

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Appendix 5.1.1 Consultation on the draft Statement of Community Consultation

Date: June 2023

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Appendix 5.1.1 Consultation on the draft Statement of Community Consultation

This Appendix includes the following documents:

- Annex 5.1.1A(i) Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Draft Statement of Community Consultation (August 2022)
- Annex 5.1.1A(ii) Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Revised Draft Statement of Community Consultation (September 2022)
- Annex 5.1.1B Stakeholder Responses Received and ODOW Response (September 2022)
- Annex 5.1.1C Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Final Statement of Community Consultation (October 2022)
- Annex 5.1.1D Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Draft Updated SoCC (December 2022)
- Annex 5.1.1E Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Final Updated Statement of Community Consultation (January 2023)

**Annex 5.1.1A(i) Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Draft Statement of Community
Consultation (August 2022)**

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Date: August 2022

Document No: 123-ODO-CON-K-GA-000007-01

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Abbreviations

Acronym	Expanded name
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
GW	Gigawatt
HND	Holistic Network Design
HRA	Habitats Regulation Assessment
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
LPA	Local Planning Authority
ML	Marine License
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
NGESO	National Grid Electricity Systems Operator
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
ODOW	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind
OSP	Offshore Platform
OTNR	Offshore Transmission Network Review
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Impact Report
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SoS	Secretary of State
TCE	The Crown Estate
TJB	Transition Joint Bay
WTG	Wind Turbine Generators

1. Introduction

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, a joint venture between Macquarie Green Investment Group Limited (GIG) (now Corio Generation) and TotalEnergies, is publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for the proposed Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind project (('ODOW'), hereafter referred to as 'the Project'). The purpose of this document is to set out how we will undertake statutory consultation, as required under section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act'), and non-statutory consultation with the local community regarding our proposal.

This SoCC sets out:

- Information regarding the Project's background;
- How the application for development consent will progress;
- How we have identified who to consult;
- Proposed consultation methods and materials; and
- How members of the community can continue to provide their feedback to help inform the Project as it develops.

This SoCC has been written in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council as the host local authorities. Other neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have also been consulted including:

- North East Lincolnshire Council;
- West Lindsey District Council;
- North Kesteven District Council;
- South Kesteven District Council;
- Peterborough City Council;
- Fenland District Council; and
- Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

2. About The Project: Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Introduction

The Project is a proposed offshore windfarm located approximately 54 km off the coast of Lincolnshire, England, comprising an offshore generating station and covering an area of seabed, at this stage, of up to 500km² as shown in Figure 1. Under the terms of the seabed lease which would ultimately be granted by The Crown Estate (TCE), there is a requirement to reduce the Project array area from the current 500km² down to 300km². It is intended that this will be undertaken ahead of consent, through the Project development and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes, taking account of key environmental and technical constraints and in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

The location for the proposed Project array area was selected through consideration of various environmental, engineering, and technical constraints. The current Area of Search (AoS) for the offshore and onshore grid connection corridors has been defined based on the latest recommendations of the Offshore Transmission Network Review¹ (OTNR process - see Section 6).

The recommendations from the OTNR process were published on 07 July 2022 (Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND)²) by National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO), which concluded two connection locations being progressed for further consideration for the Project – Weston Marsh and Lincolnshire Node.

The AoS in Figure 1 presents a combined AoS for both of these connection options, noting that this area will be reduced when a single grid connection location is confirmed by National Grid ESO. This is anticipated before publication of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR – see section 4).

The Project is planned to have a generating capacity, of 1.5GW, powering over 1.6 million households in the UK. The exact size and capacity of the Project is being determined through a balanced consideration of the environmental, social and technical implications, of which the pre-application consultation is a key component. The Project considers the pre-application consultation with the local community and stakeholders to be an integral part of the development process and intends for this document to outline a consultation roadmap, ensuring a process where all interested parties have the opportunity to participate.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/offshore-transmission-network-review>

² <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/the-pathway-2030-holistic-network-design>

Need for the Project

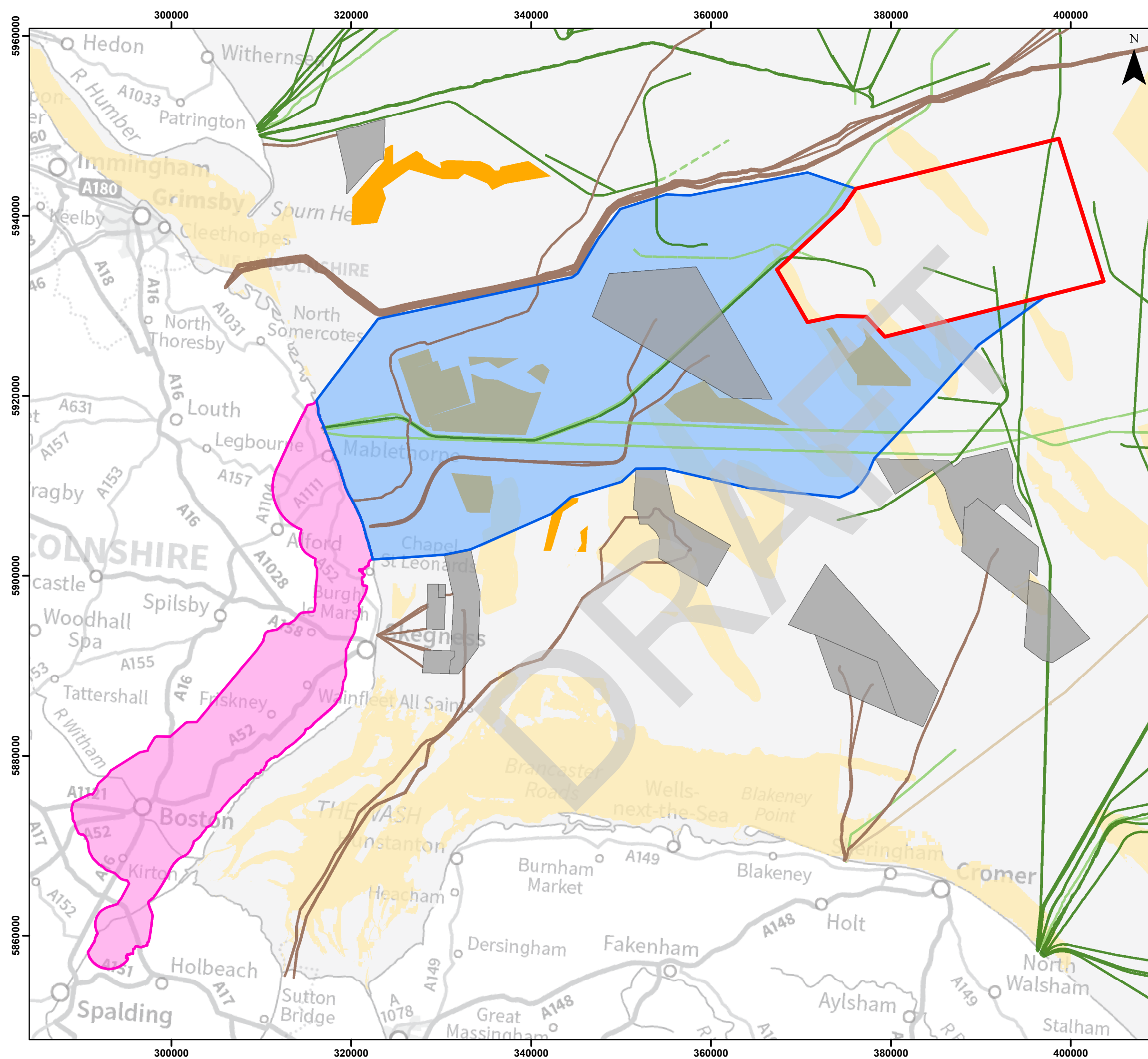
The key drivers for renewable energy in the UK are reducing greenhouse gas emissions, providing increased energy security, and maximising economic opportunities for the UK and local economies. Green infrastructure development has been identified as one of the UK Government's COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery and post-Brexit strategies³ and advancing offshore wind projects is incorporated into the recently published 'British Energy Security Strategy'⁴. The Project is aiming to make a key contribution to the UK Government's ambition for over 50GW of offshore by 2030.

As part of this strategy, investing in offshore wind generation has been listed as one of the principal elements of the UK Government's '10 Point Plan' contributing to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Project is aligned with these key drivers and will make a meaningful contribution to the decarbonisation of the UK economy as well as sustainable economic growth.

The Project is anticipated to avoid emissions equivalent to 2 million tonnes CO₂ per year of operations. Through the generation of renewable electricity, this is the equivalent to removing over 650,000 petrol cars from the road for the duration of the Project.

³ <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/Building-a-green-recovery.pdf>

⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1069969/british-energy-security-strategy-web-accessible.pdf



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Offshore Scoping Boundary
- Onshore Scoping Boundary
- Offshore Wind Farm
- Cable - Active
- Cable - Not In Use
- Pipeline - Active
- Pipeline - Not In Use
- Pipeline - Abandoned
- Aggregates Area
- Annex I Sandbanks

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 31N

0 10 20 km

Scale: 1:400,000

Location of the Project Array (outlined red), offshore grid connection AoS (blue) and the onshore grid connection AoS (pink)

Figure 1

OUTER DOWSING
OFFSHORE WIND

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GoBe

Contains Basemapping:
Ordnance Survey data © Crown
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(2022). OS OpenData.

Document Path: G:\GIS\GIS_Productions\0152 Outer Dowing EIA\GIS\Figures\Reports\SocC\0000_0152 SocC_Fig1 Onshore Offshore AoS.mxd

Main Components of the Project

The key components of the Project are summarised in Table 1, and subsequently described in outline in the following sections.

Table 1: Key project components

Infrastructure	Component	Detail
Array	Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs)	The WTGs convert wind energy to electricity. Key components include rotor blades, gearboxes (if required for WTG model), transformers, power electronics and control equipment. Offshore turbine models are continuously evolving and improving; therefore, the exact wind turbine model will be selected post-consent from the range of models available at the point of procurement, with maximum parameters for the turbines identified in the application rather than a specific turbine output rating.
Array	Offshore Platform (OSP)	Offshore platforms include offshore substations, which collect the power generated by WTGs through the inter-array cables and connect the transmission export cables to shore. They also may include accommodation platforms to host personnel during the lifetime of the wind farm.
Array	Foundations	WTGs and OSPs will be supported by foundation structures permanently attached to the seabed. These are typically fabricated from steel or concrete. A limited number of foundation designs are currently being considered.
Array	Inter-array cables	Subsea cables that will connect the WTGs to one of the offshore substations, typically in branched strings.
Array and offshore export cable route	Scour and cable protection	In order to protect the seabed around foundation structures from scour and cables in the event that full or adequate burial cannot be achieved (or where other seabed assets are crossed), protection materials may be placed on the seabed.
Offshore export cable route	Offshore export cables	Cables (high voltage alternating current (HVAC) or high voltage direct current (HVDC)) connecting the offshore substations to the cable landfall at the adjacent coastline.
Offshore and onshore export cable route	Reactive Compensation Station	In the event that HVAC transmission is used, depending on the cable route length it may be required to boost the reactive power within the supply. Only applicable for HVAC transmission.
Landfall	Landfall and Transition Joint Bays (TJB)	The landfall is the area where the export cables are brought ashore and joined to the onshore cables with a TJB.
Onshore export cable route	Onshore export cables	Cables installed following the route between the landfall to the onshore substation and then to the National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) substation
Onshore substation	Onshore substation	The onshore substation will include all necessary electrical plant to meet the requirements of the National Grid Electricity Systems Operator (NGESO)
Onshore export cable route	Grid connection	Cables connecting the onshore substation to the NGET substation.
Additional Developments	Miscellaneous	Energy system balancing and network stability facilities may be included as part of the development, for example battery energy storage.

The Project will adopt either HVAC or HVDC technology as their export solution. The necessary infrastructure to build the Project will depend on the type of technology adopted and the length of the cable route. A detailed assessment will be undertaken to determine the most appropriate export solution once a single grid connection is confirmed.

Figure 2 outlines the infrastructure that is typical of an offshore wind farm. In line with the Project's development phases, ODOV will be consulting with stakeholders on aspects associated with each of the components.

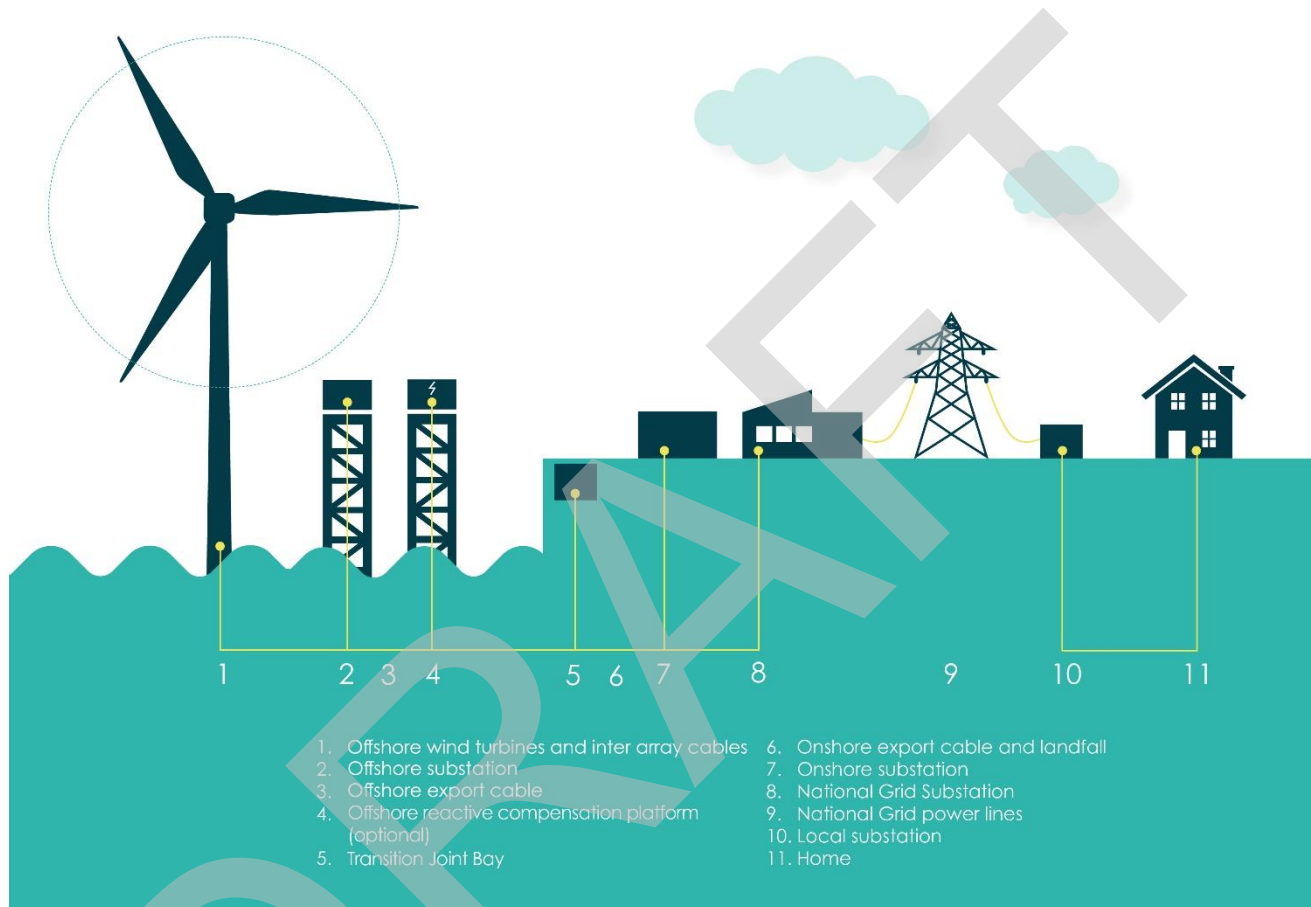


Figure 2: Typical components of an offshore wind farm

Project Timeline

In September 2019, TCE, as manager of the seabed, initiated a new leasing round process, known as Leasing Round 4, in order to make new areas of the seabed available for offshore wind development. It aimed to identify at least 7 GW of new offshore wind projects in English and Welsh waters, with the potential to deliver electricity for more than six million homes. The Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 tender process concluded in February 2021, selecting six proposed new offshore wind projects in the waters around England and Wales.

The Project was successful in the leasing process, securing Preferred Bidder status for an area in the southern North Sea.

The Evidence Plan Process commenced in Q4 2021. The primary aim of the Evidence Plan Process is to seek consensus between all of the Evidence Plan parties on the amount and range of evidence required to be collected to inform the EIA and Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA). This will allow early identification of additional data requirements and seek to focus the range of issues taken forward into the DCO examination.

The Evidence Plan Process does not replace or duplicate existing requirements and will be developed to fit with the formal pre-application consultation processes required under the Planning Act 2008.

In early 2022, onshore ecology desktop surveys commenced, along with further offshore geophysical and geotechnical surveys, allowing characterisation of the seabed where the Project's offshore windfarm and connecting subsea cables are expected to be placed.

The EIA scoping report was submitted in July 2022, followed by the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR – see Section 4) in early 2023. The application for a Development Consent Order (DCO – see Section 5) is planned to be submitted in late 2023 with the aim of the Project's offshore wind farm becoming operational in 2028, subject to decisions reached in the OTNR.

Figure 3 provides a visual representation of the anticipated Project timeline and as it progresses, the Project will be consulting on, and keeping all parties up to date with any adjustments.

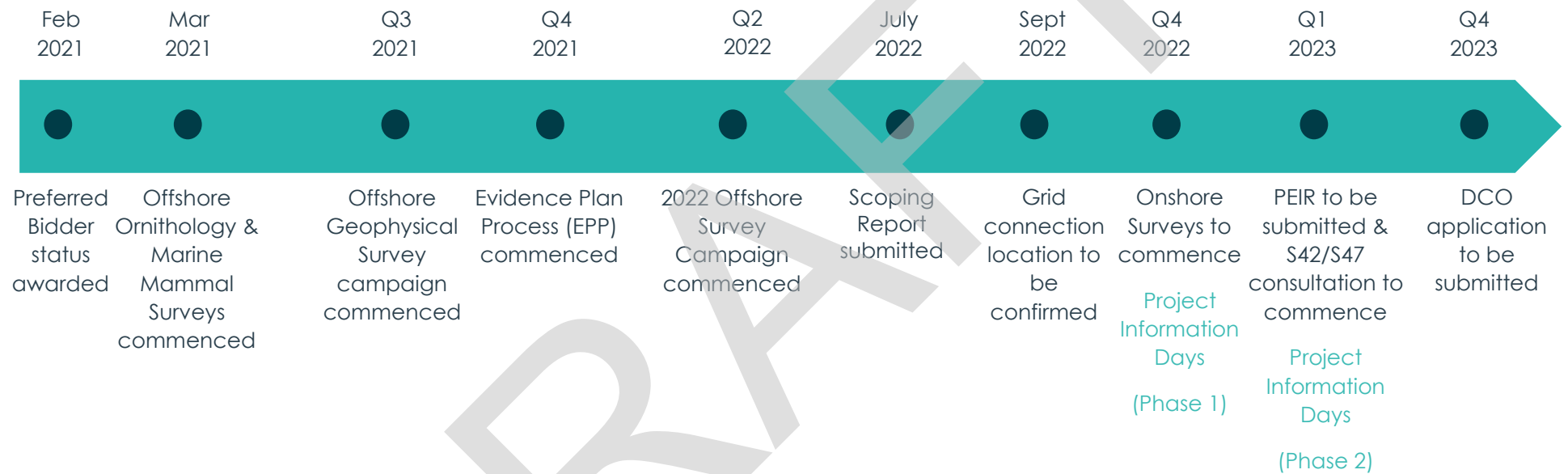


Figure 3: Anticipated timeline for the Project up to DCO application

3. About The Applicant: Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

GTR4 Limited (trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind) hereafter referred to as the 'Applicant', was successful in the auction process securing Preferred Bidder status for an area in the southern North Sea. The project is being developed by Corio Generation (a wholly-owned Green Investment Group portfolio company) and TotalEnergies.

TotalEnergies is a global multi-energy company that produces and markets energies: oil and biofuels, natural gas and green gases, renewables and electricity.

Its over 100,000 employees are committed to energy that is ever more affordable, cleaner, more reliable and accessible to as many people as possible. Active in more than 130 countries, TotalEnergies puts sustainable development in all its dimensions at the heart of its projects and operations to contribute to the well-being of people.

As part of its ambition to get to net zero by 2050, TotalEnergies is building a portfolio of activities in renewables and electricity to reach 35 GW of gross production capacity from renewable sources and storage by 2025, and then 100 GW by 2030 with the objective of being among the world's top 5 producers of electricity from wind and solar energy.

TotalEnergies is already developing a portfolio of offshore wind projects with a total capacity of more than 11 GW, of which 2/3 are bottom-fixed and 1/3 are floating.

Corio Generation is a specialist offshore wind business, dedicated to harnessing the world's greatest energy supply. With a unique blend of sector-leading expertise and deep access to long-term capital, Corio Generation apply a long-term partnership approach to the creation and management of projects, taking them from origination, through development and construction, and into operations.

Corio Generation's 15 GW offshore wind pipeline is one of the largest in the world, spanning established and emerging markets, as well as floating and traditional fixed to the seabed technologies. These next generation offshore wind projects will help form the backbone of the net-zero global energy system while meeting the energy needs of communities and corporate offtakers sustainably, reliably, safely and responsibly.

Corio Generation is a Green Investment Group (GIG) portfolio company, operating on a standalone basis. GIG is a specialist green investor within Macquarie Asset Management, part of Macquarie Group.

4. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process and Information

In accordance with Regulation 12 (consultation statement requirements) of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations 2017, the Project is an EIA development. As such, the Project will undertake an EIA and prepare an Environmental Statement (ES) in accordance with Regulation 5 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The methodology and scope of the EIA will be informed through consultation with the relevant regulatory and environmental bodies, the Secretary of State (SoS), and the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs).

The following reports (listed below) will be subject to statutory consultation as part of the EIA process:

Scoping Report – The Scoping Report was informed using desk-based research on the existing offshore and onshore environments in the location of the proposed project and supported by surveys and data analysis. This report presents the indicative key project parameters which will inform the Project Design Envelope and which will include all associated onshore and offshore infrastructure that make up the project. These elements will be subject to further refinement throughout the subsequent project development process. The report also describes the methodologies that will be applied to further characterise the existing environments and how any potential impacts will be assessed. The Scoping Report was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2022 with a request for an EIA scoping opinion. A scoping opinion refers to the range of issues which the Secretary of State considers should be included in an EIA.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) – A PEIR will be published, which will provide the preliminary environmental impact assessment for the Project study area. The study areas will be determined on a receptor-by-receptor basis. These will be clearly defined as the EIA progresses and will be agreed with relevant statutory stakeholders. The PEIR will be based upon the issues and approach confirmed by the Scoping Opinion and will take the form of a draft Environmental Statement. It will be published and consulted on in accordance with the methods set out in section 11. It will be published to support the statutory pre-application consultation requirements of the Planning Act 2008 (namely Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 consultations). As part of the consultations, copies of the PEIR reports will be made available as the Project conducts the public consultation and the Project will be seeking feedback from local communities and other stakeholders on the PEIR and associated environmental impacts and issues.

Environmental Statement (ES) – The ES will incorporate the final EIA for the Project, building on the content of the PEIR and incorporating changes and updates in response to the statutory consultations, as well as the results of any further surveys and studies undertaken since the production of the PEIR. It will also describe any changes made to the Project following consultation and any mitigation measures that are proposed.

5. Consenting Processes and Consultation

The Project is an offshore generating station that will have a proposed capacity in excess of 100MW offshore, therefore under Section 15 of the Planning Act 2008 it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). As such, the Project must apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate the Project. The DCO process was created to streamline the consenting of large infrastructure projects and to ensure transparency and public participation.

The application process will be managed by the Planning Inspectorate (The Inspectorate) and examined by an Examining Authority, which will produce a recommendations report, before a decision is made by the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The Local Planning Authority (LPA) plays an important consultative role in the process but is not the decision-maker as it would be for smaller projects applied for under the Town and Country Planning process. If granted, the DCO will consent the offshore wind farm, the cables and associated electrical infrastructure as well as the onshore grid connection works (and any other associated development included in the application).

Pre-application consultation is a legal obligation for NSIPs, and the Project values early engagement with stakeholders. This document begins the statutory phase of consultation pursuant to Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, which sets out the applicant's duty to consult with the local community on an NSIP.

The local community will also be able to provide feedback on the Project's proposals and have the opportunity to influence elements of the design and development processes before the submission of the DCO application. This approach allows the Project to develop its proposals collaboratively and responsibly, taking account of local community interests.

The Project's pre-application consultation must be deemed adequate by The Inspectorate. The Project will be required to show that the relevant stakeholders have been consulted, that it has complied with this SoCC, and publicised the application in the required manner.

