

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

(Draft) Statement of Common Ground with Chamber of Shipping

Deadline 1

Date: October 2024

Document Reference: 18.16

Rev: 1.0

Company:		Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind		Asset:		Whole Asset	
Project:		Whole Wind Farm		Sub Project/Package:		Whole Asset	
Document Title or Description:		Statement of Common Ground with Chamber of Shipping					
Internal Document Number:		PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-STA-0040		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	October 2024	Draft for CoS Review	GoBe/ Anatec	Outer Dowsing	Shepherd & Wedderburn	Outer Dowsing	
1.0	October 2024	Deadline 1 Issue	GoBe/ Anatec	Outer Dowsing	Shepherd & Wedderburn	Outer Dowsing	

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Acronyms & Definitions

Abbreviations / Acronyms

Abbreviation / Acronym	Description
CoS	Chamber of Shipping
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ECC	Export Cable Corridor (offshore ECC or indicative onshore ECC)
ES	Environmental Statement
GT R4 Limited	GT R4 or GT R4 Limited, the incorporated joint venture development Co.
GW	Gigawatt
MGN	Marine Guidance Note
NRA	Navigational Risk Assessment
ODOW	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, trading name of GT R4 Limited
ORBA	Offshore Restricted Build Area
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
UK	United Kingdom
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground

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 (and its affiliates), Total Energies and Gulf Energy Development (GULF)), trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind. The Project is being developed by Corio Generation, TotalEnergies and GULF.
Array Area	The area offshore within which the generating station (including wind turbine generators (WTG) and inter array cables), offshore accommodation platforms, offshore transformer substations and associated cabling will be positioned.
Baseline	The status of the environment at the time of assessment without the development in place.
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.
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).

Term	Definition
Environmental Statement (ES)	The suite of documents that detail the processes and results of the EIA.
Export Cables	High voltage cables which transmit power from the Offshore Substations (OSS) to the Onshore Substation (OnSS) via an Offshore Reactive Compensation Platform (ORCP) if required, which may include one or more auxiliary cables (normally fibre optic cables).
Impact	An impact to the receiving environment is defined as any change to its baseline condition, either adverse or beneficial.
Landfall	The location at the land-sea interface where the offshore export cables and fibre optic cables will come ashore.
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.
Offshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC)	The Offshore Export Cable Corridor (Offshore ECC) is the area within the Order Limits within which the export cables running from the array to landfall will be situated.
Offshore Reactive Compensation Platform (ORCP)	A structure attached to the seabed by means of a foundation, with one or more decks and a helicopter platform (including bird deterrents) housing electrical reactors and switchgear for the purpose of the efficient transfer of power in the course of HVAC transmission by providing reactive compensation
Offshore Substation (OSS)	A structure attached to the seabed by means of a foundation, with one or more decks and a helicopter platform (including bird deterrents), containing— (a) electrical equipment required to switch, transform, convert electricity generated at the wind turbine generators to a higher voltage and provide reactive power compensation; and (b) housing accommodation, storage, workshop auxiliary equipment, radar and facilities for operating, maintaining and controlling the substation or wind turbine generators
Onshore Substation (OnSS)	The Project's onshore HVAC substation, containing electrical equipment, control buildings, lightning protection masts, communications masts, access, fencing and other associated equipment, structures or buildings; to enable connection to the National Grid
Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW)	The Project
Order Limits	The area subject to the application for development consent, the limits shown on the works plans within which the Project may be carried out.
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PIER)	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.

Term	Definition
The Project	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, an offshore wind generating station together with associated onshore and offshore infrastructure.
Receptor	A distinct part of the environment on which effects could occur and can be the subject of specific assessments. Examples of receptors include species (or groups) of animals or plants, people (often categorised further such as ‘residential’ or those using areas for amenity or recreation), watercourses etc.
Statement of Common Ground	A statement of common ground is a written statement produced jointly between The Applicant and another Interested Party setting out the areas of agreement and /or disagreement between parties.
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.
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, fenders and maintenance equipment, helicopter landing facilities and other associated equipment, fixed to a foundation.

Reference Documentation

Document Number	Title
APP-070	Chapter 15 Shipping and Navigation
APP-071	Navigation Risk Assessment (NRA)
PD1-081	Environmental Report for the Offshore Restricted Build Area (ORBA) and Revision to the Offshore Export Cable Corridor
PD1-090	Review of Offshore Restricted Build Area Impact on Shipping Displacement and Collision Risk

1 Introduction

1.1 Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW)

1. Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind ('The Project') is a proposed offshore windfarm comprising both offshore and onshore infrastructure, including an offshore generation station (windfarm) located approximately 54km from the Lincolnshire coastline, export cables to landfall, onshore cables, connection to the electricity transmission network and ancillary and associated development.
2. The Project will have a total installed capacity of 1.5GW which is roughly equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of over 1.6 million UK households.

1.2 Purpose of this Statement of Common Ground (SoCG)

3. The UK Chamber of Shipping (CoS) is the trade association representing the UK shipping industry.
4. This SoCG has been prepared by the Applicant and CoS to identify topics that are relevant to CoS' remit and state whether relevant matters are agreed, not agreed or still in discussion. If relevant, where matters are not agreed, an explanation is provided as to whether these matters are of consequence or not.
5. This SoCG has been prepared with due regard to the Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (2024).

1.3 Consultation

6. The Applicant has engaged with CoS during the pre-application process, through statutory consultation carried out under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 and bilateral engagement.
7. During the Phase 2 consultation held by the Applicant in June/July 2023 CoS provided comments on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).
8. Table 1 sets out a summary of the bilateral consultation undertaken during the pre-application process.

