

# Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

## (Draft) Statement of Common Ground with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Deadline 1

Date: October 2024

Document Reference 18.19

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 the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)					
Internal Document Number:		PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-STA-0032		3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 RSPB Review	GoBe/ SLR	Outer Dowsing	Shepherd & Wedderburn	Outer Dowsing	
1.0	October 2024	Deadline 1 Issue	GoBe/ SLR	Outer Dowsing	Shepherd & Wedderburn	Outer Dowsing	

## Table of Contents

Acronyms & Definitions .....	3
Abbreviations / Acronyms.....	3
Terminology .....	4
1 Introduction.....	7
1.1 Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW).....	7
1.2 Purpose of this Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) .....	7
1.3 Consultation .....	7
1.4 Topics addressed in this Statement of Common Ground.....	8
1.5 Identification of items agreed/not agreed/in discussion .....	9
2 Statement of Common Ground .....	10
2.1 Offshore Ornithology .....	10
2.2 Onshore Ornithology .....	12
2.3 Derogation and Compensation .....	15
2.4 Biodiversity Net Gain .....	21
3 Signatures .....	22
References .....	23

## Table of Tables

Table 1: Summary of consultation with the RSPB .....	8
Table 2: Topics Included in this SoCG .....	8
Table 3: Colour coding system .....	9
Table 4: Offshore ornithology.....	10
Table 5: Onshore ornithology .....	13
Table 6: Derogation and Compensation .....	15
Table 7: Biodiversity Net Gain.....	21

## Acronyms & Definitions

### Abbreviations / Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
AEoI	Adverse Effect on Integrity
ANS	Artificial Nesting Structure
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
DAS	Digital Aerial Survey
DCO	Development Consent Order
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
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
ECC	Export Cable Corridor
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
FFC SPA	Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Protected Area
GT R4 Limited	GT R4 or GT R4 Limited, the incorporated joint venture development Co.
GW	Gigawatt
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
KSCP	Kittiwake Strategic Compensation Plan
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NE	Natural England
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
ODOW	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, trading name of GT R4 Limited
OLEMS	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy
ORBA	Offshore Restricted Build Area
ORCP	Offshore Reactive Compensation Platform
OSS	Offshore Substation
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Impact Report
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SNCB	Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SPA	Special Protection Area
TCE	The Crown Estate

Acronym	Meaning
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 (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.
Environmental Statement	The suite of documents that detail the processes and results of the EIA.
The Project	Refers to the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Project
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.
BNG	An approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a measurably improved state than it was previously. Where a development has an impact on biodiversity, developers are encouraged to provide an increase in appropriate natural habitat and ecological features over and above that being affected, to ensure that the current loss of biodiversity through development will be halted and ecological networks can be restored.
Cumulative effects	The combined effect of the Project acting additively with the effects of other developments, on the same single receptor/resource.
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 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).

Term	Definition
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.
Intertidal	The area between Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) and Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS)
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 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
Onshore Infrastructure	The combined name for all onshore infrastructure associated with the Project from landfall to grid connection.
Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW)	The Project.
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	The PEIR was written in the style of a draft Environmental Statement (ES) and provided information to support and inform the statutory consultation process during the pre-application phase.
The Project	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, an offshore wind 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

Term	Definition
	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.
Strategic Compensation	Collaborative approach by developers and/or government departments to secure compensation for adverse effects on the conservation objectives of a Marine Protected Area.
Trenchless technique	Trenchless technology is an underground construction method of installing, repairing and renewing underground pipes, ducts and cables using techniques which minimize or eliminate the need for excavation. Trenchless technologies involve methods of new pipe installation with minimum surface and environmental disruptions. These techniques may include Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), thrust boring, auger boring, and pipe ramming, which allow ducts to be installed under an obstruction without breaking open the ground and digging a trench.
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

# 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, Offshore Reactive Compensation Platforms (ORCPs), onshore cables, connection to the electricity transmission network, ancillary and associated development and areas for the delivery of up to two Artificial Nesting Structures (ANS) and the creation of a biogenic reef (if these compensation measures are deemed to be required by the Secretary of State).
2. The Project will have a total installed capacity of 1.5GW which is roughly equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of over 1.6million UK households.

