

## RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

**Introductory Consultation Report** 

June 2023

Document Reference: 004820508

**Revision: 01** 

Pursuant to section 37(3)(c) and 37 (7) of the Planning Act 2003

Unrestricted



Company:	RWE Renewables UK Dog- ger Bank South (West) Lim- ited and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Limited	Asset:	Development
Project:	Dogger Bank South Off- shore Wind Farms	Sub Project/Pack- age:	Consents
Document Title or Description:	Introductory Consultation Report		
Document Number:	004820508-01	Contractor Refer- ence Number:	n/a

COPYRIGHT © RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Limited and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Limited.

All pre-existing rights reserved.

This document is supplied on and subject to the terms and conditions of the Contractual Agreement relating to this work, under which this document has been supplied, in particular:

### LIABILITY

In preparation of this document RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Limited and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Limited has made reasonable efforts to ensure that the content is accurate, up to date and complete for the purpose for which it was contracted. RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Limited and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Limited makes no warranty as to the accuracy or complete-ness of material supplied by the client or their agent.

Other than any liability on RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Limited and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Limited detailed in the contracts between the parties for this work RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Limited and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Limited shall have no liability for any loss, damage, injury, claim, expense, cost or other consequence arising as a result of use or reliance upon any information contained in or omitted from this document.

Any persons intending to use this document should satisfy themselves as to its applicability for their intended purpose.

The user of this document has the obligation to employ safe working practices for any activities referred to and to adopt specific practices appropriate to local conditions.

Rev No.	Date	Status/Reason for Is- sue	Author	Checked by	Approved by
0.1	2 November 2022	First Issue	DB	EJ	
0.2	21 May 2023	Updated	EJ	СМ	СМ
01	5 June 2023	Final	EJ	LR	СМ

### Unrestricted



1.	Intr	oduction	4
1	L.1.	About the project	4
2.	Intr	oductory consultation	6
2	2.2.	Consultation approach	6
3.	Prc	moting the consultation	7
3	3.1.	Letters to local residents and businesses	7
3	3.2.	Stakeholder notification	7
3	3.3.	Technical consultation - statutory stakeholders	7
3	3.4.	Press release	8
140	3.5.	Consultation website	8
140	3.6.	Consultation events	8
4.	Со	nsultation feedback	9
2	1.1.	Response channels	9
2	1.2.	Consultation questionnaire	9
2	1.3.	Consultation responses	10
2	1.4.	Analysis methodology	11
2	1.5.	Feedback methods used	11
2	1.6.	Identifying information	11
5.	Со	mments and responses to issues raised	11
5	5.2.	Engagement with landowners	19
5	5.3.	Statutory public consultation	19
5	5.4.	Engagement with stakeholders	20
5	5.5.	The EIA process	21
6.	Ind	icative Project Development Timeline	21



Unrestricted

Contents

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1. About the project**

1.1.1. In February 2021, under the Crown Estate's (TCE) Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 tender process, RWE was awarded the status of preferred bidder for two projects which make up Dogger Bank South (DBS), located in the Southern North Sea. The projects are known individually as DBS East and DBS West and will be located over 100 kilometres off the coast of north east England (see Figure 1).



Figure 1- Dogger Bank South Area Map



- 1.1.2. Each site is approximately 500km2 in size, and when combined, could generate enough electricity to power up to 3.4 million typical UK households with clean, green electricity each year. They will help to meet the UK Government's offshore wind and net zero targets.
- 1.1.3. Each of the Dogger Bank South projects will be served by its own project specific infrastructure, but infrastructure such as construction compounds will be shared where practicable to reduce impacts on communities and the environment.
- 1.1.4. This report summarises the approach to the introductory public consultation which was carried out between 9 September 2022 and 14 October 2022 including a summary of the responses received, as well as how the issues raised in those responses have been considered by the project.
- 1.1.5. For more information about the projects and to sign up to receive updates, please visit <u>www.doggerbanksouth.co.uk</u> or email: dbs@rwe.com.

## 2. Introductory consultation

2.1.1. The introductory consultation ran for six weeks from Friday 9 September 2022 to Friday 14 October 2022. All of the information that was part of the consultation was published on or before the first day of the consultation. The deadline for responses was midnight on 14 October 2022.

## 2.2. Consultation approach

- 2.2.1. The purpose of the consultation was to:
  - introduce the projects;
  - explain the site selection process and options for the substation zones and onshore cable corridor, and;
  - collect feedback on the proposals.
- 2.2.2. Invitations to participate in the consultation were sent to local residents, businesses and persons with an interest in the land (PILs), along with parish councils and elected representatives. Further details of how we engaged can be found in section 2 of this report.
- 2.2.3. As the projects were still in an early stage of development, there was limited technical detail available, however the information presented gave an understanding of the projects, and the geographical areas that they might affect.
- 2.2.4. The introductory consultation is outside of the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and as such is referred to as a 'non-statutory' consultation. RWE considers it important to listen to local communities and was keen to receive early feedback on the proposals.
- 2.2.5. The next stage of consultation, which runs from Tuesday 6 June Monday 17 July 2023, will be statutory consultation and will fulfil the requirements of sections 42 through 48 of the Planning Act 2008. At this stage, more detailed designs will be provided along with the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for the Project.

## **3. Promoting the consultation**

### 3.1. Letters to local residents and businesses

- 3.1.1. Invitation letters including a map showing the DBS projects were sent via Royal Mail to approximately 19,000 residential and business addresses within a defined consultation area. The boundary for this consultation area was 1.5km from the proposed substation zones and landfall site options, and 1km from either side of the proposed cable route corridor. The consultation area was extended around smaller settlements bisected by the boundary.
- 3.1.2. A map showing the consultation area is included in Appendix A.

## **3.2. Stakeholder notification**

- 3.2.1. Emails were sent to notify the following groups of stakeholders in advance of the consultation launch to request feedback on the proposals:
  - Local MPs
  - Councillors
  - Parish Councils

### 3.3. Technical consultation - statutory stakeholders

- 3.3.1. Technical consultation has been carried out with statutory stakeholders through separate expert topic groups which has helped to shape the projects and full details can be found in Chapter 7 Consultation of the PEIR. This consultation report focuses solely on the introductory public consultation.
- 3.3.2. Statutory stakeholders were informed via expert topic groups about the introductory consultation and were able to participate in the consultation as required. Feedback from these groups is detailed in PEIR Chapter 7 Consultation.



## **3.4.** Press release

- 3.4.1. A press release was issued at the start of the consultation to local and national newspapers and online media channels.
- 3.4.2. A copy of the press release can be found in Appendix B.

## 3.5. Consultation website

3.5.1. A dedicated section of the DBS website was created where people could view the proposals in detail and complete the online consultation questionnaire.

## **3.6.** Consultation events

3.6.1. Four public consultation events were held during the consultation period. A total of 393 people attended the events as outlined in the table below.