As the Project lies in UK waters, a Marine Licence (ML) will be required to build and operate the offshore elements of the Project, which would be granted under the Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009 with the intention being to seek the deemed consent of these licences as part of the DCO.

6. Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR)

The OTNR was launched in July 2020 by the Secretary of State for BEIS and takes a holistic and strategic approach to the development of the offshore wind transmission system. The environmental, community and economic aspects are considered in this process while aiming to minimise any cumulative impacts from multiple adjacent offshore wind farm projects that may be constructed or operational either within the same timeframe, or successively. There is a particular focus upon the associated onshore infrastructure required to connect to the national transmission network. The OTNR aims to be consistent with the Government's ambition to deliver net zero emissions by 2050.

The OTNR is being led by BEIS with support from a number of partners including Ofgem (Great Britain's independent energy regulator) and National Grid Electricity System Operator (NG ESO). NG ESO is responsible for providing the Holistic Network Design (HND) that will include the transmission and connection arrangements for the Project.

On 7th of April 2022 the UK Government published the British Energy Security Strategy⁵, a new policy statement that further refines the context of the OTNR. The strategy includes specific proposals and commitments made in respect to offshore wind, including increasing the 2030 capacity target by 25%, with a new ambition of 50GW of offshore wind by 2030. This increased ambition for offshore wind underlines the significance of the OTNR in giving explicit consideration to environmental and local impacts whilst ensuring the efficient and sustainable growth of green energy infrastructure to deliver the Government's net-zero emissions by 2050.

Currently, the Project is awaiting the final definition of its grid connection arrangements, based on the HND design proposals submitted by NG ESO to BEIS and Ofgem as part of the OTNR process. The provisional outcomes of this process include two possible grid connection options; Lincolnshire Node or Weston Marsh. Once the final outcome is received from the OTNR, the confirmation of grid connection will determine where and how the Project will connect to the grid as well as the onshore cable route needed to reach this grid connection. The Project will provide regular updates on the OTNR process, outcomes and what this means for the progress of the project by consulting with stakeholders throughout.

⁵ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1069969/british-energy-security-strategy-web-accessible.pdf

7. Who Will Be Consulted?

Communities and individuals living within the vicinity of the Project will be consulted, as well as anyone who may be interested or feel in any way that they may be impacted by the Project.

The Project encourages interested parties to get in touch via the Project's communication lines, including the dedicated project email address (contact@outerdowsing.com), Freepost (FREEPOST ODOW) Freephone information line (0808 175 2970). Anyone can also register their interest via the Project website (www.outerdowsing.com) to receive regular updates on the Project and its proposals.

Consultation on the Project will also involve relevant parish and town councils, area committees, community groups, organisations representing local businesses and tourist boards. The Project will collaborate with LPAs to identify key community groups, and a range of statutory and non-statutory groups will be consulted including:

- Local Planning Authorities (LPAs);
- Parish and Town Councils;
- Owners, tenants and occupiers of the land affected by the DCO application;
- Resident, community, tourism and business organisations;
- Individuals and members of the public;
- Hard to reach groups (e.g. groups of the population that are difficult to reach or involve due to their physical and geographical location, or their social and economic situation, and includes, but is not limited to, charities, those who are registered as deaf and/or blind, the elderly, those with physical disabilities/impairments). Potential methods of consultation include, making provision for people who do not have access to the internet and ensuring documents are made available via post, choosing accessible venues for public information events, producing consultation materials in accessible formats, and offering direct 1-2-1 engagement;
- Commercial stakeholders (including asset owners and the commercial fisheries industry); and
- Environmental bodies.

The Project will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC and encourage participation in the consultation by any person or group who is interested in the proposed Project.

A series of 'zones of consultation' have been defined for the purposes of publicising the consultation directly to the local community, recognising that levels of potential impact and interest are likely to vary with geography. These consultation zones will be refined in line with the Project's development phases as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Zones of Consultation

Zone	Parameters
Inner Zone (Phase 1)	The Onshore Area of Search (AoS) (Figure 4) is the consultation zone defined for the Phase 1 consultation.
Inner Zone (Phase 2)	A refined boundary will be applied to the onshore Area of Search (AoS), to include people living and working in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Project, as well as their political representatives (at a parish, district, county and parliamentary level).
Outer Zone	People who may be interested in the wider potential impacts of the proposed Project, such as transport, visual impact and creating new jobs. This zone includes both the host and neighbouring Local Authorities, all of whom have been consulted on the contents of this SoCC (Figure 4).

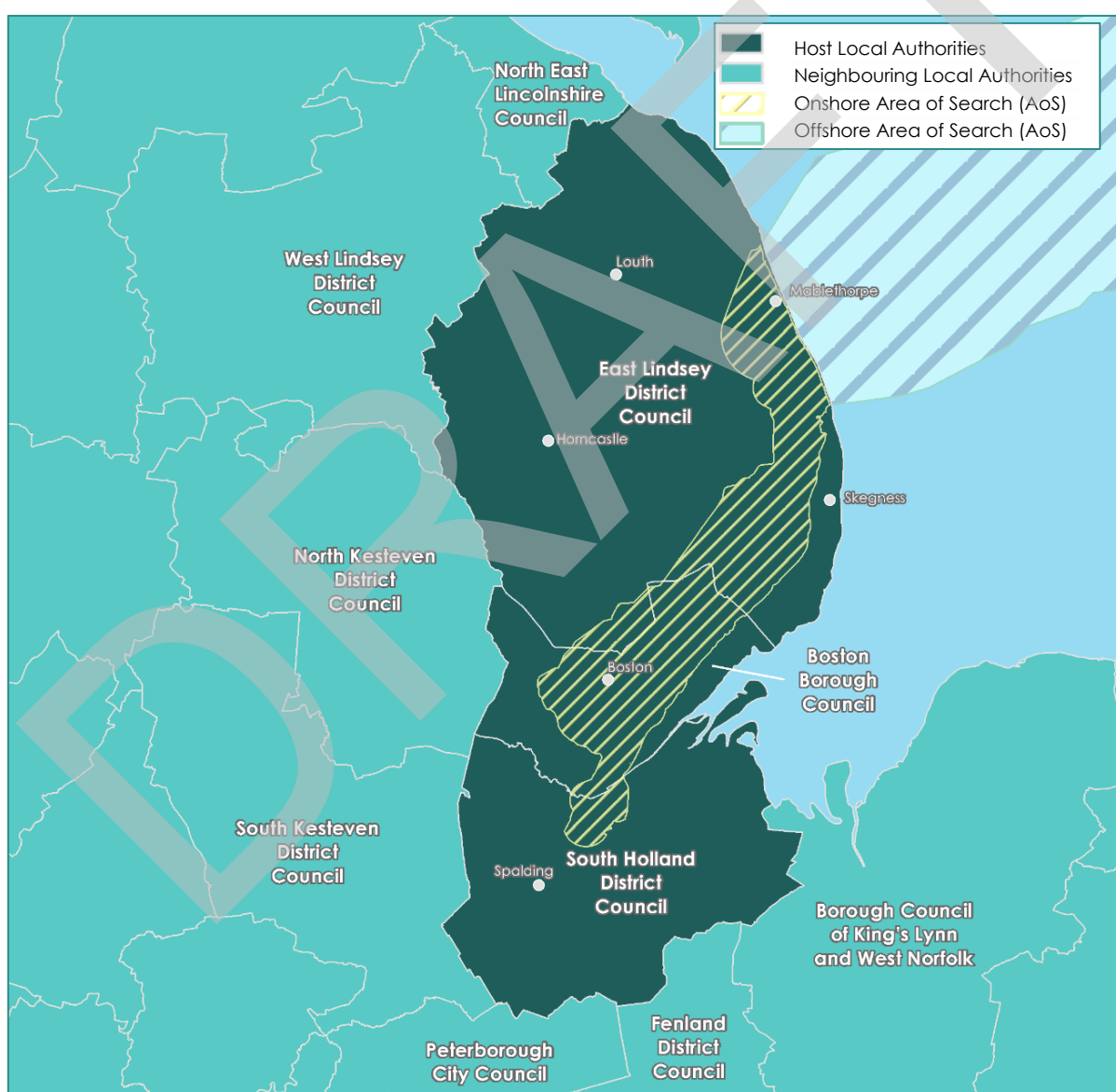


Figure 4: Onshore Consultation Areas. The local authorities that fall within the consultation area, have been consulted on the contents of this SoCC. This includes both the host and neighbouring local authorities.

8. What Will the Project Consult On?

The Project encourages local communities to give their views on how the Project proposals may affect them or their local area. The Project will be seeking feedback to help develop the Project's proposals regarding issues such as, but not limited to:

- Environmental impacts;
- Economic impacts; and
- Social impacts.

As mentioned in Section 4 of this SoCC, as part of the EIA and DCO processes, the Project will consult with local communities and stakeholders throughout the publication of the Scoping Report, PEIR and ES. The methods of consultation that will be adopted by the Project are outlined in Section 9 of this SoCC.

More information will be made available regarding the technical aspects of the Project as proposals develop. The Project encourages local communities to give their views about how the Project may affect them or their local area and will be seeking feedback to help develop the Project's proposals regarding, but not limited to:

- The site selection process for the location of the onshore substation area and refinement of the onshore cable corridor search area;
- The offshore environment including consultation with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and commercial fisheries organisations;
- Short-term and temporary impacts during construction, such as traffic movements, local amenities and the environment; and
- Long-term operational considerations, such as on the local environment, landscape and visual amenity.

9. Consultation Methods

As a result of the easing of government guidelines regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Project is adopting a ‘hybrid’ approach to the statutory consultation on the Project. This means that the Project will focus on having a mix of virtual, written and face-to-face methods to publicise the consultation and engage with the community and relevant stakeholders.

The Project’s pre-application consultation consists of two phases, Phase 1 and Phase 2 (pre and post PEIR publication respectively, see Figure 3 Project Timeline). These phases will both include a round of public information events, located at suitable locations within the consultation zones, and will be open to all interested members of the public. At these virtual and face-to-face events, attendees will have the opportunity to explore informative materials on the Project and discuss the proposals with members of the Project team.

Any physical or face-to-face consultation will be held in line with Government guidelines. If physical consultation is deemed unsafe or not permitted, the Project will rely on virtual and written methods of consultation alone.

Table 3 outlines the selected consultation methods interested parties are welcomed to engage with.

Table 3: Selected Consultation Methods

Method	Detail
Project Information Brochures	A project overview brochure has been made available to inform key stakeholders of the high-level proposals for the project and can be found on the Project website: https://www.outerdowsing.com/document-library/
Website	Consultation material will be available to view and respond to during the consultation via the Project website (including the PEIR and the Consultation Questionnaire): https://www.outerdowsing.com/document-library/
Stakeholder briefings	The Project will host a series of virtual briefings with project stakeholders, including MPs, a number of locally elected members from within Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council, and county, city, town and community councils along the proposed onshore cable route and in sight of the offshore array. The Project will also advise stakeholders about the consultation and how to participate.
Public Information Events	The Project will host both in person and virtual events with a view to engage with stakeholders face-to-face for both phases of the consultation. These events will be held at suitable locations within the consultation zones. They will be advertised through the local press and through local councils, community access points and notice boards. The virtual events will take the format of an online exhibition, accessible 24/7 via the Project website: https://www.outerdowsing.com/document-library/

Method	Detail
Community Access Points	A range of local information points throughout the consultation zone, namely the inner consultation zone, will ensure hard copy project information is available to all members of the public.
Project newsletter	The Project newsletter will be sent to a mailing list of select organisations and individuals. As the Project approaches the statutory consultation, the newsletter will be published at pertinent points in the programme when significant milestones are achieved. It will update stakeholders about the Project and promote participation in the statutory consultation. Copies of the Project's newsletters will be made available on the project website: https://www.outerdowsing.com/document-library/
Mail-out exercise	The Project will distribute an information leaflet to residents and businesses in East Lindsey District Council, Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council within the onshore Area of Search (Figure 1) to signpost the Project website for all the latest consultation information, including any face to-face activities planned and information regarding how to respond to any consultation. A second leaflet will be issued to the inner consultation zone (Table 2) following publication of the PEIR to signpost the corresponding Public Information Events.
Email Updates	The Project will use their mailing list to provide key project updates and information regarding consultation for those who subscribe (https://www.outerdowsing.com/get-in-touch). Where it is possible for stakeholders to opt out of hard copy mailings, they will have the opportunity to receive all of the communications such as newsletters, consultation report summaries and the formal consultation documents electronically – supporting the Projects aim of environmental stewardship.
Statutory notices	Statutory notices will announce the publication of the SoCC and the proposed DCO application locally and nationally via: the Skegness Standard, Boston Target, Spalding Guardian, East Lindsey Target and Lincolnshire Echo (local newspaper), The Guardian (national newspaper), London Gazette (required), Lloyd's List (required) and Fishing News (appropriate fishing trade journal). The notices will direct stakeholders to the Project website for the latest information regarding availability of hard copies of select consultation materials at deposit locations, consultation activities and how to provide feedback.
Media	At key stages throughout the project, information will be disseminated to the local press and media through news releases. The local media will also be used to advise of public events such as exhibitions and information days. The Project will develop a strong relationship with the local media through the development of the project through written, radio and TV interviews. This includes media at a local, regional and national level.
Posters	The Project will produce posters promoting participation in the consultation and will share them with local venues for display.
Community Liaison Group	The Community Liaison Group (CLG) will be used to facilitate communication, share information and engage in balanced discussions about the project.

10. How This SoCC and Other Consultation Materials Can Be Accessed

Hard copies of this document and other consultation material, will be made available via the Project website: <https://www.outerdowsing.com/document-library/> and, as appropriate, in hard copy at the below locations (*pending approval*) within the consultation area.

Mablethorpe Library and Customer Service Centre

Stanley Avenue
Mablethorpe
Lincolnshire
LN12 1DP

Skegness Library

23 Roman Bank
Skegness
Lincolnshire
PE25 2SA

Boston Library

County Hall
Boston
Lincolnshire
PE21 6DY

Pinchbeck Community Hub and Library

48 Knight Street
Pinchbeck
Lincolnshire
PE11 3RU

11. How Will Stakeholder Feedback Be Utilised?

As part of the Project's DCO application, the Project has a duty as a developer to take responses to the statutory consultation process into account including, and particularly, those provided by local communities.

Using the feedback received, the Project will produce a Consultation Report as part of the final DCO application setting out the following:

- Summary of the consultation process;
- How the consultation was undertaken in accordance with this SoCC document;
- How the statutory requirements were met;
- A summary of the liaison with LPAs to ensure consultation was tailored to local communities; and
- A summary of all consultation responses received and how the Project responded to each response in finalising the DCO application.

12. Contact Details and Further Information

Email: contact@outerdowsing.com

Call our Freephone information line: 0808 175 2970

Visit our website: www.outerdowsing.com

Stakeholder's can write to the Project free of charge at:
FREEPOST ODOW (no stamp or further address details
needed on the envelope)

Request Accessible Format

Should stakeholders require this document in hard copy, large print, audio or braille please contact the Project using the details provided above.

When responding to the Project's pre-application consultation, personal data will be stored in compliance with General Data Protection Regulation by the Project and will not be shared with third parties. Personal data may however be passed on to The Inspectorate to ensure that the Project's pre-application consultation is sufficient and in line with the planning process as a whole.

**Annex 5.1.1A(ii) Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Revised Draft Statement of
Community Consultation (September 2022)**

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

(Revised)

September 2022

Company:	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind	Asset:	Whole Asset
Project:	Whole Wind Farm	Sub Project/Package:	Whole Asset
Document Title or Description:	Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)		
Document Number:	123-ODO-CON-K-GA-000008-01	3 rd Party Doc No (If applicable):	N/A

The document Originator shall complete this Cover Sheet and may give guidance below on any actions required by the recipient(s). The document Checker and Approver must not be the same person. The Document Author and Approver must not be the same person. The Approver must not be less senior than the Author.

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind accepts no liability for the accuracy or completeness of the information in this document nor for any loss or damage arising from the use of such information.

Rev No.	Date	Status / Reason for Issue	Author	Checked by	Reviewed by	Approved by
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DRAFT

1. Introduction

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, a joint venture between Macquarie Green Investment Group Limited (GIG) (now Corio Generation) and TotalEnergies, is publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) as required under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act'), for the proposed Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind project ('ODOW'), hereafter referred to as 'the Project'. The purpose of this document is to set out how we will undertake consultation with communities prior to submitting an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Act.

The purpose of the consultation is to provide a forum for the Project to inform the local community of the Project's proposals with a focus on providing opportunities for stakeholders, local residents and community groups to have their say and feedback directly to the Project team. The Project's pre-application consultation will consist of two phases (Figure 5); Phase 1 will introduce the Project and map out our current high-level proposals, with a view to obtaining feedback on these from the local communities. Phase 2 will present and seek views on the development of the proposals to that point. That will include consultation on the results of our environmental surveys and studies (which will be presented in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR')). Feedback from the phases of pre-application consultation will be taken into account when finalising the Project's DCO Application.

This SoCC sets out:

- ✿ Information regarding the Project's background;
- ✿ How the application for development consent will progress;
- ✿ How we have identified who to consult;
- ✿ Proposed consultation methods and materials; and
- ✿ How members of the community can continue to provide their feedback to help inform the Project as it develops.

This SoCC has been written in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council as the host local authorities. Other neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have also been consulted including: North East Lincolnshire Council, West Lindsey District Council, North Kesteven District Council, South Kesteven District Council, Peterborough City Council, Fenland District Council and Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

2. About The Project - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Introduction

The Project is a proposed offshore windfarm located approximately 54 kilometres (km) off the coast of Lincolnshire, England (Figure 1), comprising an offshore generating station (at this stage, covering an area of seabed of up to 500 km², which will be reduced to 300 km²) and offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure including any additional development¹.

The current Search Zone (which includes the Search Zone and Substation Search Zones shown in Figure 2, (the “Search Zone”)) for the offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure has been defined based on the latest recommendations of the Offshore Transmission Network Review² (OTNR process - see Section 4).

The recommendations from the OTNR process were published on 07 July 2022 (Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND)³) by National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO), which concluded two connection locations being progressed for further consideration for the Project – Weston Marsh and Lincolnshire Node. The Search Zone for the location of the Project infrastructure is shown in Figure 2, and presents a combined Search Zone for both of these connection options, noting that this area will be reduced when a single grid connection location is confirmed by NGESO.

The Project considers the pre-application consultation with the local community and stakeholders to be an integral part of the development process and intends for this document to outline a consultation roadmap, ensuring a process where all interested parties have the opportunity to participate.

The Project is planned to have a generating capacity, of 1.5 GW, powering over 1.6 million households in the UK.

The exact size and capacity of the Project will be determined through a balanced consideration of the environmental, social, and technical implications of which the pre application consultation is a key component.



Figure 1: Location of the Project’s proposed offshore wind farm

¹ Energy system balancing and network stability facilities may be included as part of the development, for example battery energy storage.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/offshore-transmission-network-review>

³ <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/the-pathway-2030-holistic-network-design>

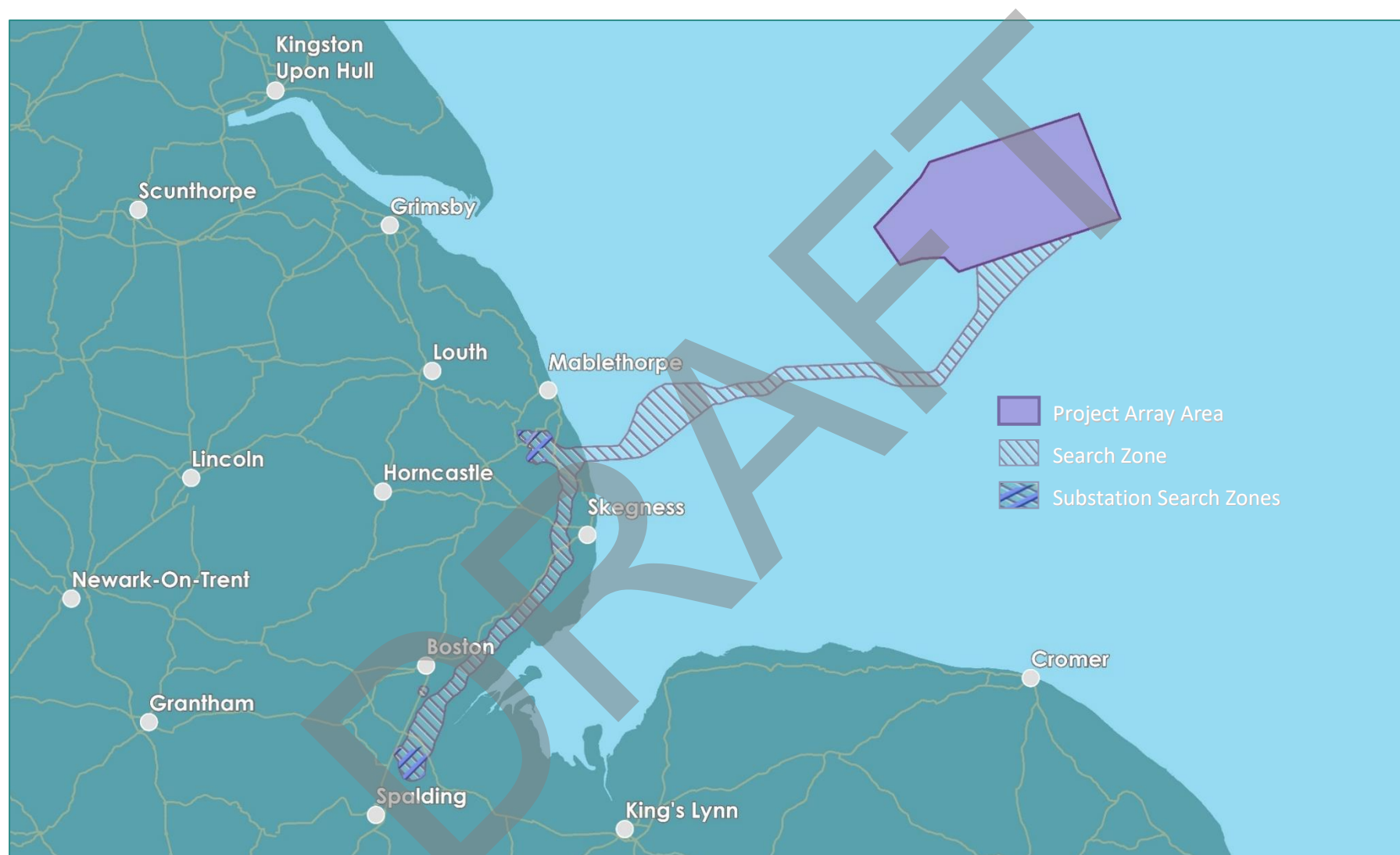


Figure 2: Search Zone for the Onshore and Offshore Infrastructure. This Search Zone has been refined since we issued our Scoping Report through consideration of the results from environmental and technical assessments. The Project Array Area is the area within which the generating station will be situated.

Need for the Project

The key drivers for renewable energy in the UK are reducing greenhouse gas emissions, providing increased energy security, and maximising economic opportunities for the UK and local economies. Green infrastructure development has been identified as one of the UK Government's COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery and post-Brexit strategies⁴ and advancing offshore wind projects is incorporated into the recently published 'British Energy Security Strategy'⁵. The Project is aiming to make a key contribution to the UK Government's ambition for over 50 Gigawatts (GW) of offshore by 2030.

As part of this strategy, investing in offshore wind generation has been listed as one of the principal elements of the UK Government's '10 Point Plan' contributing to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Project is aligned with these key drivers and will make a meaningful contribution to the decarbonisation of the UK economy as well as sustainable economic growth.

The Project is anticipated to avoid emissions equivalent to 2 million tonnes CO₂ per year of operations through the generation of renewable electricity, this is the equivalent to removing over 650,000 petrol cars from the road for the duration of the Project.

Typical Components of an Offshore Wind Project



Figure 3: Typical components of an offshore wind farm. In line with the Project's development phases, ODOV will be consulting with stakeholders on aspects associated with each of the components.

The necessary infrastructure to build the Project will depend on the type of technology adopted and the length of the cable route.

⁴ <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/Building-a-green-recovery.pdf>

⁵ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1069969/british-energy-security-strategy-web-accessible.pdf

Our Onshore Proposals and Search Zone

It is currently anticipated that the Onshore Infrastructure will be located within or close to the Search Zone as outlined in Figure 4. This zone has been refined from the Scoping Boundary that was presented in the ODOW Scoping Report⁶, through environmental and technical assessments and will form the basis of the Phase 1 Consultation.

Onshore Search Zone

We are currently assessing the optimal cable route and onshore substation location options and we will be seeking your feedback to help shape our proposals during our consultation process. Feedback from the consultation will be incorporated into the project design process, which will also be refined following the outcome of the OTNR (See – Section 4).

Onshore Substations Search Zones

Until we have secured a final grid connection, we currently have two search zones for the onshore substation. Only one of these zones, along with the accompanying onshore cable route search zone will be progressed once a final connection point is adopted.