## 1.2 Purpose of this Statement of Common Ground (SoCG)

3. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds ('RSPB') are a conservation charity working to protect birds and wildlife.
4. This SoCG has been prepared by the Applicant and the RSPB to identify topics that are relevant to the RSPB 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 the RSPB through bilateral engagement, formal consultation undertaken under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act), and participation in the Offshore Ornithology and Derogation and Compensation, and Onshore Ecology, Hydrology, Geology & Ground Conditions and Land Use Expert Topic Groups (ETGs) convened as part of the Evidence Plan Process (EPP).
7. During the Phase 2 consultation held by the Applicant in June/July 2023, the RSPB provided comments on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which in addition to the Relevant Representations submitted to the Planning Inspectorate has provided the basis for this SoCG.
8. Additionally, the Applicant engaged in a number of meetings with the RSPB to understand more about their Landscape Recovery Project 'The Greater Frampton Vision' (one of a range of schemes to support landowners and managers to deliver projects that restore nature, reduce flood risk and increase biodiversity) and how they can support and contribute to it.



9. Details of the Applicant’s engagement with the RSPB are set out in the Consultation Report (AS1-034) and, Chapter 14 Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology (AS1-040) and Chapter 22 Onshore Ornithology (document reference APP-077 ) and summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of consultation with the RSPB

Engagement Date	Topic	Key Discussion Points
March 2023	Teams Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 1a consultation and introduction</li> </ul>
October 2023	On Site In person meeting - The Greater Frampton Vision project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Greater Frampton Vision project and opportunities for the Project to support and contribute to it.</li> <li>Discussions in relation to the project’s reinstatement of the impacted area in line with the Frampton Vision.</li> </ul>
November 2023	Teams Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SW Auks Measures</li> </ul>
December 2023	Teams Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principles of the MoU</li> </ul>
August 2024	Teams Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion relating to the potential of the Lincolnshire Wash Landscape Recovery project to provide opportunities for habitat creation and/or enhancement appropriate for biodiversity compensation for the ODOW project.</li> </ul>

## 1.4 Topics addressed in this Statement of Common Ground

10. 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), Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) or other DCO application plans and documents.

Table 2: Topics Included in this SoCG

Topic	Application Documents and references
Offshore Ornithology	Chapter 12 Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology (document reference AS1-040)
Onshore Ornithology	Chapter 22 Onshore Ornithology (document reference APP-077)
Derogation and Compensation	RIAA (AS1-095 and AS1-097)
Offshore Ornithology	Environmental Report for the Offshore Restricted Build Area and revision to the Offshore Export Cable Corridor (PD1-081)

## 1.5 Identification of items agreed/not agreed/in discussion

11. 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 (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.

## 2 Statement of Common Ground

### 2.1 Offshore Ornithology

- 12. The Applicant has considered the potential impacts of the Project seaward of MHWS on intertidal and offshore ornithology during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases as outlined in Chapter 12 Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology of the ES (AS1-040).
- 13. An Offshore Ornithology and Derogation & Compensation panel was convened as part of the EPP. Minutes of the meetings held as part of the EPP can be found in Appendix 5.1.15 of the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Project’s application for development consent (document reference APP-052).
- 14. These impacts have been quantified and impacts assessed within the RIAA submitted as part of the DCO application (AS1-095).

Table 4: Offshore ornithology

Ref	ODOW Position	RSPB Position	Status
RSPB1	<p>The Applicant believes that adequate consideration has been given to the potential influence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) within the assessments.</p> <p>Within the Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology Technical Baseline [AS1-064], the Applicant has included a review of seabird densities across the southern North Sea Prior to the HPAI outbreak to evidence that the baseline surveys are representative of the at sea population pre-HPAI. Therefore, no change needs be made to the results of the Digital Aerial Surveys (DAS) as a result of HPAI.</p>		

