

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Goodchild, Robert [REDACTED]@sse.com>  
**Sent:** 11 January 2024 07:57  
**To:** Cottam, Emma  
**Cc:** Dogger Bank D; Hall, Rachel; Turnbull, Louise M; peter.thornton; Brumwell, Todd  
**Subject:** Re: Dogger Bank D Wind Farm - transboundary screening query

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Afternoon Emma,

Thanks for coming to us to clarify this point.

Following a review of this we can confirm that Dogger Bank D (DBD) would not have connectivity with the Irish SPA's referenced in the DBD scoping report, this has been concluded in the projects Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening exercise that supersedes the statement in the DBD scoping report. The basis of this conclusion is as follows.

SPAs in Ireland are on the Irish Sea and North Atlantic coasts and their breeding seabirds are expected to overwhelmingly forage within these sea areas rather than the North Sea. Species of note being Fulmar and Manx shearwater, have mean maximum foraging ranges (+1 Standard Deviation) (Woodward et al. 2019) which are theoretically sufficient to overlap the North Sea, however their behavioural tendency is to forage in deeper waters, such as further-western waters from these sites (including off the continental shelf), therefore very few birds are likely to enter the North Sea at all when foraging. Turning to the non-breeding season, the Biologically Defined Minimum Population Scales review (Furness 2015) indicates Ireland/Irish Sea breeding populations of these species do not contribute to North Sea non-breeding populations of these species. Lastly, in discussing fulmar as a feature of other sites, the DBD HRA Screening Report also highlights the absence of any effect pathway for Likely Significant Effects on fulmar from offshore wind farms.

Overall, sites in Ireland do not register with our project as having potential connectivity as detailed above and have therefore been screened out of the projects HRA, this also aligns with the conclusion of other offshore wind developments in the close proximity to DBD in the Southern North Sea.

Do let me know if you require any further clarification on this point?

Many Thanks  
Rob

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**From:** Cottam, Emma <[REDACTED]@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 09 January 2024 17:10  
**To:** Hall, Rachel [REDACTED]@sse.com>; Goodchild, Robert [REDACTED]@sse.com>  
**Cc:** Dogger Bank D <DoggerBankD@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>; Brumwell, Todd [REDACTED]@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Dogger Bank D Wind Farm - transboundary screening query

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Hi Rachel and Rob,

Thanks for your time at the meeting earlier today. As discussed, we are in the process of drafting the transboundary screening for Dogger Bank D Wind Farm. This exercise is undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate during the pre-application stage, based on the information provided in the Applicant's Scoping Report. The screening is undertaken in line with our duties under Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations 2017, which require us to consider whether a proposed NSIP is likely to give rise to significant effects on the environment in a European Economic Area (EEA) State. Further information is provided in our Advice Note 12: Transboundary Impacts and Process - [Advice notes | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

In terms of which EEA States we will notify, this is likely to include those notified on the other offshore wind farm projects in the Dogger Bank area. But before we conclude on the full list of EEA States to notify, we would welcome clarification on the following point:

The Scoping Report (paragraph 577/578) identifies potential transboundary effects on offshore ornithology receptors. Para 578 refers to potential connectivity between the offshore scoping area and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in Ireland (as well as France and the Netherlands). Is there any supporting evidence to suggest that species associated with Irish SPAs are using the proposed array area and/ or the wider offshore scoping area?

It is understood that the final assessment conclusions have not yet been reached. However, can you please provide information to support the Inspectorate in making a decision regarding the potential for significant effects on offshore ornithology in Ireland?

If you are able to provide information in this regard, we may be able to rely on that for the purposes of transboundary screening and avoid the need to notify Ireland on a precautionary basis. To confirm, we would publish any such information you provide on our website.

If you could provide your response within the next month that would be appreciated. We will confirm in writing at a later date which EEA States have been notified.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this message to any other relevant members of the Dogger Bank D Wind Farm team.

Kind regards,  
Emma



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Inspectorate

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