Landfall Search Zone

The landfall search zone has been refined through environmental and technical assessments. There is only one landfall search zone as this has been assessed as the optimum search zone for both connection options.

⁶ The Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Scoping Report was published in July 2022 and can be accessed via the Project website:

<https://www.outerdowsing.com/document-library/>



Figure 4: Onshore Search Zone and Substation Search Zones.

Project and Community Consultation Timeline

Following the conclusion of the Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 tender process in February 2021, the Project was successful in securing Preferred Bidder status for an area in the southern North Sea (Figure 1).

We have since been focusing on refining our proposals through initial environmental and technical assessments and by means of an Evidence Plan Process (EPP) which commenced in Q4 2021. The EPP is a voluntary process with a primary aim in seeking consensus between Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies and key Stakeholders on the amount and range of evidence required to be collected to inform the EIA and Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA).

Phase 1 Consultation

The phase one consultation will be open to all interested members of the public and will feature in person and virtual public information events. Information on how to attend these events and access the consultation information will be widely publicised (See - Section 9).

Phase 2 Consultation

This consultation will allow us to update you on our project plans, including how the feedback we received during the phase one consultation has been considered, as well as seek further feedback from communities. We will also publish our PEIR for consultation.

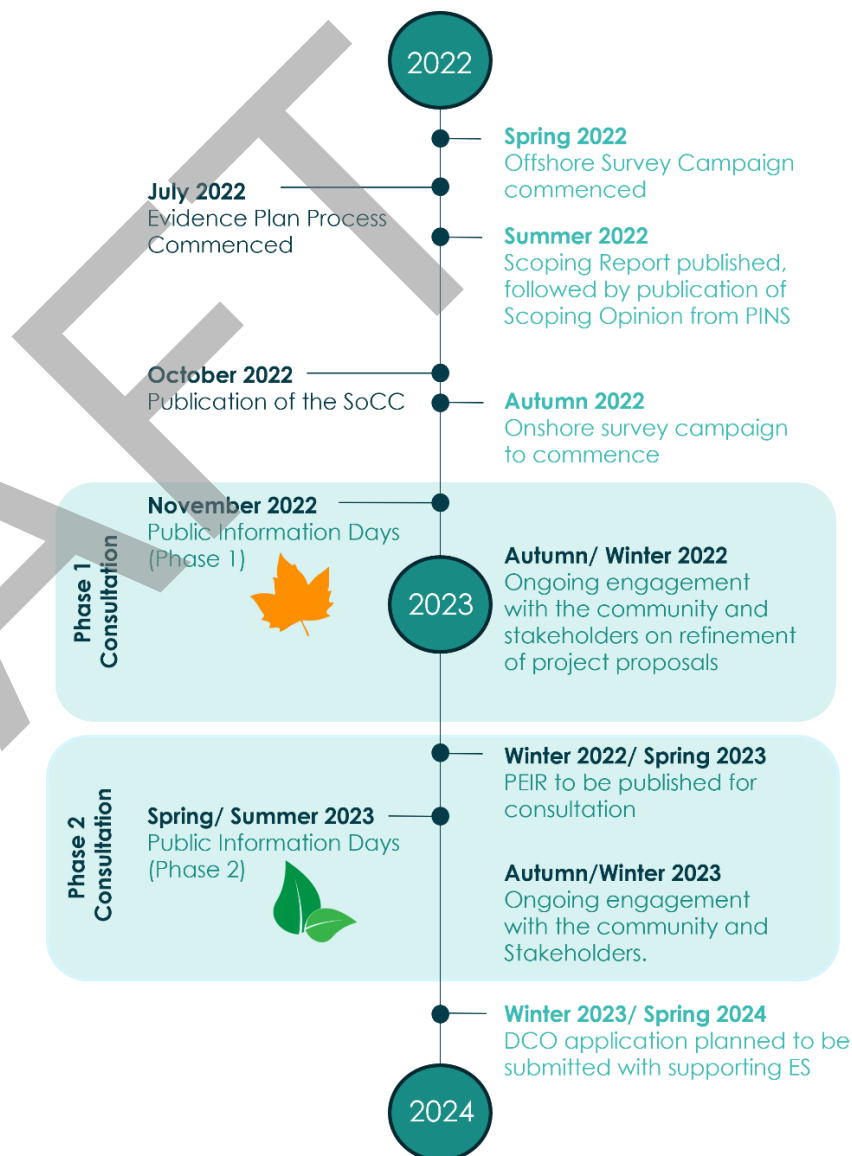


Figure 5: Anticipated Project and Community Consultation Timeline

3. About The Applicant: Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

GTR4 Limited (trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind) hereafter referred to as the 'Applicant', was successful in the Crown Estate offshore wind seabed licensing auction process securing Preferred Bidder status for an area in the southern North Sea. The project is being developed by Corio Generation (a wholly-owned Green Investment Group portfolio company) and TotalEnergies.

TotalEnergies is a global multi-energy company that produces and markets energies: oil and biofuels, natural gas and green gases, renewables and electricity.

Its over 100,000 employees are committed to energy that is ever more affordable, cleaner, more reliable and accessible to as many people as possible. Active in more than 130 countries, TotalEnergies puts sustainable development in all its dimensions at the heart of its projects and operations to contribute to the well-being of people.

As part of its ambition to get to net zero by 2050, TotalEnergies is building a portfolio of activities in renewables and electricity to reach 35 GW of gross production capacity from renewable sources and storage by 2025, and then 100 GW by 2030 with the objective of being among the world's top 5 producers of electricity from wind and solar energy.

TotalEnergies is already developing a portfolio of offshore wind projects with a total capacity of more than 11 GW, of which 2/3 are bottom-fixed and 1/3 are floating.

Corio Generation is a specialist offshore wind business, dedicated to harnessing the world's greatest energy supply. With a unique blend of sector-leading expertise and deep access to long-term capital, Corio Generation apply a long-term partnership approach to the creation and management of projects, taking them from origination, through development and construction, and into operations.

Corio Generation's 15 GW offshore wind pipeline is one of the largest in the world, spanning established and emerging markets, as well as floating and traditional fixed to the seabed technologies. These next generation offshore wind projects will help form the backbone of the net-zero global energy system while meeting the energy needs of communities and corporate offtakers sustainably, reliably, safely and responsibly.

Corio Generation is a Green Investment Group (GIG) portfolio company, operating on a standalone basis. GIG is a specialist green investor within Macquarie Asset Management, part of Macquarie Group.



4. Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR)

The OTNR was launched in July 2020 by the Secretary of State for BEIS and takes a holistic and strategic approach to the development of the offshore wind transmission system. The environmental, community and economic aspects are considered in this process while aiming to minimise any cumulative impacts from multiple adjacent offshore wind farm projects that may be constructed or operational either within the same timeframe, or successively. There is a particular focus upon the associated onshore infrastructure required to connect to the national transmission network. The OTNR aims to be consistent with the Government's ambition to deliver net zero emissions by 2050.

The OTNR is being led by BEIS with support from a number of partners including Ofgem (Great Britain's independent energy regulator) and National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO). NGESO is responsible for providing the Holistic Network Design (HND) that will include the transmission and connection arrangements for the Project.

On 7th of April 2022 the UK Government published the British Energy Security Strategy⁷, a new policy statement that further refines the context of the OTNR. The strategy includes specific proposals and commitments made in respect to offshore wind, including increasing the 2030 capacity target by 25 percent, with a new ambition of 50 GW of offshore wind by 2030. This increased ambition for offshore wind underlines the significance of the OTNR in giving explicit consideration to environmental and local impacts whilst ensuring the efficient and sustainable growth of green energy infrastructure to deliver the Government's net-zero emissions by 2050.

Currently, the Project is awaiting the final definition of its grid connection arrangements, based on the HND design proposals submitted by NGESO to BEIS and Ofgem as part of the OTNR process. The provisional outcomes of this process include two possible grid connection options: Lincolnshire Node or Weston Marsh. Once the final outcome is received from the OTNR, the confirmation of grid connection will determine where and how the Project will connect to the grid as well as the onshore cable route needed to reach this grid connection. The Project will provide regular updates on the OTNR process, outcomes and what this means for the progress of the project by consulting with stakeholders throughout.

7

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1069969/british-energy-security-strategy-web-accessible.pdf

5. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process and Information

In accordance with Regulation 12 (consultation statement requirements) of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, the Project is an EIA development⁸. As such, the Project will undertake an EIA and prepare an Environmental Statement (ES) in accordance with Regulation 5 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The methodology and scope of the EIA will be informed through consultation with the relevant regulatory and environmental bodies, the Secretary of State (SoS), and the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs).

The following reports (listed below) will be subject to statutory consultation as part of the EIA process:

Scoping Report – The Scoping Report was informed using desk-based research on the existing offshore and onshore environments in the location of the proposed project and supported by surveys and data analysis. This report presents the indicative key project parameters which will inform the Project Design Envelope, and which will include all associated onshore and offshore infrastructure that make up the project. These elements will be subject to further refinement throughout the subsequent project development process. The report also describes the methodologies that will be applied to further characterise the existing environments and how any potential impacts will be assessed. The Scoping Report was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2022 with a request for an EIA scoping opinion. A scoping opinion refers to the range of issues which the Secretary of State considers should be included in an EIA.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) – A PEIR will be published on the project website, which will provide preliminary environmental information in the form of a preliminary environmental impact assessment for the Project. The study areas will be determined on a receptor-by-receptor basis, will be clearly defined as the EIA progresses and will be agreed with relevant statutory stakeholders. The PEIR will be published to support the statutory pre-application consultation requirements of the Planning Act 2008 (namely Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 consultations). As part of the consultations, copies of the PEIR reports will be made available as the Project conducts the public consultation and the Project will be seeking feedback from local communities and other stakeholders on the PEIR.

Environmental Statement (ES) – The ES will incorporate the final EIA for the Project, building on the content of the PEIR and incorporating changes and updates in response to the statutory consultations, as well as the results of any further surveys and studies undertaken since the production of the PEIR. It will also describe any changes made to the Project following consultation and any mitigation measures that are proposed.

⁸ The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Three may be helpful for further information related to this: [Advice Note Three: EIA Notification and Consultation | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

6. Consenting Processes and Consultation

The Project includes an offshore generating station that will have a proposed capacity in excess of 100 Megawatts (MW) offshore, therefore under Section 15 of the Planning Act 2008 it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)⁹. As such, the Project must apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate the Project. The DCO process was created to streamline the consenting of large infrastructure projects and to ensure transparency and public participation.

The application process will be managed by the Planning Inspectorate (The Inspectorate) and examined by an Examining Authority, which will produce a recommendations report, before a decision is made by the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The Local Planning Authority (LPA) plays an important consultative role in the process but is not the decision-maker as it would be for smaller projects applied for under the Town and Country Planning process. If granted, the DCO will consent the offshore wind farm, the cables and associated electrical infrastructure as well as the onshore grid connection works (and any other associated development included in the application).

Pre-application consultation is a legal obligation for NSIPs, and the Project values early engagement with stakeholders. This document begins the statutory phase of consultation pursuant to Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, which sets out the applicant's duty to consult with the local community on an NSIP.

The local community will also be invited to provide feedback on the Project's proposals and, as such, have the opportunity to influence elements of the design and development processes before the submission of the DCO application. The Project's aim is to develop its proposals collaboratively and responsibly, taking account of local community interests.

The Project's pre-application consultation must be deemed adequate by The Inspectorate. The Project will be required to show that the relevant stakeholders have been consulted, that it has complied with this SoCC, and publicised the application in the required manner.

As the Project lies in UK waters, a Marine Licence (ML) will be required to build and operate the offshore elements of the Project, which would be granted under the Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009 with the intention being to seek the deemed consent of these licences as part of the DCO.

⁹ The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Eight may be helpful for further information related to this: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-eight-overview-of-the-nationally-significant-infrastructure-planning-process-for-members-of-the-public-and-others/>

7. Who Will Be Consulted?

Communities and individuals living within the vicinity of the Project will be consulted, as well as anyone who may be interested or feel in any way that they may be impacted by the Project.

The Project encourages interested parties to get in touch via the Project's communication lines, including the dedicated project email address (contact@outerdowsing.com), Freepost (FREEPOST ODOU) Freephone information line (0808 175 2970). Anyone can also register their interest via the Project website (www.outerdowsing.com).

Consultation on the Project will also involve relevant parish and town councils, area committees, community groups, organisations representing local businesses and tourist boards. The Project will collaborate with LPAs to identify key community groups, and a range of statutory and non-statutory groups will be consulted including:

- ✿ Local Planning Authorities (LPAs);
- ✿ Local Interest Groups (such as Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust);
- ✿ Parish and Town Councils;
- ✿ Owners, tenants and occupiers of the land affected by the DCO application;
- ✿ Resident, community, tourism and business organisations;
- ✿ Individuals and members of the public;
- ✿ Seldom heard voices, minority groups and those with protected characteristics;
 - We recognise that some individuals or groups may not find our proposed consultation methods suited to their needs, we will therefore identify a number of organisations representing these groups. These organisations will be contacted at the start of each consultation phase to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of its members.
 - ODOU will also be making provision for people who do not have access to the internet and ensure documents are made available via post, choosing accessible venues for public information events, producing consultation materials in accessible formats, and offering direct 1-2-1 engagement;
- ✿ Commercial stakeholders (including asset owners and the commercial fisheries industry); and
- ✿ Environmental bodies.

The Project will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC and encourage participation in the consultation by any person or group who is interested in the proposed Project¹⁰.

¹⁰ The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Eight point One may be helpful for further information related to this: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-8-1/>

Consultation Zones

Consultation zones have been defined for the purposes of publicising the consultation directly to the local community, recognising that levels of potential impact and interest are likely to vary with geography. These consultation zones will be refined in line with the Project's development phases as outlined below.

Core Consultation Zone

For the Phase 1 Consultation (See - Figure 5), the core consultation zone will comprise a minimum distance of 500 metres either side of the onshore search zone shown in Figure 4, extending to 1,000 metres around the onshore substation search zones (Figure 6). The Phase 1 consultation exercise will help guide the refinement of the onshore search area. Phase 2 consultation will adopt the same approach but applied to the revised onshore search zone. Properties within the relevant zone, will receive direct communications such as leaflets from us in the post (See – Section 9).

Outer Consultation Zone

People who may be interested in the wider potential impacts of the proposed Project, such as transport, visual impact and creating new jobs. This zone includes both the host and neighbouring Local Authorities, all of whom have been consulted on the contents of this SoCC (Figure 6). This zone will be reached through local and social media (See – Section 9).



Figure 6: The local authorities highlighted on this map, have been consulted on the contents of this SoCC. This includes both the host and neighbouring local authorities.

8. What Will the Project Consult On?

The Project encourages local communities to give their views on how the Project proposals may affect them or their local area. The Project will be seeking feedback to help develop the Project's proposals regarding issues such as, but not limited to:

- ✿ Environmental impacts;
- ✿ Economic impacts; and
- ✿ Social impacts.

As mentioned in Section 4 of this SoCC, as part of the EIA and DCO processes, the Project will consult with local communities and stakeholders throughout the preparation and publication of the PEIR and during the preparation of the ES. The methods of consultation that will be adopted by the Project are outlined in Section 9 of this SoCC.

More information will be made available regarding the technical aspects of the Project as proposals develop. The Project encourages local communities to give their views about how the Project may affect them or their local area and will be seeking feedback to help develop the Project's proposals regarding, but not limited to:

- ✿ The site selection process for the location of the onshore substation area and refinement of the onshore cable corridor search area;
- ✿ The offshore environment including consultation with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and commercial fisheries organisations;
- ✿ Short-term and temporary impacts during construction, such as traffic movements, local amenities and the environment; and
- ✿ Long-term operational considerations, such as on the local environment, landscape and visual amenity.

Aim of the Consultation

The aim of the Project's Consultation is to ensure that anyone that has the potential to be directly affected by the Project is made aware of the Project's proposals and has an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. Furthermore, feedback received from local communities will have the potential to influence the development of proposals.

9. Consultation Methods

As a result of the easing of government guidelines regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Project is adopting a ‘hybrid’ approach to the statutory consultation on the Project. This means that the Project will focus on having a mix of virtual, written and face-to-face methods to publicise the consultation and engage with the community and relevant stakeholders.

The Project’s pre-application consultation consists of two phases, Phase 1 and Phase 2 (pre and post PEIR publication respectively, see Figure 5).

Any physical or face-to-face consultation will be held in line with Government guidelines. If physical consultation is deemed unsafe or not permitted, the Project will rely on virtual and written methods of consultation alone. The following outlines the selected consultation methods interested parties are welcomed to engage with.

Open Communication

Freephone	A freephone service is available for interested parties to call to ask questions and provide feedback: 0808 175 2970.
Email	contact@outerdowsing.com
Freepost	FREEPOST ODOW (no stamp or further address details needed on the envelope)

Consultation Website

Website



All Project Consultation material will be available to view and respond to during the consultation, this will include the latest information regarding availability of hard copies of select consultation materials at deposit locations, consultation activities and how to provide feedback, via the Project Website: <https://www.outerdowsing.com/document-library/>.

Events

Public Information Events



The Project will host both in-person events and virtual webinars with a view to engage with stakeholders face-to-face for both phases of the consultation. Each phase will include a round of public information events, located at suitable locations within the consultation zone, and will be open to all interested members of the public. At these virtual and face-to-face events, attendees will have the opportunity to explore informative materials on the Project and discuss the proposals with members of the Project team. They will be advertised through the local press and through local councils, community access points and notice boards.



Stakeholder briefings

The Project will host a series of briefings with project stakeholders, including MPs, a number of locally elected members from within Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council, and relevant Parish Councils within the consultation area.


Community Liaison Group

Community Liaison Groups (CLG) will be established at locations within the consultation area, to share information and engage in balanced discussions about the Project.

Literature

Project Information Brochure	A project overview brochure has been made available to inform stakeholders of the high-level proposals for the project and can be found on the Project website.
Leaflet Drop 	Prior to the Public Consultation Events, we will distribute an information leaflet to residents and businesses within the relevant Core Consultation Zone (the Phase 1 Core Consultation Zone is shown in Figure 6) to notify them of the events as well as signposting the Project website for all the latest consultation information.
Project newsletter	The Project will produce a newsletter to provide updates on key project developments. Copies of the Project's newsletters will be made available on the project website.
Community Access Points	Key project information will be distributed to a range of local information points throughout the consultation area (See - Section 12)
Email Updates 	The Project will use their mailing list to provide key project updates and information regarding consultation for those who subscribe, which can be done via the Project's website https://www.outerdowsing.com/get-in-touch .

Advertising

Statutory notices 	Statutory notices will announce the publication of the SoCC via: the Skegness Standard, Boston Target, Boston Standard, Spalding Guardian, Spalding Voice, Spalding Today, East Lindsey Target, Lincolnshire Echo, Lincolnshire Free Press, Lincolnshire Live and Fishing News. The proposed DCO Application will also be advertised in accordance with Section 48 of the Act and relevant Regulations thereunder.
Media 	At key stages throughout the project, information will be disseminated to the local press and media through news releases. The local media will also be used to advertise of public events such as exhibitions and public information days. Media will include: Skegness Standard, Boston Target, Boston Standard, Spalding Guardian, Spalding Voice, Spalding Today, East Lindsey Target, Lincolnshire Echo, Lincolnshire Free Press, Lincolnshire Live and Lincolnite.
Posters	The Project will produce posters promoting participation in the consultation and will share them with local venues for display.
Social Media	Social Media platforms will be used to promote the Public Information Events. Posts will be shared with known local groups and media channels.

10. How This SoCC and Other Consultation Materials Can Be Accessed

A copy of this document and other consultation material, will be made available via the Project website: <https://www.outerdowsing.com/document-library/> and, as appropriate, in hard copy at the below locations within the consultation area.

Libraries

The Lincolnshire County Council website contains opening hours



and accessibility details for the following access points:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/libraries-archives/lincolnshire-library-service>.

We can also provide this information to you if you contact us (See – Section 12).

Mablethorpe Library and Customer Service Centre

Stanley Avenue
Mablethorpe
Lincolnshire
LN12 1DP

Skegness Library

23 Roman Bank
Skegness
Lincolnshire
PE25 2SA

Boston Library

County Hall
Boston
Lincolnshire
PE21 6DY

Pinchbeck Community Hub and Library

48 Knight Street
Pinchbeck
Lincolnshire
PE11 3RU

Council Offices

[Exact Locations to be confirmed]



ODOW will contact each of these locations to confirm the address and accessibility information prior to SoCC finalisation.

Lincolnshire County Council

County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

East Lindsey District Council

Tedder Hall
Manby Park, Louth
Lincolnshire
LN11 8UP

South Holland District Council

Council Offices
Priory Road
Spalding
Lincolnshire
PE11 2XE

Boston Borough Council

Municipal Buildings
West Street
Boston
PE21 8QR

11. How Will Stakeholder Feedback Be Utilised?

As part of the Project's DCO application, the Project has a duty as a developer to take responses to the statutory consultation process into account including, and particularly, those provided by local communities.

Using the feedback received, the Project will produce a Consultation Report¹¹ as part of the final DCO application setting out the following:

- ✿ Summary of the consultation process;
- ✿ How the consultation was undertaken in accordance with this SoCC document;
- ✿ How the statutory requirements were met;
- ✿ A summary of the liaison with LPAs to ensure consultation was tailored to local communities; and
- ✿ A summary of all consultation responses received and how the Project responded to each response in finalising the DCO application.

¹¹The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Fourteen may be helpful for further information related to this <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-fourteen-compiling-the-consultation-report/>

12. Contact Details and Further Information

Email: contact@outerdowsing.com

Call our Freephone information line: **0808 175 2970**

Visit our website: www.outerdowsing.com

You can write to the Project free of charge at:
FREEPOST ODOW (no stamp or further address details needed on the envelope)

REQUEST ACCESSIBLE FORMAT

Should you require this document in hard copy, large print, audio or braille please contact the Project using the details provided above.

When responding to the Project's pre-application consultation, personal data will be stored in compliance with General Data Protection Regulation by the Project and will not be shared with third parties. Personal data may however be passed on to The Inspectorate to ensure that the Project's pre-application consultation is sufficient and in line with the planning process as a whole.

Annex 5.1.1B Stakeholder Responses Received and ODOW Response (September 2022)

September 2022

Outer Dowsing Response to Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Comments on the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

On Monday 08th August 2022, ODOW issued a Draft SoCC to LCC for comment. LCC responded on Tuesday 30th August 2022 with the document: "Lincolnshire County Council Feedback on Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind SoCC 2022" which outlined their comments on the document.

This document is in response to these comments and outlines how ODOW have addressed these in their Revised Draft SoCC (Issued to LCC for consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, on 13th September 2022).

Comment ID (ODOW)	LCC Comment [From Document: Lincolnshire County Council Feedback on Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind SoCC 2022]	Relevant Draft SoCC (Revised) section	ODOW Response
LC1	Reference is made to "hard to reach groups" • Consider rephrasing to "seldom heard voices" • It is good to highlight awareness of groups who may be less likely to take part in engagement. The phrase "hard to reach" has caused offence in some instances with those groups that fall into this category as it could be argued they are not hard to reach in themselves. The fault could be seen to be with those needing to engage in that they have not, in some instances, tried hard enough to reach those groups.	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW are in agreement and have adopted the phrase "seldom heard voices" • ODOW would like to request feedback from LCC on any known groups or organisations that represent any groups or individuals that might fall into these categories. ODOW will also be contacting the host and neighbouring LPAs for feedback on this.
LC2	More information on the purpose of the consultation	1,2,8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please note additional wording in Section 1 (Second Paragraph) • Details on this have also been developed on within Section 2 and Section 8
LC3	The consultation objectives.	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please note additional wording in Section 8 (Aim of the consultation).
LC4	Specific information on the locations / venues for public information events. This information should include the locations themselves / their suitability (e.g., accessibility).	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW will be publicising the Public Information Events, including information on locations/ venues, accessibility, via the channels as outlined in Section 9 of the Revised draft SoCC.
LC5	Dates and times of events to be held (including how account has been taken to ensure that they are made available to range of stakeholders. E.g., working	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As Above. • ODOW can confirm that events will be held beyond normal working hours and

Comment ID (ODOW)	LCC Comment [From Document: Lincolnshire County Council Feedback on Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind SoCC 2022]	Relevant Draft SoCC (Revised) section	ODOW Response
	families may require events beyond the normal working hours.)		there will be an event held on a non-working day.
LC6	Reference is made to virtual briefings, but it is not clear what these refer to or when they would be held, including specific times. If the virtual briefings are webinars, then consider using this terminology which may be more widely understood.	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW agree and have adopted the wording "virtual exhibition" to refer to their online exhibitions.
LC7	Other similar SoCCs from other projects have included an online webinar as part of their engagement process, enabling people who cannot or choose not to attend a face to face event to speak to the project team and engage in a more personable way. Consider whether this may be an additional way to reach out to a wider audience.	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW are in agreement have opted to include Webinars as one of their consultation methods and will provide information on these when publicising their Public Information Events.
LC8	An out of hours phone back service may be helpful to allow people to discuss the project at a suitable time for them	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an ODOW Hotline freephone (this is a voicemail service where a question can be asked, a call back or specifically an out of hours call back can be requested) and details of this are included in the Revised draft SoCC and on the project website. • There are also details on ODOW's freepost & web address, this information will also be included in any Project consultation materials.
LC9	Opening hours of the locations where documents can be inspected should be provided	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW have included links to information where this can be found (in reference to the Libraries, ODOW will be seeking the correct council office details and relevant contact information prior to SoCC finalisation). • ODOW have also referenced the Contact Us section here.
LC10	How social media will be used to publicise the engagement; this should be an integral part of ensuring information is widely disseminated. This should include	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW will look to adopt social media as one of their consultation methods. Posts will be shared with known local groups and media channels. See Section 9.