Ref	ODOW Position	RSPB Position	Status
	<p>In addition, the assessment has been undertaken using a precautionary approach to HPAI. The impacts have been estimated from at sea populations measured pre-HPAI (i.e. presumably larger populations), and assessed against recent population counts at Special Protection Areas (SPAs) post-HPAI (i.e. populations impacted by HPAI). For any populations that have been impacted by HPAI, this provides a precautionary assessment.</p>		
RSPB2	<p>The Applicant considers the methodology for the apportioning as set out within Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology Apportioning [APP-237] at Application and retained within AS1-099, is appropriate.</p>		
RSPB3	<p>The Applicant considers that the survey of breeding kittiwake on offshore platforms (annex D of Chapter 12 Appendix 1 Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology Technical Baseline [AS1-064]) is suitable to inform the apportioning to offshore populations.</p>		
RSPB4	<p>The Applicant considers the DAS surveys are robust and inform the baseline. The surveys undertaken exceed the requirements as set out within Natural England’s guidance for characterisation surveys (Offshore Wind Marine Environmental Assessments: Best Practice Advice for Evidence and Data Standards. Phase I: Expectations for pre-application baseline data for designated nature conservation and landscape receptors to support offshore wind applications. Natural England, 2024).</p>		
RSPB5	<p>The Applicant has assessed the effects on Sandwich tern to be negligible (fewer than 0.4 birds predicted to be impacted by the Project per annum following the Natural England approach) and</p>		

Ref	ODOW Position	RSPB Position	Status
	that the Project would consequently make no material contribution to any in-combination impact.		
RSPB6	The Applicant considers that their approach includes consideration of existing or planned compensation measures, and that compensated impacts should not be included in in-combination assessments as the impact from the relevant Project delivering compensation will be fully compensated for (i.e. the impact from that project will consequently be zero). This approach is considered to be conservative on the basis that compensation for all relevant projects requires overcompensation and therefore it is likely that more birds will be produced than are impacted.		
RSPB7	The Applicant considers that the macro avoidance rates for gannet are appropriate and are in line with advice received from Natural England through the statutory consultation ETG process on 20th November 2023 [AS1-040], as well as recently published SNCB guidance on the modelling of collision risk (JNCC <i>et al.</i> , 2024).		

## 2.2 Onshore Ornithology

15. The Applicant has considered the potential impacts of the Project landward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) on onshore ornithology during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases as outlined in Chapter 22 Onshore Ornithology of the ES (document reference APP-077). Potential impacts to birds arising from works taking place in the offshore environment (below MHWS) are covered in Chapter 12: Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology (AS1-040).

Table 5: Onshore ornithology

Ref	ODOW Position	RSPB Position	Status
RSPB8	<p>The Applicant has taken into consideration the RSPB reserves at Frampton Marsh and Freiston Shore during the design process to ensure that these sites are avoided and where possible effects on the reserves and the Landscape Recovery Project are reduced as far as practicable.</p> <p>Section 3.8.3 of the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (OLEMS) (PD1-054) sets out how mitigation may be realigned to accommodate RSPB’s plans for the area or where those habitats have functionality for protected species, the habitat would be reinstated and enhanced. The measures contained within the OLEMS are considered sufficient.</p>		
RSPB9	<p>Impact on The Wash Special Protection Area/Ramsar site and the Greater Wash SPA, including functionally-linked land.</p> <p>The Applicant welcomes the RSPB’s engagement with the information provided with the application in relation to onshore ornithology (APP-077, APP-200-208 and APP-236) and their statement in RR-056 that they have no further concerns in relation to this aspect of the Project, subject to review of the additional data from March and April 2024. These data have since been submitted, as part of the response to Section 51 advice, and are presented in document reference AS1-108. This document concludes that, following review of the data from the season two surveys, the assessment of significant effects in the EIA and the conclusion on adverse effects on site integrity in the RIAA, in relation to onshore ornithology, have not changed.</p>		

Ref	ODOW Position	RSPB Position	Status
RSPB10	<p>Impacts on the RSPB’s Frampton Marsh and Freiston Shore reserves. The RSPB raised a concern in relation to the potential for the construction of the cable route to affect the mains water supply to the RSPB Frampton Marsh reserve, as the route of the cable, and the works access route, crosses the pipe carrying the water supply. The Applicant welcomes the engagement to date and continued engagement with the RSPB on this matter. The Applicant understands that the water supply pipe for RSPB Frampton Marsh Reserve is located along the north side of Wyberton Roads. As can be seen on the Crossing Schedule (APP-143), all assets in this part of the Order Limits will be crossed using trenchless techniques. It is likely that the pipeline will be crossed by the Project’s access track at AC-40, where the access enters the field to the north of Wyberton Road (APP-089, Figure 3.4.41). If the RSPB can provide the applicant with an as-built plan of the pipeline, it will be added to the crossing plan and schedule.</p>		
RSPB11	<p>Impact on the Lincolnshire Wash Landscape Recovery Project.</p> <p>The onshore Order Limits pass through the Landscape Recovery Project area. The Applicant commits to engaging with the RSPB regarding reinstatement of habitats within the Greater Frampton Vision area in the event that the DCO is granted and the Lincolnshire Wash Landscape Recovery Project secures long term funding, as outlined in Section 3.8.3 of the OLEMS (AS1-103). The Project remains committed to reinstating all habitats post-project, but the location of some of these may be altered based on continued stakeholder engagement in relation to the Lincolnshire Wash Landscape Recovery Project. The measures contained within the OLEMS are considered sufficient.</p>		

## 2.3 Derogation and Compensation

Table 6: Derogation and Compensation

Ref	ODOW Position	RSPB Position	Status
RSPB12	<p>The Applicant concludes AEoI to the kittiwake feature of the Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Protection Area (FFC SPA) due to mortality from collisions with the wind turbine generators (WTG), when considering the Project in combination with other plans or projects.</p> <p>The Applicant concludes No AEoI for all other impacts to other species.</p> <p>The Project therefore presents a compensation case for Kittiwakes and ‘without prejudice’ compensation measures for Guillemot and Razorbill.</p>		
RSPB13	<p>The Applicant considers that the suite of ‘without prejudice’ compensation measures in the proposed for guillemot and razorbill are suitable</p>		
RSPB14	<p>The Applicant considers that the suite of compensation measures proposed for Kittiwake are suitable.</p>		
RSPB15	<p>The application includes the ecological evidence reports for all measures which demonstrate the ecological efficacy of the measures.</p>		



Ref	ODOW Position	RSPB Position	Status
RSPB16	Compensation plans and roadmaps demonstrate how the suite of compensation measures will be effective, viable and can be secured and delivered to ensure the coherence of the UK national site network is maintained.		
<b>Predator Control at Plemont Reserve</b>			
RSPB17	The Applicant considers that the Predator Control ‘without prejudice’ compensation measure [APP-256] can deliver the full compensation quantum for guillemot and razorbill, if this is required by the SoS, based on the Applicant’s approach. The Additional Measures without-prejudice compensation measure [APP-259] (ie measures proposed in relation to the south-west sites) provide additional capacity to the proposed compensation requirements, were the SoS to require a higher quantum of compensation.		
RSPB18	The Applicant considers removing threats from non-native mammalian predators will increase productivity and benefit both guillemots and razorbills at the site, as well as delivering protection for a range of other seabirds, terrestrial birds and other native fauna and flora. The Applicant is confident that the evidence base as presented within APP-257 and APP-258 provides sufficient confidence in this measure.		
RSPB19	The Applicant acknowledges the risk of reinvasion at the predator eradication site through the intertidal zone and considers that this will be adequately addressed within the		

Ref	ODOW Position	RSPB Position	Status
	monitoring and biosecurity elements of the measure (section 4, Without Prejudice Predator Control Evidence Base and Roadmap [APP-257]).		
RSPB20	Quantifying connectivity between the measure, the Flamborough Head and Filey Coast (FFC) Special Protection Area (SPA) and the National Site Network (NSN) is not simple without tracking individual birds and, at present, studies informing movements of birds between colonies are sparse. However, the Applicant is aware of philopatry rates for guillemots and razorbills that suggest a proportion of birds move to different colonies. Likewise, there are ringing data and tracking studies that show how far birds will travel in the non-breeding season. As such, the Applicant considers it is reasonable to assume that a proportion of birds that fledge from a given colony will end up breeding at another, potentially distant, colony. These are the birds which will contribute to the overall coherence of the NSN.		
RSPB21	The Applicant considers that the growth of the razorbill colony, and its heightened success due to predator control, would act as a catalyst to guillemot colonisation and growth. This is due to guillemot historically breeding at the Plemont Reserve and being regularly observed in the area during the breeding season, occasionally flying up to the cliff. This means it is possible that the species is currently breeding on the site undetected as much of the available habitat cannot be monitored from land.		

