

# Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm

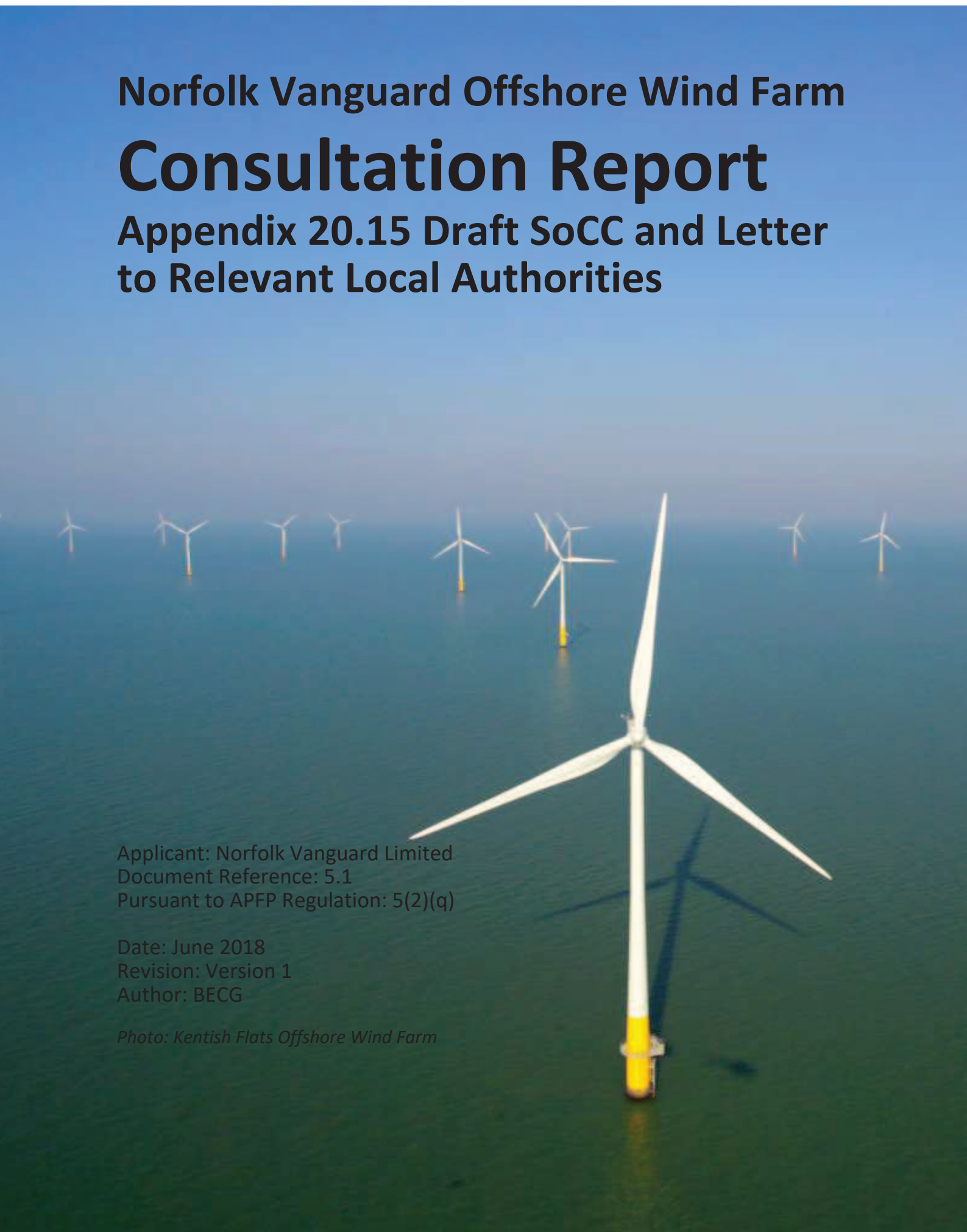
# Consultation Report

## Appendix 20.15 Draft SoCC and Letter to Relevant Local Authorities

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*Photo: Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm*



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## **Letter Sent by Email**

30<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Dear

Attached herewith is a copy of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for the Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm Project. It reflects our discussions and your informal feedback, and that of communications colleagues within NCC in July this year.

Notably we have now identified a Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ), within which we will keep households and businesses directly and proactively informed about the Project, for example by sending newsletters and communications, and targeting the information provided to the interests and needs of these communities.

The PCZ will be 1km around the project's indicative cable corridor, where impacts could be experienced during the construction phase. We have extended this 1km boundary however, to include the key market towns along the corridor, namely Aylsham, Reepham and Dereham, as hubs for more rural communities, and where during informal consultation we already have experienced significant levels of interest and response.

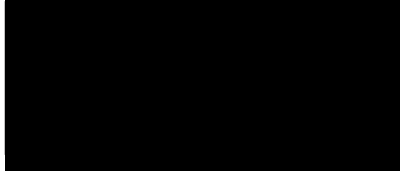
Around where we are seeking to locate permanent, visible onshore infrastructure, namely the Project substation and within the CRS (if required) close to landfall, we will engage more widely. Thus, around either end of the onshore cable corridor, we follow relevant Parish / Town Council boundaries to delineate the PCZ. Included within the eastern part of the PCZ, is North Walsham, the fourth market town of the area.

Consultation will still of course take place in a larger area than the PCZ, however communication with the wider surrounding community will be through website updates, social media, local newspaper advertisements and consultation events in Norwich and Great Yarmouth

This letter constitutes formal notification that we are consulting you about what is to be contained within the SoCC, as stated in section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act) As you are a local authority as defined by section 43(1) of the 2008, we would be grateful if you could provide us with any comments on the SoCC by 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017. We aim to publish the SoCC in early October 2017.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me, via the contact details below.