Comment ID (ODOW)	LCC Comment [From Document: Lincolnshire County Council Feedback on Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind SoCC 2022]	Relevant Draft SoCC (Revised) section	ODOW Response
	how other organisations will be encouraged to share social media posts to increase their reach into communities.		
LC11	Include an engagement timeline of when information will be shared / when events will take place.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW have included an Anticipated Project and Community Consultation Timeline in Section 2 (Figure 6)
LC12	Reference could be made to an Equality Impact Assessment having been carried out.	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW intend to submit an Equality Statement along with their DCO Application.
LC13	Reference should be made to how engagement will seek to include minority groups (e.g., traveller communities) and those with protected characteristics	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW have included reference and details on this in Section 7 • ODOW would like to request feedback from LCC on any known organisations that represent any groups or individuals that might fall into these categories. ODOW will also be contacting the host and neighbouring LPAs for feedback on this.
LC14	Consider listing the local interest groups to be engaged with (e.g., local Wildlife Trusts).	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW have added this to Section 7.
LC15	Consider listing when newspaper / radio / tv / media will be used to publicise the engagement.	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW have included this in Section 9
LC16	Consider stating which local radio stations are to be used	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW will be providing local radio stations with Press Releases at key project milestones (Section 9), however whether these will be released via the radio channel or not is at their discretion depending on the news that day. Therefore, we have not included these in the SoCC.

September 2022

Outer Dowsing Response to the Planning Inspectorate's (PINS) Comments on the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

On Monday 08th August 2022, ODOW issued a Draft SoCC to PINS for comment. PINS responded on Monday 15th August 2022 with the document: "SoCC review comments FINAL" which outlined their comments on the document.

This document is in response to these comments and outlines how ODOW have addressed these in their Revised Draft SoCC (Issued to PINS for consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, on 13th September 2022).

Comment ID (ODOW)	PINS Comment [From Document: SoCC review comments FINAL]	Relevant Draft SoCC (Revised) section	ODOW Response
PI1	It is not clear what the figures/data on the axis of Figure 1 represent.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW agree and have therefore updated this figure to be more clear/ accessible (Figure 2). This figure now also includes the updated Search Zones, the onshore zone is also shown in Figure 4. • To represent the Project's location with respect other OFW projects in the area a further figure has been added (Figure 1).
PI2	You may wish to include to the Planning Inspectorate's (PINS) Advice Note Three which details the Environmental Impact Assessment/scoping process, and the consultation bodies PINS notify. This may also help consultees familiarise themselves with PINS' website.	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Advice Note has been referenced Section 5.
PI3	You may wish to include a reference/links to PINS Advice Note Eight series which gives an overview of Planning Act 2008 process.	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Advice Note has been referenced in Section 6.
PI4	A link or reference to PINS' Advice Note 8.1 would be beneficial here. It may also be of benefit to provide a list of the Local Planning Authorities you are collaborating with. You may also wish to consider using social media as a line of communication.	7,9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Advice Note has been referenced in Section 7. • ODOW have also included Social Media as one of their Consultation Methods in Section 9.

Comment ID (ODOW)	PINS Comment [From Document: SoCC review comments FINAL]	Relevant Draft SoCC (Revised) section	ODOW Response
PI5	Advice Note 14 – Compiling the Consultation Report contains information on how the SoCC process should be addressed in the Consultation Report. You may wish to consider this advice at this early stage to help inform the Consultation Report at a later date.	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW have taken note of this Advice Note and have also referenced this in Section 11 for reference to Stakeholders.

September 2022

Outer Dowsing Response to Boston Borough Council (BBC) Comments on the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

On Monday 08th August 2022, ODOW issued a Draft SoCC to BBC for comment. BBC responded on Friday 25th August 2022 with their email: "FW: Outer Dowsing SOCC consultation - Boston Borough Response" which outlined their comments on the document.

This document is in response to these comments and outlines how ODOW have addressed these in their Revised Draft SoCC (Issued to BBC for consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, on 13th September 2022).

Comment ID (ODOW)	PINS Comment [From Document: SoCC review comments FINAL]	Relevant Draft SoCC (Revised) section	ODOW Response
BBC1	<p>The 'media' section is generic. For your information local outlets you should consider are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBC Radio Lincolnshire • Lincs 102.2FM • BBC Look North • ITV News Calendar • Lincolnshire Free Press • Lincolnshire Live, that includes newsprint papers, • Lincolnshire World, that includes newsprint papers, • The Lincolnite (online only) • Spalding Today. 	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW have included the suggested local newspapers in their Statutory Publication Notice list in Section 9. • ODOW will be providing local radio stations with Press Releases at key project milestones (Section 9), however whether these will be released via the radio channel or not is at the radio's discretion, depending on the news that day. Therefore, we have not included these in the SoCC.
BBC2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents should be deposited at the Borough Council reception as well as the Boston library 	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This access point has been included, along with the other host district council offices in Section 10.

ODOW would like to request feedback from BBC on any known organisations that represent any groups or individuals that might fall within the following categories; Seldom heard voices, minority groups and those with protected characteristics (See Section 7). ODOW will be contacting the host and neighbouring LPAs for feedback on this.

September 2022

Outer Dowsing Response to South Holland District Council (SHDC) Comments on the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW) Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

On Monday 08th August 2022, ODOW issued a Draft SoCC to SHDC for comment. SHDC responded on Friday 19th August 2022 with their email: "FW: Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind PINS ref: EN010130-000032-220802" which outlined their comments on the document.

This document is in response to these comments and outlines how ODOW have addressed these in their Revised Draft SoCC (Issued to SHDC for consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, on 13th September 2022).

Comment ID (ODOW)	PINS Comment [From Document: SoCC review comments FINAL]	Relevant Draft SoCC (Revised) section	ODOW Response
SH1	Statutory Advertising in the Spalding Voice publication	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW have included the Spalding Voice (as well as Spalding Guardian and Spalding Today) in their Statutory Publication Notice list in Section 9.
SH2	Documents need to be held in the South Holland District Council, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2XE, in addition to the Pinchbeck Hub, already listed.	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This access point has been included, along with the other host district council offices in Section 10.
SH3	<p>As well as the statutory and non-statutory organisations that will be identified by this exercise, officers also recommend that the following are consulted: Various Parish Councils within SHDC, to be identified by search area Spalding SHDC Ward Members (please contact officers for a full list) SHDC Planning Portfolio Holder PEDALS (Spalding's cycling action group) Lincolnshire County Council as Highway and Lead Flood Authority Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Service Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Banovallum House, Manor House Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, LN9 5HF, Historic England</p>	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOW have updated Section 7 to better define who we propose to consult with. Section 9 provides an outline on the proposed consultation methods, which includes Community liaison Groups (CLG's) to be established at key locations in the consultation area, ODOW will be contacting Parish Council and Ward Members in due course to introduce the Project and invite them to the first round of CLG's. Community Groups such as PEDALS and other local cycling, rambling and local community groups that might be affected by the Project will be invited to the CLG's as well as the Public Information Events. • ODOW would like to request feedback from SHDC on any known organisations that represent any groups or individuals that might fall within the following categories; Seldom heard voices, minority groups and those with protected characteristics (See Section 7). ODOW will be contacting the host and neighbouring LPAs for feedback on this.

**Annex 5.1.1C Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Final Statement of Community
Consultation (October 2022)**

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Statement of Community
Consultation (SoCC)

October 2022



**OUTER
DOWSING**
OFFSHORE WIND



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1. Introduction

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, a joint venture between Macquarie Green Investment Group Limited (GIG) (now Corio Generation) and TotalEnergies, is publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) as required under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act'), for the proposed Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind project ('ODOW'), hereafter referred to as 'the Project'. The purpose of this document is to set out how we will undertake consultation with communities prior to submitting an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Act.

The purpose of the consultation is to provide a forum for the Project to inform the local community of the Project's proposals with a focus on providing opportunities for stakeholders, local residents and community groups to have their say and feedback directly to the Project team. The Project's pre- application consultation will consist of two phases (Figure 5); Phase 1 will introduce the Project and map out our current high-level proposals, with a view to obtaining feedback on these from the local communities. Phase 2 will present and seek views on the development of the proposals to that point. That will include consultation on the results of our environmental surveys and studies (which will be presented in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR')). Feedback from the phases of pre-application consultation will be taken into account when finalising the Project's DCO Application.

This SoCC sets out:

- Information regarding the Project's background;
- How the application for development consent will progress;
- How we have identified who to consult;
- Proposed consultation methods and materials; and
- How members of the community can continue to provide their feedback to help inform the Project as it develops.

This SoCC has been written in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council as the host local authorities. Other neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have also been consulted including: North East Lincolnshire Council, West Lindsey District Council, North Kesteven District Council, South Kesteven District Council, Peterborough City Council, Fenland District Council and Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

2. About The Project

Introduction

The Project is a proposed offshore windfarm located approximately 54 kilometres (km) off the coast of Lincolnshire, England (Figure 1), comprising an offshore generating station (at this stage, covering an area of seabed of up to 500 km², which will be reduced to 300 km²) and offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure including any additional development¹.

The current Search Zone (which includes the Search Zone and Substation Search Zones shown in Figure 2, (the "Search Zone")) for the offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure has been defined based on the latest recommendations of the Offshore Transmission Network Review² (OTNR process - see Section 4).

The recommendations from the OTNR process were published on 07 July 2022 (Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND)³) by National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO), which concluded two connection locations being progressed for further consideration for the Project – Weston Marsh and Lincolnshire Node. The Search Zone for the location of the Project infrastructure is shown in Figure 2, and presents a combined Search Zone for both of these connection options, noting that this area will be reduced when a single grid connection location is confirmed by NGESO.

The Project considers the pre-application consultation with the local community and stakeholders to be an integral part of the development process and intends for this document to outline a consultation roadmap, ensuring a process where all interested parties have the opportunity to participate.

The Project is planned to have a generating capacity, of 1.5 GW, powering over 1.6 million households in the UK.

The exact size and capacity of the Project will be determined through a balanced consideration of the environmental, social, and technical implications of which the pre application consultation is a key component.

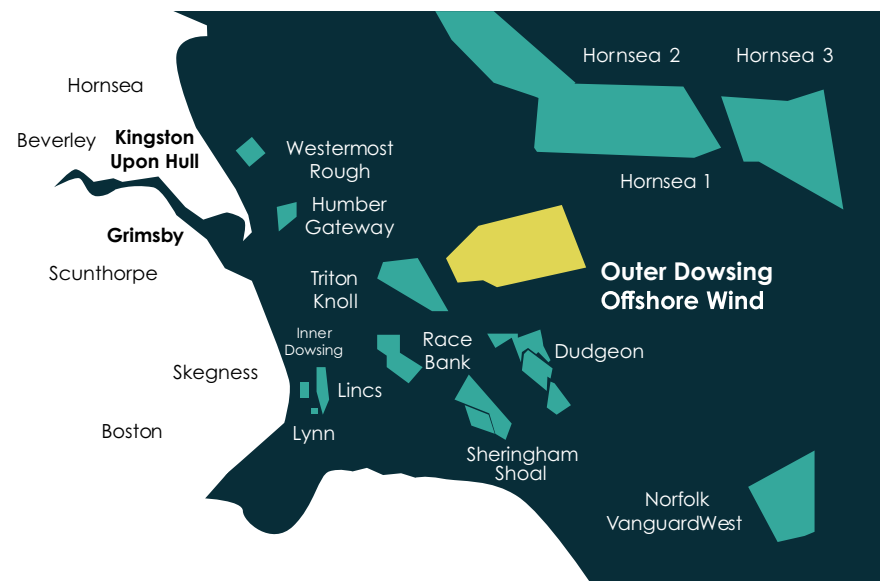


Figure 1: Location of the Project's proposed offshore wind farm

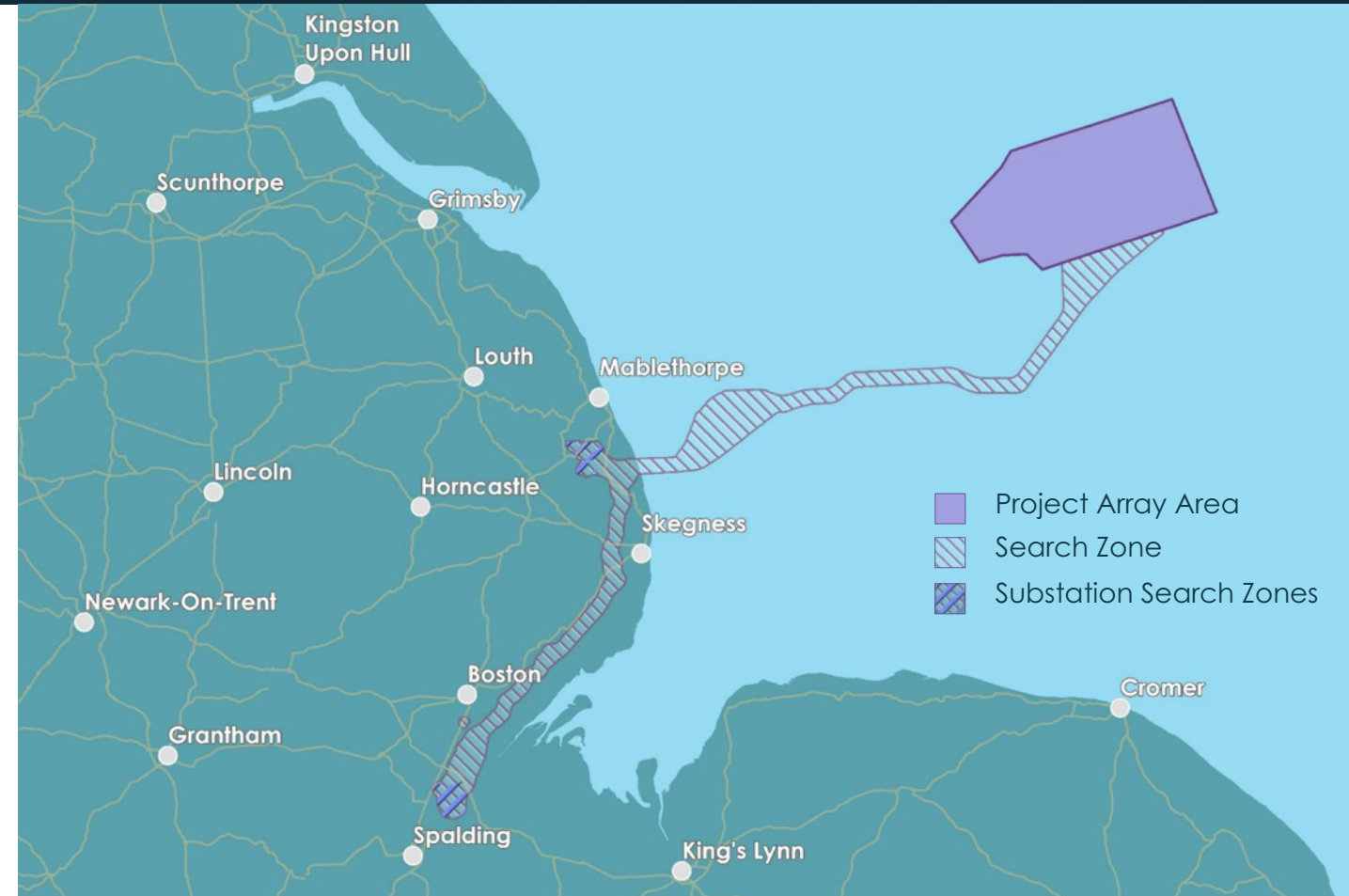


Figure 2: Search Zone for the Onshore and Offshore Infrastructure.

This Search Zone has been refined since we issued our Scoping Report through consideration of the results from environmental and technical assessments. The Project Array Area is the area within which the generating station will be situated.



Need for the Project

The key drivers for renewable energy in the UK are reducing greenhouse gas emissions, providing increased energy security, and maximising economic opportunities for the UK and local economies. Green infrastructure development has been identified as one of the UK Government's COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery and post-Brexit strategies⁴ and advancing offshore wind projects is incorporated into the recently published 'British Energy Security Strategy'⁵. The Project is aiming to make a key contribution to the UK Government's ambition for over 50 Gigawatts (GW) of offshore by 2030.

As part of this strategy, investing in offshore wind generation has been listed as one of the principal elements of the UK Government's '10 Point Plan' contributing to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Project is aligned with these key drivers and will make a meaningful contribution to the decarbonisation of the UK economy as well as sustainable economic growth.

The Project is anticipated to avoid emissions equivalent to 2 million tonnes CO₂ per year of operations through the generation of renewable electricity, this is the equivalent to removing over 650,000 petrol cars from the road for the duration of the Project.

Typical Components of an Offshore Wind Project

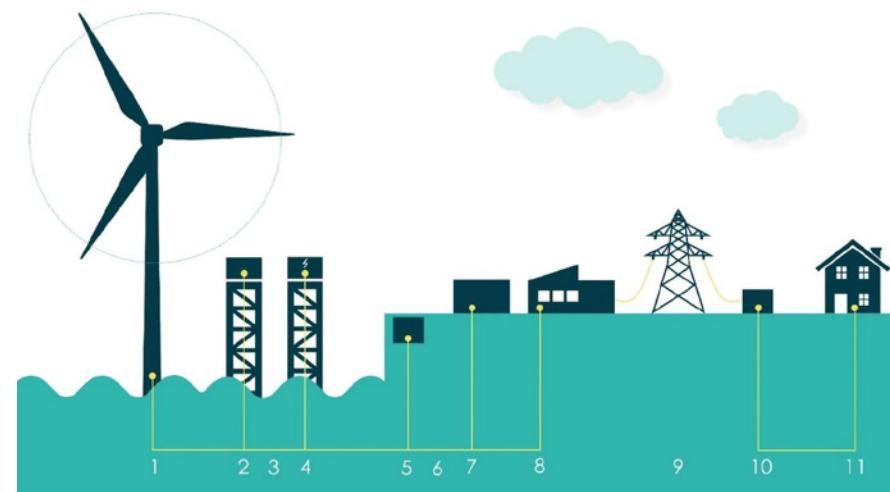


Figure 3: Typical components of an offshore wind farm. In line with the Project's development phases, ODOW will be consulting with stakeholders on aspects associated with each of the components.

The necessary infrastructure to build the Project will depend on the type of technology adopted and the length of the cable route.

- 1 Offshore Wind Turbines and Inter Array Cable
- 2 Offshore Substation
- 3 Offshore Export Cable
- 4 Offshore reactive compensation platform (optional)
- 5 Transition Joint Bay
- 6 Onshore export cable and landfall
- 7 Onshore substation
- 8 National Grid substation
- 9 National Grid Power lines
- 10 Local Substation
- 11 End User

Our Onshore Proposals and Search Zone

It is currently anticipated that the Onshore Infrastructure will be located within or close to the Search Zone as outlined in Figure 4. This zone has been refined from the Scoping Boundary that was presented in the ODOW Scoping Report⁶, through environmental and technical assessments and will form the basis of the Phase 1 Consultation.

Onshore Search Zone

We are currently assessing the optimal cable route and onshore substation location options and we will be seeking your feedback to help shape our proposals during our consultation process. Feedback from the consultation will be incorporated into the project design process, which will also be refined following the outcome of the OTNR (See – Section 4).

Onshore Substations Search Zones

Until we have secured a final grid connection, we currently have two search zones for the onshore substation. Only one of these zones, along with the accompanying onshore cable route search zone will be progressed once a final connection point is adopted.

Landfall Search Zone

The landfall search zone has been refined through environmental and technical assessments. There is only one landfall search zone as this has been assessed as the optimum search zone for both connection options.



Figure 4: Onshore Search Zone and Substation Search Zones.

Project and Community Consultation Timeline

Following the conclusion of the Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 tender process in February 2021, the Project was successful in securing Preferred Bidder status for an area in the southern North Sea (Figure 1).

We have since been focusing on refining our proposals through initial environmental and technical assessments and by means of an Evidence Plan Process (EPP) which commenced in Q4 2021. The EPP is a voluntary process with a primary aim in seeking consensus between Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies and key Stakeholders on the amount and range of evidence required to be collected to inform the EIA and Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA).

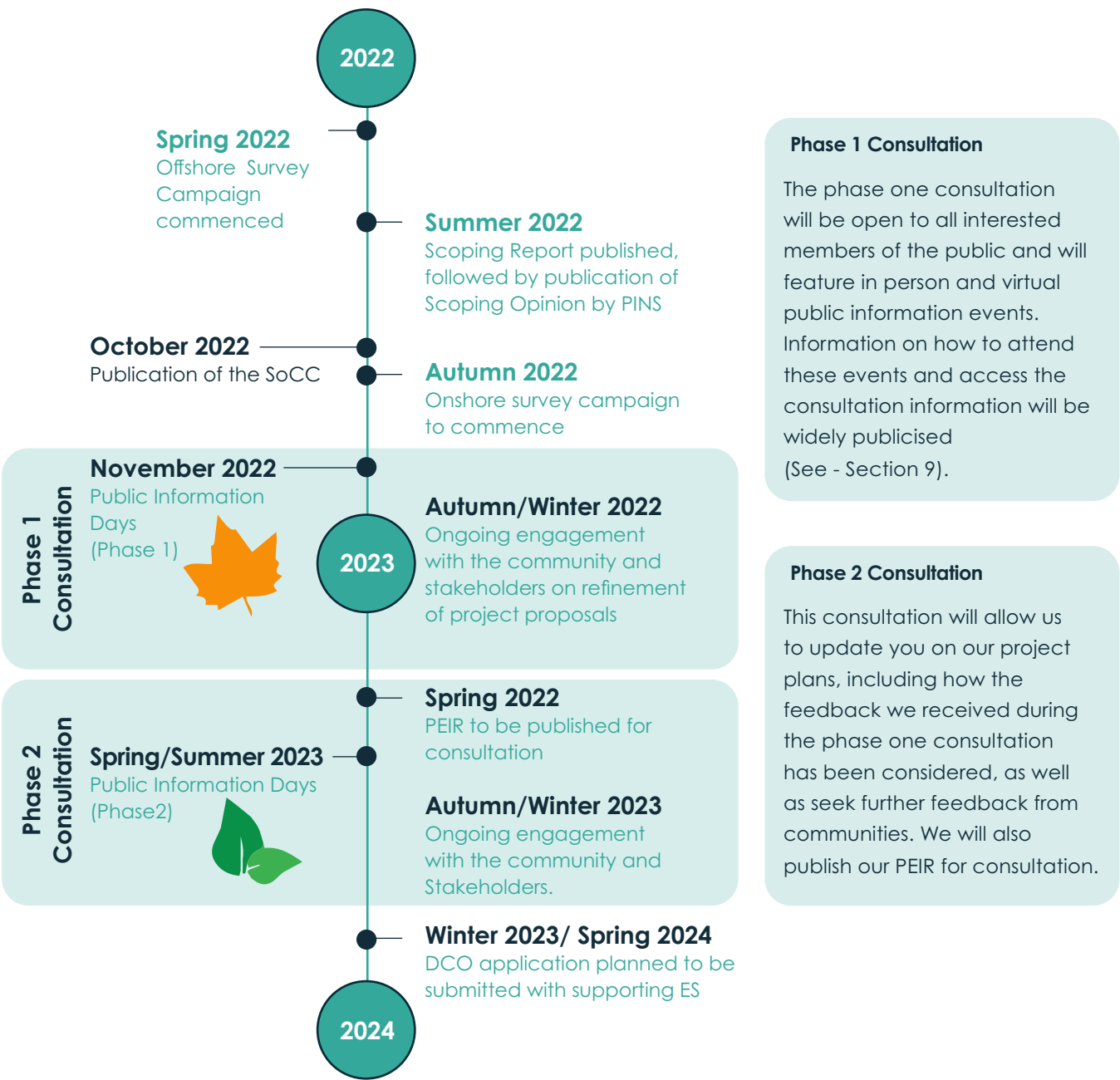


Figure 5: Anticipated Project and Community Consultation Timeline

3. About The Applicant

GTR4 Limited (trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind) hereafter referred to as the 'Applicant', was successful in the Crown Estate offshore wind seabed licensing auction process securing Preferred Bidder status for an area in the southern North Sea. The project is being developed by Corio Generation (a wholly-owned Green Investment Group portfolio company) and TotalEnergies.

TotalEnergies is a global multi-energy company that produces and markets energies: oil and biofuels, natural gas and green gases, renewables and electricity.

Its over 100,000 employees are committed to energy that is ever more affordable, cleaner, more reliable and accessible to as many people as possible. Active in more than 130 countries, TotalEnergies puts sustainable development in all its dimensions at the heart of its projects and operations to contribute to the well-being of people.

As part of its ambition to get to net zero by 2050, TotalEnergies is building a portfolio of activities in renewables and electricity to reach 35 GW of gross production capacity from renewable sources and storage by 2025, and then 100 GW by 2030 with the objective of being among the world's top 5 producers of electricity from wind and solar energy.

TotalEnergies is already developing a portfolio of offshore wind projects with a total capacity of more than 11 GW, of which 2/3 are bottom-fixed and 1/3 are floating.

Corio Generation is a specialist offshore wind business, dedicated to harnessing the world's greatest energy supply. With a unique blend of sector-leading expertise and deep access to long-term capital, Corio Generation apply a long-term partnership approach to the creation and management of projects, taking them from origination, through development and construction, and into operations.

Corio Generation's 15 GW offshore wind pipeline is one of the largest in the world, spanning established and emerging markets, as well as floating and traditional fixed to the seabed technologies. These next generation offshore wind projects will help form the backbone of the net-zero global energy system while meeting the energy needs of communities and corporate off-takers sustainably, reliably, safely and responsibly.

Corio Generation is a Green Investment Group (GIG) portfolio company, operating on a standalone basis. GIG is a specialist green investor within Macquarie Asset Management, part of Macquarie Group.



4. Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR)

The OTNR was launched in July 2020 by the Secretary of State for BEIS and takes a holistic and strategic approach to the development of the offshore wind transmission system. The environmental, community and economic aspects are considered in this process while aiming to minimise any cumulative impacts from multiple adjacent offshore wind farm projects that may be constructed or operational either within the same timeframe, or successively. There is a particular focus upon the associated onshore infrastructure required to connect to the national transmission network. The OTNR aims to be consistent with the Government's ambition to deliver net zero emissions by 2050.

The OTNR is being led by BEIS with support from a number of partners including Ofgem (Great Britain's independent energy regulator) and National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO). NGESO is responsible for providing the Holistic Network Design (HND) that will include the transmission and connection arrangements for the Project.

On 7th of April 2022 the UK Government published the British Energy Security Strategy⁷, a new policy statement that further refines the context of the OTNR. The strategy includes specific proposals and commitments made in respect to offshore wind, including increasing the 2030 capacity target by 25 percent, with a new ambition of 50 GW of offshore wind by 2030. This increased ambition for offshore wind underlines the significance of the OTNR in giving explicit consideration to environmental and local impacts whilst ensuring the efficient and sustainable growth of green energy infrastructure to deliver the Government's net-zero emissions by 2050.

Currently, the Project is awaiting the final definition of its grid connection arrangements, based on the HND design proposals submitted by NGESO to BEIS and Ofgem as part of the OTNR process. The provisional outcomes of this process include two possible grid connection options: Lincolnshire Node or Weston Marsh. Once the final outcome is received from the OTNR, the confirmation of grid connection will determine where and how the Project will connect to the grid as well as the onshore cable route needed to reach this grid connection. The Project will provide regular updates on the OTNR process, outcomes and what this means for the progress of the project by consulting with stakeholders throughout.

5. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process and Information

In accordance with Regulation 12 (consultation statement requirements) of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, the Project is an EIA development⁸. As such, the Project will undertake an EIA and prepare an Environmental Statement (ES) in accordance with Regulation 5 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The methodology and scope of the EIA will be informed through consultation with the relevant regulatory and environmental bodies, the Secretary of State (SoS), and the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs).

The following reports (listed below) will be subject to statutory consultation as part of the EIA process:

Scoping Report –

The Scoping Report was informed using desk-based research on the existing offshore and onshore environments in the location of the proposed project and supported by surveys and data analysis. This report presents the indicative key project parameters which will inform the Project Design Envelope, and which will include all associated onshore and offshore infrastructure that make up the project. These elements will be subject to further refinement throughout the subsequent project development process. The report also describes the methodologies that will be applied to further characterise the existing environments and how any potential impacts will be assessed. The Scoping Report was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2022 with a request for an EIA scoping opinion. A scoping opinion refers to the range of issues which the Secretary of State considers should be included in an EIA. The Scoping Opinion was published in September 2022.¹¹

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) –

A PEIR will be published on the project website, which will provide preliminary environmental information in the form of a preliminary environmental impact assessment for the Project. The study areas will be determined on a receptor-by-receptor basis, will be clearly defined as the EIA progresses and will be agreed with relevant statutory stakeholders. The PEIR will be published to support the statutory pre-application consultation requirements of the Planning Act 2008 (namely Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 consultations). As part of the consultations, copies of the PEIR reports will be made available as the Project conducts the public consultation and the Project will be seeking feedback from local communities and other stakeholders on the PEIR.

Environmental Statement (ES) –

The ES will incorporate the final EIA for the Project, building on the content of the PEIR and incorporating changes and updates in response to the statutory consultations, as well as the results of any further surveys and studies undertaken since the production of the PEIR. It will also describe any changes made to the Project following consultation and any mitigation measures that are proposed.

6. Consenting Processes and Consultation

The Project includes an offshore generating station that will have a proposed capacity in excess of 100 Megawatts (MW) offshore, therefore under Section 15 of the Planning Act 2008 it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)⁹. As such, the Project must apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate the Project. The DCO process was created to streamline the consenting of large infrastructure projects and to ensure transparency and public participation.

The application process will be managed by the Planning Inspectorate (The Inspectorate) and examined by an Examining Authority, which will produce a recommendations report, before a decision is made by the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The Local Planning Authority (LPA) plays an important consultative role in the process but is not the decision-maker as it would be for smaller projects applied for under the Town and Country Planning process. If granted, the DCO will consent the offshore wind farm, the cables and associated electrical infrastructure as well as the onshore grid connection works (and any other associated development included in the application).

Pre-application consultation is a legal obligation for NSIPs, and the Project values early engagement with stakeholders. This document begins the statutory phase of consultation pursuant to Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, which sets out the applicant's duty to consult with the local community on an NSIP.



The local community will also be invited to provide feedback on the Project's proposals and, as such, have the opportunity to influence elements of the design and development processes before the submission of the DCO application. The Project's aim is to develop its proposals collaboratively and responsibly, taking account of local community interests.

The Project's pre-application consultation must be deemed adequate by The Inspectorate. The Project will be required to show that the relevant stakeholders have been consulted, that it has complied with this SoCC, and publicised the application in the required manner.

As the Project lies in UK waters, a Marine Licence (ML) will be required to build and operate the offshore elements of the Project, which would be granted under the Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009 with the intention being to seek the deemed consent of these licences as part of the DCO.

7. Who Will Be Consulted?

Communities and individuals living within the vicinity of the Project will be consulted, as well as anyone who may be interested or feel in any way that they may be impacted by the Project.

The Project encourages interested parties to get in touch via the Project's communication lines, including the dedicated project email address (contact@outerdowsing.com), Freepost (FREEPOST ODOW) Freephone information line (0808 175 2970). Anyone can also register their interest via the Project website (www.outerdowsing.com).

Consultation on the Project will also involve relevant parish and town councils, area committees, community groups, organisations representing local businesses and tourist boards. The Project will collaborate with LPAs to identify key community groups, and a range of statutory and non-statutory groups will be consulted including:

- ✿ Local Planning Authorities (LPAs);
- ✿ Local Interest Groups (such as Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust);
- ✿ Parish and Town Councils;
- ✿ Owners, tenants and occupiers of the land affected by the DCO application;
- ✿ Resident, community, tourism and business organisations;
- ✿ Individuals and members of the public;
- ✿ Seldom heard voices, minority groups and those with protected characteristics;
 - We recognise that some individuals or groups may not find our proposed consultation methods suited to their needs, we will therefore identify a number of organisations representing these groups. These organisations will be contacted at the start of each consultation phase to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of its members.
 - ODOW will also be making provision for people who do not have access to the internet and ensure documents are made available via post, choosing accessible venues for public information events, producing consultation materials in accessible formats, and offering direct 1-2-1 engagement;
- ✿ Commercial stakeholders (including asset owners and the commercial fisheries industry); and
- ✿ Environmental bodies.

The Project will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC and encourage participation in the consultation by any person or group who is interested in the proposed Project¹⁰.

Consultation Zones

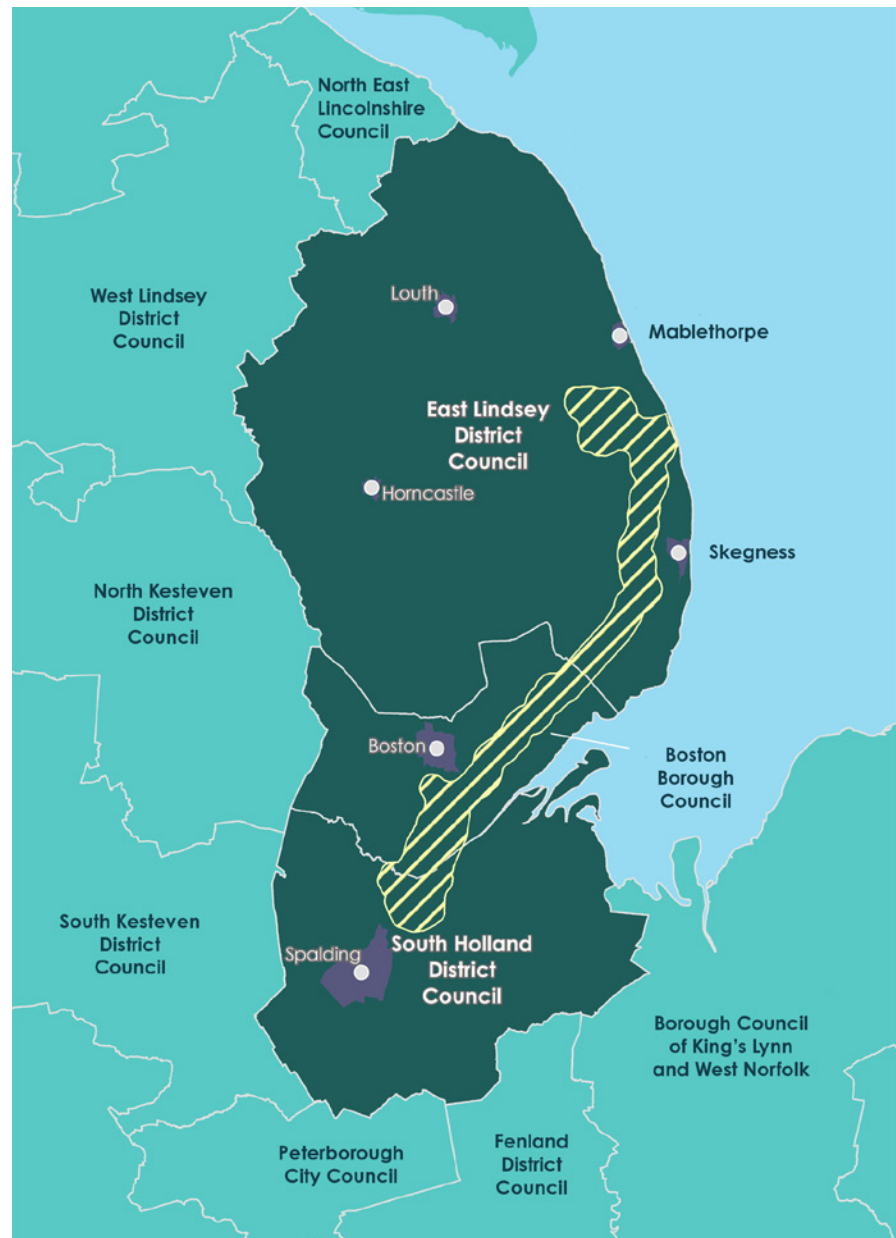
Consultation zones have been defined for the purposes of publicising the consultation directly to the local community, recognising that levels of potential impact and interest are likely to vary with geography. These consultation zones will be refined in line with the Project's development phases as outlined below.

Core Consultation Zone

For the Phase 1 Consultation (See - Figure 5), the core consultation zone will comprise a minimum distance of 500 metres either side of the onshore search zone shown in Figure 4, extending to 1,000 metres around the onshore substation search zones (Figure 6). The Phase 1 consultation exercise will help guide the refinement of the onshore search area. Phase 2 consultation will adopt the same approach but applied to the revised onshore search zone. Properties within the relevant zone, will receive direct communications such as leaflets from us in the post (See - Section 9).

Outer Consultation Zone

People who may be interested in the wider potential impacts of the proposed Project, such as transport, visual impact and creating new jobs. This zone includes both the host and neighbouring Local Authorities, all of whom have been consulted on the contents of this SoCC (Figure 6). This zone will be reached through local and social media (See - Section 9).



■ Host Authority ■ Neighbouring Authority ■ Core Consultation Zone (Phase 1)

Figure 6: The local authorities highlighted on this map, have been consulted on the contents of this SoCC. This includes both the host and neighbouring local authorities.

8. What Will the Project Consult On?

The Project encourages local communities to give their views on how the Project proposals may affect them or their local area. The Project will be seeking feedback to help develop the Project's proposals regarding issues such as, but not limited to:

- ✿ Environmental impacts;
- ✿ Economic impacts; and
- ✿ Social impacts.

As mentioned in Section 4 of this SoCC, as part of the EIA and DCO processes, the Project will consult with local communities and stakeholders throughout the preparation and publication of the PEIR and during the preparation of the ES. The methods of consultation that will be adopted by the Project are outlined in Section 9 of this SoCC.

More information will be made available regarding the technical aspects of the Project as proposals develop. The Project encourages local communities to give their views about how the Project may affect them or their local area and will be seeking feedback to help develop the Project's proposals regarding, but not limited to:

- ✿ The site selection process for the location of the onshore substation area and refinement of the onshore cable corridor search area;
- ✿ The offshore environment including consultation with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and commercial fisheries organisations;
- ✿ Short-term and temporary impacts during construction, such as traffic movements, local amenities and the environment; and
- ✿ Long-term operational considerations, such as on the local environment, landscape and visual amenity.



Aim of the Consultation

The aim of the Project's Consultation is to ensure that anyone that has the potential to be directly affected by the Project is made aware of the Project's proposals and has an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. Furthermore, feedback received from local communities will have the potential to influence the development of proposals.




9. Consultation Methods

As a result of the easing of government guidelines regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Project is adopting a 'hybrid' approach to the statutory consultation on the Project. This means that the Project will focus on having a mix of virtual, written and face-to-face methods to publicise the consultation and engage with the community and relevant stakeholders.


The Project's pre-application consultation consists of two phases, Phase 1 and Phase 2 (pre and post PEIR publication respectively, see Figure 5).

Any physical or face-to-face consultation will be held in line with Government guidelines. If physical consultation is deemed unsafe or not permitted, the Project will rely on virtual and written methods of consultation alone. The following outlines the selected consultation methods interested parties are welcomed to engage with.




Open Communication

-  **Freephone** A freephone service is available for interested parties to call to ask questions and provide feedback: 0808 175 2970.
-  **Email** contact@outerdowsing.com
-  **Freepost** FREEPOST ODOW (no stamp or further address details needed on the envelope)






Consultation Website

	All Project Consultation material will be available to view and respond to during the consultation, this will include the latest information regarding availability of hard copies of select consultation materials at deposit locations, consultation activities and how to provide feedback, via the Project Website: https://www.outerdowsing.com/document-library/ .
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Events

	The Project will host both in-person events and virtual webinars with a view to engage with stakeholders face-to-face for both phases of the consultation. Each phase will include a round of public information events, located at suitable locations within the consultation zone, and will be open to all interested members of the public. At these virtual and face-to-face events, attendees will have the opportunity to explore informative materials on the Project and discuss the proposals with members of the Project team. They will be advertised through the local press and through local councils, community access points and notice boards.
	The Project will host a series of briefings with project stakeholders, including MPs, a number of locally elected members from within Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council, and relevant Parish Councils within the consultation area.
	Community Liaison Groups (CLG) will be established at locations within the consultation area, to share information and engage in balanced discussions about the Project.

Literature

	A project overview brochure has been made available to inform stakeholders of the high-level proposals for the project and can be found on the Project website.
	Prior to the Public Consultation Events, we will distribute an information leaflet to residents and businesses within the relevant Core Consultation Zone (the Phase 1 Core Consultation Zone is shown in Figure 6) to notify them of the events as well as signposting the Project website for all the latest consultation information.
	The Project will produce a newsletter to provide updates on key project developments. Copies of the Project's newsletters will be made available on the project website.
	Key project information will be distributed to a range of local information points throughout the consultation area (See - Section 12)
	The Project will use their mailing list to provide key project updates and information regarding consultation for those who subscribe, which can be done via the Project's website https://www.outerdowsing.com/get-in-touch .

Advertising

	Statutory notices will announce the publication of the SoCC via: Louth Leader (including Skegness Standard, Mablethorpe Leader, Horncastle News, Spilsby Standard and Market Rasen Mail), Boston Target, Boston Standard, Spalding Guardian, Spalding Voice, Spalding Today, Lincolnshire Echo, Lincolnshire Free Press, Lincolnshire Live and Fishing News. The proposed DCO Application will also be advertised in accordance with Section 48 of the Act and relevant Regulations there under.
	At key stages throughout the project, information will be disseminated to the local press and media through news releases. The local media will also be used to advertise of public events such as exhibitions and public information days. Media will include: Louth Leader (including Skegness Standard, Mablethorpe Leader, Horncastle News, Spilsby Standard and Market Rasen Mail), Boston Target, Boston Standard, Spalding Guardian, Spalding Voice, Spalding Today, Lincolnshire Echo, Lincolnshire Free Press, Lincolnshire Live and Lincolnite.
	The Project will produce posters promoting participation in the consultation and will share them with local venues for display.
	Social Media platforms will be used to promote the Public Information Events. Posts will be shared with known local groups and media channels.

10. How This SoCC and Other Consultation Materials Can Be Accessed

A copy of this document and other consultation material will be made available via the Project website: <https://www.outerdowsing.com/document-library/> and, as appropriate, in hard copy at the below locations within the consultation area.



Libraries

The Lincolnshire County Council website contains opening hours and accessibility details for the following access points: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/libraries-archives/lincolnshire-library-service>.

We can also provide this information to you if you contact us (See – Section 12).

Mablethorpe Library and Customer Service Centre

Stanley Avenue
Mablethorpe
Lincolnshire
LN12 1DP

Skegness Library

23 Roman Bank
Skegness
Lincolnshire
PE25 2SA

Boston Library

County Hall
Boston
Lincolnshire
PE21 6DY

Pinchbeck Community Hub and Library

48 Knight Street
Pinchbeck
Lincolnshire
PE11 3RU



Council Offices

ODOW will contact each of these locations to confirm the address and accessibility information prior to SoCC finalisation.

Lincolnshire County Council

County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

East Lindsey District Council

Tedder Hall
Manby Park, Louth
Lincolnshire
LN11 8UP

South Holland District Council

Council Offices
Priory Road
Spalding
Lincolnshire
PE11 2XE

Boston Borough Council

Municipal Buildings
West Street
Boston
PE21 8QR

11. How Will Stakeholder Feedback Be Utilised?

As part of the Project's DCO application, the Project has a duty as a developer to take responses to the statutory consultation process into account including, and particularly, those provided by local communities.

Using the feedback received, the Project will produce a Consultation Report as part of the final DCO application setting out the following:

- Summary of the consultation process;
- How the consultation was undertaken in accordance with this SoCC document;
- How the statutory requirements were met;
- A summary of the liaison with LPAs to ensure consultation was tailored to local communities; and
- A summary of all consultation responses received and how the Project responded to each response in finalising the DCO application.



12. Contact Details and Further Information



Email:
contact@outerdowsing.com



**Call our Freephone
information line:**
0808 175 2970



Visit our website:
www.outerdowsing.com



You can write to the Project free of charge at:
FREEPOST ODOW
(no stamp or further address details needed on the envelope)

Request accessible format

Should you require this document in hard copy, large print, audio or braille please contact the Project using the details provided above.

When responding to the Project's pre-application consultation, personal data will be stored in compliance with General Data Protection Regulation by the Project and will not be shared with third parties. Personal data may however be passed on to The Inspectorate to ensure that the Project's pre-application consultation is sufficient and in line with the planning process as a whole.

References

- ¹ Energy system balancing and network stability facilities may be included as part of the development, for example battery energy storage.
- ² <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/offshore-transmission-network-review>
- ³ <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/the-pathway-2030-holistic-network-design>
- ⁴ <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/Building-a-green-recovery.pdf>
- ⁵ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1069969/british-energy-security-strategy-web-accessible.pdf
- ⁶ The Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Scoping Report was published in July 2022 and can be accessed via the Project website: <https://www.outerdowsing.com/document-library/>
- ⁷ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1069969/british-energy-security-strategy-web-accessible.pdf
- ⁸ The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Three may be helpful for further information related to this: Advice Note Three: EIA Notification and Consultation | National Infrastructure Planning ([planninginspectorate.gov.uk](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk))
- ⁹ The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Eight may be helpful for further information related to this: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-eight-overview-of-the-nationally-significant-infrastructure-planning-process-for-members-of-the-public-and-others/>
- ¹⁰ The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Eight point One may be helpful for further information related to this: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-8-1/>
- ¹¹ The Planning Inspectorate's Scoping Opinion for Outer Dowsing Offshore Wings: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010130/EN010130-000035-EN010130-Scoping-Opinion.pdf>



GET IN TOUCH

If you would like any more information about Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind then please get in touch at contact@outerdowsing.com

Register your interest to receive project updates at www.outerdowsing.com/get-in-touch/

You can write to the Project free of charge at:
FREEPOST ODOW
(no stamp or further address details needed on the envelope)

Annex 5.1.1D Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Draft Updated SoCC (December 2022)

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Updated Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

December 2022

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1. Introduction

This document is the updated Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') for the proposed Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind project ('ODOW') hereafter referred to as 'the Project'). It outlines how we will consult with the local communities about our proposals to develop the Project. Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, a joint venture between Macquarie Green Investment Group Limited (GIG) (now Corio Generation) and TotalEnergies, is publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) as required under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act'), for the Project. The purpose of this document is to set out how we will undertake consultation with communities prior to submitting an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Act.

Introduction of an Alternative Onshore Cable Route and associated Phase 1A Consultation

This SoCC has been updated in response to the introduction of an alternative onshore cable route that is now being considered alongside the previously presented route by the Project as a result of stakeholder feedback. A new phase of consultation has therefore been introduced in this SoCC ('Phase 1A (Alternative Route)') to provide ODOW with the opportunity to engage with the local communities on the proposed alternative route. The proposed alternative route will not have any effect on the Project's current landfall or onshore substation search zones, and will only be taken forward as a potential route in relation to the Weston Marsh connection option (for details on the two proposed connection options See – Section 4).

The details of the proposed alternative route and the associated additional phase of consultation are outlined in the below relevant sections of this SoCC:

- Alternative Route Search Zone – Figure 2 & Figure 4
- Updated Community Consultation Timeline – Section 2
- Consultation Zone - Figure 6
- How to contact us – Section 12. Should you have any queries or concerns, or you're unsure what this means for you, please don't hesitate to contact us at any time.

The purpose of the consultation is to provide a forum for the Project to inform the local community of the Project's proposals with a focus on providing opportunities for stakeholders, local residents and community groups to have their say and feedback directly to the Project team. The Project's pre-application consultation consists of three phases (Figure 5); Phase 1 was carried out in November 2022 and introduced the Project and mapped out our initial high-level proposals. Feedback was obtained on these initial high level proposals from the local communities. Phase 1A (Alternative Route) aims to introduce the alternative route to local communities who may be affected by this new proposal, introduce the Project and its proposals to those who have not yet been consulted and provide an opportunity for all interested parties to provide feedback. Phase 2 will present and seek views on the development of the proposals to that point. That will include consultation on the results of our environmental surveys and studies (which will be presented in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR')). Feedback from the phases of pre-application consultation will be taken into account when finalising the Project's DCO Application.

This SoCC sets out:

- Information regarding the Project's background;
- How the application for development consent will progress;
- How we have identified who to consult;
- Proposed consultation methods and materials; and
- How members of the community can continue to provide their feedback to help inform the Project as it develops.

This updated SoCC has been written in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council as the host local authorities. Other neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have also been consulted including: North East Lincolnshire Council, West Lindsey District Council, North Kesteven District Council, South Kesteven District Council, Peterborough City Council, Fenland District Council and Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

2. About The Project - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Introduction

The Project is a proposed offshore windfarm located approximately 54 kilometres (km) off the coast of Lincolnshire, England (Figure 1), comprising an offshore generating station (at this stage, covering an area of seabed of up to 500 km², which will be reduced to 300 km²) and offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure including any additional development¹.

The current Search Zone (which includes the Search Zone and Substation Search Zones shown in Figure 2, (the “Search Zone”)) for the offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure has been defined based on the latest recommendations of the Offshore Transmission Network Review² (OTNR process - see Section 4) and has been updated following stakeholder feedback.

The recommendations from the OTNR process were published on 07 July 2022 (Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND)³) by National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO), which concluded two connection locations being progressed for further consideration for the Project – Weston Marsh and Lincolnshire Node. The Search Zone for the location of the Project infrastructure is shown in Figure 2 (this has been updated to include the search zone for the alternative route), noting that this area will be reduced once a single grid connection location is confirmed by NGESO and the site selection appraisal has identified the most appropriate cable route and onshore substation location for the adopted connection point.

The Project considers the pre-application consultation with the local community and stakeholders to be an integral part of the development process and intends for this document to outline a consultation roadmap, ensuring a process where all interested parties have the opportunity to participate.

The Project is planned to have a generating capacity, of 1.5 GW, powering over 1.6 million households in the UK.

The exact size and capacity of the Project will be determined through a balanced consideration of the environmental, social, and technical implications of which the pre application consultation is a key component.



Figure 1: Location of the Project’s proposed offshore wind farm

¹ Energy system balancing and network stability facilities may be included as part of the development, for example battery energy storage.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/offshore-transmission-network-review>

³ <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/the-pathway-2030-holistic-network-design>

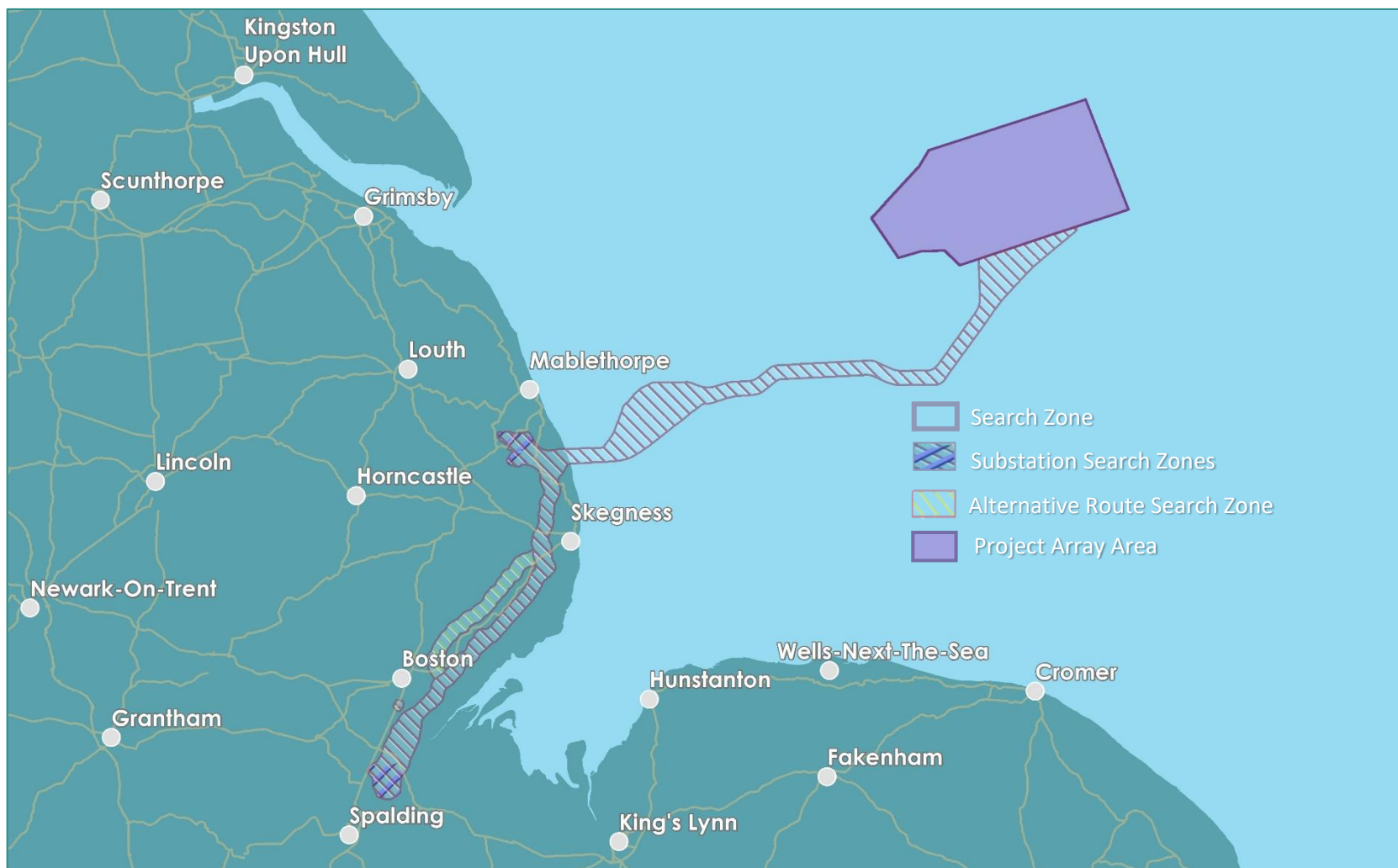


Figure 2 Search Zone for the Onshore and Offshore Infrastructure. This Search Zone has been updated to include the newly proposed alternative route to the Weston Marsh connection option as shown in yellow hash. The offshore Project Array Area is the area within which the generating station will be situated.

Need for the Project

The key drivers for renewable energy in the UK are reducing greenhouse gas emissions, providing increased energy security, and maximising economic opportunities for the UK and local economies. Green infrastructure development has been identified as one of the UK Government's COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery and post-Brexit strategies⁴ and advancing offshore wind projects is incorporated into the recently published 'British Energy Security Strategy'⁵. The Project is aiming to make a key contribution to the UK Government's ambition for over 50 Gigawatts (GW) of offshore by 2030.

As part of this strategy, investing in offshore wind generation has been listed as one of the principal elements of the UK Government's '10 Point Plan' contributing to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Project is aligned with these key drivers and will make a meaningful contribution to the decarbonisation of the UK economy as well as sustainable economic growth.

The Project is anticipated to avoid emissions equivalent to 2 million tonnes CO₂ per year of operations through the generation of renewable electricity, this is the equivalent to removing over 650,000 petrol cars from the road for the duration of the Project.

Typical Components of an Offshore Wind Project



Figure 3: Typical components of an offshore wind farm. In line with the Project's development phases, ODOV will be consulting with stakeholders on aspects associated with each of the components.

The necessary infrastructure to build the Project will depend on the type of technology adopted and the length of the cable route.

⁴ <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/Building-a-green-recovery.pdf>

⁵ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1069969/british-energy-security-strategy-web-accessible.pdf

Our Onshore Proposals and Search Zone

It is currently anticipated that the Onshore Infrastructure will be located within or close to the Search Zone as outlined in Figure 4. This zone has been updated to include the alternative onshore cable route that is also being considered as an option for the Weston Marsh grid connection following stakeholder feedback.

Onshore Search Zone

We are currently assessing the optimal cable route and onshore substation location options and we are seeking your feedback to help shape our proposals during our consultation process. Feedback from the consultation phases will be incorporated into the project design process, which will also be refined following the outcome of the OTNR (See – Section 4).

Onshore Substations Search Zones

Until we have secured a final grid connection, we currently have two search zones for the onshore substation. Only one of these zones, along with the accompanying onshore cable route search zone will be progressed once a final connection point is adopted.

Landfall Search Zone

The landfall search zone has been refined through environmental and technical assessments. There is only one landfall search zone as this has been assessed as the optimum search zone for both connection options.



Figure 4: Onshore Search Zone and Substation Search Zones.

Project and Community Consultation Timeline

Following the conclusion of the Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 tender process in February 2021, the Project was successful in securing Preferred Bidder status for an area in the southern North Sea (Figure 1).

Phase 1 Consultation

The phase one consultation was open to all interested members of the public featured in person and virtual public information events. Information on how to attend these events and access the consultation information was widely publicised (See - Section 9).

Phase 1A Consultation

We have chosen to carry out an additional phase of consultation following stakeholder feedback received during the Phase 1 Consultation. Phase 1A Consultation will involve consulting the local communities on the proposed alternative route introduced earlier in this SoCC. The consultation will be open to all interested members of the public and will feature in person events and a virtual public information event. Information on how to attend these events and access the consultation information will be widely publicised (See - Section 9).

Phase 2 Consultation

This consultation will allow us to update you on our project plans, including how the feedback we received during the phase one consultation has been considered, as well as seek further feedback from communities. We will also publish our PEIR for consultation.

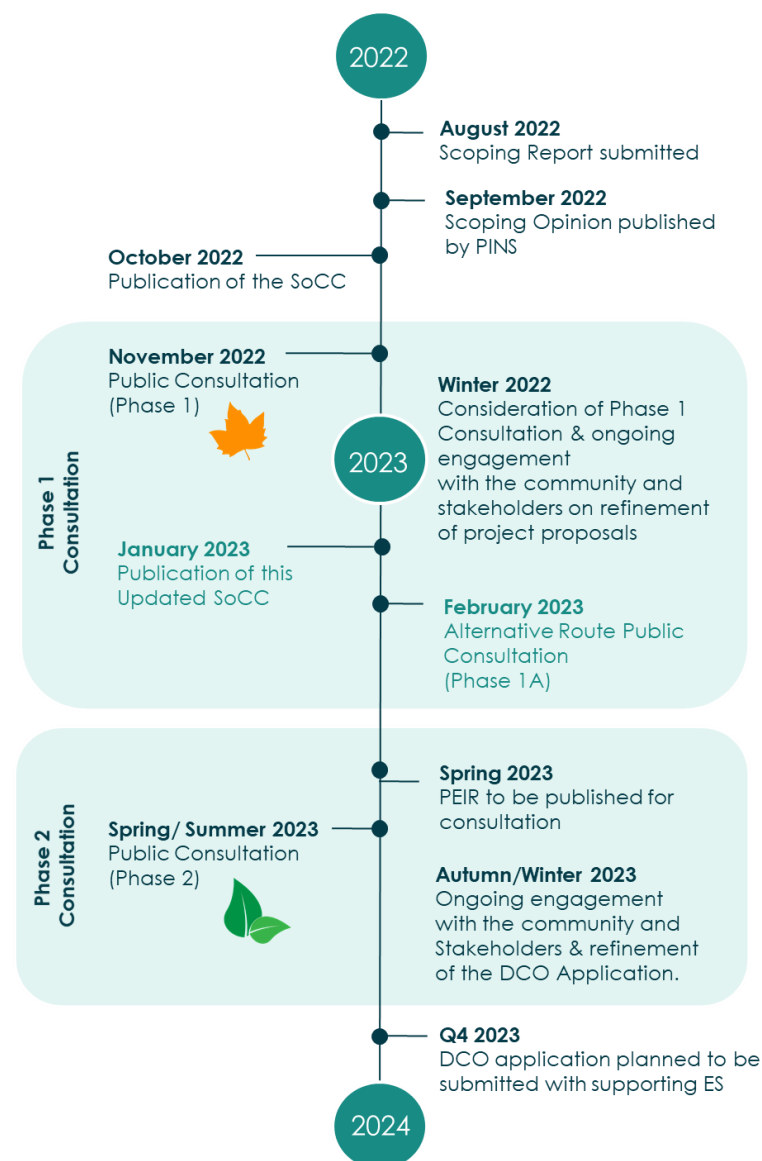


Figure 5: Updated Project and Community Consultation Timeline

3. About The Applicant: Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

GTR4 Limited (trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind) hereafter referred to as the 'Applicant', was successful in the Crown Estate offshore wind seabed licensing auction process securing Preferred Bidder status for an area in the southern North Sea. The project is being developed by Corio Generation (a wholly-owned Green Investment Group portfolio company) and TotalEnergies.

TotalEnergies is a global multi-energy company that produces and markets energies: oil and biofuels, natural gas and green gases, renewables and electricity.

Its over 100,000 employees are committed to energy that is ever more affordable, cleaner, more reliable and accessible to as many people as possible. Active in more than 130 countries, TotalEnergies puts sustainable development in all its dimensions at the heart of its projects and operations to contribute to the well-being of people.

As part of its ambition to get to net zero by 2050, TotalEnergies is building a portfolio of activities in renewables and electricity to reach 35 GW of gross production capacity from renewable sources and storage by 2025, and then 100 GW by 2030 with the objective of being among the world's top 5 producers of electricity from wind and solar energy.

TotalEnergies is already developing a portfolio of offshore wind projects with a total capacity of more than 11 GW, of which 2/3 are bottom-fixed and 1/3 are floating.

Corio Generation is a specialist offshore wind business, dedicated to harnessing the world's greatest energy supply. With a unique blend of sector-leading expertise and deep access to long-term capital, Corio Generation apply a long-term partnership approach to the creation and management of projects, taking them from origination, through development and construction, and into operations.

Corio Generation's 15 GW offshore wind pipeline is one of the largest in the world, spanning established and emerging markets, as well as floating and traditional fixed to the seabed technologies. These next generation offshore wind projects will help form the backbone of the net-zero global energy system while meeting the energy needs of communities and corporate offtakers sustainably, reliably, safely and responsibly.

Corio Generation is a Green Investment Group (GIG) portfolio company, operating on a standalone basis. GIG is a specialist green investor within Macquarie Asset Management, part of Macquarie Group.



4. Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR)

The OTNR was launched in July 2020 by the Secretary of State for BEIS and takes a holistic and strategic approach to the development of the offshore wind transmission system. The environmental, community and economic aspects are considered in this process while aiming to minimise any cumulative impacts from multiple adjacent offshore wind farm projects that may be constructed or operational either within the same timeframe, or successively. There is a particular focus upon the associated onshore infrastructure required to connect to the national transmission network. The OTNR aims to be consistent with the Government's ambition to deliver net zero emissions by 2050.

The OTNR is being led by BEIS with support from a number of partners including Ofgem (Great Britain's independent energy regulator) and National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO). NGESO is responsible for providing the Holistic Network Design (HND) that will include the transmission and connection arrangements for the Project.

On 7th of April 2022 the UK Government published the British Energy Security Strategy⁶, a new policy statement that further refines the context of the OTNR. The strategy includes specific proposals and commitments made in respect to offshore wind, including increasing the 2030 capacity target by 25 percent, with a new ambition of 50 GW of offshore wind by 2030. This increased ambition for offshore wind underlines the significance of the OTNR in giving explicit consideration to environmental and local impacts whilst ensuring the efficient and sustainable growth of green energy infrastructure to deliver the Government's net-zero emissions by 2050.

Currently, the Project is awaiting the final definition of its grid connection arrangements, based on the HND design proposals submitted by NGESO to BEIS and Ofgem as part of the OTNR process. The provisional outcomes of this process include two possible grid connection options: Lincolnshire Node or Weston Marsh. Once the final outcome is received from the OTNR, the confirmation of grid connection will determine where and how the Project will connect to the grid as well as the onshore cable route needed to reach this grid connection. The Project will provide regular updates on the OTNR process, outcomes and what this means for the progress of the project by consulting with stakeholders throughout.

⁶ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1069969/british-energy-security-strategy-web-accessible.pdf

5. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process and Information

In accordance with Regulation 12 (consultation statement requirements) of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, the Project is an EIA development⁷. As such, the Project will undertake an EIA and prepare an Environmental Statement (ES) in accordance with Regulation 5 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The methodology and scope of the EIA will be informed through consultation with the relevant regulatory and environmental bodies, the Secretary of State (SoS), and the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs).

The following reports (listed below) will be subject to statutory consultation as part of the EIA process:

Scoping Report – The Scoping Report was informed using desk-based research on the existing offshore and onshore environments in the location of the proposed project and supported by surveys and data analysis. This report presents the indicative key project parameters which will inform the Project Design Envelope, and which will include all associated onshore and offshore infrastructure that make up the project. These elements will be subject to further refinement throughout the subsequent project development process. The report also describes the methodologies that will be applied to further characterise the existing environments and how any potential impacts will be assessed. The Scoping Report was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2022 with a request for an EIA scoping opinion. A scoping opinion refers to the range of issues which the Secretary of State considers should be included in an EIA. The Scoping Opinion was published by the Planning Inspectorate in September 2022.⁸

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) – A PEIR will be published on the project website, which will provide preliminary environmental information in the form of a preliminary environmental impact assessment for the Project. The study areas will be determined on a receptor-by-receptor basis, will be clearly defined as the EIA progresses and will be agreed with relevant statutory stakeholders. The PEIR will be published to support the statutory pre-application consultation requirements of the Planning Act 2008 (namely Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 consultations). As part of the consultations, copies of the PEIR reports will be made available as the Project conducts the public consultation and the Project will be seeking feedback from local communities and other stakeholders on the PEIR.

Environmental Statement (ES) – The ES will incorporate the final EIA for the Project, building on the content of the PEIR and incorporating changes and updates in response to the statutory consultations, as well as the results of any further surveys and studies undertaken since the production of the PEIR. It will also describe any changes made to the Project following consultation and any mitigation measures that are proposed.

⁷ The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Three may be helpful for further information related to this: [Advice Note Three: EIA Notification and Consultation | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/advice-note-three-eia-notification-and-consultation/)

⁸ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010130/EN010130-000035-EN010130-Scoping-Opinion.pdf>

6. Consenting Processes and Consultation

The Project includes an offshore generating station that will have a proposed capacity in excess of 100 Megawatts (MW) offshore, therefore under Section 15 of the Planning Act 2008 it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)⁹. As such, the Project must apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate the Project. The DCO process was created to streamline the consenting of large infrastructure projects and to ensure transparency and public participation.

The application process will be managed by the Planning Inspectorate (The Inspectorate) and examined by an Examining Authority, which will produce a recommendations report, before a decision is made by the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The Local Planning Authority (LPA) plays an important consultative role in the process but is not the decision-maker as it would be for smaller projects applied for under the Town and Country Planning process. If granted, the DCO will consent the offshore wind farm, the cables and associated electrical infrastructure as well as the onshore grid connection works (and any other associated development included in the application).

Pre-application consultation is a legal obligation for NSIPs, and the Project values early engagement with stakeholders. This document begins the statutory phase of consultation pursuant to Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, which sets out the applicant's duty to consult with the local community on an NSIP.

The local community will also be invited to provide feedback on the Project's proposals and, as such, have the opportunity to influence elements of the design and development processes before the submission of the DCO application. The Project's aim is to develop its proposals collaboratively and responsibly, taking account of local community interests.

The Project's pre-application consultation must be deemed adequate by The Inspectorate. The Project will be required to show that the relevant stakeholders have been consulted, that it has complied with this SoCC, and publicised the application in the required manner.

As the Project lies in UK waters, a Marine Licence (ML) will be required to build and operate the offshore elements of the Project, which would be granted under the Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009 with the intention being to seek the deemed consent of these licences as part of the DCO.

⁹ The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Eight may be helpful for further information related to this: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-eight-overview-of-the-nationally-significant-infrastructure-planning-process-for-members-of-the-public-and-others/>

7. Who Will Be Consulted?

Communities and individuals living within the vicinity of the Project will be consulted, as well as anyone who may be interested or feel in any way that they may be impacted by the Project.

The Project encourages interested parties to get in touch via the Project's communication lines, including the dedicated project email address (contact@outerdowsing.com), Freepost (FREEPOST ODOU) Freephone information line (0808 175 2970). Anyone can also register their interest via the Project website (www.outerdowsing.com).

Consultation on the Project will also involve relevant parish and town councils, area committees, community groups, organisations representing local businesses and tourist boards. The Project will collaborate with LPAs to identify key community groups, and a range of statutory and non-statutory groups will be consulted including:

- Local Planning Authorities (LPAs);
- Local Interest Groups (such as Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust);
- Parish and Town Councils;
- Owners, tenants and occupiers of the land affected by the DCO application;
- Resident, community, tourism and business organisations;
- Individuals and members of the public;
- Seldom heard voices, minority groups and those with protected characteristics;
 - We recognise that some individuals or groups may not find our proposed consultation methods suited to their needs, we will therefore identify a number of organisations representing these groups. These organisations will be contacted at the start of each consultation phase to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of its members.
 - ODOU will also be making provision for people who do not have access to the internet and ensure documents are made available via post, choosing accessible venues for public information events, producing consultation materials in accessible formats, and offering direct 1-2-1 engagement;
- Commercial stakeholders (including asset owners and the commercial fisheries industry); and
- Environmental bodies.

The Project will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC and encourage participation in the consultation by any person or group who is interested in the proposed Project¹⁰.

¹⁰ The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Eight point One may be helpful for further information related to this: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-8-1/>

Consultation Zones

Consultation zones have been defined for the purposes of publicising the consultation directly to the local community, recognising that levels of potential impact and interest are likely to vary with geography. These consultation zones will be refined in line with the Project's development phases as outlined below.

Core Consultation Zone

Phase 1 - For the Phase 1 Consultation (See - Figure 5), the core consultation zone comprised a minimum distance of 500 metres either side of the onshore search zone shown in Figure 4, extending to 1,000 metres around the onshore substation search zones (Figure 6 – yellow hash).

Phase 1A (Alternative Route) – Given the introduction of an alternative route that is being considered for the Weston Marsh Connection Option (See - Section 1). The core consultation zone for this option has been defined using the same approach as Phase 1 (i.e. 500m either side of the search zone) but applied only to the alternative route search zone as shown in Figure 4 (Figure 6 – white hash).

The Phase 1 and 1A consultation exercises will help guide the refinement of the onshore search area. **Phase 2** consultation will adopt the same approach as defined for Phase 1, but will be applied to the revised onshore search zone which will be influenced by the Phase 1 and 1A consultation, the design process and the results of the PEIR. Properties within the relevant zone, will receive direct communications such as leaflets from us in the post (See – Section 9).

Outer Consultation Zone

People who may be interested in the wider potential impacts of the proposed Project, such as transport, visual impact and creating new jobs. This zone includes both the host and neighbouring Local Authorities, all of whom have been consulted on the contents of this SoCC (Figure 6). This zone will be reached through local and social media (See – Section 9).



Figure 6: The local authorities highlighted on this map, have been consulted on the contents of this SoCC. This includes both the host and neighbouring local authorities.

8. What Will the Project Consult On?

The Project encourages local communities to give their views on how the Project proposals may affect them or their local area. The Project will be seeking feedback to help develop the Project's proposals regarding issues such as, but not limited to:

- Environmental impacts;
- Economic impacts; and
- Social impacts.

As mentioned in Section 4 of this SoCC, as part of the EIA and DCO processes, the Project will consult with local communities and stakeholders throughout the preparation and publication of the PEIR and during the preparation of the ES. The methods of consultation that will be adopted by the Project are outlined in Section 9 of this SoCC.

More information will be made available regarding the technical aspects of the Project as proposals develop. The Project encourages local communities to give their views about how the Project may affect them or their local area and will be seeking feedback to help develop the Project's proposals regarding, but not limited to:

- The site selection process for the location of the onshore substation area and refinement of the onshore cable corridor search area;
- The offshore environment including consultation with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and commercial fisheries organisations;
- Short-term and temporary impacts during construction, such as traffic movements, local amenities and the environment; and
- Long-term operational considerations, such as on the local environment, landscape and visual amenity.

Aim of the Consultation

The aim of the Project's Consultation is to ensure that anyone that has the potential to be directly affected by the Project is made aware of the Project's proposals and has an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. Furthermore, feedback received from local communities will have the potential to influence the development of proposals.

9. Consultation Methods

As a result of the easing of government guidelines regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Project is adopting a ‘hybrid’ approach to the statutory consultation on the Project. This means that the Project will focus on having a mix of virtual, written and face-to-face methods to publicise the consultation and engage with the community and relevant stakeholders.

The Project’s pre-application consultation consists of three phases, Phase 1, Phase 1A (Alternative Route) and Phase 2 (pre and post PEIR publication respectively, see Figure 5).

Any physical or face-to-face consultation will be held in line with Government guidelines. If physical consultation is deemed unsafe or not permitted, the Project will rely on virtual and written methods of consultation alone. The following outlines the selected consultation methods interested parties are welcomed to engage with.

Open Communication

Freephone	A freephone service is available for interested parties to call to ask questions and provide feedback: 0808 175 2970.
Email	contact@outerdowsing.com
Freepost	FREEPOST ODOW (no stamp or further address details needed on the envelope)

Consultation Website

Website



All Project Consultation material has been and will continue to be available to view and respond to during the consultation, this will include the latest information regarding availability of hard copies of select consultation materials at deposit locations, consultation activities and how to provide feedback, via the Project Website: <https://www.outerdowsing.com/document-library/>.

Events

Public Information Events

The Project hosted both in-person events and virtual webinars during the Phase 1 Consultation. The Phase 1 Consultation included a round of public information events held on [dates to be added] at [locations to be added], and these events were open to all interested members of the public. They were advertised through the local press and through local councils, community access points and notice boards.

The Project will host further in-person events and a virtual webinar during the Phase 1A and Phase 2 Consultations with a view to engage with stakeholders face-to-face for both remaining phases of the consultation. Each phase will include a round of public information events, located at suitable locations within the consultation zone, and will be open to all interested members of the public. At these virtual and face-to-face events, attendees will have the opportunity to explore informative materials on the Project and discuss the proposals with members of the Project team. They will be advertised through the local

	press and through local councils, community access points and notice boards.
Stakeholder briefings	The Project will host a series of briefings with project stakeholders, including MPs, a number of locally elected members from within Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council, and relevant Parish Councils within the consultation area.
Community Liaison Group	Community Liaison Groups (CLG) will be established at locations within the consultation area, to share information and engage in balanced discussions about the Project.

Literature

Project Information Brochure	A project overview brochure has been made available to inform stakeholders of the high-level proposals for the project and can be found on the Project website.
Leaflet Drop	Prior to the Phase 1 Public Consultation Events, we distributed an information leaflet to residents and businesses within the Phase 1 Core Consultation Zone notifying them of the in person events being held on 01 st , 04 th , 06 th & 11 th of November and two webinars being held on 02 nd and 03 rd of November, as well as signposting the Project website. Prior to the Phase 1A and Phase 2 Public Consultation Events, we will distribute an information leaflet to residents and

	businesses within the relevant Core Consultation Zone (the Phase 1A (Alternative Route) Core Consultation Zone is outlined in Section 7) to notify them of the events as well as signposting the Project website for all the latest consultation information.
Project newsletter	The Project will produce a newsletter to provide updates on key project developments. Copies of the Project's newsletters will be made available on the project website.
Community Access Points	Key project information will be distributed to a range of local information points throughout the consultation area (See - Section 12)
Email Updates	The Project will use their mailing list to provide key project updates and information regarding consultation for those who subscribe, which can be done via the Project's website https://www.outerdowsing.com/get-in-touch .

Advertising

Statutory notices	Statutory notices will announce the publication of the SoCC via: the Skegness Standard, Boston Target, Boston Standard, Spalding Guardian, Spalding Voice, Spalding Today, East Lindsey Target, Lincolnshire Echo, Lincolnshire Free Press, Lincolnshire Live and Fishing News. The proposed DCO Application will also be advertised in accordance with Section 48 of the Act and relevant Regulations thereunder.
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Media	At key stages throughout the project, information will be disseminated to the local press and media through news releases. The local media will also be used to advertise of public events such as exhibitions and public information days. Media will include: Skegness Standard, Boston Target, Boston Standard, Spalding Guardian, Spalding Voice, Spalding Today, East Lindsey Target, Lincolnshire Echo, Lincolnshire Free Press, Lincolnshire Live and Lincolnite.
Posters	The Project will produce posters promoting participation in the consultation and will share them with local venues for display.
Social Media	Social Media platforms will be used to promote the Public Information Events. Posts will be shared with known local groups and media channels.

10. How This SoCC and Other Consultation Materials Can Be Accessed

A copy of this document and other consultation material, will be made available via the Project website: <https://www.outerdowsing.com/document-library/> and, as appropriate, in hard copy at the below locations within the consultation area.

Libraries

The Lincolnshire County Council website contains opening hours and accessibility details for the following access points: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/libraries-archives/lincolnshire-library-service>.

We can also provide this information to you if you contact us (See – Section 12).

Mablethorpe Library and Customer Service Centre

Stanley Avenue
Mablethorpe
Lincolnshire
LN12 1DP

Skegness Library

23 Roman Bank
Skegness
Lincolnshire
PE25 2SA

Boston Library

County Hall
Boston
Lincolnshire
PE21 6DY

Pinchbeck Community Hub and Library

48 Knight Street
Pinchbeck
Lincolnshire
PE11 3RU



Council Offices

Lincolnshire County Council

County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

East Lindsey District Council

Tedder Hall
Manby Park, Louth
Lincolnshire
LN11 8UP

South Holland District Council

Council Offices
Priory Road
Spalding
Lincolnshire
PE11 2XE

Boston Borough Council

Municipal Buildings
West Street
Boston
PE21 8QR



11. How Will Stakeholder Feedback Be Utilised?

As part of the Project's DCO application, the Project has a duty as a developer to take responses to the statutory consultation process into account including, and particularly, those provided by local communities.

Using the feedback received, the Project will produce a Consultation Report¹¹ as part of the final DCO application setting out the following:

- Summary of the consultation process;
- How the consultation was undertaken in accordance with this SoCC document;
- How the statutory requirements were met;
- A summary of the liaison with LPAs to ensure consultation was tailored to local communities; and
- A summary of all consultation responses received and how the Project responded to each response in finalising the DCO application.

¹¹The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Fourteen may be helpful for further information related to this <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-fourteen-compiling-the-consultation-report/>

12. Contact Details and Further Information

Email: contact@outerdowsing.com

Call our Freephone information line: **0808 175 2970**

Visit our website: www.outerdowsing.com

You can write to the Project free of charge at:
FREEPOST ODO (no stamp or further address details needed on the envelope)

REQUEST ACCESSIBLE FORMAT

Should you require this document in hard copy, large print, audio or braille please contact the Project using the details provided above.

When responding to the Project's pre-application consultation, personal data will be stored in compliance with General Data Protection Regulation by the Project and will not be shared with third parties. Personal data may however be passed on to The Inspectorate to ensure that the Project's pre-application consultation is sufficient and in line with the planning process as a whole.

**Annex 5.1.1E Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Final Updated Statement of
Community Consultation (January 2023)**

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Updated Statement of
Community Consultation
(SoCC)

January 2023



**OUTER
DOWSING**
OFFSHORE WIND

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1. Introduction

This document is the updated Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') for the proposed Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind project ('ODOW') hereafter referred to as 'the Project'). It outlines how we will consult with the local communities about our proposals to develop the Project. Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, a joint venture between Macquarie Green Investment Group Limited (GIG) (now Corio Generation) and TotalEnergies, is publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) as required under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act'), for the Project. The purpose of this document is to set out how we will undertake consultation with communities prior to submitting an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Act.

Introduction of an Alternative Onshore Cable Route and associated Phase 1A Consultation

This SoCC has been updated in response to the introduction of an alternative onshore cable route that is now being considered alongside the previously presented route by the Project as a result of stakeholder feedback. A new phase of consultation has therefore been introduced in this SoCC ('Phase 1A (Alternative Route)') to provide ODOW with the opportunity to engage with the local communities on the proposed alternative route. The proposed alternative route will not have any effect on the Project's current landfall or onshore substation search zones, and will only be taken forward as a potential route in relation to the Weston Marsh connection option (for details on the two proposed connection options See – Section 4).

The details of the proposed alternative route and the associated additional phase of consultation are outlined in the below relevant sections of this SoCC:

- ✿ Alternative Route Search Zone – Figure 2 and Figure 4
- ✿ Updated Community Consultation Timeline – Section 2
- ✿ Consultation Zone - Figure 6
- ✿ How to contact us – Section 12. Should you have any queries or concerns, or you're unsure what this means for you, please don't hesitate to contact us at any time.

The purpose of the consultation is to provide a forum for the Project to inform the local community of the Project's proposals with a focus on providing opportunities for stakeholders, local residents and community groups to have their say and feedback directly to the Project team. The Project's pre- application consultation consists of three phases (Figure 5); Phase 1 was carried out in November 2022 and introduced the Project and mapped out our initial high-level proposals. Feedback was obtained on these initial high level proposals from the local communities. Phase 1A (Alternative Route) aims to introduce the alternative route to local communities who may be affected by this new proposal, introduce the Project and its proposals to those who have not yet been consulted and provide an opportunity for all interested parties to provide feedback. Phase 2 will present and seek views on the development of the proposals to that point. That will include consultation on the results of our environmental surveys and studies (which will be presented in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR')). Feedback from the phases of pre-application consultation will be taken into account when finalising the Project's DCO Application.

This SoCC sets out:

- ✿ Information regarding the Project's background;
- ✿ How the application for development consent will progress;
- ✿ How we have identified who to consult;
- ✿ Proposed consultation methods and materials; and
- ✿ How members of the community can continue to provide their feedback to help inform the Project as it develops.

This updated SoCC has been written in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council as the host local authorities. Other neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have also been consulted including: North East Lincolnshire Council, West Lindsey District Council, North Kesteven District Council, South Kesteven District Council, Peterborough City Council, Fenland District Council and Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

2. About The Project

Introduction

The Project is a proposed offshore windfarm located approximately 54 kilometres (km) off the coast of Lincolnshire, England (Figure 1), comprising an offshore generating station (at this stage, covering an area of seabed of up to 500 km², which will be reduced to 300 km²) and offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure including any additional development¹.

The current Search Zone (which includes the Search Zone and Substation Search Zones shown in Figure 2, (the "Search Zone") for the offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure has been defined based on the latest recommendations of the Offshore Transmission Network Review² (OTNR process - see Section 4) and has been updated following stakeholder feedback.

The recommendations from the OTNR process were published on 07 July 2022 (Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND)³ by National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO), which concluded two connection locations being progressed for further consideration for the Project – Weston Marsh and Lincolnshire Node. The Search Zone for the location of the Project infrastructure is shown in Figure 2 (this has been updated to include the search zone for the alternative route), noting that this area will be reduced once a single grid connection location is confirmed by NGESO and the site selection appraisal has identified the most appropriate cable route and onshore substation location for the adopted connection point.

The Project considers the pre-application consultation with the local community and stakeholders to be an integral part of the development process and intends for this document to outline a consultation roadmap, ensuring a process where all interested parties have the opportunity to participate.

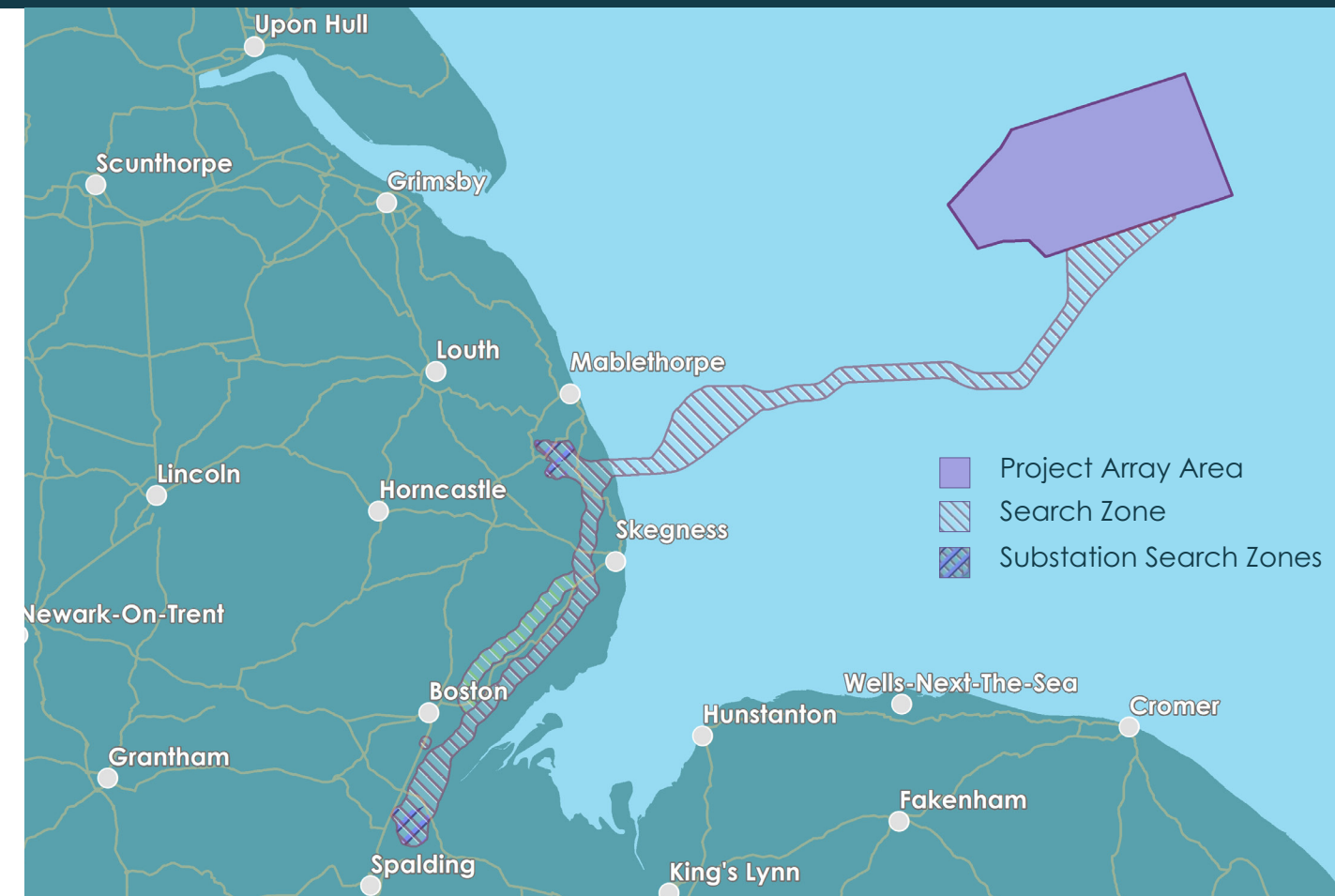


Figure 2: Search Zone for the Onshore and Offshore Infrastructure. This Search Zone has been updated to include the newly proposed alternative route to the Weston Marsh connection option as shown in yellow hash. The offshore Project Array Area is the area within which the generating station will be situated.



The Project is planned to have a generating capacity, of 1.5 GW, powering over 1.6 million households in the UK.

The exact size and capacity of the Project will be determined through a balanced consideration of the environmental, social, and technical implications of which the pre application consultation is a key component.

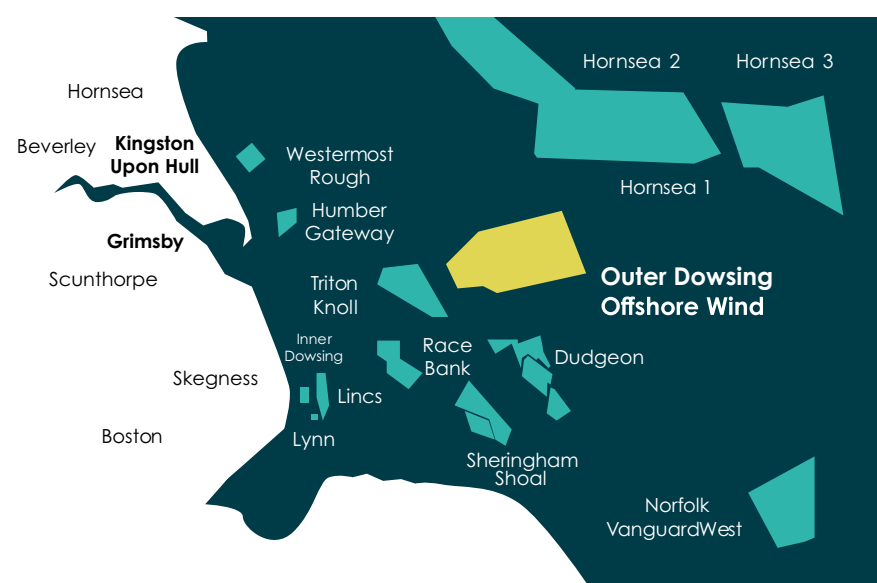


Figure 1: Location of the Project's proposed offshore wind farm

Need for the Project

The key drivers for renewable energy in the UK are reducing greenhouse gas emissions, providing increased energy security, and maximising economic opportunities for the UK and local economies. Green infrastructure development has been identified as one of the UK Government's COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery and post-Brexit strategies⁴ and advancing offshore wind projects is incorporated into the recently published 'British Energy Security Strategy'¹⁵. The Project is aiming to make a key contribution to the UK Government's ambition for over 50 Gigawatts (GW) of offshore by 2030.

As part of this strategy, investing in offshore wind generation has been listed as one of the principal elements of the UK Government's '10 Point Plan' contributing to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Project is aligned with these key drivers and will make a meaningful contribution to the decarbonisation of the UK economy as well as sustainable economic growth.

The Project is anticipated to avoid emissions equivalent to 2 million tonnes CO₂ per year of operations through the generation of renewable electricity, this is the equivalent to removing over 650,000 petrol cars from the road for the duration of the Project.



Typical Components of an Offshore Wind Project

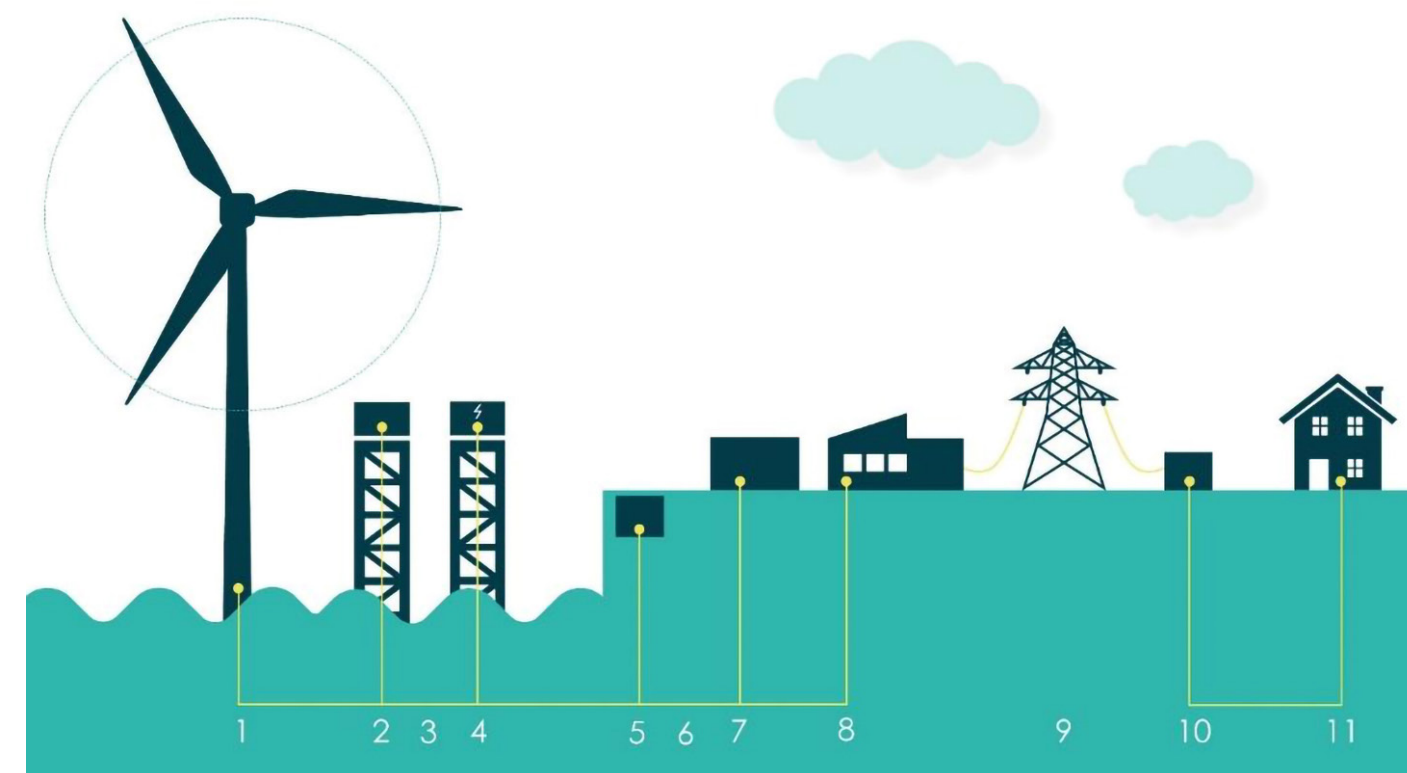


Figure 3: Typical components of an offshore wind farm. In line with the Project's development phases, ODOW will be consulting with stakeholders on aspects associated with each of the components.

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Offshore Wind Turbines and Inter Array Cable | 5 Transition Joint Bay | 10 Local Substation |
| 2 Offshore Substation | 6 Onshore export cable and landfall | 11 End User |
| 3 Offshore Export Cable | 7 Onshore substation | |
| 4 Offshore reactive compensation platform (optional) | 8 National Grid substation | |
| | 9 National Grid Power lines | |

The necessary infrastructure to build the Project will depend on the type of technology adopted and the length of the cable route.

Our Onshore Proposals and Search Zone

It is currently anticipated that the onshore infrastructure will be located within or close to the Search Zone as outlined in Figure 4. As well as cable and substation infrastructure, this is likely to include infrastructure such as temporary accesses; road upgrades; streets, public rights of way and footpath closures or diversions; drainage and temporary construction compounds - which are likely to be within the Search Zone or between the Search Zone and nearby major A roads. It is anticipated that further information on the location of the onshore infrastructure will be available at PEIR. This Search Zone has been updated to include the alternative onshore cable route that is also being considered as an option for the Weston Marsh grid connection following stakeholder feedback.

Onshore Search Zone

We are currently assessing the optimal cable route and onshore substation location options and we are seeking your feedback to help shape our proposals during our consultation process. Feedback from the consultation phases will be incorporated into the project design process, which will also be refined following the outcome of the OTNR (See – Section 4).

Onshore Substations Search Zones

Until we have secured a final grid connection, we currently have two search zones for the onshore substation. Only one of these zones, along with the accompanying onshore cable route search zone will be progressed once a final connection point is adopted.

Landfall Search Zone

The landfall search zone has been refined through environmental and technical assessments. There is only one landfall search zone as this has been assessed as the optimum search zone for both connection options.



Figure 4: Onshore Search Zone and Substation Search Zones.

Project and Community Consultation Timeline

Following the conclusion of the Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 tender process in February 2021, the Project was successful in securing Preferred Bidder status for an area in the southern North Sea (Figure 1).

Phase 1 Consultation

The phase one consultation was open to all interested members of the public featured in-person and virtual public information events. Information on how to attend these events and access the consultation information was widely publicised (See - Section 9).

Phase 1A Consultation

We have chosen to carry out an additional phase of consultation following stakeholder feedback received during the Phase 1 Consultation. Phase 1A Consultation will involve consulting the local communities on the proposed alternative route introduced earlier in this SoCC. The consultation will be open to all interested members of the public and will feature in person events and a virtual public information event. Information on how to attend these events and access the consultation information will be widely publicised (See - Section 9).

Phase 2 Consultation

This consultation will allow us to update you on our project plans, including how the feedback we received during the phase one consultation has been considered, as well as seek further feedback from communities. We will also publish our PEIR for consultation.

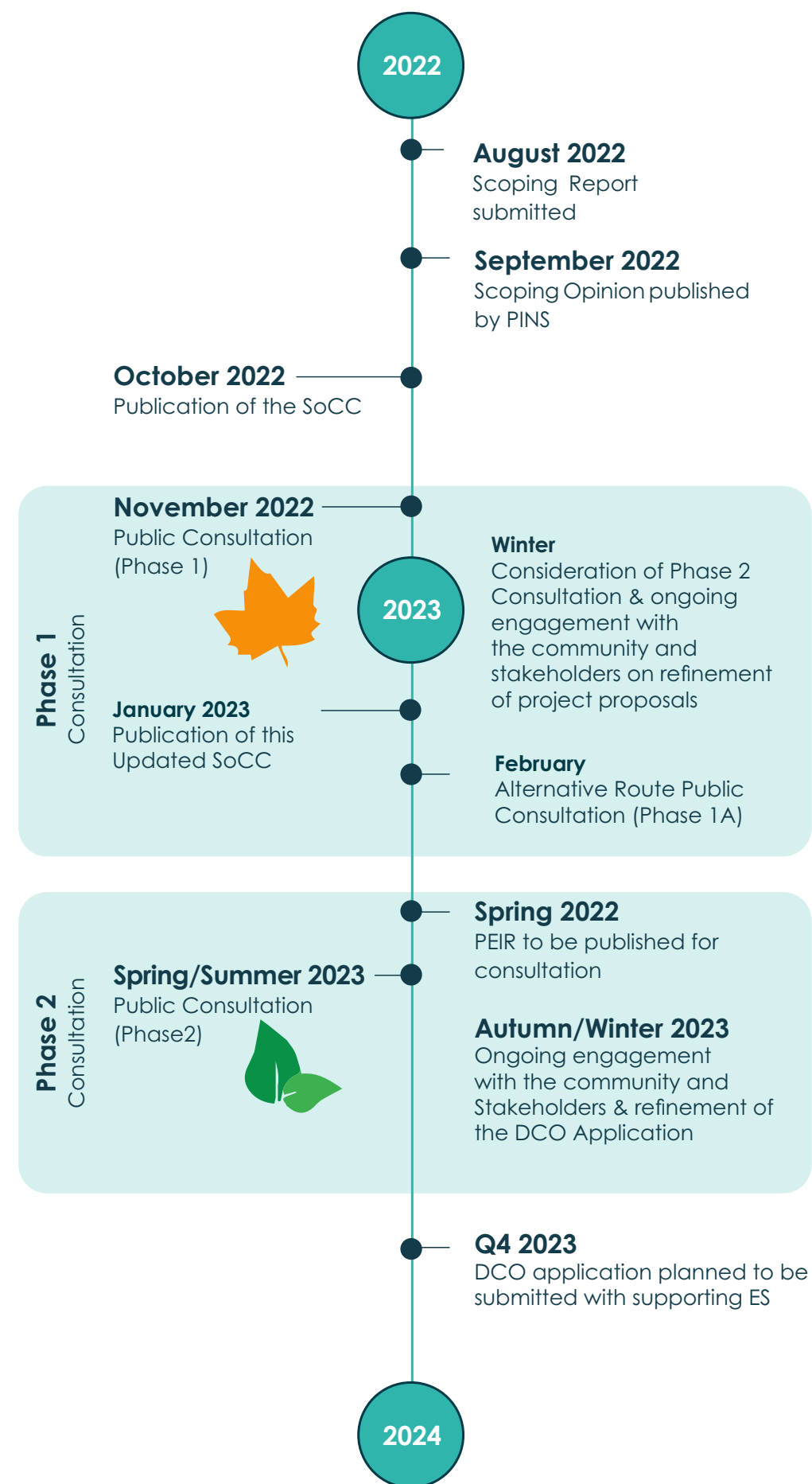


Figure 5: Updated Project and Community Consultation Timeline

3. About The Applicant: Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

GTR4 Limited (trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind) hereafter referred to as the 'Applicant', was successful in the Crown Estate offshore wind seabed licensing auction process securing Preferred Bidder status for an area in the southern North Sea. The project is being developed by Corio Generation (a wholly-owned Green Investment Group portfolio company) and TotalEnergies.

