



NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

Technical Note on the interaction of North Falls with the PLA onshore communication links

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Glossary of Terminology and acronyms

Horizontal directional drill (HDD)	Trenchless technique to bring the offshore cables ashore at the landfall. The technique will also be used for installation of the onshore export cables at sensitive areas of the onshore cable route.
Landfall	The location where the offshore export cables come ashore at Kirby Brook.
LoS	Line of Sight
PLA	Port of London Authority
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
The Project Or 'North Falls'	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, including all onshore and offshore infrastructure.
Transition Joint Bay (TJB)	Transition Joint Bay is an underground concrete unit where the offshore cable is jointed to the onshore cable. It is the start of the landfall HDD.
Trenchless crossing	Use of a technique to install limited lengths of cable below ground without the need to excavate a trench from the surface, used in sensitive areas of the onshore cable route to prevent surface disturbance. Includes techniques such as HDD.

1 Purpose

1. The purpose of this document is to demonstrate that the Project infrastructure has no impact on the PLA radio link between Holland Haven Marshes and Walton Pier.
2. A concern has been raised by the PLA that the proposed Project red line boundary will mean works being carried out that impact on the communications link that extends from Walton Pier to Holland Haven Marshes.
3. This report shows that, whilst the Project red line boundary does cross the communications link LoS, there is no impact from the works defined within the areas of interaction.
4. This has been confirmed and agreed with the PLA at a meeting on 2nd June 2025.

2 Interaction

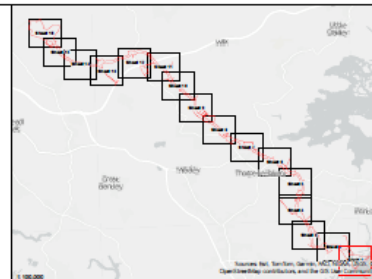
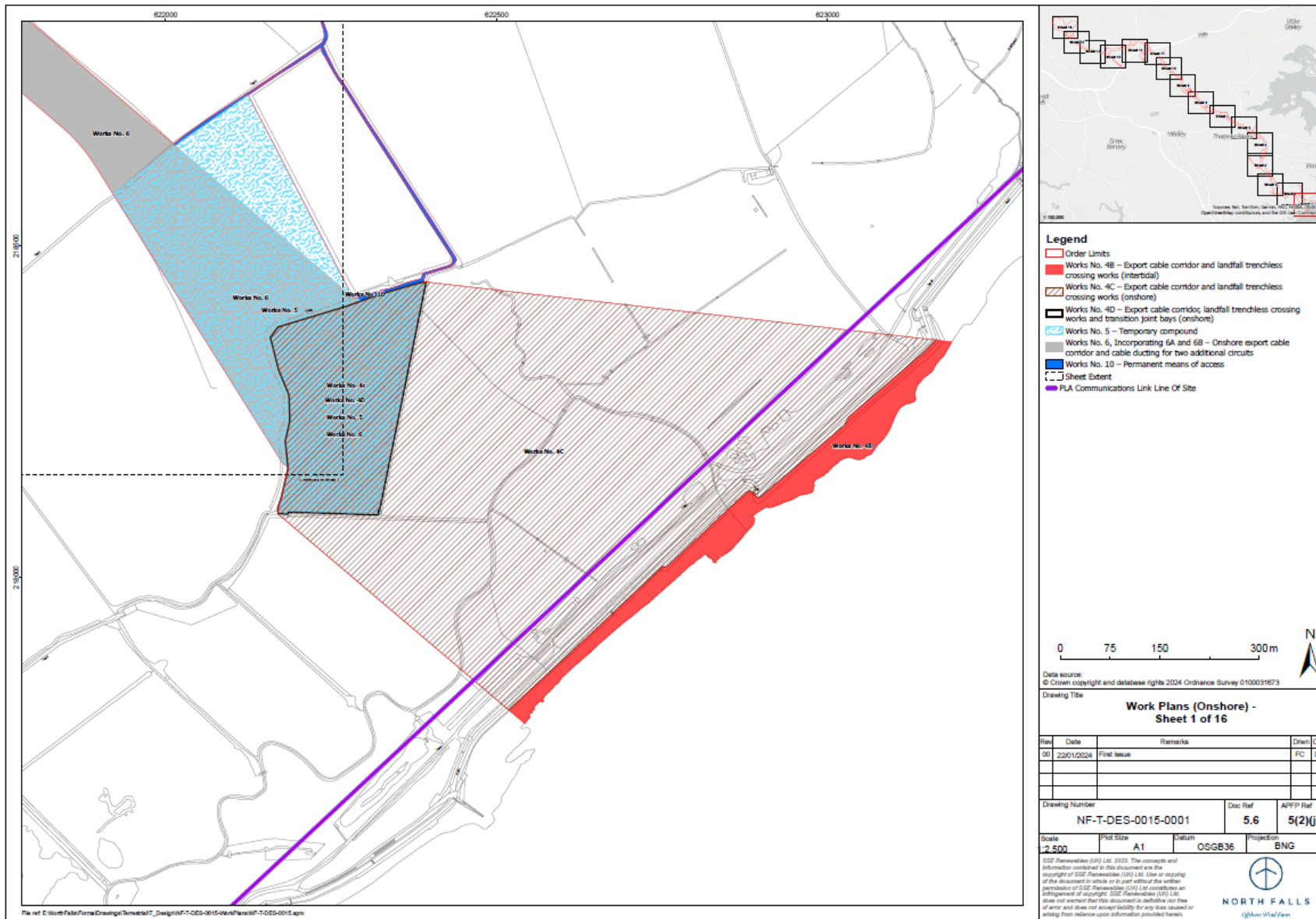
5. Co-ordinates for the location of each end of the communications link have been provided by the PLA. These have been overlaid onto the Onshore Works Plans (Sheet 1 of 16) [AS-019], with the interactions of specific works numbers being shown. Figure 2-1 shows the overlay of the actual line of sight. This overlaps with Works No. 4C of the works plans.