Date	Time	Venue	Attendees
Tuesday 27 September 2022	2pm – 6pm	Skipsea Village Hall, Bridlington Road, Skipsea, YO25 8TJ	61
Wednesday 28 September 2022	3pm – 7pm	Beverley Memorial Hall, 73 – 75 Lairgate, Beverley HU17 8HN	147
Friday 7 October 2022	3pm – 7pm	Catwick Village Hall, Rowpit Lane, Catwick HU17 5PR	53
Saturday 8 October 2022	11am - 3pm	Beverley Memorial Hall, 73 – 75 Lairgate, Beverley HU17 8HN	132

- 3.6.2. Each of the consultation events was open to parish councillors and elected members for one hour prior to opening to the public.
- 3.6.3. Attendees were able to view information about the projects on a series of display banners as well as having the opportunity to discuss the proposals with members of the projects team. In addition attendees were able to comment on the proposals via the consultation questionnaire feedback form.
- 3.6.4. Copies of the banners can be found in Appendix C. All materials presented at the consultation can also be found on the website: www.doggerbanksouth.co.uk

## 4. Consultation feedback

### 4.1. Response channels

- 4.1.1. Feedback on the proposals is important to RWE and there were a number of channels for feedback to make the process as easy as possible.
- 4.1.2. The following methods were available for people to respond to the consultation:
  - A paper questionnaire was printed and made available at events;
  - A digital version of the questionnaire was available to complete online, linked from the consultation information pages;
  - A freepost address (Freepost DBS) was set up so people could send either the completed questionnaire or any other feedback to the projects team;
  - Feedback could also be emailed directly to the projects team via a dedicated email address: dbs@rwe.com.

### 4.2. Consultation questionnaire

- 4.2.1. The consultation questionnaire included six questions as outlined below. The purpose of the questions was to provide respondents with the opportunity to provide feedback based on key topics that would assist the projects in the development of the proposals.
- 4.2.2. Respondents were asked to identify which zone the response related to and it was possible for respondents to complete the questionnaire based on more than one zone. The zones were categorised by, Onshore substation options, Landfall options and the Cable route:
  - Onshore substation
    - o Zone 1 Yellow Zone
    - o Zone 4 Purple Zone
    - o Zone 5 Blue Zone
  - Landfall
    - o Zone 8 Orange Zone
    - o Zone 9 Pink Zone
  - Cable route
    - o Cable Corridor General
- 4.2.3. The questions covered key areas of interest and relevance as follows:
  - **Question 1** Do you know of any properties, rights of way or any other activities that could be affected that we may not know about or that you are concerned about?



- **Question 2** Are there any current uses or past uses that you think we should be made aware of, for example uses that might have resulted in contamination of the land and made it unsuitable for development?
- **Question 3** Are there any relevant ecological or nature conservation issues that we should be made aware of?
- **Question 4** Are there any cultural heritage features (such as historic buildings, ancient monuments or other important archaeological features) that you are concerned about?
- **Question 5** Are you aware of any history of flooding from any source that you want to tell us about?
- **Question 6** Do you have any other comments you would like to make on our project proposals?
- 4.2.4. A copy of the printed questionnaire can be found in Appendix D.

## 4.3. Consultation responses

- 4.3.1. A total of 65 consultation responses were received. Sixty were received during the consultation period. Two were received immediately after the deadline for responses had passed and one, from a parish council was received after a briefing meeting held on 1 November 2022. Two further late responses were received via the FREEPOST address. RWE has considered all responses, including those that were late.
- 4.3.2. Details from all 65 responses are included in section 5 of this report.
- 4.3.3. There were 6 responses from organisations and stakeholders:
  - Skipsea Parish Council
  - Rowley Parish Council
  - Skidby Parish Council
  - National Grid Ventures Ltd
  - The East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston upon Hull Joint Local Access Forum
  - Beverley Ramblers Association
- 4.3.4. Of the remaining 59 responses, 5 were identified as Landowners or those with an interest in land (PILs), and one was from a parish councillor.

## 4.4. Analysis methodology

- 4.4.1. In order to analyse the feedback received, each item of feedback was read and the issues within it were separately listed. When two or more respondents raised a similar issue, it was listed as the same issue with a count of the number of times it was raised.
- 4.4.2. These issues were then considered on whether they related to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that is being undertaken or if they relate to other general categories. Each issue was assigned to the appropriate subject matter expert within the DBS projects team to consider and respond.
- 4.4.3. The analysis process is inherently subjective, and the number of times each issue is captured should be seen as indicative. When considering responses, more weight is applied to the content of an issue than the number of times it has been raised.

## 4.5. Feedback methods used

4.5.1. The majority of responses were received at the consultation events. The second most common response method was email with several respondents scanning completed consultation questionnaires to send digitally. A similar number of respondents completed the questionnaire online. Three responses were returned via post.

## 4.6. Identifying information

4.6.1. For data protection purposes, information that could identify individual respondents has been redacted from the summarised issues. Where possible, localising but not identifying information (such as postcodes) has been used.

## 5. Comments and responses to issues raised

- 5.1.1. Many respondents provided detailed feedback on the information presented in the Introductory Consultation, as well as other local information on features along the proposed cable route options and near to the substation site options.
- 5.1.2. The comments fell into two categories:
  - General issues
  - Issues which fall within the EIA process

5.1.3. The themes and key comments/issues raised for each of these categories are shown in the tables below, along with an overview of how they have been considered by the project team.

Table 5.1 Overview of ge	eneral issues raised	during Introductor	y Consultation
--------------------------	----------------------	--------------------	----------------

Theme	Key comments/issues raised	Project team consideration
Consultation	<ul> <li>Comments about information published on the website and maps provided.</li> <li>Comments that the consultation was not well advertised, the opening times and project team answering questions at events.</li> <li>Requests to engage and keep parish councils, landowners and others informed.</li> <li>Requests for more specific information to be made available.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Comments on our consultation are welcomed and will be taken into account as we prepare our plans for the next stage of consultation.</li> <li>We will continue to engage with parish councils, landowners and the local community as we develop our project.</li> <li>We will publish updates on our project website www.doggerbanksouth.co.uk as well as newsletters at key project milestones.</li> </ul>
Coordination with other developers	<ul> <li>Suggestions about using the same route and coordi- nating with other developers in the area.</li> </ul>	• We are in discussions with other developers working in the area and will work with them to minimise impacts on local communities where appropriate.
Engineering	• Questions about the technology which will be used for the connection between the offshore wind farm and the national grid.	• We are still considering the most appropriate technology to use. Further details will be published during statutory consultation.
Community benefits and gain	<ul> <li>Questions about the available of community grants.</li> <li>Suggestions and requests for DBS to fund improvements to local features and wildlife areas.</li> </ul>	• We are considering a Community Benefits Package which will be focussed on skills and career opportunities.
General comments on substation sites/cable route op- tions	<ul> <li>Support/preference for substation zone 1.</li> <li>Support./preference for substation zone 4.</li> <li>Preference for corridor to east of Beverley.</li> <li>Concerns about the potential impacts on communities along the route and close to the substation sites, including Beverley, Skidby, Bentley and Skipsea.</li> <li>Request for other land options to be considered for the substation sites.</li> <li>Request for cables to be routed as far away from properties as possible.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Potential impacts on local communities have been part of our consideration in the site and route selection and we have sought to avoid built up areas as far as possible.</li> <li>The EIA process will further consider potential impacts and how they can be mitigated. Further information on this is set out within the PEIR published during statutory consultation.</li> </ul>
General comments on landfall site op- tions	• Preference for landfall zone 9 as further from com- munities and village.	• Potential impacts on local communities have been part of our consideration in the site and route selection and we have sought to avoid built up areas as far as possible.

