

Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms Community Newsletter

Welcome

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our statutory consultation between 06 June and 17 July 2023. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you face to face at our consultation events, so thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us. And for those who joined us for the webinars or sent feedback to us in writing, we also really appreciate your time and input.

The engagement and feedback has been both thoughtful and constructive, helping us to shape and refine the projects with the needs and experience of local communities front and centre of our work.

We have spent the past few months working through the responses and combining them with outcomes from our environmental and engineering surveys. I'm pleased to report that we can now confirm the preferred cable route, landfall and substation locations which are discussed in this newsletter.

We continue to work closely with a wide range of stakeholders and are progressing towards a Development Consent Order (DCO) submission in 2024. We outline the next steps at the end of this newsletter, and we will keep you updated with our progress through future editions, our website and the media. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do contact the team via our details on the back page.

Trevor Baker
Projects Lead – Dogger Bank South

Consultation update

A statutory consultation for our proposals was held between 06 June and 17 July 2023.

The purpose of the consultation was to present:

- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR);
- Revised plans incorporating technical work carried out after the introductory consultation in Autumn 2022.

We asked for feedback on:

- Onshore cabling and substation locations;
- Landfall scenarios;
- Proposals for the offshore array areas.

Although the consultation is now closed, you can still view the information that we published including the non-technical summary of the PEIR, the full PEIR, consultation banners and brochure on our website: www.doggerbanksouth.co.uk



Our 2023 consultation in numbers:

- Invitations were sent to around **44,500** homes and businesses within the consultation mailing zone, along with letters and emails to local MPs, councillors and parish councillors;
- We held **five** public consultation events in the East Riding of Yorkshire, and **two** webinars;
- A total of **383** people attended public consultation events and **23** people joined the webinars;
- There were **521** visitors to the consultation website;
- We received **63** consultation responses (including 4 duplicates) from members of the local community, parish councillors and other stakeholders via online and paper questionnaires and emails;
- We received **11** consultation responses from landowners and persons with an interest in land;
- A total of **32** statutory stakeholders responded to the consultation.

A huge thank you to everyone who came to our events and who provided feedback.

What we heard from your feedback

We have summarised the key themes and what we are doing to address them in the table below. A detailed breakdown of all consultation responses and how they have been considered will be set out in a Consultation Report that will be submitted as part of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

Onshore		
Theme	Feedback topics	What we're doing
Landscape and Visual	<p>Potential visual impact of the substations and how views might be affected. Many respondents stated a preference for co-locating the substations within one zone.</p> <p>Planting ahead of construction to allow plants to become established.</p> <p>The presence of overhead lines.</p>	<p>A decision has been made to remove Substation Zone 1 from the project design and to co-locate two High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter stations in Substation Zone 4.</p> <p>A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the co-located substation design and mitigation plans, including illustrative landscape planting schemes, is being developed and will be presented in the Environmental Statement (ES). The landscape specialists are also considering the substation design as part of the scheme development.</p> <p>All cables will be buried.</p>
Traffic and Transport	<p>Routing traffic through residential areas.</p> <p>The use of trenchless crossings under well-used roads.</p> <p>The development and use of a Transport Management Plan for the construction period.</p> <p>Moving large items by sea/ barge to the landfall.</p> <p>Consideration of cumulative impacts with other development schemes.</p>	<p>To reduce traffic movements to levels lower than presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report we will use one haul road for both projects, complete ducting for both projects during construction of the first project and share engineering works where possible.</p> <p>Construction traffic routes have been developed in consultation with East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC), Hull City Council and National Highways. Where possible this minimises routes through residential areas.</p> <p>Through the Construction Traffic Management Plan, we will work with ERYC to agree traffic management measures. This may include restricting construction traffic levels at certain locations to avoid sensitive times such as school start and finish times.</p> <p>We will continue to develop the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan to ensure that necessary controls are in place to manage construction traffic.</p> <p>The Traffic and Transport Assessment will consider cumulative development in the area.</p>