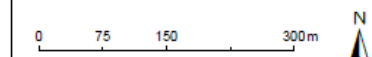
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Figure 2-1 – Onshore Works Plans [AS-019] overlaid with communications link LoS



- Legend**
- Order Limits
 - Works No. 4B – Export cable corridor and landfill trenchless crossing works (intertidal)
 - Works No. 4C – Export cable corridor and landfill trenchless crossing works (onshore)
 - Works No. 4D – Export cable corridor landfill trenchless crossing works and transition joint bays (onshore)
 - Works No. 5 – Temporary compound
 - Works No. 6, Incorporating 6A and 6B – Onshore export cable corridor and cable ducting for two additional circuits
 - Works No. 10 – Permanent means of access
 - Sheet Extent
 - PLA Communications Link Line Of Site



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Drawing Title
Work Plans (Onshore) - Sheet 1 of 16

Rev	Date	Remarks	Drawn	Checked
00	23/01/2024	First Issue	FC	DR

Drawing Number	Doc Ref	APP/P Ref
NF-T-DES-0015-0001	5.6	5(2)(j)

Scale	Plot Size	Datum	Projection
2:500	A1	OSGB36	BNG

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6. Works descriptions are defined within the Draft Development Consent Order [REP5-009], Schedule 1, Part 1. In there, the different works numbers are defined as:
- *Work No. 4A—up to two cable circuits and associated ducting between Work No. 3 and Work No. 4B including up to three drilling exit pits for trenchless installation techniques, one or more cable crossings and a temporary work area for vessels to carry out anchoring and positioning.*
- Between MHWS and MLWS and in the County of Essex and District of Tendring***
- *Work No. 4B—landfall connection works comprising up to two cable circuits and associated ducting between Work No. 4A and Work No. 4C, including trenchless installation technique works.*
- In the County of Essex and the District of Tendring***
- *Work No. 4C—onshore connection works comprising up to two cable circuits and associated ducting between Work No. 4B and Work No. 4D.*
 - *Work No. 4D—onshore connection works comprising—*
 - (a) up to two cable circuits and associated ducting connecting Work No. 4C and Work No. 6;*
 - (b) up to three drilling entry pits for trenchless installation techniques;*
 - (c) up to two transition joint bays;*
 - (d) working areas and laydown areas and means of access.*
7. This demonstrates that no above ground works will take place in Works No. 4B and Works No. 4C, as these areas will be crossed with a trenchless crossing technique. It should be noted that the sea defences between Frinton-on-Sea and Clacton-on-Sea can only be crossed by trenchless techniques, and that the interaction of the communications link LoS and Works No. 4C is entirely within the Holland Haven Marshes SSSI.
8. In the Outline Horizontal Method Statement and Contingency Plan [REP5-026], an HDD of length 1100m is proposed from the transition joint bay located in Works No. 4D. This would mean a distance of circa 600m from the communications link LoS to any above water line working. The project is constrained by the sea defences and water depth in the landfall area. The sea defences mean that we are unlikely to be able to exit close to shore, without having an impact on the sea defences, given the sea defences pre-date the formation of the Environment Agency (see Table 2.6 of Statement of Common Ground [REP5-075]). The bathymetry survey shows -10m LAT at circa 3.5km from shore. This limits the distance the cable lay vessels can get into shore, meaning the exit pit needs to be as far out as practicable. Therefore, whilst the closest distance any works in Works No. 4A could be to the communications link LoS is circa 80m (dependent on location), being in such proximity is highly unlikely, and a more realistic closest distance is circa 300-400m.

9. The closest distance any works in Works No. 4D could be to the communications LoS is circa 260m, although this is likely to be further given it is a common area to both North Falls and Five Estuaries, with North Falls likely to be further north in the site. The distance is more likely to be circa 400m.
10. Given the fact that no above ground working will take place in Works No. 4C, and the standoff distances to any above ground works, the Applicant shows there is no interaction with the communications link LoS. This was agreed by the PLA at the meeting held on 2nd June 2025.



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HARNESSING THE POWER OF NORTH SEA WIND

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited

A joint venture company owned equally by SSE Renewables and RWE.

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