Theme	Key comments/issues raised	Project team consideration
Specific land related comments	<ul> <li>Specific questions about the design of the under- ground cables and potential effects on local agricul- ture, including soils management and drainage sys- tems.</li> <li>Concerns about effects from cables on agricultural machinery and GPS systems.</li> <li>Information on covenants on land near proposed site.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>We will work closely with landowners and farmers to ensure we minimise any impact of our cables on land drainage, soils, equipment and other farming considerations.</li> <li>Covenants or restrictions on land are accounted for as part of our land referencing process.</li> </ul>
Construction	Questions about length of construction programme and working hours.	<ul> <li>We will work with the local authority to agree a construction management plan which will include details of proposed working hours.</li> <li>We publish more information on our construction pro- gramme during statutory consultation.</li> </ul>
Other general com- ments	<ul> <li>General statements of support for the projects.</li> <li>Caveated support for projects while expressing concern that about potential impact on the environment.</li> <li>General objections to the proposals.</li> </ul>	• These comments were noted but given their general nature have not been specifically addressed. We continue to try to minimise impacts as part of the project design as included in the PEIR.

## Table 5.2 Overview of issues relating to EIA raised during Introductory Consultation

Theme	Key comments/issues raised	Project team consideration
Archaeology and cultural heritage	<ul> <li>Details of archaeological sites and scheduled monuments, local heritage assets and listed properties.</li> <li>Concerns about potential impacts on archaeological and heritage sites.</li> <li>Concerns about impact on historic woodland and common ground.</li> </ul>	• We are aware of these archaeological and heritage sites and potential impacts to archaeological and cultural herit- age sites will be considered as part of our archaeological and heritage impact assessments.
Coordination	Details of assets belonging to water, gas and energy asset owners.	• We are aware of these assets and we will liaise with the as- set owner as appropriate.

Theme	Key comments/issues raised	Project team consideration
Cumulative impact	<ul> <li>General concerns about the industrialisation of the area and cumulative impacts with other developments.</li> <li>Concerns about the potential cumulative impact of substation zone 1 in relation to Dogger Bank A and B and proposed solar developments.</li> <li>Support for substation zone 1 as considered to have least cumulative impact.</li> <li>Support for substation zone 1 as site considered to have least impact on agricultural land take and local environment.</li> <li>Concerns about potential of development creep associated with substation zone 5.</li> </ul>	Consideration of cumulative effects forms part of the EIA process.
Ecology	<ul> <li>Information on different wildlife species found across the area.</li> <li>Detailed information on locations of local nature reserves, wildlife areas and other ecological features.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>We are undertaking a range of ecology surveys, including bird surveys and habitat assessments in agreement with National England and other statutory consultees.</li> <li>Potential impacts on designated sites and ecology, along with any required mitigation actions is being assessed as part of our EIA, with preliminary findings set out in the PEIR.</li> </ul>
Geology and ground conditions	<ul> <li>Information and concerns about soil erosion issues along the coast.</li> <li>Information about historic landfill areas.</li> <li>Information about local geological activity.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Ground conditions and impact on the land is being as- sessed as part of the EIA process, with preliminary findings set out in the PEIR.</li> </ul>
Health	<ul> <li>Concerns around health issues and stress caused by proposed development.</li> </ul>	• Potential impacts to human health is being assessed in the EIA process, with preliminary findings set out in the PEIR.

Theme	Key comments/issues raised	Project team consideration
Hydrology, hydroge- ology and flood risk	<ul> <li>Information about historical flooding across the area.</li> <li>Detailed information about local drainage and water courses.</li> <li>Concerns about the potential impact of the development on drainage systems</li> <li>Concerns that substation zone 1 is within flood risk area and support for substation zone 4 as it is outside flood risk area.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Flood risk to the projects from all sources including fluvial, coastal, surface water, groundwater, sewer and reservoir flooding as well as changes in flood risk from all resulting from the projects is being considered as part of the EIA, with preliminary findings set out in the PEIR.</li> <li>The EIA will also be supported by a separate Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) which will be undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and following suitable guidance to assess flood risk to the development and surrounding areas. This will inform the identification of any required mitigation measures with preliminary findings set out in the PEIR.</li> </ul>
Landscape and vis- ual impact assess- ment	<ul> <li>Concerns about the visual impact of the substation on views in and from Beverley, and Bentley and to- wards the Humber.</li> <li>Request that substation should be screened and height of buildings minimised.</li> <li>Concerns about how long it would take for trees to grow to act as mitigation.</li> <li>Support for substations zone 1 and 5 as considered to have least impact due to proximity to Dogger Bank A and B development.</li> <li>Concerns that elevation of substation zone 4 would make it difficult to screen.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will also be carried out as part of the EIA, with preliminary findings set out in the PEIR. It will consider settings as well as potential impacts to sensitive receptors such as local communities, properties, historic features and recreational users in the area.</li> <li>Appropriate mitigation measures such as screening and sensitive siting of the substation buildings and equipment will also be considered.</li> </ul>
Noise	Concern about disruption from noise during construc- tion.	• Noise impact assessments (both temporary noise during construction and ongoing operational noise) will be carried out as part of the EIA, with preliminary findings set out in the PEIR.

Theme	Key comments/issues raised	Project team consideration
PROWs	<ul> <li>Concerns about the impact on footpaths around Beverley, specifically the long range footpath Beverley 20.</li> <li>Concerns about the impact of the development on footpaths and access at the cost.</li> <li>Concerns about temporary and permanent closures of footpaths.</li> <li>Requests for DBS to fund improvements to rights of way.</li> </ul>	• A Land use assessment will be carried out as part of the EIA, with preliminary findings set out in the PEIR. It will consider the potential effects of the Projects on Public Rights of Way (PRoW) during construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Projects and whether any mitigation measures for PRoW are necessary.
Socioeconomics and tourism	<ul> <li>Concerns about the potential economic impacts on local farms and businesses in the area, and request for compensation.</li> <li>Concerns about loss of land available for farming and food production.</li> <li>Concerns about potential impact on other proposed developments in the area.</li> <li>Objections as substation zone 1 would be close to residential property and paddock.</li> <li>Concerns about potential impact on caravan sites and holiday homes.</li> <li>Concerns about potential impact on property prices.</li> <li>Concerns about potential impact on tourism and tourist attractions in the area.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Socio-economic and Tourism and Recreation Assessments will be carried out as part of the EIA, with preliminary findings set out in the PEIR. The assessments will consider the impacts of the Projects along with any appropriate mitigation measures.</li> <li>We are in discussions with landowners who have concerns about potential impacts our project may have on individual properties and businesses.</li> <li>There is an ongoing process of dedicated engagement with those that have an interest in land. This will continue through the development cycle and into construction should the projects be granted consent.</li> </ul>