Table 1: Summary of Consultation undertaken pre-application

Date of Engagement	Engagement	Topic
2 nd of June 2021	Meeting	Shipping and Navigation
16 th of August 2022	Meeting	Shipping and Navigation
7 th of September 2023	Meeting	Shipping and Navigation

1.4 Topics addressed in this Statement of Common Ground

9. Table 2 sets out the topics addressed in this SoCG. The topics referred to are referenced against the relevant chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) or other DCO application plans and documents.

Table 2: Topics Included in this SoCG

Topic	Application Documents and references
Shipping and Navigation	Chapter 15 Shipping and Navigation (APP-070) Navigation Risk Assessment (NRA) (APP-171)

1.5 Identification of items agreed/not agreed/in discussion

10. This SoCG sets out the relevant topics and identifies them as agreed, not agreed or in discussion using a colour coding system. The colour coding system used throughout the document is summarised in Table 3.

Table 3: Colour coding system

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	This matter has not been agreed and discussions are not currently on-going.

2 Statement of Common Ground

2.1 Shipping and Navigation

11. The Applicant has assessed the potential impacts of the Project on Shipping and Navigation during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases within Chapter 15 Shipping and Navigation of the ES (APP-070) and the NRA (APP-171), as supplemented by the Environmental Report for the Offshore Restricted Build Area (ORBA) and Revision to the Offshore Export Cable Corridor (PD1-081) and Review of Offshore Restricted Build Area Impact on Shipping Displacement and Collision Risk (PD1-090) .

12. Table 4 sets out areas of agreement (common ground), areas where discussions are ongoing and areas where it has not been possible to reach agreement and discussions are no longer being pursued relating to shipping and navigation.

Table 4: Areas of common ground relating to shipping and navigation

Ref	ODOW Position	CoS Position	Status
Baseline			
CoS1	The description of baseline conditions in terms of shipping and navigation presented in the ES (APP-070), NRA (APP-171), Environmental Report for the Offshore Restricted Build Area and Revision to the Offshore Export Cable Corridor (PD1-081) and Review of Offshore Restricted Build Area Impact on Shipping Displacement and Collision Risk (PD1-090) is accurate and adequately captures all relevant aspects.	Agreed	Agreed
CoS2	The vessel traffic survey data collection is as per Marine Guidance Note (MGN) 654 and is therefore suitable for the assessment in the ES (APP-070) and NRA (APP-171).	Agreed	Agreed

Ref	ODOW Position	CoS Position	Status
CoS3	The vessel traffic survey data collection is as per MGN 654 and is therefore suitable for the assessment in the Environmental Report for the Offshore Restricted Build Area and Revision to the Offshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) (PD1-081) and Review of Offshore Restricted Build Area (OBRA) Impact on Shipping Displacement and Collision Risk (PD1-090).	Agreed	Agreed
CoS4	The approach to the assessment is deemed appropriate for the purposes of predicting changes to the baseline that has been established for shipping and navigation within the ES (APP-070) and NRA (APP-171).	Agreed	Agreed
Consultation			
CoS5	CoS has been adequately consulted on shipping and navigation and is content with the approach and outcomes of the consultation process.	Agreed	Agreed
CoS6	Consultation requirements of MGN 654 have been met as detailed in the ES (APP-070) and NRA (APP-171)	Agreed	Agreed
CoS7	The CoS is content that comments raised in their statutory consultation response under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 on the information contained in the PEIR have all been addressed or means to address are secured. In particular, the comments on the northern and western boundaries have been addressed via the significant amendments to the array area made post PEIR (as detailed in Chapter 4 Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives (APP-059)), noting any residual impact is further reduced by the introduction of the ORBA.	Agreed – the Chamber welcomes the changes to the boundaries introduced.	Agreed

Ref	ODOW Position	CoS Position	Status
CoS8	The introduction of the ORBA and the revision of the offshore export cable corridor (as detailed in PD1-081) are both positive developments from a shipping and navigation perspective.	Agreed – positive both in terms of reducing risk and decreasing deviation of commercial vessel routing.	Agreed
Assessment and Methodology			
CoS9	The potential hazards (impacts) identified in the ES (APP-070) and NRA (APP-171) adequately capture the potential effects on shipping and navigation.	Agreed	Agreed
CoS10	Appropriate legislation, planning policy and guidance relevant to shipping and navigation receptors has been taken into consideration.	Agreed	Agreed
CoS11	Based on the information provided within the ES Chapter (APP-070) and NRA (APP-171) it is agreed that all in isolation hazards (impacts) identified are broadly acceptable or tolerable (not significant in EIA terms) with the mitigation measures and required monitoring in place.	Agreed	Agreed
CoS12	Based on the information provided within the ES Chapter (APP-070) and NRA (APP-171) it is agreed that all cumulative hazards (impacts) identified are broadly acceptable or tolerable (not significant in EIA terms) with the mitigation measures and required monitoring in place.	Agreed	Agreed
Decommissioning			
CoS13	The Project will be decommissioned in line with a decommissioning plan under the Energy Act 2004 and any requirements of The Crown Estate. The draft DCO (AS1-024) includes the requirement for a decommissioning programme to be approved prior to the commencement of construction.	Agreed – the Chamber strongly advocates for the full removal of all infrastructure and cabling to enable as unrestricted as possible future seabed use.	Agreed

3 Signatures

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

Signed for the Chamber of Shipping	
Name	
Position	
Date	
Duly authorised for and on behalf of the Chamber of Shipping	

Signed for Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind	
Name	
Position	
Date	
Duly authorised for and on behalf of Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind	

References

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2024) Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent.