

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

(Draft) Statement of Common Ground with NATS En Route LTD

Deadline 1

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Acronyms & Definitions

Abbreviations / Acronyms

Abbreviation / Acronym	Description
DCO	Development Consent Order
ES	Environmental Statement
GT R4 Limited	GT R4 or GT R4 Limited, the incorporated joint venture development Co.
GW	Gigawatt
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MSL	Mean Sea Level
NATS	National Air Traffic Services
ODOW	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, trading name of GT R4 Limited
OnSS	Onshore Substation
ORCP	Offshore Reactive Compensation Platform
OSS	Offshore Substation
PSR	Primary Surveillance Radar
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
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.
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.
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.
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).

Term	Definition
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 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 Offshore Dowsing Wind (ODOW)	The Project
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.
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, 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 1.6million UK households.

1.2 Purpose of this Statement of Common Ground (SoCG)

3. NATS En-Route Limited (NATS) are a UK provider of air traffic control services.
4. This SoCG has been prepared by the Applicant and NATS to identify topics that are relevant to NATS' 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 and continued to engage with NATS, including through bilateral consultation and consultation under s42 of the Planning Act 2008.
7. Table 1 sets out a summary of the bilateral consultation undertaken during the pre-application process.

Table 1: Summary of Consultation

Date of Engagement	Engagement	Topic
30/08/2022	Response in Scoping Opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Predicted Impact on Claxby radar.▪ Predicted Impact on Cromer radar.▪ No impact is anticipated on NATS' navigation aids.▪ No impact is anticipated on NATS' radio communications infrastructure.
06/06/2023	Section 42 Consultation Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ NATS maintained same position as set out in response to Scoping Opinion dated 30/08/2022.
08/08/2024	Email exchanges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ NATS confirmed that the required mitigation with a Transponder Mandatory Zone has now been signed off internally within NATS as the solution, subject to discussion with Ministry of Defence (MOD).▪ Instructed legal entity to commence contractual discussions.

Date of Engagement	Engagement	Topic
25/6/2024	Email exchanges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NATS confirmed that regarding any MOD objections, it is down to the developer to liaise with the MOD to find a technical mitigation that works for them and can be agreed.

1.4 Topics addressed in this Statement of Common Ground

8. 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
Aviation & Radar	Chapter 16 Aviation, Radar, Military and Communication (AS1-042).

1.5 Identification of items agreed/not agreed/in discussion

9. 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.
Not Agreed	This matter has not been agreed and discussions are not currently on-going.

2 Statement of Common Ground

2.1 Aviation and Radar

10. The Applicant has assessed potential impacts of the Project on aviation, radiator, military and communication receptors during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases as set out in Chapter 16 Aviation, Radar, Military and Communication (AS1-042).

11. 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 Aviation & Radar.

Table 4: Areas of common ground in respect of aviation

Ref	ODOW Position	NATS Position	Status
NATS1	The nearest known Secondary Surveillance Radar is more than 63km from the Array Area and outside the safeguarded zone of 28km recommended by NATS.		In discussion
NATS2	<p>Predicted Impact on Claxby and Cromer radar</p> <p>Radar modelling completed by the Applicant (Appendix 16.1 (APP-173) shows that at least some WTGs with blade tip heights of between 276m and 400m above msl within the array area will be theoretically detectable by the NATS Primary Surveillance Radars (PSRs) at Cromer and Claxby.</p> <p>The Applicant will continue to engage with NATS to develop an appropriate mitigation scheme.</p>		In discussion

Ref	ODOW Position	NATS Position	Status
NATS3	<p>The required mitigation with a Transponder Mandatory Zone has now been signed off internally within NATS as the solution, subject to discussion with MOD.</p> <p>The Applicant understands it is its responsibility to liaise with the MOD to find a suitable technical mitigation.</p>	NATS have confirmed that for any MOD objections it is down to the developer to liaise with the MOD to find a technical mitigation that works for them and can be agreed.	In discussion
NATS4	No impact is anticipated on NATS' navigation aids.	No impact is anticipated on NATS' navigation aids.	Agreed
NATS5	No impact is anticipated on NATS' radio communications	No impact is anticipated on NATS' radio communications infrastructure.	Agreed

3 Signatures

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

Signed for the NATS	
Name	
Position	
Date	
Duly authorised for and on behalf of the NATS En Route LTD	

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.