Theme	Key comments/issues raised	Project team consideration
Traffic and transport	<ul> <li>Preference for substations zones closer to dual carriage for site access.</li> <li>Concerns about impact of construction traffic on roads across area and increased congestion.</li> <li>Concerns about conflict with improvement proposals for Jocks Lodge A1079/A164 junction.</li> <li>Concerns about access for residents and fishermen during construction.</li> <li>Information about potential reinstatement of Wilberforce Way.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A Traffic and Transport Assessment will be carried out as part of the EIA, with preliminary findings set out in the PEIR. It will consider any potential impacts on the local traffic network and along with any appropriate mitigation measures.</li> <li>We are working with the local highways authority (East Riding of Yorkshire Council) and developing an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) which will seek to minimise disruption on the local road network and agree access routes for construction vehicles. The Outline CTMP will be submitted with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.</li> <li>We are aware of the proposed works at Jocks Lodge and will work with East Riding of Yorkshire Council to ensure that the new Jocks Lodge design is incorporated into any engineering proposals at this location.</li> </ul>

More details of our assessments and considerations and how they have influenced the site selection are reported in the PEIR which has been published as part of our statutory consultation.

## 5.2. Engagement with landowners

- 5.2.1. There were a number of generalised and specific concerns about the potential impact of the projects on farms and arable land in the area. RWE is committed to working closely with individual landowners to minimise impact to operational farms. There is an ongoing process of dedicated engagement with those that have an interest in land. This will continue through the development cycle and into construction should the projects be granted consent.
- 5.2.2. People with an interest directly affected by the project can contact our land agents, Dalcour Maclaren on 01423 613388 or by email at: <u>doggerbanksouth@dalcourmaclaren.com</u>

## 5.3. Statutory public consultation

- 5.3.1. The next stage of consultation will be from 6 June 2023 until 17 July 2023. This will be a statutory consultation in accordance with The Planning Act 2008.
- 5.3.2. At this consultation we will publish our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The PEIR sets out the initial findings of our EIA process as well as how consultation feedback has influenced the selection and development of the substation sites, cable route and landfall site.
- 5.3.3. A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been published which sets out how we plan to consult with the local community. The SoCC has been agreed with the Local Planning Authority. You can view the SoCC on the website: <u>www.doggerbanksouth.co.uk</u>
- 5.3.4. Responses to the statutory stage of consultation must be considered in the development of the application. The details will be set out in a Consultation Report that will be submitted as part of the application for the DCO.



## 5.4. Engagement with stakeholders

- 5.4.1. We continue to have extensive engagement with stakeholders through a series of Expert Topic Groups. Key stakeholders have been engaged to ensure collaboration throughout the design process. These organisations include: Local authorities, Natural England, Marine Maritime Organisation, Cefas, Environment Agency, National Highways, RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, Historic England, Water Companies and Internal Drainage boards.
- 5.4.2. Expert topic groups have been set up to cover specific issues across all aspects of the project development as outlined below:
  - Offshore:
    - o Seabed
    - Offshore Ornithology
    - o Marine Mammal and Underwater Noise
  - Onshore:
    - o Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology
    - Traffic and Access, Onshore Noise and Air Quality
    - Water Resource and Flood Risk

### • Project wide:

- o Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts Assessment
- Historic Environment (offshore and onshore)
- o Site Selection
- HRA Habitat Regulations Assessment
- Others:
  - Commercial Fisheries
  - Shipping and Navigation
  - o Aviation and Radar
  - o Other users
  - o Human Health
  - o Socio-Economics
  - o Tourism and Recreation



## 5.5. The EIA process

- 5.5.1. As part of the project development process, we are carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This will examine the current environment and will assess the potential impacts caused by the project.
- 5.5.2. We will prepare an Environmental Statement (ES) as part of our Development Consent Order application which will report on the findings of the EIA as well as how we will avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts wherever possible.
- 5.5.3. Many of the issues raised in feedback to the consultation relate to topics that are being assessed as part of the EIA process. These issues have been cross checked against the survey and assessment work that is being carried out to ensure that they are considered as part of the process.

## 6. Indicative Project Development Timeline

- 6.1.1. The indicative development timeline for the projects is expected to be as set out below:
  - Scoping Report submitted 26 July 2022
  - Introductory consultation held 9 September to 14 October 2022
  - Consultation on PEIR (statutory consultation) 6 June 17 July 2023
  - Submission of DCO application Q1 2024
  - Acceptance and pre-examination Q1 Q3 2024
  - Examination Q3 2024 Q1 2025
  - Recommendation and decision Q1 Q3 2025



Figure 2- Indicative Project Development Timeline



RWE Renewables UK Limited Windmill Hill Business Park Whitehill Way Swindon Wiltshire, SN5 6PB





## RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

Appendix A

Introductory Consultation Zone Map

Unrestricted



Unrestricted



://Jsers/UI894426\Documents\ArcGIS\Projects\MvProject13\MvProject13 aprx



## RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

**Appendix B** 

**Introductory Consultation Press Release** 

Unrestricted



Unrestricted



## **Press release**

## Local residents invited to take part in community consultation for Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

- The consultation, which will focus on shortlisted 'zones' identified as possible sites to house the onshore electrical infrastructure relating to the offshore wind farms, launches on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022.
- Four public exhibition events to be held in local areas for residents to find out more about the wind farm proposals.
- A dedicated consultation website has also been created to allow residents to respond to the consultation in their own time.

Swindon, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022

RWE, one of the UK's leading renewable energy developers, has today announced details around the upcoming non-statutory community consultation relating to the Dogger Bank South (DBS) offshore wind farms developments. The Introductory Consultation will run from 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and will give local residents a better understanding of the project and the opportunity to influence aspects of the electrical system design.

DBS East and DBS West are located over 100km offshore in the shallow offshore area of the North Sea known as Dogger Bank. Together, the projects could have a total installed capacity of up to 3,000 megawatts (MW) helping to meet the UK Government's commitment of 50GW of offshore wind by 2030, and supporting security of energy supply and delivery of its net zero targets.

Since being awarded preferred bidder status for DBS back in February 2021, RWE has been engaged in a process of site selection, aiming at connecting the proposed offshore wind farms to the national grid. This work has focused on identifying suitable offshore and onshore export cable corridors, cable landfall locations and substation locations for the projects.

The results from the Holistic Network Design process, undertaken by National Grid ESO, were published in July 2022 and identified that connections to the UK electricity network would be made in the vicinity of a new National Grid substation at a location near Creyke Beck for both DBS projects.

RWE Renewables GmbH Corporate Communications & Public Affairs | RWE Platz 4 | 45141 Essen | Germany T +49 201 5179-5008 | communications@rwe.com | www.rwe.com/press



In undertaking the site selection work, RWE has sought to strike a balance between commercial, engineering, environmental and social considerations. In so doing, the company has sought to minimise impacts on local communities and the environment where possible. The details of the site selection work, the options remaining under consideration and the processes followed to develop these options are presented as part of the upcoming consultation.