Onshore

Theme	Feedback topics	What we're doing
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Queries about archaeological investigations.	<p>We are carrying out detailed archaeological surveys and heritage resource assessments as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.</p> <p>Geophysical surveys have been completed on more than 75% of the onshore development area.</p> <p>A trial trenching plan has been agreed with Historic England and Humber Archaeological Partnership to investigate potential features identified during the desk-based and geophysical surveys, plus some 'blank' areas. Trial trenching is in progress at the landfall and substation sites and will begin along the cable route in 2024.</p> <p>Significant heritage assets have been identified around Nunkeeling. Following consultation with heritage stakeholders the cable route has been amended and now avoids these sites.</p>
Ecology	Potential impact on Beverley Westwood and Burton Bushes Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).	<p>The cable route avoids both Beverley Westwood and Burton Bushes SSSI.</p> <p>Temporary construction compounds (TCC) have been selected that are further away from Burton Bushes SSSI to minimise impact.</p> <p>We have committed to Horizontal Directional Drill under woodland areas to leave them undisturbed and in situ.</p>

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Your feedback - continued

Onshore

Theme	Feedback topics	What we're doing
Agricultural Land	<p>Development on agricultural land and impact on Agricultural Land Classification.</p> <p>Drainage.</p>	<p>Land will be returned to agricultural use once the cable route is installed, and landowners will be able to return to normal farming practices. They will, however, be prohibited from activities that might interfere with or damage the cables such as erecting buildings or allowing any plant or tree to grow in the cable easement strip.</p> <p>We will use a competent contractor for soil handling, storage and reinstatement under Defra (2009) Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites; storing excavated subsoil separately from the topsoil, with sufficient separation to ensure segregation.</p> <p>We will carry out all work diligently, using suitable materials and in accordance with good industry practice, which will be outlined in a Code of Construction Practice, submitted with the Environmental Statement. We will also reinstate or divert existing agricultural land drains to the satisfaction of the landowner.</p>
Noise	Potential noise impacts during construction along the cable route.	We have sited the cable route and any temporary construction compounds away from residential properties and caravan parks where possible.
Public Rights of Way (PRoW)	Ensuring minimal impacts on PRoW during construction	We will work with the local authority and other consultees to agree how to manage PRoW during construction. We are not proposing to permanently divert any PRoW.



Onshore

Theme	Feedback topics	What we're doing
Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Consideration of flood zone areas and the potential impact on water storage in aquifers.	<p>A Flood Risk Assessment is in progress in consultation with the Environment Agency, Lead Local Flood Authority and the Beverley and North Holderness Internal Drainage boards and will be presented in the Environmental Statement. Sections of the onshore cable corridor are located within Flood Zone 2 and 3 associated with several main rivers, including the River Hull, plus ordinary watercourses.</p> <p>We will use trenchless techniques, including Horizontal Directional Drilling to cross main rivers and mitigate flood risk in these locations. For ordinary watercourses we will use trenched crossings designed to maintain flow volumes and rates. Once operational there will be no flood risk to or from the onshore export cables.</p> <p>The onshore substation is in Flood Zone 1, which has a low risk of flooding from fluvial sources. There are some areas of surface water flood risk that will be managed as part of the substation operational sustainable drainage design. A drainage strategy will be submitted with the Development Consent Order.</p> <p>There are Source Protection Zones (SPZs) for drinking water located along the onshore cable corridor. The impact on aquifers and SPZs will be assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment and appropriate mitigation measures included in the Code of Construction practice submitted with the Environmental Statement.</p>
Coastal Erosion	Influence of activities at the landfall location on coastal erosion	<p>The design considers potential future coastal erosion at the landfall. We are undertaking geotechnical site investigations to inform the construction methodology at the landfall and minimise the impact of the development on the environment. Effects on coastal erosion and flood risk will be assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment and mitigated where necessary.</p>

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Your feedback - continued

Onshore

Theme	Feedback topics	What we're doing
Health	Potential impacts from electromagnetic fields.	The projects will implement relevant guidelines from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection and the UK Government voluntary code of practice. Our commitment to these standards is to the satisfaction of The Planning Inspectorate and the UK Health Security Agency.
Air Quality	Potential impacts from construction vehicle exhaust emissions.	Effects from air quality will be considered as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment.
Supply Chain	Use of local supply chain for components	Offshore wind is a core growth opportunity in the region. We plan to maximise potential for the benefit of local businesses, create new, high quality long-term jobs, support new skills development, and wherever possible, ensure that all localised options are explored.