Yours sincerely,



**Ruari Lean**

Project Manager, Norfolk Vanguard

**Email:** [Ruari.lean@vattenfall.com](mailto:Ruari.lean@vattenfall.com)

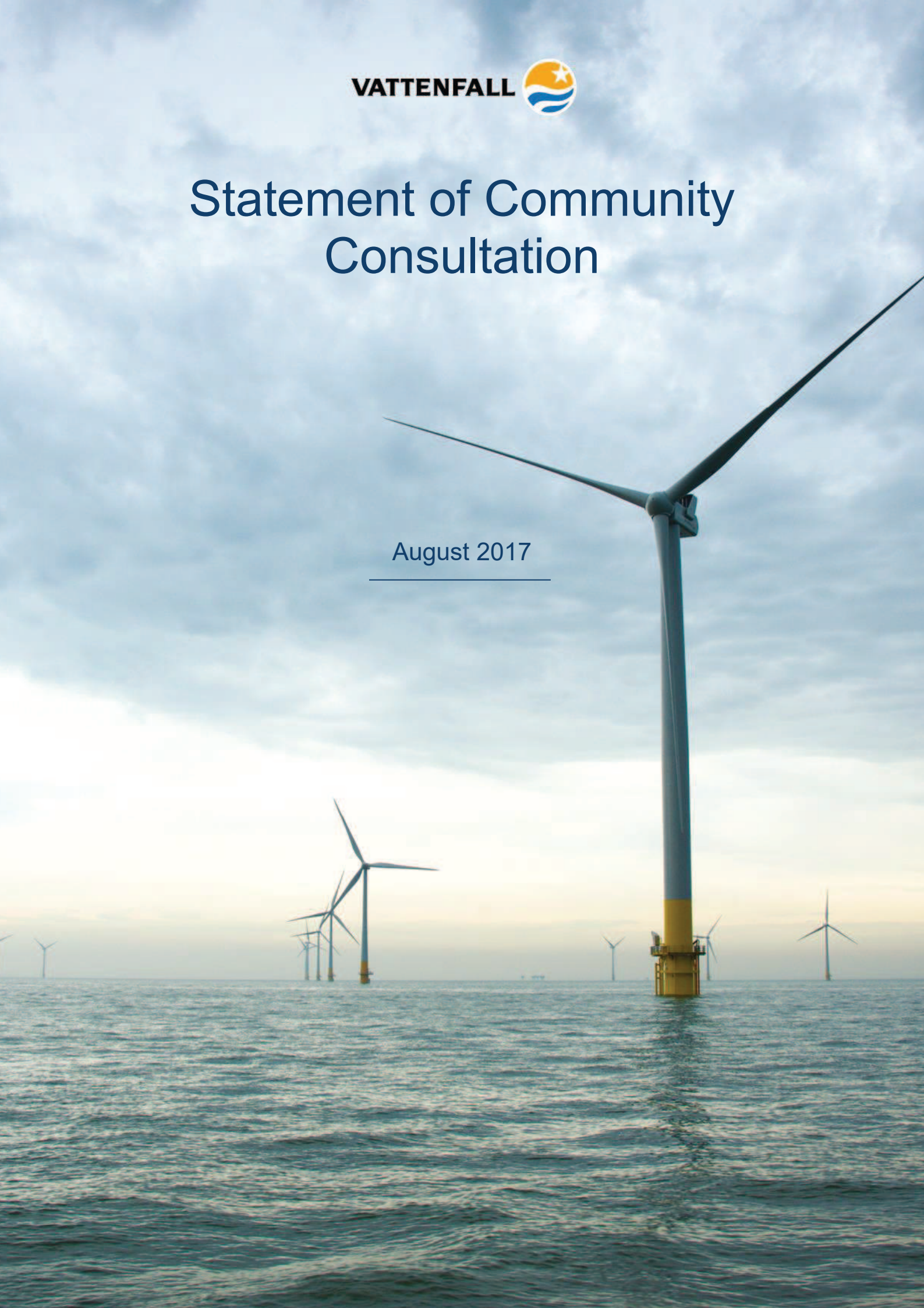
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# Statement of Community Consultation

August 2017

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# Statement of Community Consultation

Have your say on the proposed Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm

## 1. Purpose of this document

This document provides information about the proposed strategy for consultation with local communities in accordance with Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm. It explains how we have identified who to consult, the consultation methods proposed, the timescales for consultation and how consultees can help shape the Project.

Prior to finalisation, this document has been issued to the relevant local councils: Norfolk County Council, North Norfolk District Council, Broadland District Council and Breckland District Council, in order to obtain their feedback prior to the formal 28 day consultation taking place.

As Norfolk Vanguard includes offshore and onshore elements, this document has also been issued to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for their input.

Once finalised, the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) will be advertised in the *Eastern Daily Press*, the *Dereham Times*, *North Norfolk News*, the *London Gazette*, a national newspaper, the *Fishing News* and will be available on the Project website.

As well as local community consultation, Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd (Vattenfall) are also consulting statutory consultees under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. Information on this consultation process is outside the scope of this document; it will be available in the Consultation Report submitted our formal application for Development Consent.

## 2. Introduction

We (Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd), are proposing to build Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm in the Southern North Sea (the Project). The windfarm would be 47 km from the coast of Norfolk at its closest point to land and would cover a total area of up to 592 km<sup>2</sup>.

With a proposed generating capacity of up to 1.8GW (1800MW) – enough energy to power 1.3 million homes in the UK<sup>1</sup> – Norfolk Vanguard is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. We will need to make an application to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under that Act to authorise it and its associated development.

Consultation is an important part of the planning and development process. The Act requires developers to publicise their proposals widely as well as consulting with the local community, local authorities, statutory bodies and persons with an interest in land potentially affected by the proposed NSIP. This process is referred to as ‘pre-application consultation’ and must be carried out before an application for a DCO can be accepted by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of BEIS.

We are required to prepare this SoCC explaining how we will consult with people potentially affected by the Project, including people living in the vicinity of the land to which the Project relates. This document is therefore an important part of the consenting process, guiding us through effective consultation on the Project before making an application for a DCO.

Consultation and local dialogue is important to Vattenfall. We believe involving local people and stakeholders helps us to make sustainable and robust decisions as we shape our proposals for the Project. We have already undertaken a significant amount of local

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.renewableuk.com/page/UKWEDEexplained> assuming a load factor of 34.88

engagement, sharing plans openly and transparently, seeking feedback at each stage to help refine the proposals. The results of this early, informal consultation have been communicated widely and are documented on our website [norfolkvanguard.vattenfall.co.uk](http://norfolkvanguard.vattenfall.co.uk).

This SoCC describes the next phase of consultation as required by section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, known as “Formal” or “Statutory” Consultation. The SoCC outlines what we are consulting on – the Project proposals, and details the consultation process that we will adopt, including when we will be consulting, with whom and where, and how consultees can help shape the Project.

### 3. What is the Consenting and Consultation Process?

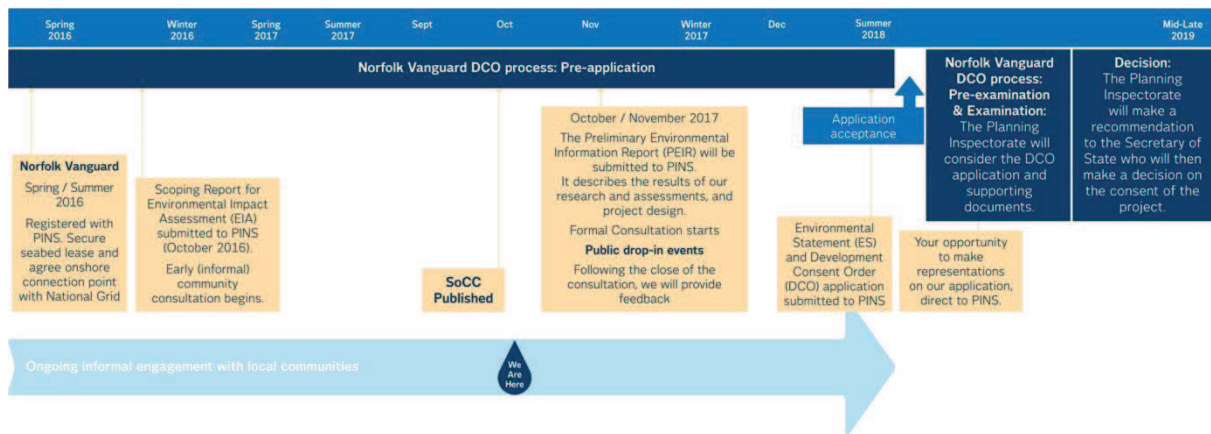
Vattenfall will apply for a DCO through the NSIP planning process. This will involve a DCO application being made to the Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspectorate will need to be satisfied that we have carried out effective pre-application consultation with statutory consultees and local communities in accordance with section 42 and section 47 of the Act. Section 42 of the Act requires that we formally consult with a prescribed list of people, which includes, for example, local planning authorities and bodies such as the Marine Management Organisation and Natural England. Section 47 of the Act requires that we prepare a statement setting out how we

propose to consult people living in the vicinity of the land about the application for the Project. Consultation must then be carried out in accordance with that document. This SoCC is that document for the purpose of Section 47 of the Act.

Provided that the Planning Inspectorate is content such pre-application consultation has been carried out effectively, and other specific criteria have been met, the DCO application will be accepted. There will then be an Examination of the DCO application with the Planning Inspectorate acting as 'Examining Authority'. The Examining Authority review the application that has been made, ask written questions and can hold hearings during the Examination process. The Planning Inspectorate will then make a recommendation, in the form of a Report, to the Secretary of State for BEIS who will make the decision on whether or not to grant a DCO for the Project. Throughout this process, both prior to submission to the Planning Inspectorate and during the Examination period, interested parties (including members of the local community) will be entitled to participate both in the formulation of the DCO application and its consideration by the Examining Authority.

The DCO, which includes deemed marine licenses, will seek consent to build and operate the Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm. Powers in relation to street works, road works and compulsory acquisition of rights and interests in land as well as other powers needed to construct, operate and maintain the Project will be requested and included in the draft DCO prepared as part of the application.





Our consultation process with you takes place during what the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) describes as Pre-application stages of the DCO process. To see how this fits in with the overall process, see below:



[Credit: Image taken from the Planning Inspectorate website <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>]

## 4. About Vattenfall

Vattenfall is a Swedish, state owned energy company, employing more than 20,000 people, with operations in Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland and the UK. Vattenfall is the second largest operator in the global offshore wind sector. Wind power is one of the fastest growing energy sources in the world and will play a key role in meeting global and UK climate targets. Vattenfall aims to be carbon neutral by 2050.

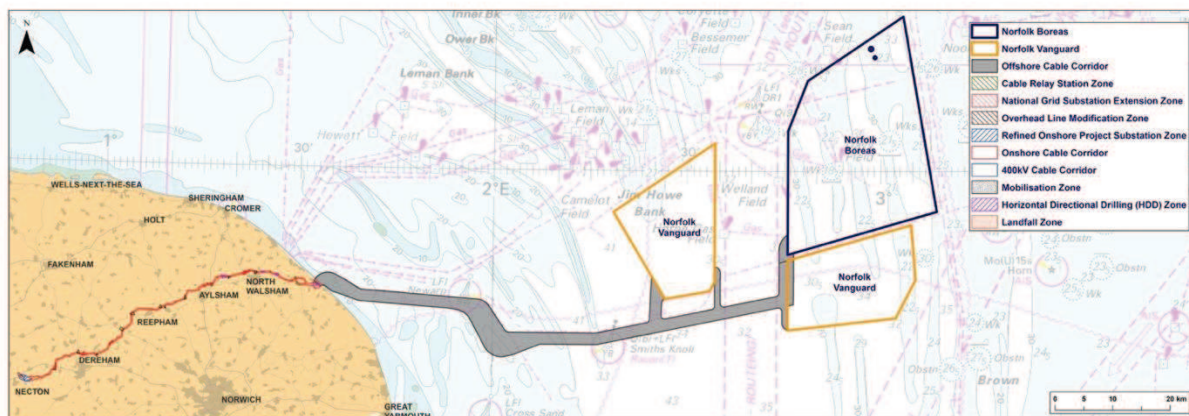
In the UK Vattenfall have ten offices and over 210 members of staff. Since 2008, Vattenfall has invested £3Bn in the UK, primarily in onshore and offshore wind farm projects, as well as in solar farms and innovative technologies that can help drive the transition to fossil fuel free energy systems while delivering a secure, reliable and cost effective energy supply.

## 5. The Project

The proposed Project will be located 47km offshore (at the closest point). The Project will comprise up to 257 wind turbines, located in two distinct areas of sea, Norfolk Vanguard East (NV East) and Norfolk Vanguard West (NV West), and will have a generation capacity of up to 1.8GW (1800MW). This represents 25% of the East of England's total (commercial, industrial and domestic) power requirements<sup>2</sup>.

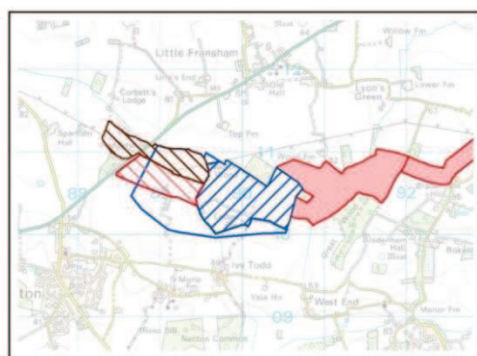
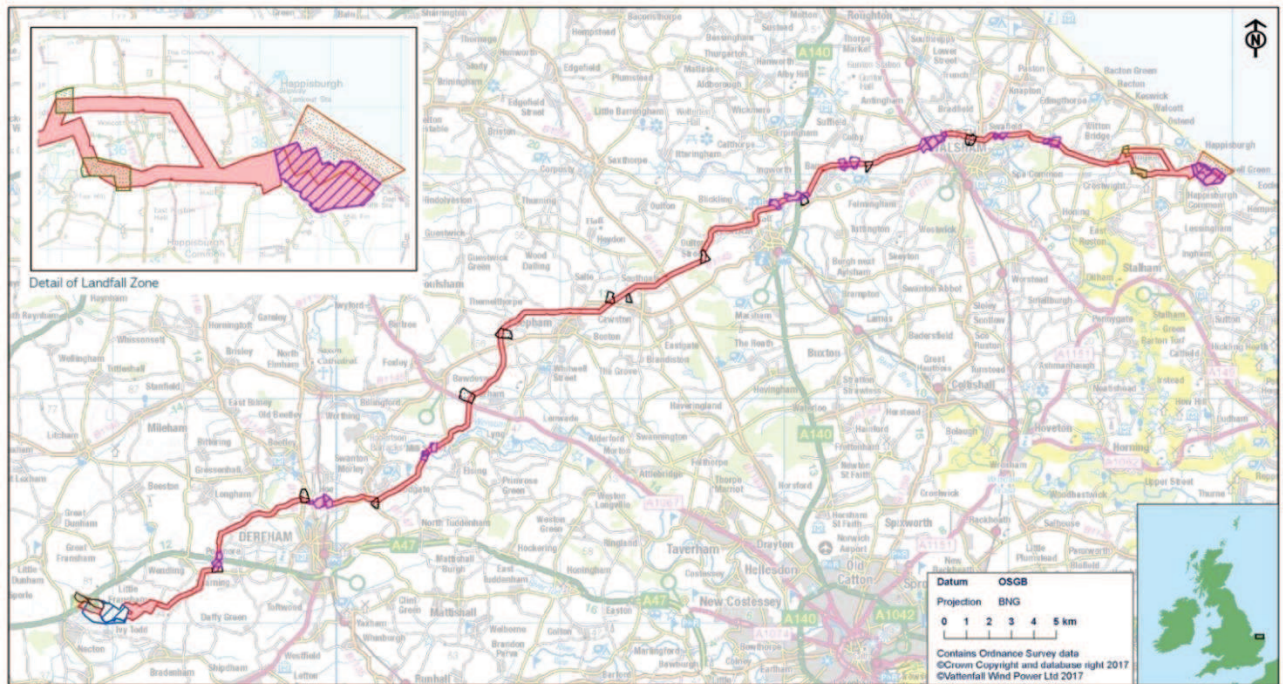
The wind farm will be connected to the shore by offshore export cables. These will make landfall south of Happisburgh. Between this landfall and Necton, onshore, buried cables and associated infrastructure will be installed, which will transmit power from the wind farm to the existing 400kV National Grid substation near Necton, Norfolk.











A second project, Norfolk Boreas, is proposed adjacent to Norfolk Vanguard. Norfolk Boreas is subject to a separate DCO process. Formal consultation for this project will also be required and a separate SoCC will be published in the summer of 2018.



Indicative map showing the key onshore & offshore elements of the Project, including the position of NV East and NV West and the proposed Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm.





	Onshore underground cable corridor	Areas where the underground export cables could be located
	Mobilisation zones	Areas where compounds needed during construction could be located
	Trenchless / Horizontal Directional Drilling zones (HDD)	Areas where we could drill under features to minimise potential impacts
	Landfall zone	Area where landfall ducts could be located, to house the ends of the subsea cables
	Landfall HDD zone	Area where the drilling operations for the landfall ducts could be carried out
	Cable relay station zones	Areas where a cable relay station for each project could be located if required (under an HVAC electrical solution)
	Refined onshore project substation zone	Area where an onshore project substation for each project could be located
	National Grid substation extension zone	Areas where extensions to the existing 400kV National Grid substation at Necton for each project could be located
	Overhead line modification zone	Area where some modifications to the existing overhead lines could be located
	Underground cable corridor at the substation	Area where the 400kV cables connecting the onshore project substation to the existing National Grid substation could be located

Work is ongoing to refine the potential locations of the onshore infrastructure and the landfall using information from the environmental impact assessment, informal consultation with local communities and statutory consultees, engineering studies and landowner discussions.

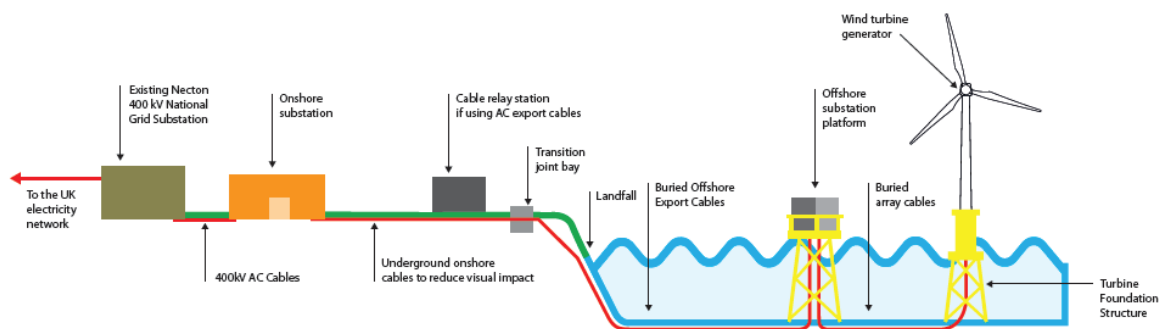
Consultation documents for Norfolk Vanguard will feature any refinements made prior to the start of formal consultation.

Currently the Project is considering the deployment of both Alternating Current (AC) and Direct Current (DC) to transmit power from the turbines to the National Grid.

Although the consent application will include both options, only one transmission option will be developed during the final design.

The inclusion of both transmission technology options in the DCO submission is required because it is not known at this stage which of these two solutions will be deliverable, economically feasible and appropriate at the point when the Project is constructed.

The DCO application will need to include the onshore infrastructure to enable both AC and DC transmission options, as shown in the diagram on page 8.



Associated development will be required to support the construction and operation of the offshore wind farm. This includes an extension to the existing National Grid substation, modification of the National Grid overhead lines transmitting power from the National Grid substation and temporary mobilisation zones along the cable corridor. The temporary mobilisation zones are required during construction of the cable corridor; they provide assembly and storage space for construction personnel, vehicles and equipment.

### 5.1 The Relationship between the Project and the Proposed Norfolk Boreas Project

Norfolk Boreas is the second offshore wind farm proposal being developed by Vattenfall in this part of the Southern North Sea. With the same proposed generating capacity of up to 1.8GW (1800MW) as the Project, it is also classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). Norfolk Boreas is expected to submit a separate DCO to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in 2019. However, in order to reduce overall impacts and maximise local benefits, aspects of the Project and Norfolk Boreas are being developed together.

Norfolk Boreas' offshore and onshore cables will be located within the same offshore and onshore cable corridors with landfall south of Happisburgh and it is expected that the substations and cable relay stations (if required) for both projects will be sited together. The Project DCO will include all onshore cable ducts, including those ducts required for Norfolk Boreas' onshore cables, so that works can be completed in one

installation. This avoids the need for two separate phases of trenching. Access routes and a planting strategy for both projects may also be included.

## 6. Environmental Effects and Benefits of the Project

Norfolk Vanguard is classified as an environmental impact assessment development under Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009. This means that an Environmental Statement, describing the environmental effects of the Project, must be prepared to accompany the DCO application.

The Environmental Statement will identify likely significant environmental effects of the Project and any mitigation proposed to reduce those impacts. In advance of preparation of the Environmental Statement a report containing 'Preliminary Environmental Information' will be provided as part of formal consultation process, which will set out the preliminary findings from the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

### 6.1 Potential Benefits and Effects

#### 6.1.1 Delivering on National Policies and Targets

Offshore wind already generates 5% of the UK's electricity, and by 2021 this will double to over 10%<sup>3</sup>. The Project will generate a further 2% of the UK's electricity requirements, or roughly a quarter of the total energy needs (commercial, industrial

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.renewableuk.com/news/news.asp?id=327446>

and domestic) of the East of England region<sup>4</sup>. The Project will save two and a half million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year<sup>5</sup>; this represents a significant contribution to the UK's Carbon reduction targets.

The Project represents a new generation of Offshore Wind Power development. The Project's deployment of innovative technology including larger turbines and it's large scale and strategic development alongside a sister project (Norfolk Boreas) will lead to economies of scale and increased operational efficiency. These factors should mean the Project will maintain the trend of bringing down the cost of energy for the British consumer, and contribute to the delivery of the UK's Industrial Strategy<sup>6</sup>. The UK Government's Green Paper published in January 2017 sets out ten key pillars of its industrial strategy to drive growth across the UK. The Project can directly contribute at scale to three of these and locally will support a fourth, namely:

- **Investing in science, research and innovation** – the UK aspires to become a more innovative economy and do more to commercialise our world leading science base to drive growth across the UK.
- **Delivering affordable energy and clean growth** – keeping costs down for businesses, and securing the economic benefits of the transition to a low-carbon economy.
- **Driving growth across the whole country** – building on the particular strengths of different places. The East of England is already at the heart of the UK offshore wind industry. The Southern North Sea and Norfolk can reap economic and social benefits of industry growth into the 2020s and beyond as projects currently in construction are completed.<sup>7</sup>
- **Developing skills** - helping people and businesses to thrive; building a new system of technical education to benefit those young people who do not go to university boosting STEM (science,

technology, engineering and maths) skills, digital skills and numeracy. Vattenfall is already working with schools, colleges, skills and training providers in Norfolk to encourage the developing of skills that can deliver green power projects<sup>8</sup>.

### 6.1.2 Delivering Regional and Local Economic Benefits

The Project signifies a multibillion pound investment in the economy of Norfolk, East Anglia and the UK during its development, operation and decommissioning. The size, timing and scope of the Project mean that it will naturally have a significant positive impact on competition in the offshore wind sector and with a commitment to at least 50% UK content over the lifetime of the Project, will encourage growth of the UK and regional supply chain.

During construction, there will be significant jobs and contractual opportunities for local and UK companies.

During operation, the Project will require a workforce of around 70 engineers, marine specialists and other highly skilled roles throughout the twenty plus years of operation.

### 6.1.3 Environmental Effects

The Project would be a large construction scheme, with major activities taking place from a port on the East Coast of the Southern North Sea, and along the onshore cable corridor over a number of years. Although not visible from Norfolk, once constructed, the wind farm would become a significant feature within the marine environment. Onshore, the transmission cables themselves would not be visible, as they would be buried, however some require electrical infrastructure – Project substation and cable relay station (if required) – would be visible features in the local landscape.

Our consultation information will include information on the potential community and environmental effects of the proposed

<sup>4</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/552059/Chapter\\_5\\_web.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/552059/Chapter_5_web.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.renewableuk.com/page/UKWEDEexplained>

<sup>6</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/611705/building-our-industrial-strategy-green-paper.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611705/building-our-industrial-strategy-green-paper.pdf)

<sup>7</sup>[http://c.yomdn.com/sites/www.renewableuk.com/resource/resmgr/publications/East\\_Regional\\_Wind\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://c.yomdn.com/sites/www.renewableuk.com/resource/resmgr/publications/East_Regional_Wind_Factsheet.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Some training provision is detailed in our June 2017 Newsletter: <http://norfolk.vanguard.vattenfall.co.uk/sites/default/files/2017-06/Newsletter%20June%202017.pdf>



changes, covering topics such as socio-economics, tourism, recreation, traffic and transport, noise, air quality, soils, hydrology, ecology, the marine environment, landscape and visual impacts. Our consultation information will also outline the potential environmental and socio-economic mitigation we will provide to reduce any adverse impacts on local communities. The documentation will also explain any enhancements or benefits of the Project. This could, for example, include landscaping and the provision of new wildlife features and habitat.

## 7. Our approach to consultation

Vattenfall is committed to honest and open engagement. We want to make sure communities have the chance to get involved, share their views and influence our plans in a meaningful and timely manner. National Policy Statements<sup>9</sup> establish the need for energy and renewable energy generation. The need for the Project is therefore not an issue on which comment will be sought. Instead we will focus on involving people in shaping the best possible Project for their area, which works well in the local / regional context.

### 7.1 Our principles

Vattenfall recognises the importance of engaging with stakeholders, including communities, through its work. Our principles<sup>10</sup> are:

- Openness and transparency
- Providing opportunities to get involved
- Sharing information and understanding
- Listening and responding
- Respect

### 7.2 Early engagement informing preparation of the SoCC

During the Autumn of 2016, Vattenfall began actively engaging with local people in order to inform local communities and stakeholders of our interest in developing the Project, and present an early outline of the proposed approach to be taken for the Environmental Impact Assessment work, for comment. We sent a newsletter to more than 35,000 households within the project Scoping Area to introduce ourselves, the Project and give details of how people could help shape the Project (See Map in section 8.1) from the very early stages of its development.

Nearly 800 people attended our first set of drop-in events – which were participative and staffed exhibitions, designed to encourage dialogue - and over 100 people provided us with written feedback, which helped to shape the progression of the Project. Early consultation also highlighted topics of particular interest to communities, and sought ways to improve local understanding and engagement (for example, using more maps, digital models and visual aids).

A summary feedback report was sent to all who participated in those drop-in events and left contact details, as well as key stakeholders, including parish councils and elected representatives, in January 2017. A full report, compiling all the feedback received at this stage was also published on our website, and participants, interested parties and key stakeholders were provided with a link.

The table on page 11 summarises the cycles of informal consultation that have taken place to date – generally following a pattern of highlighting project news, inviting informed participation – at informal consultation events and online, by mail and so on, and reporting back to participants and stakeholders once responses are gathered.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statements-for-energy-infrastructure>

<sup>10</sup> <https://corporate.vattenfall.co.uk/globalassets/uk/communities/principles-of-engagement.pdf>

	Newsletter issued to 35,000 households within project Scoping area	Adverts in local press	Press releases to local press	Letters to key stakeholders, incl. PCs, Cllrs.,	Informal consultation events convened; consultation materials published	Participation	Subsequent follow-up: Feedback report(s) published; Letter alerts & thanks to participants & key stakeholders
Autumn 2016	October Project introduction & invitation to get involved	✓	✓	✓	Participative drop-in exhibitions: 7  Exhibition materials & Scoping report published	Participants: 788  Feedback forms returned 105	Summary & Full reports /letter /FAQ update
Spring 2017	March Project update & invitation to get involved	✓	✓	✓	Participative drop-in exhibitions: 9 <sup>11</sup> Exhibition materials published	Participants: 884  Feedback forms returned: 268	Summary & Full reports /letter /FAQ update
Summer 2017	June Project refinements & next steps		✓	✓			FAQ update
				July : local focus on siting onshore electrical infrastructure <sup>12</sup> . Invitation letter to potentially closest residents, local groups, Parish Councils and elected representatives	Local, themed workshops & drop-ins: /Siting CRS (if required) /Siting Project substations	Participants:  CRS workshop: 55 CRS drop-in: 60  Substation workshop: 42 Substation drop-in: 23	Initial follow-up report & consultation materials published /letter

We have learnt a great deal from discussions and consultation events with members of the local community and stakeholders (including fishermen) to date and this has assisted in shaping the Project in its current form.

<sup>11</sup> In response to local feedback, we increased the number of venues included in the second round of drop-in exhibitions, from seven to nine.

<sup>12</sup> In response to local interest in the EIA process and siting of onshore infrastructure, two focussed workshops and follow-up drop-ins were convened in July 2017. In addition to sharing information about opportunities and constraints influencing siting options, including visualisations and 3D modelling, we gathered a range of views held by the local community living in close proximity to 1) the Project cable relay station zones and 2) the Project substation zone.

## 8. Formal Consultation

### 8.1 Who we are consulting and where

Consultation is open to all with an interest in the Project and who feel directly or indirectly impacted by our proposal to build an offshore wind farm and the associated onshore electrical infrastructure, including the underground cable corridor and substation.

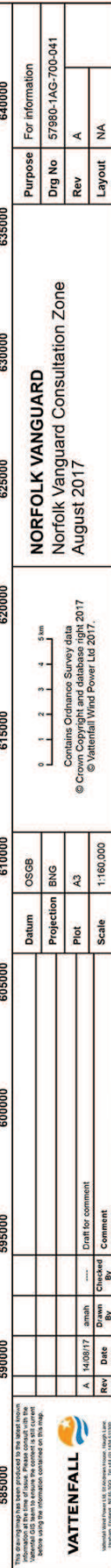
From the start of informal consultation, we sought inclusive engagement (see Section 7.2), sending newsletters to households across the wide envelope of our Scoping Area. Through the EIA and consultation process, the focus of the Project has narrowed to a refined area within which onshore infrastructure is likely to be sited, sometimes known as a “red line boundary”. Correspondingly, levels of local interest have become more focussed. This focused area is the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ), which is an area within which we will keep households and businesses directly and proactively informed about the Project, for example by sending newsletters and direct communications, and targeting the information provided to the interests and needs of these communities. The PCZ will be 1 km around the project’s indicative cable corridor, where impacts could be experienced during the

construction phase. We have extended this 1km boundary however, to include the key market towns along the corridor, namely Aylsham, Reepham and Dereham, as hubs for more rural communities, and where during informal consultation we already have experienced significant levels of interest and response. Around where we are seeking to locate permanent visible onshore infrastructure (if required), namely close to the CRS zone / landfall, and close to the substation zone, we will engage more widely and follow relevant Parish / Town Council boundaries to delineate the PCZ. The fourth market town of the area, North Walsham is included within the broader aspect of the PCZ, close to the proposed CRS zone.

Consultation will still of course take place in a larger area than the PCZ, however communication with the wider surrounding community will be through website updates, social media, local newspaper advertisements and consultation events at Norwich and Great Yarmouth as explained below.

If during the consultation issues and interests emerge which suggest there is a need to engage directly with communities and interested parties outside the PCZ, we will do so, and take into account those responses gained as part of the consultation process.