Whilst the upcoming consultation focuses on the 'zones' identified as possible sites to house the onshore electrical infrastructure relating to the DBS projects, the company will also welcome comments on all other aspects of the wind farm (offshore array, export cable corridors etc.).

Four public exhibition events will be held as part of the consultation exercise to give local residents the chance to meet members of the project team. In addition to the live public events, a dedicated consultation website has been created to give those unable to attend the exhibitions in person, the opportunity to view all of the relevant information and respond to the consultation.

Trevor Baker, RWE Project Lead for Dogger Bank South continued "As a responsible developer, RWE always takes engagement with local residents and groups very seriously to ensure that our developments are having the least possible impact on communities. Our consultation will give residents the opportunity to have their say on our proposals and the feedback we receive will help shape our development. We understand that people living and working locally have a wealth of knowledge and may be able to identify issues affecting these potential onshore substation zones that we are not aware of."

"Our public exhibition events are open to all and we look forward to meeting as many local residents as possible to discuss our proposals. We encourage local residents to take the opportunity to respond to our consultation."

Date	Time	Location		
27th September 2022	2pm – 6pm	Skipsea Village Hall, Bridlington Rd,		
		Skipsea, Driffield YO25 8TJ		
28th September 2022	3pm – 7pm	Beverley Memorial Hall, 73-75 Lairgate,		
		Beverley, HU17 8HN		
7th October 2022	3pm – 7pm	Catwick Village Hall, Rowpit Lane, Riston		
		Road, Catwick, Beverley, HU17 5PR		
8th October 2022	11am - 3pm	Beverley Memorial Hall, 73-75 Lairgate,		
		Beverley, HU17 8HN		

Local residents will be able to respond to the consultation by completing questionnaires which will be available at the public exhibition events and can be downloaded from the website or requested directly. It is also possible to respond to the consultation online via the dedicated consultation website.

Letters inviting residents to take part in the consultation have been sent directly to over 19,000

RWE Renewables GmbH Group Corporate Communications & Public Affairs | RWE Platz 4 | 45141 Essen | Germany T +49 201 5179-5008 | communications@rwe.com | www.rwe.com/press



households located in the vicinity of the proposed DBS electrical system.

For further enquiries:

Vicky Law Communications & Stakeholder Manager M +44 (0) 7557 202090 E vicky.law@rwe.com

### RWE

RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With an extensive investment and growth strategy, the company will expand its powerful, green generation capacity to 50 gigawatts internationally by 2030. RWE is investing €50 billion gross for this purpose in this decade. The portfolio is based on offshore and onshore wind, solar, hydrogen, batteries, biomass and gas. RWE Supply & Trading provides tailored energy solutions for large customers. RWE has locations in the attractive markets of Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region. The company is responsibly phasing out nuclear energy and coal. Government-mandated phaseout roadmaps have been defined for both of these energy sources. RWE employs around 19,000 people worldwide and has a clear target: to get to net zero by 2040. On its way there, the company has set itself ambitious targets for all activities that cause greenhouse gas emissions. The Science Based Targets initiative has confirmed that these emission reduction targets are in line with the Paris Agreement. Very much in the spirit of the company's purpose: Our energy for a sustainable life.



## RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

Appendix C

**Introductory Consultation Banners** 

Unrestricted



Unrestricted



## Welcome to Our Exhibition

Please have a look through our information boards where you will find lots of information about the project or speak to a member of the Dogger Bank

## South (DBS) Offshore Wind Farms team.

## Your comments are important:

We understand that people living and working locally have a wealth of knowledge about the area. Our consultation is designed to gather your comments and suggestions on our project proposals – please complete or take home a questionnaire before you leave.

## At this exhibition you will find:

- Information about the proposed infrastructure (onshore and offshore) relating relating to the DBS projects.
- Information around the shortlisted locations for our proposed onshore electrical infrastructure.
- Visualisations of how the onshore substations could look in the surrounding areas.
- Information about RWE.
- RWE staff and a team of specialists who will answer any of your questions.





## About RWE

- RWE is one of the world's leading renewable energy companies and is a key player in the offshore wind market. RWE has been involved in offshore wind energy in the UK since the very start, having installed the first full scale offshore turbines at Blyth in 2000 and commissioned the UK's first commercial wind farm in 2003, the 60 MW North Hoyle.
- RWE is the UK's second largest power producer and third largest renewable generator supplying around 12% of UK electricity.
- In the UK, we currently operate:
  - 10 offshore wind farms
  - 33 onshore wind farms
  - 21 hydro plants
  - 1 biomass plant
- We are dedicated to generating electricity using sustainable and environmentally friendly resources. We do this by harnessing the natural power of wind, water and biomass into significant sources of renewable energy for the

UK's present, and future, electricity needs.







- The Dogger Bank South (DBS) Offshore Wind Farm projects are located over 100 kilometres off the North East coast of England.
- DBS is made up of two separate sites, DBS East and DBS West, which are located on the shallow offshore area of the North Sea known as Dogger Bank.
- Each project could have an installed capacity of up to 1.5 gigawatts meaning that the projects could generate enough clean, green renewable energy to power up to 3.4 million typical UK households per year.





## The Consultation

## Your response can make a difference

- We understand that people living and working locally have a wealth of knowledge and may be able to identify issues affecting the potential locations for our onshore electrical infrastructure that we may not be aware of.
- The consultation will enable you to have your say on the possible zones where the electrical infrastructure associated with Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farms could be located and on

## How to respond

The consultation runs from 9th September 2022 to 14th October 2022. Please note, consultation responses must be received by 5pm on 14th October 2022.

- Your comments may be made public in a consultation report but will be kept anonymous. The report will record comments received and explain how the views of the public, consultees and other stakeholders have been considered
- our wider project proposals.

## How to participate

- Please speak to a member of staff about filling in a questionnaire. You may respond for any of the shortlisted zones or make more general comments on the wider project proposals.
- You may fill in more than one questionnaire if providing comments for different zones.
   You can also complete a questionnaire online by downloading the editable version of the questionnaire from: www.rwe.com/doggerbanksouth
- in developing the final project design. This report will become part of our formal planning application.
- Please give your completed questionnaire to a member of staff or post in the dedicated box. Alternatively, you can take the questionnaire home and then send to the freepost address listed on the questionnaire.





# How the Connection Point to the National Grid was chosen

To achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, a step-change in the speed and scale of deployment of offshore wind is required.

National Grid ESO, the UK electrical system

Through the HND process, National Grid ESO considered several potential grid connections for the Dogger Bank South projects. The locations considered included Hawthorn Pit, Creyke Beck and the Lincolnshire Connection Node.

operator, embarked upon the recently completed Holistic Network Design (HND) process. The aims of the HND process was to design a coordinated solution for the national grid which takes account of planned offshore wind expansion in a way which is economic and efficient, deliverable and operable and which considers environmental impacts and the effects of infrastructure developments on local communities.

In early Summer 2022, National Grid ESO published the results from the HND process and determined that connections to the national grid for both DBS West and DBS East would be made in the vicinity of a new National Grid substation located near Creyke Beck. This area has been the focus of all landfall, offshore and onshore cable corridor and substation site selection work undertaken by RWE.