Offshore

Theme	Feedback topics	What we're doing
Offshore Ecology	Potential impacts on offshore wildlife including birds, fish and marine mammals.	We are assessing potential impacts on offshore ecology. Preliminary results are outlined in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and have been discussed with relevant expert topic groups. The final report will be submitted as part of the Development Consent Order.
Project Design	<p>Reduce the design envelope within Dogger Bank Special Area of Conservation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing the option of HVAC as a mode of transmission; • Removing the option of gravity base foundations. 	<p>We will progress with the HVDC transmission systems only, which reduces the number of offshore export cables and platforms required. This is in line with advice received from Natural England to help minimise environmental impacts.</p> <p>Gravity base foundations have been removed from the wind turbine foundations but currently remain as an option for the platform foundations. We are continuing to review site-specific ground condition data, the size/weight of the equipment required and the potential complexity of installation to inform our final decision for the platform foundations.</p>
Underwater noise	<p>Potential for noise abatement systems and temporal and/or spatial restrictions on construction between August and October to protect herring spawning from underwater noise.</p>	<p>Parameters used in the underwater noise modelling for the PEIR assessments have been reduced following feedback including: reductions to array area; monopile diameter; hammer energy; maximum simultaneous piling events and maximum number of piles per day. These modifications are expected to reduce underwater noise.</p> <p>We will include the updated results in the Environmental Statement and propose appropriate mitigation for any potential significant impacts to be discussed and agreed with the Marine Management Organisation and Natural England.</p>

Site selection update

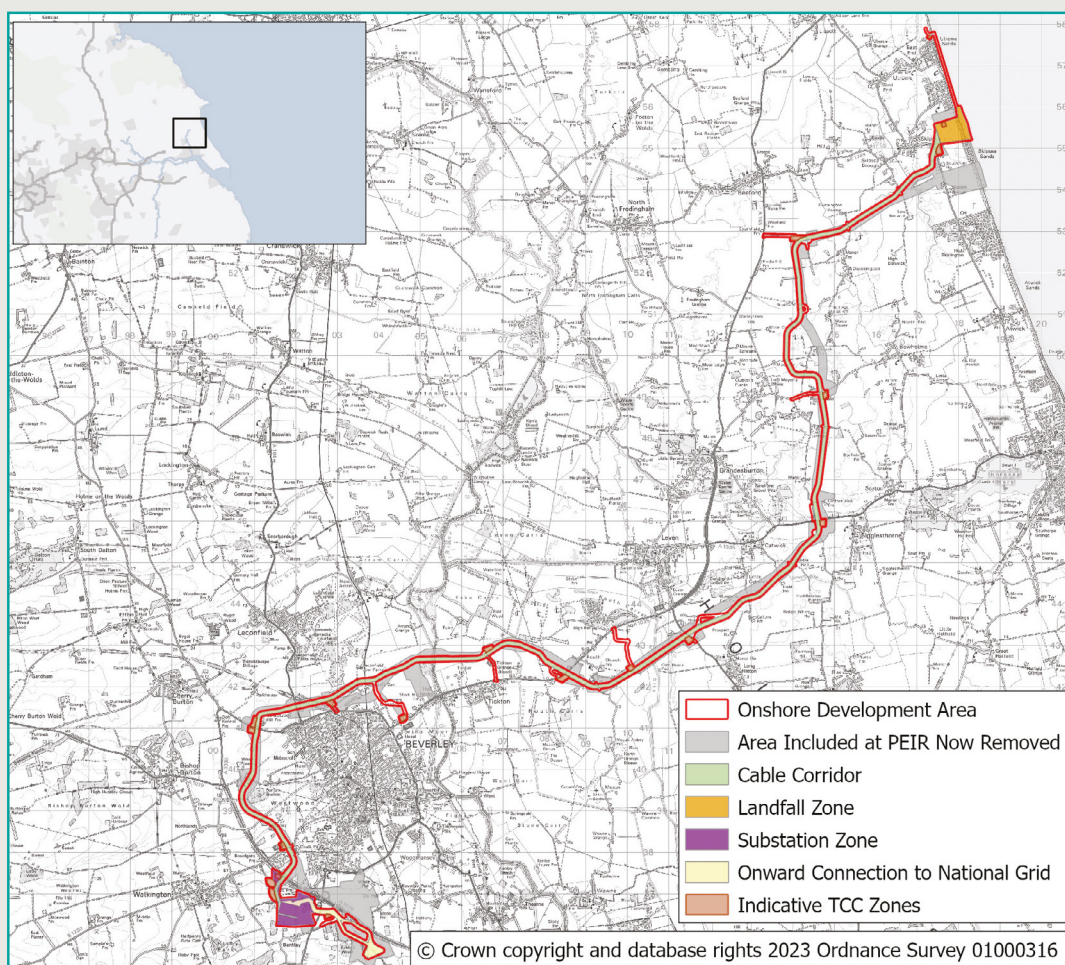
After the conclusion of our statutory consultation, site selection work has continued, feeding into the site refinement and facilitating our decision making. We have now selected the landfall and substation locations and the preferred cable route to be progressed and submitted as part of the Development Consent Order.