In addition to local individuals, we will continue to consult with relevant parish and town councils, and seek to enhance engagement with community groups, organisations representing the local business communities, those representing the interests of the local tourism and leisure sectors, and skills and education providers, to increase awareness of the consultation process and enable participation

We recognise that residents, communities, organisations and other stakeholders will have different requirements for information and our process of consultation will reflect this. For example, within the PCZ, we expect issues raised, ideas and concerns to focus on the direct effects of construction and operation of the Project. Beyond this area, interest may well focus on broader economic and social matters, such as employment opportunities. For this reason, we are also providing engagement and consultation opportunities in Norwich – the principal urban centre for Norfolk, which is the locus of many business, educational, social and cultural activities, and in Great Yarmouth – an east coast port town, that already has close ties and interests in the offshore wind industry.

As well as this community consultation, we will be discussing the Project with a range of statutory consultees (under section 42 of the Act) including:

- Local and District Authorities;
- The Marine Management Organisation, Natural England, The Environment Agency and other Statutory and Regulatory Bodies
- Owners, tenants and occupiers of the land affected by the DCO application;
- Commercial stakeholders (including asset owners and the fisheries industry); and Environmental organisations

## 8.2 How we shall Consult

### 8.2.1 Timescales for Consultation and the Formal Consultation Period

We are launching a formal consultation period on 6th November, 2017 closing on the 11th December 2017. Prior to this time, we will publish our PEIR. Alongside receiving comments from statutory consultees, we would welcome comments from the local community. This will be an opportunity for us to take on board those comments, allowing

this to help in forming part of the final project that will be submitted to PINS.

Once that consultation period has finished, we will be finalising the DCO application and so there will only be a limited amount of ways that it will be possible to directly influence the Project design. We will of course continue to provide the local community with updates and information throughout the application process, as explained in this section 8, and welcome comments from the local community throughout the pre-application period via the communication methods provided for in the SoCC. Responses we receive prior to submission of the application will be summarised and reflected in the Consultation Report.

### 8.2.2 Consultation with the local authorities

Vattenfall met with Norfolk County Council, and Broadland, Breckland and North Norfolk District Council as well as Great Yarmouth Borough Council to consult with them on our approach to the SoCC. We will continue to work with Relevant Planning Authority Community Consultation and Communications Officers to implement locally relevant and good consultation practice. Local involvement plans and public involvement guidelines were considered in the preparation of this Statement of Community Consultation, to align principles and appropriate consultation approaches that would best meet the needs of the local community.

### 8.2.3 Associated Guidance relating to the NSIP process

The statement of Community Consultation has also been prepared in accordance with the pre-application process Guidance Note prepared by DCLG in March 2015 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-the-pre-application-process-for-major-infrastructure-projects>

### 8.2.4 Informing the local community

Vattenfall has compiled a list of local groups in the area who will also be informed of the opportunity to become involved with the consultation. The relevant local authorities are being consulted and have provided invaluable input to develop an appropriate list of groups.

The following methods will be used to inform local communities of the opportunities to get



involved with the consultation on the extension Project:

- Newsletter within the Norfolk Vanguard Primary Consultation Zone
- Newspaper adverts
- Local posters, along the refined cable corridor
- Press releases to local media
- Letters to elected representatives, parish councils and local groups
- Posts on social media
- Local e-newsletter to those who have registered their interest in the project

### 8.2.5 Consultation documents/materials

We want to create opportunities for as many people as possible to get involved with the consultation. To do so, we will ensure the following documents are prepared and are made available:

- Information boards – to be used at local ‘drop in’ consultation events
- Project booklet – to be sent to local groups, including hard to reach groups
- Online information hub – an information hub will be created on the Project webpage
- Slide pack – to enable us to offer presentations to local groups who are interested in hosting a session
- 3D virtual model – a model showing what the Project might look like will be available at local drop in events and online
- Exhibition materials – we will run open drop-in exhibitions. The materials exhibited will provide context to and summarise the PEIR. Staff will be on hand to answer questions, talk to and aid the understanding of participants at the exhibitions with the aim of assisting them to contribute their views
- The PEIR will be deposited at local planning authority offices and in libraries (as listed below) on the 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 and will be available online through the PINS Website.

Participants requiring documents in different formats (e.g. braille, audio or large text) are invited to contact us and we can make these available.

### 8.2.6 Methods to provide feedback

- Questionnaires at local drop in events to provide detailed feedback on the proposal

- Freepost feedback forms, which will be sent with the Project booklet to local groups
- Online survey/questionnaire that can be filled in at any time online through the consultation period
- Comments books at local consultation events
- A project email address and phone number will also be available to contact the Project team

## 8.3 What will we consult on

The purpose of pre application consultation is to gather views whilst proposals for the Project are being developed to allow people the opportunity to influence the design and development of the Project. It is important that it is clear what is being consulted upon during the formal consultation. While comments are invited on all aspects of the Project, as described in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR see section 8.5), we will continue to highlight where local feedback will be most usefully received. To date, we have appreciated local communities highlighting constraints and opportunities relevant to the environmental impact assessment process, for example:

- Environmental factors (such as landscape and visual amenity, historic / archaeological features and local / marine habitats and species)
- Economic factors (such as commercial activities such as shipping and fisheries, employment opportunities and impacts or opportunities for the tourism industry)
- Social factors (such as public rights of way, noise during construction and educational opportunities)

### 8.3.1 Key Topics for Consultation

Early consultation with the public, as well as landowners and key regulatory and environmental stakeholders has had very positive influence in defining the Project, and its “red line boundary” – the area within which Project infrastructure turbines, cables, project substation and cable relay station (if required) could be placed – for this statutory consultation process (see section 8.1). The feedback provided to date by the local community also shapes how we present information during this consultation. During Statutory Consultation, we are particularly hoping for local input on:

- Detailed siting of cables within the cable corridor, siting of mobilisation zones and temporary work compounds etc. within the red line boundary and constraints and opportunities relevant to any infrastructure siting options presented and discussed in the PEIR.
- Potential mitigation for Project impacts. This might include a review of the potential impact of key onshore infrastructure such as the cable relay station (if required) and the Project Substation, as well as modifications to the National Grid substation and overhead line. Different types of mitigating schemes will be considered and consulted upon.
- The benefits and opportunities that the Project should prioritise – local investment prioritisation, skills development, and education
- Vattenfall's approach to planning the construction works for the Project. This could also feature a review of potential socio-economic and environmental impacts, and seek views on ideas about how to avoid or mitigate against any negative impacts.

