate, coordinate and discuss opportunities to minimise cumulative impacts across the region. This forum will commence in October 2024 and has a working Terms of Reference and ODOW are part of this forum, with both G2W and EGL being represented from NGET.

Table 3 Engagement with National Grid

Consultee (NGET Project team)	Engagement Date	Topic	Key discussion points
Lincolnshire Green project (predecessor of G2W)	24/05/2022	Project introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview, drivers and status of Lincolnshire Green project. Substation siting methodology
Lincolnshire Green project	21/07/2022	Holistic Network Design (HND) outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HND recommendations presented to ODOW. Status update from Lincolnshire Green team.
Lincolnshire Green project	14/10/2022	HND outcome update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status update on impact assessment of HND recommendations on Lincolnshire Green.
Lincolnshire Green project	17/11/2022	HND outcome update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lincolnshire Coastal Node design update Update on status of NGET system studies. NGET contracting and delivery strategy.
Lincolnshire Green project	22/12/2022	Status update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lincolnshire Green status update ASTI impact
Customer Connections	20/01/2023	Post HND Connection Infrastructure Options Note (CION)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGET system studies update
Customer Connections	27/04/2023	Post HND CION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBA update

Consultee (NGET Project team)	Engagement Date	Topic	Key discussion points
G2W	15/05/2023	Project interface management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team introductions and overview of NGET (G2W) and ODOW development activities and planned activities.
G2W	07/08/2023	Project interface management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGET G2W project and ODOW project status updates Public engagement and landowner engagement Consenting interfaces including cumulative impact assessment. Technical interfaces including colocation of underground cables. Weston Marsh site selection.
G2W	22/08/2023	Technical Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical parameters including alignment of permanent and temporary works, traffic and access, site selection methodology, interface arrangements, programs
G2W	19/09/2023	Technical Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above
G2W	01/11/2023	Technical collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above, plus parameters for cumulative assessment and public consultation FAQs
G2W	01/12/2023	Technical and consenting collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above, plus survey data sharing, consultation feedback, Statement of Common Ground and communications plans.
G2W	28/02/2023	Technical and consenting collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interfaces between the Project and G2W
EGL	13/05/2024	EGL update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EGL Non-statutory consultations EGL / the Project interfaces EGL / the Project construction programs
G2W	20/05/2024	Monthly - Technical and consenting collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data sharing Technical interface
G2W	24/06/2024	Monthly - Technical and consenting collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data sharing Data sharing Project updates Interfaces

Consultee (NGET Project team)	Engagement Date	Topic	Key discussion points
G2W	11/09/2024	Monthly - Technical and consenting collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project updates

2 Statement of Common Ground

2.1 Project Assessment

12. The following aspects relate to the Project, how it has been developed and how it has engaged with NGET/G2W during the development phase.

Table 4 Project Assessment

ID	ODOW Position	NGET Position	Status
<i>ODOW Onshore Substation Location</i>			
NGET1	The proposed 'Grid Connection Area' and Onshore Substation site adopted by the project are consistent with the Project's connection agreement offer and NGET's development plans for a new National Grid substation at Weston Marsh as part of the G2W project.		Agreed
<i>ODOW Grid Connection Area</i>			
NGET2	The area selected for the Project's underground cable circuits and associated works between the onshore substation and a National Grid substation, shown as Work No. 17 on the Onshore Works Plans (PD1-004) is appropriately located and in alignment with NGET's development plans for a new National Grid substation at Weston Marsh to connect the Project to the National Grid.		Agreed
<i>Cumulative environmental impact assessment parameters</i>			
NGET3	The indicative assumptions set out in table 5.3 of the Onshore Cumulative Effects Assessment Approach (APP-148) regarding the proposed NGET development of a new National Grid Substation at Weston Marsh are reasonable assumptions for the purposes of cumulative assessment, given that NGET's proposals are at an early stage of development.	This can be closed out further toward the end of examination, when all assessment has been finalised.	In discussion

2.2 Plant protection and safety aspects

13. The following topics relate to NGET’s existing apparatus, it’s safety and the safety of those carrying out the Project in close proximity to it.