## Site Selection

Since being awarded preferred bidder status for the Dogger Bank South offshore wind farms by The Crown Estate through the Offshore Wind Round 4 process, RWE has been engaged in a process of site selection, aiming at connecting the array areas to the national grid.

With the locations of the offshore sites fixed through the Round 4 process, and the grid connection location determined through the HND process, the site selection work has been identifying suitable offshore and onshore export cable corridors, a cable landfall location and a substation location for each of the two projects. In undertaking this work, RWE has sought to strike a balance between commercial, engineering, environmental and social considerations. In so doing, RWE has sought to minimise impacts on local communities and the environment where possible. The details of the site selection work, the options remaining under consideration and the processes followed to develop these options are presented as part of this consultation exercise.

It is anticipated that each of the Dogger Bank South projects will be served by its own project specific infrastructure, but cable corridors, landfall locations and substation sites will be shared as far as possible to minimise impacts on communities and the environment.





![](_page_39_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_1.jpeg)

## The Offshore Array

The array areas are located more than 100 kilometres offshore on the Dogger Bank in the southern North Sea. Each of the two array areas cover approximately 495 kilometres. The final layouts for each project will not utilise this entire area.

The Projects' array areas will include wind turbines, array cables and offshore platforms (for both substations and accommodation).

## Wind turbines

The Projects' design envelope allows for up to 300 wind turbines, subject to the wind turbine capacity used. Wind turbine capacity is likely to increase in the time period between now and construction, therefore the EIA will be undertaken on a range of rated capacities.

## Array cables

Array cables will be used to connect the wind turbines to the offshore substations. The maximum length of the array cabling for the DBS projects is estimated to be 600 kilometres. The location and length of the array cabling will be determined post consent, subject to the final layout of the wind turbines.

## **Offshore platforms**

Up to eleven offshore platforms may be required although two of them may be located outside of the offshore wind turbine array area: eight offshore substation platforms and three additional platforms (e.g. reactive compensation platform, offshore switching station platform and accommodation platform).

A number of different foundation types are being considered, including monopiles, jackets on pin piles and jackets on suction buckets.

The overall layout of the wind turbines within the wind farm site will be informed by site investigation works and wind resource modelling and will comply with relevant best practice for offshore wind farms in relation to shipping and navigation, fishing interests, offshore health and safety and any relevant aviation interests.

![](_page_39_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Picture_0.jpeg)

# Offshore Cable Route Options

## **Offshore Cable Corridors**

The electricity generated by the offshore turbines will be carried from the offshore substations located within the array areas via offshore export cables to shore.

- The offshore export cables will be buried in the seabed in corridors up to 1 kilometre wide.
- Maintain sufficient space for offshore cable installation (including anchor spread of installation vessels whilst maintaining an appropriate safety buffer with existing sub-sea cables and pipelines).
- Avoid known historic wrecks as far as possible.
- Up to six cables will link the array areas to a shared landfall location.
- These cables will share a single corridor in the nearshore area, however, this will diverge to two 1 kilometre wide corridors in the offshore area to reach the individual offshore substations required by each project.

## **Offshore Cable Corridor Option Selection**

The selection of offshore export cable corridor options has been closely linked to landfall site selection work. All options were developed to:

 Maintain required minimum separation distance with other offshore cables and pipelines unless crossing is required, at which point, crossings will be designed to be at approximately 90°.

- Minimise sterilisation of aggerate dredging areas and other lease areas.
- Avoid direct significant impacts to sites designated for nature conservation as far as possible (SACs, SPAs, MCZs).
- Avoid direct significant impacts to ecologically important sandbanks and potential reefs as far as possible.
- Otherwise, in taking account of the above, be as short as practicable.

A number of options for the offshore export cable corridors remain under consideration in the offshore area. All options displayed are the subject of ongoing survey work. Corridor options will be selected based on the findings of this survey work.

![](_page_40_Picture_17.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Picture_18.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Picture_0.jpeg)

## Landfall Shortlist

Two possible landfall locations are under consideration for development. These lie adjacent to one another and are known as Landfall zone 8 and Landfall zone 9. It may be that cable landfall is made within one or other of these sites, or potentially within both sites.

## Landfall zones 8 and 9

Landfall zones 8 and 9 lie close to Skipsea, approximately halfway between Bridlington and Hornsea. The zones are situated within an area of sandy beach, backed by cliffs topped with agricultural land and are bordered to the immediate north and south by holiday parks, with Skipsea lying to the west, and Skipsea Primary School located nearby. A number of areas of environmental designations lie within approximately 1 kilometre of the zones. Other constraints include listed buildings, heritage features, scheduled monuments, sites of scientific interest and flood risk zones. A marine conservation zone also encompasses the southern reaches of the zone 9.

## Landfall Selection

Environmental Survey work has been ongoing throughout 2022. The outputs of these surveys will be combined with utilities mapping work and engineering studies to allow a final decision to be made relating to the exact landfall locations.

![](_page_41_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_0.jpeg)

## The Landfall

The cables that travel from the offshore wind farm will come ashore at an area known as the landfall location.

Site selection work completed to date considered a total of 28 potential landfall locations along the Holderness Coast. The outputs of a variety of environmental and engineering assessments and feasibility studies have been combined with site visits to inform the reduction of this longlist down to a short-list of two potential

![](_page_42_Picture_4.jpeg)

## landfall areas.

During the operational phase of the project very little infrastructure will be visible at landfall as the cables will be buried where they come ashore, joining to the onshore corridors at an underground installation known as a Transition Joint Bay. The onward onshore cables will also be buried.

The only elements at or above ground would be manhole type covers for future inspection and potentially some electrical cabinets and some fencing. These elements would all be set back from the immediate coastline at landfall.

Some disruption and disturbance including temporary increases in noise, traffic and visual disturbance may occur whilst construction activities are ongoing.

Use of the beach following construction will be able to continue as before.

![](_page_42_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_0.jpeg)

## Onshore Coble Corridor

- The onshore export cable corridor is the path along which electrical cables will be placed underground to transmit electricity generated by the wind farms to the UK's electricity transmission network.
- Both of the wind farms will require onshore export cables running from landfall to the grid connection point. The onshore export cables will be buried underground from the landfall location to the onshore substations and wherever possible, all cables will be installed along the same cable corridor.
- Key stakeholder groups including East Riding of Yorkshire Council, York Consortium Drainage Board, the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Historic England, local landowners and National Highways are being invited to contribute knowledge to the process.
- Site selection work has been undertaken to narrow the number of suitable cable corridors to a shortlist of possible routes running from landfall to the onshore grid connection point. The current corridor width, for site selection purposes is 500 metres. The purpose of maintaining the corridor width of 500 metres is to enable the route to be refined based on this consultation and a range of ongoing surveys and studies.
- We are currently undertaking environmental surveys which will inform the final route selected for the cable corridor alongside engineering studies to determine suitable crossing points of obstacles and underground utilities such as electricity, gas, water and telecoms infrastructure.