TotalEnergies is a global multi-energy company that produces and markets energies: oil and biofuels, natural gas and green gases, renewables and electricity.

Its over 100,000 employees are committed to energy that is ever more affordable, cleaner, more reliable and accessible to as many people as possible. Active in more than 130 countries, TotalEnergies puts sustainable development in all its dimensions at the heart of its projects and operations to contribute to the well-being of people.

As part of its ambition to get to net zero by 2050, TotalEnergies is building a portfolio of activities in renewables and electricity to reach 35 GW of gross production capacity from renewable sources and storage by 2025, and then 100 GW by 2030 with the objective of being among the world's top 5 producers of electricity from wind and solar energy.

TotalEnergies is already developing a portfolio of offshore wind projects with a total capacity of more than 11 GW, of which 2/3 are bottom-fixed and 1/3 are floating.

Corio Generation is a specialist offshore wind business, dedicated to harnessing the world's greatest energy supply. With a unique blend of sector-leading expertise and deep access to long-term capital, Corio Generation apply a long-term partnership approach to the creation and management of projects, taking them from origination, through development and construction, and into operations.

Corio Generation's 15 GW offshore wind pipeline is one of the largest in the world, spanning established and emerging markets, as well as floating and traditional fixed to the seabed technologies. These next generation offshore wind projects will help form the backbone of the net-zero global energy system while meeting the energy needs of communities and corporate off-takers sustainably, reliably, safely and responsibly.

Corio Generation is a Green Investment Group (GIG) portfolio company, operating on a standalone basis. GIG is a specialist green investor within Macquarie Asset Management, part of Macquarie Group.



4. Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR)

The OTNR was launched in July 2020 by the Secretary of State for BEIS and takes a holistic and strategic approach to the development of the offshore wind transmission system. The environmental, community and economic aspects are considered in this process while aiming to minimise any cumulative impacts from multiple adjacent offshore wind farm projects that may be constructed or operational either within the same timeframe, or successively. There is a particular focus upon the associated onshore infrastructure required to connect to the national transmission network. The OTNR aims to be consistent with the Government's ambition to deliver net zero emissions by 2050.

The OTNR is being led by BEIS with support from a number of partners including Ofgem (Great Britain's independent energy regulator) and National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO). NGESO is responsible for providing the Holistic Network Design (HND) that will include the transmission and connection arrangements for the Project.

On 7th of April 2022 the UK Government published the British Energy Security Strategy⁶, a new policy statement that further refines the context of the OTNR. The strategy includes specific proposals and commitments made in respect to offshore wind, including increasing the 2030 capacity target by 25 percent, with a new ambition of 50 GW of offshore wind by 2030. This increased ambition for offshore wind underlines the significance of the OTNR in giving explicit consideration to environmental and local impacts whilst ensuring the efficient and sustainable growth of green energy infrastructure to deliver the Government's net-zero emissions by 2050.

Currently, the Project is awaiting the final definition of its grid connection arrangements, based on the HND design proposals submitted by NGESO to BEIS and Ofgem as part of the OTNR process. The provisional outcomes of this process include two possible grid connection options: Lincolnshire Node or Weston Marsh. Once the final outcome is received from the OTNR, the confirmation of grid connection will determine where and how the Project will connect to the grid as well as the onshore cable route needed to reach this grid connection. The Project will provide regular updates on the OTNR process, outcomes and what this means for the progress of the project by consulting with stakeholders throughout.

5. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process and Information

In accordance with Regulation 12 (consultation statement requirements) of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, the Project is an EIA development⁷. As such, the Project will undertake an EIA and prepare an Environmental Statement (ES) in accordance with Regulation 5 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The methodology and scope of the EIA will be informed through consultation with the relevant regulatory and environmental bodies, the Secretary of State (SoS), and the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs). The following reports (listed below) will be subject to statutory consultation as part of the EIA process:

Scoping Report –

The Scoping Report was informed using desk-based research on the existing offshore and onshore environments in the location of the proposed project and supported by surveys and data analysis. This report presents the indicative key project parameters which will inform the Project Design Envelope, and which will include all associated onshore and offshore infrastructure that make up the project. These elements will be subject to further refinement throughout the subsequent project development process. The report also describes the methodologies that will be applied to further characterise the existing environments and how any potential impacts will be assessed. The Scoping Report was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2022 with a request for an EIA scoping opinion. A scoping opinion refers to the range of issues which the Secretary of State considers should be included in an EIA. The Scoping Opinion was published in September 2022.⁸

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) –

A PEIR will be published on the project website, which will provide preliminary environmental information in the form of a preliminary environmental impact assessment for the Project. The study areas will be determined on a receptor-by-receptor basis, will be clearly defined as the EIA progresses and will be agreed with relevant statutory stakeholders. The PEIR will be published to support the statutory pre-application consultation requirements of the Planning Act 2008 (namely Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 consultations). As part of the consultations, copies of the PEIR reports will be made available as the Project conducts the public consultation and the Project will be seeking feedback from local communities and other stakeholders on the PEIR.

Environmental Statement (ES) –

The ES will incorporate the final EIA for the Project, building on the content of the PEIR and incorporating changes and updates in response to the statutory consultations, as well as the results of any further surveys and studies undertaken since the production of the PEIR. It will also describe any changes made to the Project following consultation and any mitigation measures that are proposed.

6. Consenting Processes and Consultation

The Project includes an offshore generating station that will have a proposed capacity in excess of 100 Megawatts (MW) offshore, therefore under Section 15 of the Planning Act 2008 it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)⁹. As such, the Project must apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate the Project. The DCO process was created to streamline the consenting of large infrastructure projects and to ensure transparency and public participation.

The application process will be managed by the Planning Inspectorate (The Inspectorate) and examined by an Examining Authority, which will produce a recommendations report, before a decision is made by the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The Local Planning Authority (LPA) plays an important consultative role in the process but is not the decision-maker as it would be for smaller projects applied for under the Town and Country Planning process. If granted, the DCO will consent the offshore wind farm, the cables and associated electrical infrastructure as well as the onshore grid connection works (and any other associated development included in the application).

Pre-application consultation is a legal obligation for NSIPs, and the Project values early engagement with stakeholders. This document begins the statutory phase of consultation pursuant to Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, which sets out the applicant's duty to consult with the local community on an NSIP.



The local community will also be invited to provide feedback on the Project's proposals and, as such, have the opportunity to influence elements of the design and development processes before the submission of the DCO application. The Project's aim is to develop its proposals collaboratively and responsibly, taking account of local community interests.

The Project's pre-application consultation must be deemed adequate by The Inspectorate. The Project will be required to show that the relevant stakeholders have been consulted, that it has complied with this SoCC, and publicised the application in the required manner.

As the Project lies in UK waters, a Marine Licence (ML) will be required to build and operate the offshore elements of the Project, which would be granted under the Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009 with the intention being to seek the deemed consent of these licences as part of the DCO.

7. Who Will Be Consulted?

Communities and individuals living within the vicinity of the Project will be consulted, as well as anyone who may be interested or feel in any way that they may be impacted by the Project.

The Project encourages interested parties to get in touch via the Project's communication lines, including the dedicated project email address (contact@outerdowsing.com), Freepost (FREEPOST ODOU) Freephone information line (0808 175 2970). Anyone can also register their interest via the Project website (www.outerdowsing.com).

Consultation on the Project will also involve relevant parish and town councils, area committees, community groups, organisations representing local businesses and tourist boards. The Project will collaborate with LPAs to identify key community groups, and a range of statutory and non-statutory groups will be consulted including:

- ✿ Local Planning Authorities (LPAs);
- ✿ Local Interest Groups (such as Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust);
- ✿ Parish and Town Councils;
- ✿ Owners, tenants and occupiers of the land affected by the DCO application;
- ✿ Resident, community, tourism and business organisations;
- ✿ Individuals and members of the public;
- ✿ Seldom heard voices, minority groups and those with protected characteristics;
 - We recognise that some individuals or groups may not find our proposed consultation methods suited to their needs, we will therefore identify a number of organisations representing these groups. These organisations will be contacted at the start of each consultation phase to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of its members.
 - ODOU will also be making provision for people who do not have access to the internet and ensure documents are made available via post, choosing accessible venues for public information events, producing consultation materials in accessible formats, and offering direct 1-2-1 engagement;
- ✿ Commercial stakeholders (including asset owners and the commercial fisheries industry); and
- ✿ Environmental bodies.

The Project will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC and encourage participation in the consultation by any person or group who is interested in the proposed Project¹⁰.



Consultation Zones

Consultation zones have been defined for the purposes of publicising the consultation directly to the local community, recognising that levels of potential impact and interest are likely to vary with geography. These consultation zones will be refined in line with the Project's development phases as outlined below.

Core Consultation Zone

Phase 1 - For the Phase 1 Consultation (See - Figure 5), the core consultation zone comprised a minimum distance of 500 metres either side of the onshore search zone shown in Figure 4, extending to 1,000 metres around the onshore substation search zones (Figure 6 – yellow hash).

Phase 1A (Alternative Route) – Given the introduction of an alternative route that is being considered for the Weston Marsh Connection Option (See - Section 1). The core consultation zone for this option has been defined using the same approach as Phase 1 (i.e. 500m either side of the search zone) but applied only to the alternative route search zone as shown in Figure 4 (Figure 6 – white hash).

The Phase 1 and 1A consultation exercises will help guide the refinement of the onshore search area. Phase 2 consultation will adopt the same approach as defined for Phase 1, but will be applied to the revised onshore search zone which will be influenced by the Phase 1 and 1A consultation, the design process and the results of the PEIR. Properties within the relevant zone, will receive direct communications such as leaflets from us in the post (See – Section 9).

Outer Consultation Zone

People who may be interested in the wider potential impacts of the proposed Project, such as transport, visual impact and creating new jobs. This zone includes both the host and neighbouring Local Authorities, all of whom have been consulted on the contents of this SoCC (Figure 6). This zone will be reached through local and social media (See – Section 9).

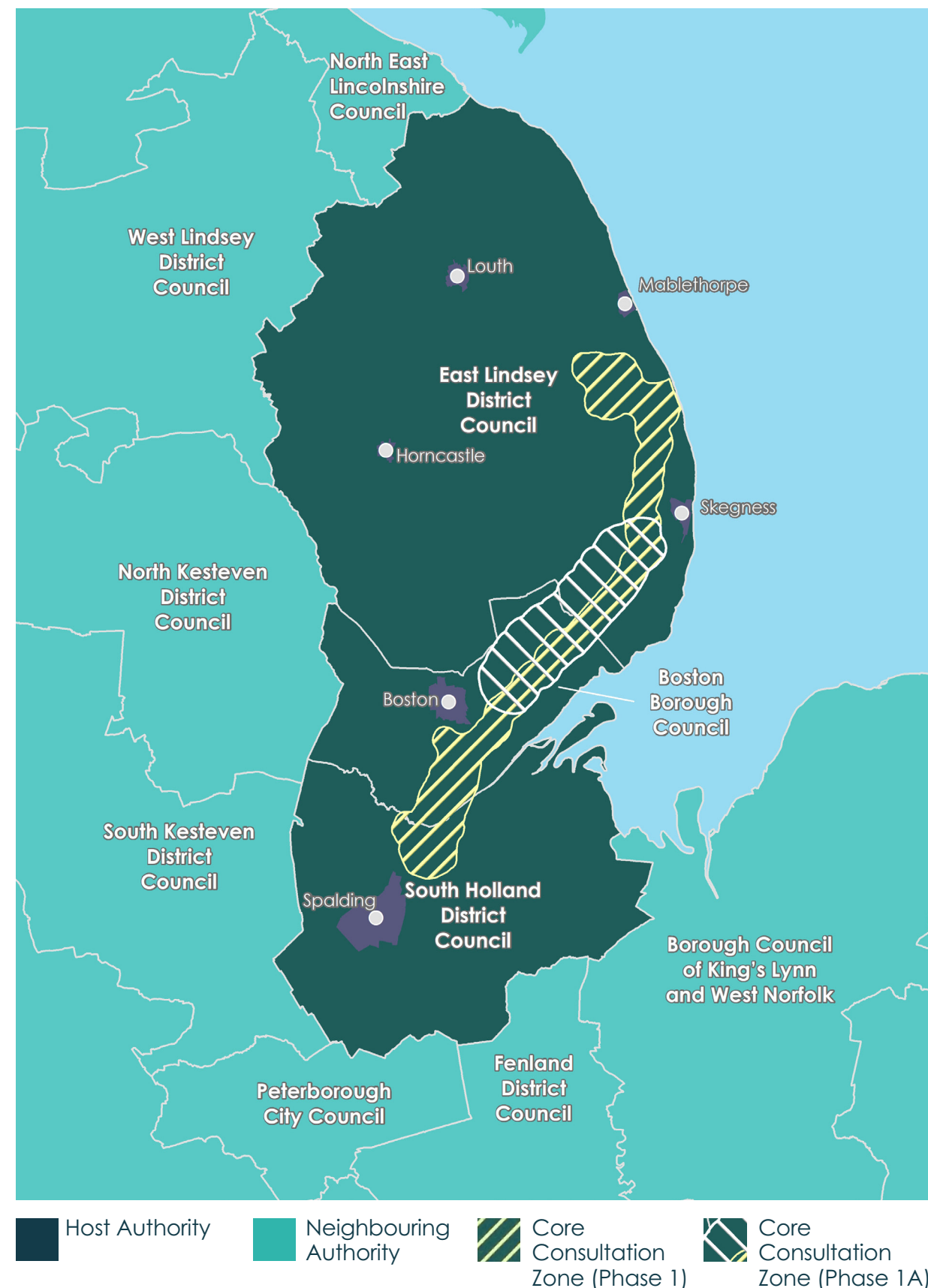


Figure 6: The local authorities highlighted on this map, have been consulted on the contents of this SoCC. This includes both the host and neighbouring local authorities.

8. What Will the Project Consult On?

The Project encourages local communities to give their views on how the Project proposals may affect them or their local area. The Project will be seeking feedback to help develop the Project's proposals regarding issues such as, but not limited to:

- 🌿 Environmental impacts;
- 🌿 Economic impacts; and
- 🌿 Social impacts.

As mentioned in Section 4 of this SoCC, as part of the EIA and DCO processes, the Project will consult with local communities and stakeholders throughout the preparation and publication of the PEIR and during the preparation of the ES. The methods of consultation that will be adopted by the Project are outlined in Section 9 of this SoCC.

More information will be made available regarding the technical aspects of the Project as proposals develop. The Project encourages local communities to give their views about how the Project may affect them or their local area and will be seeking feedback to help develop the Project's proposals regarding, but not limited to:

- 🌿 The site selection process for the location of the onshore substation area and refinement of the onshore cable corridor search area;
- 🌿 The offshore environment including consultation with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and commercial fisheries organisations;
- 🌿 Short-term and temporary impacts during construction, such as traffic movements, local amenities and the environment; and
- 🌿 Long-term operational considerations, such as on the local environment, landscape and visual amenity.



Aim of the Consultation

The aim of the Project's Consultation is to ensure that anyone that has the potential to be directly affected by the Project is made aware of the Project's proposals and has an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. Furthermore, feedback received from local communities will have the potential to influence the development of proposals.

9. Consultation Methods

As a result of the easing of government guidelines regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Project is adopting a 'hybrid' approach to the statutory consultation on the Project. This means that the Project will focus on having a mix of virtual, written and face-to-face methods to publicise the consultation and engage with the community and relevant stakeholders.

The Project's pre-application consultation consists of three phases, Phase 1, Phase 1A (Alternative Route) and Phase 2 (pre and post PEIR publication respectively, see Figure 5).

Any physical or face-to-face consultation will be held in line with Government guidelines. If physical consultation is deemed unsafe or not permitted, the Project will rely on virtual and written methods of consultation alone. The following outlines the selected consultation methods interested parties are welcomed to engage with.

Open Communication

- 📞 **Freephone** A freephone service is available for interested parties to call to ask questions and provide feedback: 0808 175 2970.
- ✉ **Email** contact@outerdowsing.com
- ✉ **Freepost** FREEPOST ODOW (no stamp or further address details needed on the envelope)

Consultation Website



Website

All Project Consultation material has been and will continue to be available to view and respond to during the consultation, this will include the latest information regarding availability of hard copies of select consultation materials at deposit locations, consultation activities and how to provide feedback, via the Project Website: <https://www.outerdowsing.com/document-library/>.

Events




Public Information Events

The Project will host both in-person events and virtual webinars during the Phase 1 Consultation. The Phase 1 Consultation included a round of public information events held on [dates to be added] at [locations to be added], and these events were open to all interested members of the public. They were advertised through the local press and through local councils, community access points and notice boards. The Project will host further in-person events and a virtual webinar during the Phase 1A and Phase 2 Consultations with a view to engage with stakeholders face-to-face for both remaining phases of the consultation. Each phase will include a round of public information events, located at suitable locations within the consultation zone, and will be open to all interested members of the public. At these virtual and face-to-face events, attendees will have the opportunity to explore informative materials on the Project and discuss the proposals with members of the Project team. They will be advertised through the local press and through local councils, community access points and notice boards.








Stakeholder Briefings





The Project will host a series of briefings with project stakeholders, including MPs, a number of locally elected members from within Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council, and relevant Parish Councils within the consultation area.

 <p>Community Liaison Group</p>	<p>Community Liaison Groups (CLG) will be established at locations within the consultation area, to share information and engage in balanced discussions about the Project.</p>
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Literature

 <p>Project Information Brochure</p>	<p>A project overview brochure has been made available to inform stakeholders of the high-level proposals for the project and can be found on the Project website.</p>
 <p>Leaflet Drop</p>	<p>Prior to the Public Consultation Events, Prior to the Phase 1 Public Consultation Events, we distributed an information leaflet to residents and businesses within the Phase 1 Core Consultation Zone notifying them of the in person events being held on 01st, 04th, 06th & 11th of November and two webinars being held on 02nd and 03rd of November, as well as signposting the Project website. Prior to the Phase 1A and Phase 2 Public Consultation Events, we will distribute an information leaflet to residents and businesses within the relevant Core Consultation Zone (the Phase 11A (Alternative Route) Core Consultation Zone is shown outlined in Figure 6, Section 7) to notify them of the events as well as signposting the Project website for all the latest consultation information.</p>
 <p>Project Newsletter</p>	<p>The Project will produce a newsletter to provide updates on key project developments. Copies of the Project's newsletters will be made available on the project website.</p>
 <p>Community Access Points</p>	<p>Key project information will be distributed to a range of local information points throughout the consultation area (See - Section 12)</p>
 <p>Email Updates</p>	<p>The Project will use their mailing list to provide key project updates and information regarding consultation for those who subscribe, which can be done via the Project's website https://www.outerdowsing.com/get-in-touch.</p>

Advertising

 <p>Statutory Notices</p>	<p>Statutory notices will announce the publication of the SoCC via: Louth Leader (including Skegness Standard, Mablethorpe Leader, Horncastle News, Spilsby Standard and Market Rasen Mail), Boston Target, Boston Standard, Spalding Guardian, Spalding Voice, Spalding Today, Lincolnshire Echo, Lincolnshire Free Press, Lincolnshire Live and Fishing News. The proposed DCO Application will also be advertised in accordance with Section 48 of the Act and relevant Regulations there under.</p>
 <p>Media</p>	<p>At key stages throughout the project, information will be disseminated to the local press and media through news releases. The local media will also be used to advertise of public events such as exhibitions and public information days. Media will include: Louth Leader (including Skegness Standard, Mablethorpe Leader, Horncastle News, Spilsby Standard and Market Rasen Mail), Boston Target, Boston Standard, Spalding Guardian, Spalding Voice, Spalding Today, Lincolnshire Echo, Lincolnshire Free Press, Lincolnshire Live and Lincolnite.</p>
 <p>Posters</p>	<p>The Project will produce posters promoting participation in the consultation and will share them with local venues for display.</p>
 <p>Social Media</p>	<p>Social Media platforms will be used to promote the Public Information Events. Posts will be shared with known local groups and media channels.</p>

10. How This SoCC and Other Consultation Materials Can Be Accessed

A copy of this document and other consultation material will be made available via the Project website: <https://www.outerdowsing.com/document-library/> and, as appropriate, in hard copy at the below locations within the consultation area.



Libraries

The Lincolnshire County Council website contains opening hours and accessibility details for the following access points: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/libraries-archives/lincolnshire-library-service>.

We can also provide this information to you if you contact us (See – Section 12).

Mablethorpe Library and Customer Service Centre

Stanley Avenue
Mablethorpe
Lincolnshire
LN12 1DP

Skegness Library

23 Roman Bank
Skegness
Lincolnshire
PE25 2SA

Boston Library

County Hall
Boston
Lincolnshire
PE21 6DY

Pinchbeck Community Hub and Library

48 Knight Street
Pinchbeck
Lincolnshire
PE11 3RU



Council Offices

Lincolnshire County Council

County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

East Lindsey District Council

The Hub
Mareham Road
Horncastle
Lincolnshire
LN9 6PH

South Holland District Council

Council Offices
Priory Road
Spalding
Lincolnshire
PE11 2XE

Boston Borough Council

Municipal Buildings
West Street
Boston
PE21 8QR

11. How Will Stakeholder Feedback Be Utilised?

As part of the Project's DCO application, the Project has a duty as a developer to take responses to the statutory consultation process into account including, and particularly, those provided by local communities.

Using the feedback received, the Project will produce a Consultation Report¹¹ as part of the final DCO application setting out the following:

- ✿ Summary of the consultation process;
- ✿ How the consultation was undertaken in accordance with this SoCC document;
- ✿ How the statutory requirements were met;
- ✿ A summary of the liaison with LPAs to ensure consultation was tailored to local communities; and
- ✿ A summary of all consultation responses received and how the Project responded to each response in finalising the DCO application.



References

- ¹ Energy system balancing and network stability facilities may be included as part of the development, for example battery energy storage.
- ² <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/offshore-transmission-network-review>
- ³ <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/the-pathway-2030-holistic-network-design>
- ⁴ <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/Building-a-green-recovery.pdf>
- ⁵ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1069969/british-energy-security-strategy-web-accessible.pdf
- ⁶ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1069969/british-energy-security-strategy-web-accessible.pdf
- ⁷ The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Three may be helpful for further information related to this: Advice Note Three: EIA Notification and Consultation | National Infrastructure Planning ([planninginspectorate.gov.uk](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk))
- ⁸ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010130/EN010130-000035-EN010130-Scoping-Opinion.pdf>
- ⁹ The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Eight may be helpful for further information related to this: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-eight-overview-of-the-nationally-significant-infrastructure-planning-process-for-members-of-the-public-and-others/>
- ¹⁰ The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Eight point One may be helpful for further information related to this: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-8-1/>
- ¹¹ The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Fourteen may be helpful for further information related to this <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-fourteen-compiling-the-consultation-report/>



12. Contact Details and Further Information



Email:

contact@outerdowsing.com



**Call our Freephone
information line:**

0808 175 2970



Visit our website:

www.outerdowsing.com



You can write to the Project free of charge at:

FREEPOST ODOU

(no stamp or further address details needed on the envelope)

Request accessible format

Should you require this document in hard copy, large print, audio or braille please contact the Project using the details provided above.

When responding to the Project's pre-application consultation, personal data will be stored in compliance with General Data Protection Regulation by the Project and will not be shared with third parties. Personal data may however be passed on to The Inspectorate to ensure that the Project's pre-application consultation is sufficient and in line with the planning process as a whole.