Table 5 Plant protection and safety

ID	ODOW Position	NGET Position	Status
<i>Plant protection and safety</i>			
NGET4	NGET has provided the Applicant with safety information in its Section 42 consultation response, including the relevant guidance in relation to working safely near to existing overhead lines contained within the Health and Safety Executive’s (www.hse.gov.uk) Guidance Note GS 6 “Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Lines” which the Applicant has incorporated into the outline Code of Construction Practice [PD1-038]		Agreed
<i>Protective Provision</i>			
NGET5	The Applicant has received NGET’s standard protective provisions. Following the submission of NGET’s Relevant Representation, a revised version which included provisions for the protection of NGET’s G2W and EGL 3 and 4 projects was provided by NGET. Discussions are continuing to finalise these for inclusion in the draft DCO (PD1-024) Schedule 18. The Applicant is engaging with NGET regarding the provisions that need to be included in the protective provisions, and clarifications regarding the requested protection for future projects.	NGET has provided the Applicant with its required Protective Provisions, which include protection for the G2W and EGL 3 and 4 projects. Discussions are continuing and NGET will seek to agree the Protective Provisions with the Applicant.	In discussion

2.3 Weston Marsh Substation

14. The following aspects relate to the grid connection at the substation that NGET intends to build at Weston Marsh.

Table 6 Weston Marsh Substation

ID	Current Position	NGET Position	Status
<i>NGET's Infrastructure Consenting Strategy</i>			
NGET6	NGET will consent and build its own infrastructure with the Project 400kV cables connecting to the new NGET substation.		Agreed
<i>No conflict</i>			
NGET7	The connection area included in the DCO application allows flexibility for cable routes to align with the location of the proposed NGET substation. ODOW will only seek to use the necessary rights within this area once the NGET plans are developed and shared with ODOW.	NGET proposes that the Protective Provisions contain a clear framework for co-ordination between the Applicant and NGET, and to minimise any conflict between their respective projects.	In discussion
<i>Land rights</i>			
NGET8	The Applicant is applying for CPO powers and will be making voluntary agreements with landowners within the area which may overlap with NGET's future proposals. In negotiating the terms of those voluntary agreements, ODOW has included provision for the option agreement to, upon NGET's substation being granted planning consent, fall away if the land is not required or reduced if only part of the option area is required. Both parties agree to act reasonably in relation to the other party's land requirements.	NGET proposes that the Protective Provisions include requirements for the Applicant to use reasonable endeavours to avoid any conflict between the carrying out, maintenance and operation of the Project and G2W / EGL 3 and 4. This would include consulting with NGET in relation to design facilitating a co-ordinated approach to land assembly.	In discussion
<i>Co-operation</i>			
NGET9	The Applicant, G2W and EGL 3 and 4 project teams will share with each other construction information prior to commencement of construction and on a regular basis	NGET proposes that the Protective Provisions include requirements for the Applicant to use reasonable endeavours to avoid any conflict between the carrying	In discussion

ID	Current Position	NGET Position	Status
	thereafter. The Applicant and G2W and EGL 3 and 4 will engage with each other during the design and construction of their respective works in order that any interface between the works can be considered at an early stage.	out, maintenance and operation of the Project and G2W / EGL 3 and 4. This would include consulting with NGET in relation to design and construction, and facilitating a co-ordinated approach to construction programming.	

Signatures

The above statement of common ground has been prepared by Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind and NGET and is agreed on the date below.

Signed for NGET	
Name	Tiffany Bate
Position	Development Liaison Officer
Date	
Duly authorised for and on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission	

Signed for the Applicant	
Name	Chris Jenner
Position	Development Manager
Date	
Duly authorised for and on behalf of the Applicant	