- There are cable route options around the landfall area to accommodate the landfall zones still under consideration and there are several options for routeing into the area of the onshore substations.
- The final width of the corridor to be used for constructing and laying the cables is expected to be approximately 100 metres and will include internal haul roads to reduce vehicle movements on public roads in and around the cable route. Once constructed, the cables are expected to typically fit within a width of 35 metres, although in locations where crossings are required underneath obstructions, the width can increase substantially for a short distance.
- Along the length of the cable route there will be construction access points, and small storage and works compounds that will be required for undertaking trenchless cable installation where the cable route requires to be drilled under obstacles, for example, rivers, railways and roads.

![](_page_43_Figure_11.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_0.jpeg)

## Underground Cabling

## **Key Points:**

 Up to six cables for both projects. Where located adjacent to each other the typical construction cable corridor for both projects will be up to 100 metres wide. Construction widths will be wider in some areas, e.g. where directional drilling is required.

![](_page_44_Picture_4.jpeg)

- When going through agricultural land, cables will typically be buried to a depth of 0.9 – 1.6 metres with a protective board placed on top of the cable ducts.
- Working areas will be fenced off during construction with a dedicated temporary haul road to permit access to all areas of the corridor during construction.
- To allow cable installation, the majority of the route is likely to be open-trenched with major obstacles such as roads, railway lines, and water courses drilled under.
- Jointing pits are located along the onshore route to connect each length of cable. With the ducts pre-installed, the cables can be pulled through without further disruption to the land. Constructed of concrete, the pits are buried in the ground and once restored will be completely covered. Separate manholes set in a concrete slab are located within the vicinity of the joints to allow cable testing. Under normal operational conditions the jointing pits are the only locations which the maintenance teams would require access to during the life of the wind farm. Land will be restored after completion and returned to former use. On very rare occasions we may

We will ensure that the contractor undertaking the cable installation work will seek to install the cables in such a way as to minimise any long term affects on the land or to drainage systems. Landowners will be invited to provide site specific information to assist us in correctly identifying existing land drain systems. We will also draw upon experience gained through installing underground cables in other locations where there is extensive land drainage.

have to excavate the cables and ducts to carry out a repair.

![](_page_44_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Picture_1.jpeg)

## **Onshore Substation**

## We are consulting on a shortlist of three zones in which we believe the onshore substations could be built.

- Two onshore substations (one for each project) are required to transform the generated electricity to a higher voltage for onward transmission on the national grid. It is expected, if space allows, the two substations will be located adjacent to each other on one site.
- Each substation will consist of several buildings housing electrical equipment and
- The final dimensions of the substations are dependent on the electrical capacity of the wind farms and the design of electrical transmission used to transmit electricity to the substation.
   However the tallest building could be up to 24 metres in height. Lightning rods and other electrical equipment may need to be higher than the tallest building.
- The substation equipment may need approximately 20 hectares (50 acres) of land.
- There will be temporary works associated with the construction of the substations. Temporary

unhoused electrical equipment contained within secure fencing.

working areas are usually located adjacent to the substations and include temporary office and welfare facilities in the form of portacabins, car parking and storage. Temporary working areas will be removed following commissioning of the offshore wind farms and the land reinstated.

![](_page_45_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Picture_0.jpeg)

## **Onshore Substation Shortlist**

Three substation zones have been shortlisted following consideration of a range of environmental and engineering constraints.

We have considered the following:

- Landscape and visual the zones are
- Flooding risk The electrical equipment and the access roads will be designed to withstand flooding and that will form part of our design at application stage.
- Operational noise background noise levels will be measured via location-specific modelling to determine the noise that would be produced by the electrical equipment. It will be possible to ensure that final designs conform to planning guidance in relation to noise levels.
- located in an area that is rural in nature, some of which is characterised by energy infrastructure and roads. Preliminary photomontages show how the substations could look. When the design is more developed, proposals on landscaping and planting will be developed to further mitigate landscape and visual impact.
- Access roads we have considered the feasibility of access for construction vehicles taking into account other developments in the area.
- Ecology we have identified designated sites for conservation in East Riding. Ecology surveys are ongoing to identify any protected species on and around the proposed zones. Further surveys will be carried out once the final zone has been selected
- Technical considerations the zones are being evaluated for their proximity to the grid connection point and ability to route cables from the substation to that point. This takes into account existing over and underground infrastructure that the cables will have to cross.
- Archaeology and heritage the existing historic environment with respect to onshore archaeology and cultural heritage is being evaluated including (but not limited to): known non-designated heritage assets, potential for buried archaeological remains and previously unrecorded above ground heritage assets and designated heritage assets. We are speaking to stakeholders regarding our approach and we will use this information to help guide the final onshore substation locations to avoid potential impacts where possible.

![](_page_46_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Picture_0.jpeg)

## Onshore Substation Zone 1

- Substation zone 1 is located adjacent to the A1079. It is located in an area of low lying agricultural land.
- The zone comprises 75 hectares. A high pressure ethylene pipeline crosses the western part of the zone and there is an electricity transmission line 100 metres to the south of
- The zone is adjacent to the substations associated with Dogger Bank Wind Farm that are currently under construction and is close to the existing substation at Creyke Beck. The zone would avoid visual effects in the Yorkshire Wolds Important Landscape Area identified in the Local Plan.
- Access options are still under consideration for this zone. Options include constructing a new access route from the A164 (north of Jock's Lodge) or from the A164/Ward Way Roundabout. Discussions are ongoing with East Riding of Yorkshire Council which will inform the proposals if this zone is taken forward.
- the zone.
- The zone is less than 1 kilometre from the indicative grid connection point and could offer a viable connection route that avoids the relocation of existing infrastructure.
- There are no residential properties within the zone. The closest residential property is approximately 75 metres from the zone.
- There are no international or national ecological or landscape designations that directly affect this zone.
- We are aware of a potential solar farm planning application made on this land.
- A flood zone is located within the substation zone. This will be taken into consideration when positioning the locations of the substations within the zone.

![](_page_47_Figure_12.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Picture_0.jpeg)

## **Onshore Substation Zone 4**

- Substation zone 4 is located adjacent to the A164 and the A1079 at the Jock's Lodge junction. It lies 115 metres to the west of the A164 at its closest point. It is located in an area of low lying agricultural land that includes areas of ancient woodland and plantation forestry.
- The zone comprises 38 hectares and is bound by a high pressure gas and ethylene pipelines to the south and an electricity transmission line to the north.
- This zone is not located in flood zone so it not considered to be at risk of flooding. There is a watercourse running through the zone. The final positioning of the substations will take this into account to reduce impacts on the watercourse.
- The zone is located to the south of Butt Farm, west of which lie several heritage features associated with a World War II Heavy Anti Aircraft battery, part of which is a Scheduled Monument. The final siting of the onshore substation and associated cable routing will seek to minimise impacts on this nearby heritage feature.
- The zone is less than 1 kilometre from the indicative grid connection point and could offer a viable connection route that avoids the relocation of existing infrastructure.
- There are no residential properties within the zone. The closest residential property is approximately 100 metres from the zone.
- There are small areas of Ancient Woodland within the substation zone, which could help provide natural screening. There is sufficient space within this zone to ensure that the substation, construction compound and access routes avoid these areas. The zone also lies within the Yorkshire Wolds Important Landscape Area defined in the East Riding Local Plan.
- The zone is close to the existing substation at Creyke Beck and is located in a relatively well screened and low lying part of the Yorkshire Wolds ILA.
- The zone lies immediately adjacent to the Jock's Lodge junction improvement scheme which may offer the opportunity to take access via the realigned A164. Alternatively it may be possible to take access from an existing layby to the north on the A1079. Discussions are ongoing with East Riding of Yorkshire Council which will inform the proposals if this zone is taken forward.