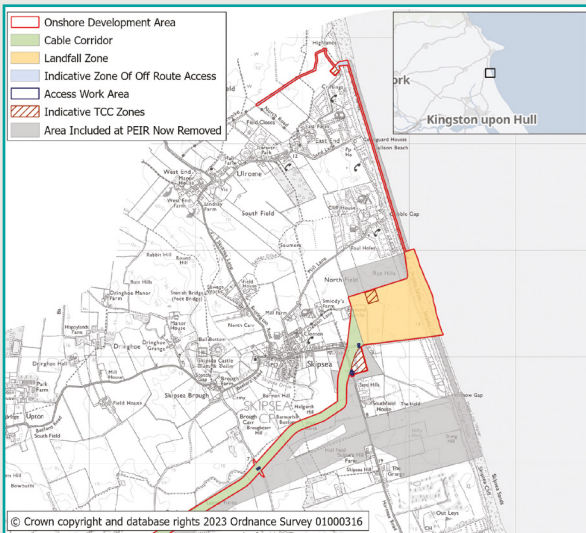
All the changes made to the onshore development area since the publication of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, including some new access points, are available in map format on the DBS project website.

Substation location and technology choice

During our statutory consultation, we presented four different converter station options across two different Substation Zones. The options were based on two different ways to transmit electrical power through cabling: high voltage alternating current (HVAC) and high voltage direct current (HVDC).

Following feedback from stakeholders and further engineering assessment, the decision has been made to remove HVAC from the design and to locate both HVDC converter stations in Substation Zone 4.





Landfall – final site selection

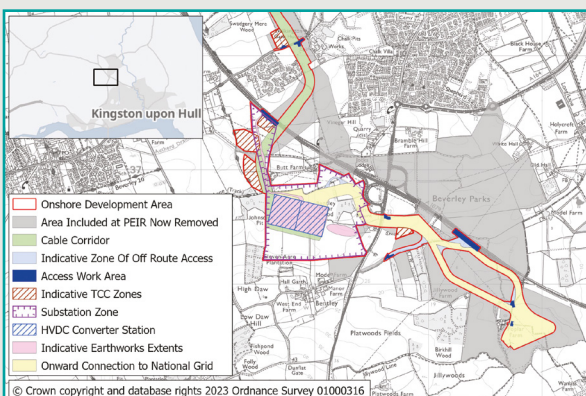
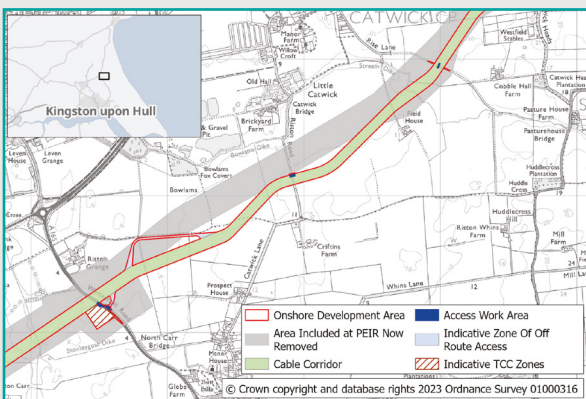
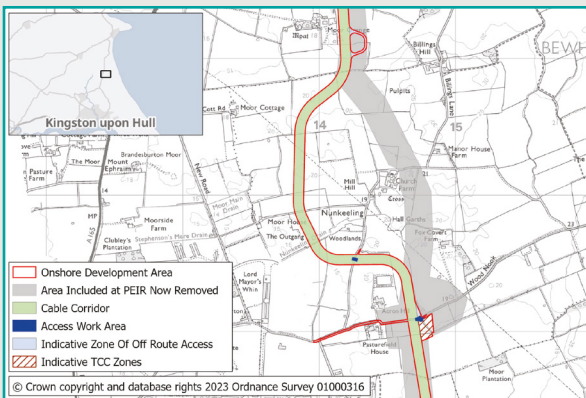
Following the statutory consultation, we have chosen to progress with Landfall Zone 8 which delivers the following advantages:

- Provides beach emergency access without accessing Seaside Caravan Park at Ulrome;
- Avoids the Holderness Inshore Marine Conservation Area;
- Simplifies the earthworks required for the Horizontal Direction Drill compound.

Cable route – preferred route

Taking into consideration consultation feedback, environmental surveys and ongoing engineering work, we have refined the cable route from the landfall to the converter stations. The cable corridor width has reduced from 100m presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report to 75m, widening to 90m at Horizontal Directional Drilling locations. The preferred route has the following advantages:

- Works with existing proposals for a new wind turbine at Dunnington;
- Reduces the potential to sterilise safeguarded mineral reserves at Long Riston;
- Mitigates potential impacts on a proposed solar farm at Riston Grange;
- Provides alternative access at Routh, avoiding a poultry farm;
- Avoids the application for a proposed recycling centre at Molescroft;
- Avoids the designated landscape at Westwood Common;
- Avoids significant heritage assets identified around Nunkeeling Priory.



The width of the 400 kilovolt (kV) cable corridor from the converter stations to National Grid has been refined to 100m. A section of this cable corridor splits with one route north of the Ineos ethylene pipeline and one route south of the pipeline. The width of each split section is 53m, which accommodates the haul roads.

Onshore survey update

We have undertaken habitat and protected species surveys including overwintering and breeding birds, great crested newts, bats, badgers, water voles and otters to understand the presence and distribution of local wildlife and habitats. We are working with Natural England to ensure impacts on nationally designated sites, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, are fully assessed.



A complete pot found at the initial dig, likely Iron Age or Roman in date.

We have completed geophysical surveys for over 75% of the onshore development area using a handheld or All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) towed magnetometer to identify areas of archaeological interest.

The first phase of trial trenching targeting potential substation and landfall zones began in August 2023, informed by the geophysical surveys, desk-based assessments and a review of historical mapping/remote sensing data. Restrictions around land availability and crop cover meant initial work focussed on Landfall 8 and Substation Zone 4. The scope of this first phase of trial trenching has been agreed with heritage stakeholders and involves excavation of 59 trenches at the Landfall 8 and 82 trenches at Substation Zone 4.

Work at the landfall site is progressing well, despite some delays caused by poor weather. Over 90% of trenches at the landfall sites have revealed archaeological features of interest that require investigation and recording. Some areas contain multiple intercutting ditches suggesting concentrated activity and a divided landscape over long periods of time. There are also areas with evidence of settlements including domestic pottery and animal bone.

Early results from Substation Zone 4 indicate archaeological potential, including evidence of settlement. We have now excluded these areas from our zone boundary. We continue to work closely with Humber Archaeological Partnership and Historic England to ensure that trench evaluation and recording of finds meet the high standards of our heritage stakeholders, prior to the trenches being signed off and backfilled.

Next steps

- In response to feedback, we have made a series of route amendments and will be consulting landowners on these from 13 November 2023.
- We will continue archaeological surveys, investigations into ground conditions and tree surveys as we prepare the Development Consent Order application for submission in 2024.
- A further heritage walkover survey is planned during the Autumn, to complete an assessment of the condition of archaeological assets such as historic earthworks and structures within the cable corridor.
- Additional traffic count surveys are planned during the Autumn to support the traffic and transport assessments. The work will involve three days of automatic traffic count data at four sites, to collect traffic flow and speed data.

Further information

For more background information on the project, please visit our project website at www.doggerbanksouth.co.uk

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