Ref	ODOW Position	RSPB Position	Status
RSPB22	<p>The Applicant considers the predator eradication measures to be suitable mitigation and to have local support. The Applicant has received a letter from the Jersey Government Natural Environment department (on behalf of the Public of Jersey, landowner of the land where the fence is to be located, see document 15.17, Letter From Jersey Government Anti-Predator Fence East of Plemont, Jersey, Channel Islands) which confirms that permission to install a predator fence is granted in principle pending formal planning approval. Following public consultation, the proposed route of the fence has been altered..</p>		
<b>Bycatch reduction</b>			
RSPB23	<p>The Applicant considers that bycatch reduction may be a suitable measure where further evidence becomes available on the efficacy of this measure.</p>		
<b>Additional Sites Compensation</b>			
RSPB24	<p>The Applicant considers that suitable sites in the south-west have been identified for potential compensation measures in relation to guillemot and razorbill. The Applicant is in the process of developing more specific suites of measures for each individual colony, based on available information and further assessments of the potential pressures on those colonies.</p>		

Ref	ODOW Position	RSPB Position	Status
RSPB25	The Applicant considers that in some of the south-west sites the colonies may benefit from a decrease in predation pressure and anthropogenic disturbance.		
<b>Artificial Nesting Structures</b>			
RSPB26	The Applicant considers that there is considerable evidence that Artificial Nesting Structures (ANSs) are likely to be an effective compensation measure. This evidence base is summarised in sections 3.2.2 to 3.2.4 of the Offshore Artificial Nesting Structures Evidence Base and Roadmap [APP-256] and in section 5.3 of The Crown Estate Kittiwake Strategic Compensation Plan [APP-260] (KSCP). The KSCP explains that a Kittiwake Strategic Steering Group was formed to develop strategic compensation measures for kittiwake. The Steering Group was made up of The Crown Estate (TCE), with NIRAS as its technical advisor, Natural England (NE), the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), RWE Renewables and the Applicant . The Steering Group agreed that onshore and offshore ANS had ecological merit, with offshore ANS as a preference (sections 3.1.2 and 3.1.1 , KSCP (APP-260)).		
RSPB27	The Applicant has proposed two areas for ANS locations based on ecological and engineering considerations. These two proposed areas are also included within the KSCP.		

Ref	ODOW Position	RSPB Position	Status
RSPB28	<p>The Applicant has proposed that the ANSs would be consented through the deemed marine licences at Schedules 12 and 13 of the Development Consent Order (DCO). By seeking consent for the ANSs as part of the DCO application, the Applicant is providing greater certainty as to the delivery of the ANSs. This is expressly acknowledged at section 5.1.5 of the KSCP which states that the ANS <i>“measure has been proposed (in line with the compensation hierarchy Figure 5.1) which can be led by the developer rather than rely on Government intervention to lead management actions”</i>. The proposals submitted with the application align with the KSCP wherever possible.</p>		
RSPB29	<p>The Applicant considers that the ANS design, construction and implementation is appropriate as it will be in-line with paragraph 5, Part 1, Schedule 22 of the DCO. It is therefore incumbent on the Applicant to ensure that the compensation measures are delivered.</p>		
RSPB30	<p>The Applicant has developed a set of initial design considerations, set out in section 4.2 and table 4.1 of the Offshore Artificial Nesting Structures Evidence Base and Roadmap [APP-256]. The designs will be progressed and at this stage are considered suitable.</p>		

## 2.4 Biodiversity Net Gain

Table 7: Biodiversity Net Gain

Ref	ODOW Position	RSPB Position	Status
RSPB31	The Applicant continues to investigate opportunities for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), as outlined in the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report (AS-014) with the RSPB.		
RSPB32	The Applicant has shared with RSPB a broad estimate of the quantum of biodiversity units of particular habitat types that are most suitable for offsetting the predicted impacts to biodiversity from the Project. These figures have been shared to allow RSPB to develop long-term restoration and management plans for the Lincolnshire Wash Landscape Recovery project that deliver habitats in the type and condition that meet the requirements of both projects		

### 3 Signatures

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

Signed for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	
Name	
Position	
Date	
Duly authorised for and on behalf of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	

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