![](_page_48_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Figure_12.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Picture_0.jpeg)

## **Onshore Substation Zone 5**

- Substation zone 5 is located adjacent to the A164 on the corner with Dunflat Road. A small area of plantation woodland lies within the eastern portion of the site.
- The zone comprises 54 hectares and the south of the zone is dissected by an existing overhead electricity line, a gas pipeline and a Public Right of Way.
- There are no international or national ecological or landscape designations that directly affect this zone. The zone lies on the eastern edge of the Yorkshire Wolds Important Landscape Area (ILA) defined in the East Riding Local Plan. There is sufficient space within this zone to ensure that the substation, construction compound and access routes are
- The zone is approximately 1.4 kilometres from the indicative grid connection point and could offer a viable connection route that avoids the relocation of existing infrastructure.
- There are no residential properties within the zone. The closest residential property is approximately 250 metres from the zone.
- sited to minimise impacts from other parts of the ILA and visibility from the A164.
- This zone is not located in a flood zone and is not considered to be at risk of flooding.
- The zone could be accessed via Dunflat Road via the wider road network and will not conflict with the Jock's Lodge junction improvement scheme.

![](_page_49_Figure_10.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Picture_0.jpeg)

## What Happens Next?

Once we have gathered all the information and comments from statutory consultees, non-statutory organisations and members of the public, we will be able to re-assess our proposals. Weighing up all the factors to take into consideration, we will select the most appropriate sites and zones for further assessment.

## What happens next?

Once all feedback has been reviewed, we will select all of the zones and locations which will be taken forward to the next phase of development. We will undertake detailed environmental assessments on the selected zones to determine the locations and orientation of the infrastructure.

## These assessments will include:

- Ground investigations to help us with the infrastructure design.
- Access studies for abnormal loads and HGVs and associated construction traffic.
- Flood risk studies.
- Further detailed visual assessment and work around the mitigation of potential impacts.
- Ecology surveys.
- Noise monitoring.
- Archeology and heritage studies.

We will also consult further with relevant statutory bodies such as Natural England, local authorities, the Environment Agency and other consultees and will take into account their views into our design. The detailed assessments and the consultations will help identify the best location of the development within the chosen site.

## What happens once the detailed environmental assessments are completed?

Following our detailed assessments, once we have more information on the proposed electrical infrastructure, we will hold another consultation to ask you what you think about the entire scheme (onshore and offshore). This will be your other opportunity to influence the project before we finalise our proposals.

The finalised proposal will be submitted to the relevant examining authority for development consent.

The application will contain all the information to describe the infrastructure, its location and proposed mitigation and monitoring which we will implement before, during or after construction.

Any mitigation required will also be identified to minimise impacts on the environment and people.

![](_page_50_Picture_19.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Picture_0.jpeg)

## RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

Appendix D

**Introductory Consultation Questionnaire** 

![](_page_51_Picture_4.jpeg)

Unrestricted

![](_page_53_Picture_0.jpeg)

## Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farms Introductory Consultation: Questionnaire

### The consultation - your response can make a difference

We understand that people living and working locally have a wealth of knowledge and may be able to identify issues affecting the potential sites for our onshore electrical infrastructure that public bodies are not aware of. The purpose of this questionnaire is to capture that knowledge and to ask you to identify any issues we should take into account in our site selection process. We are also asking for your opinions on where the infrastructure could be located from our short list of potential sites.

The consultation will enable you to have your say on:

- The possible sites / zones where the proposed electrical infrastructure relating to the Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farms may be constructed.
- General comments on our project proposals.

### How to participate

Please answer as many of the questions in this questionnaire as you feel able to. You may respond for any of the shortlisted zones. Please note to which zone your questionnaire refers to on the first page of the questionnaire.

You may fill in more than one questionnaire per zone by continuing on a separate sheet or by requesting further copies of this questionnaire using the contact details on the back page of this document. You can also complete a questionnaire online by downloading the editable version of the questionnaire from: www.rwe.com/doggerbanksouth

### How to respond

The consultation runs from 9th September until the 14th October 2022. Please note that consultation responses must be received by 5pm on 14th October 2022.

Your comments may be made public in a consultation report, but will remain anonymous. The report will record comments received and explain how the views of the public, consultees and stakeholders have been considered in developing the final project design. This report will become part of our planning application.

Please return hard copy questionnaires to our Freepost address, **FREEPOST DBSOWF**. Electronic copies can be returned via email to **dbs@rwe.com** 

If you would like this questionnaire in larger print or in another format, please contact us on: 0800 254 5459

**IMPORTANT:** Please tick the relevant box below to confirm which zone you are responding to.

Onshore Substation	Landfall			
Zone 1 - Yellow Zone	Zone 8 - Orange Zone			
Zone 4 - Purple Zone	Zone 9 - Pink Zone			
Zone 5 - Blue Zone	Cable Route			
	Cable Corridor General			

### **Questionnaire Questions**

We will design our electrical infrastructure to minimise impacts on local people and the environment. We need your help to make sure that we understand everything about each zone:

1. Do you know of any properties, rights of way or other activities that could be affected that we may not know about or that you are concerned about?

2. Are there any current uses or past uses that you think we should be made aware of, for example uses that might have resulted in contamination of the land and made it unsuitable for development?

**3.** Are there any relevant ecological or nature conservation issues that we should be made aware of?

**4.** Are there any cultural heritage features (such as historic buildings, ancient monuments or other important archaeological features) that you are concerned about?

5. Are you aware of any history of flooding from any source that you want to tell us about?

6. Do you have any other comments you would like to make on our project proposals?

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

### **Your details**

To help us collate the information you have provided can you please enter your postcode here:

Postcode

We may like to contact you about your answers if we need more information. If you are happy for us to do this, please provide your contact details in block capitals below:

Name	 	 	 
Address	 	 	 
Telephone	 	 	 
E-mail			

All personal details provided will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and will not be passed on to any third parties. We may be required to show how we have considered your responses in a Consultation Report, submitted with our planning application. Your responses may therefore appear in this report, which will become a publicly available document.

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please return it to our Freepost address (listed on page 1) along with questionnaires for any of the other zones you would like to respond to the consultation on.

### **Contact us**

**Email:** dbs@rwe.com

**Telephone:** 0800 254 5459

Web: www.rwe.com/doggerbanksouth

### Post:

Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms Windmill Hill Business Park Whitehill Way Swindon Wiltshire SN5 9PB