### 8.3.2 Innovation and the Need to Maintain Flexibility for the Project

Innovation is key to the success of modern offshore wind farms. Norfolk Vanguard aims to be at the forefront of a trend of increasing proportions of UK electricity needs being delivered by offshore wind, and dramatic decreases in the levelized energy cost<sup>13</sup> of offshore wind. The deliverability of offshore wind continues to outstrip alternatives, with projects delivered efficiently, on time and on budget.

However, Norfolk Vanguard is exploiting new areas of the southern north sea, and therefore its design and engineering must strike a balance between revolution and risk management. The technology deployed must be advanced and appropriately robust and resilient.

For these reasons, in order to maintain optionality in a rapidly developing industry, and ensure affordable green energy is

delivered to the UK consumer, the Project will maintain flexibility in some key areas of design possibly until after consent is granted, including turbine foundations, turbines (size, <sup>13</sup>model), transmission system (AC or DC) and SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) – the control system that monitors and helps optimize energy generation & transmission efficiency.

### 8.4 Environmental Information

The Project falls within the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive and, as such, in parallel to this community consultation, we are undertaking an EIA of the Project (for both offshore and onshore elements). The scope and methodology of the EIA has been issued to, and agreement sought with, regulatory bodies and relevant planning authorities.

The formal consultation, described in this SoCC, will seek to gather views on the Norfolk Vanguard Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) – this document builds on the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion, and comments received during the early (informal) consultation process, undertaken before September 2017, and not required as part of the Planning Act 2008. It will incorporate the findings of surveys and initial assessments and will enable consultees to develop an informed view of the potential environmental effects.

The final ES will form part of the final DCO application for submission and advance the content of the PEIR to explain the environmental effects predicted as a result of the Project. It will also further refine (where possible) what is being sought for consent under the DCO application. It will incorporate the responses from the PEIR consultation and any further surveys undertaken (if required). It will also describe any mitigation measures that would be implemented.

### 8.5 Local information points:

We want to make sure information is accessible locally. The following information points will be used through the consultation period, where you can find copies of the

<sup>13</sup> Levelized Energy Cost (LEC), also known as levelized cost of electricity (LCoE) is the cost per unit of electricity generated over the lifetime of a project.

Project booklet, the Statement of Community Consultation, and feedback forms to fill in.

Organisation	Address	Opening times
Norfolk County Council	County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH	9am-5pm
North Norfolk District Council	Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer NR27 9EN	8:30am-5pm
Broadland District Council	Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Norwich NR7 0DU	8:30am-5pm
Breckland District Council	Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 1EE	8am-5pm
Norwich City Council	St Peters Street, Norwich NR2 1NH	8:45am-5pm
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	31 Hall Plain, Great Yarmouth NR30 2QF	9am-5pm
Dereham Library	59 High St, Dereham NR19 1DZ	9:15am-7pm
Aylsham Library	7 Hungate St, Aylsham, Norwich NR11 6AA	9:30am-5pm
North Walsham Library	New Rd, North Walsham NR28 9DE	9:30am-5pm
Millennium Library Norwich	The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich NR2 1AW	10am-7pm

## 8.6 Statutory (formal) Consultation events

Location	Address	Date / time
Aylsham	Aylsham Town Hall, Market Place, Aylsham, NR11 6EL	To commence from 7th November
Reepham	The Bircham Centre, Market Place, Reepham, NR10 4JJ	TBC
Dereham	Dereham Sixth Form College, Crown Rd, East Dereham NR20 4AG	TBC
Necton	Necton Rural Community Centre 13 Tun's Road, Necton, Swaffham, PE37 8EH	TBC

Happisburgh	The Wenn Evans Centre, Blacksmiths Ln, Happisburgh, Norwich NR12 0QY	TBC
Norwich University Technical College	University Technical College Norfolk, Oldhall Rd, Norwich NR4 6ES	TBC
North Walsham	North Walsham High School, Spenser Ave, North Walsham NR28 9HZ	TBC
Great Yarmouth	Gt Yarmouth Town Hall, Hall Plain, Great Yarmouth NR30 2QF	TBC

All of our event venues have disabled access.

### 8.7 Consultation Results and Next Steps

After the formal consultation closes Vattenfall will collate and review the outcomes to create an Interim Consultation Report will set out consultee responses and how Vattenfall has addressed those responses in formulating its DCO application. Following this, Vattenfall may carry out additional targeted consultation with members of the local community, as feedback is received and the project is refined. Wider consultation could be carried out if considered appropriate.

All consultation, informal and formal, will be described in a Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the DCO submission.

### 8.8 Other Projects and Consultations

Vattenfall will be careful to map other consultations affecting and of interest to the consultees, local community and others, who may wish to respond to our consultation.

As well as Vattenfall's Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm Project, another offshore wind farm developer, DONG Energy is also seeking to submit an application for DCO for their project in another part of the Southern North Sea, and with a connection point into the National Grid south of Norwich. We will coordinate with them to minimise overlapping consultation periods. We will also liaise with local planning authorities to ensure we are aware of and can take action to minimise any confusion that may arise from other schemes or consultation processes.

We will ensure all our materials are clearly identified as relating to Vattenfall's Norfolk Vanguard Project.

## 9 How to contact us and find out more

Visit our project website: [norfolkvanguard.vattenfall.co.uk](http://norfolkvanguard.vattenfall.co.uk)

Email:

[info@norfolkvanguard.vattenfall.co.uk](mailto:info@norfolkvanguard.vattenfall.co.uk)

Email (Local Liaison Officer):

[susan.falch-lovesey@vattenfall.com](mailto:susan.falch-lovesey@vattenfall.com)

Call (general enquiries): 01603 567995

Call (Sue Falch-Lovesey): 07817 544235

Post:

Norfolk Vanguard,  
The Union Building,  
51-59 Rose Lane,  
Norwich,  
Norfolk  
NR1 1BY

Use the feedback forms available at the public information days, where freepost envelopes will be provided.

Use the on-line feedback forms, available here: [norfolkvanguard.vattenfall.co.uk](http://norfolkvanguard.vattenfall.co.uk)

Call (Land matters) Bob McCarthy: (07787 783517 / 01223 859221)

Email:

[vattenfallinnorfolk@consentssolutions.com](mailto:vattenfallinnorfolk@consentssolutions.com)

Call (fisheries liaison issues):

Jonathan Keer, Brown and May Marine Ltd: (01379 870181)

Email: [jonathan@brownmay.com](mailto:jonathan@brownmay.com)