



NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

Statement of Common Ground

Babergh District Councils

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Glossary of Acronyms

NFOW	North Falls Offshore Windfarm Ltd
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by North Falls Offshore Windfarm Limited (NFOW) (the Applicant) and Babergh District Council. It identifies areas of North Falls Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter 'the Project' or 'North Falls') where matters are agreed, not agreed or that remain under discussion between the parties.
2. The Applicant has had regard to the Planning Inspectorate (2024) guidance regarding Statements of Common/Uncommon Ground for Hearings and Inquiries when compiling the SoCG.
3. This SoCG has been structured to reflect topics of the application which are of interest to Babergh District Council.
4. The applicable matters considered within the SoCG apply to Babergh District Council's statutory and non-statutory remit.
5. Table 1.1 presents the topics included in the SoCG with the Applicant and Babergh District Council.

Table 1.1 Topics included in the SoCG

Topic/Chapter	DCO Document Reference
Need for Offshore Wind Energy Generation and Project Coordination	Needs Case and Project Benefits Statement [APP-232]
Seascape and Landscape Visual Impact	ES Chapter 29 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]

6. Details of the consultation undertaken on those topics not included in the Evidence Plan Process are set out in the corresponding chapters of the Environmental Statement (ES).
7. Topic specific matters agreed, not agreed, and matters that remain under discussion between the Applicant and Babergh District Council are included within this SoCG. Matters that are not yet agreed will be the subject of ongoing discussion between the Applicant and Babergh District Council to reach agreement on each matter whatever possible or refine the extent of disagreement between parties.
8. Throughout the SoCG the phrase "Agreed" identifies any point of agreement between the Applicant and Babergh District Council. The phrase "Not Agreed" identifies any point that is not agreed between the Applicant and Babergh District Council.

1.2 Consultation with Babergh District Council

9. The Applicant has engaged with Babergh District Council on the project during the pre-application process, pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008).
10. Table 7.1 and Table 11.2 of the Consultation Report sets out that statutory consultation (Stage 3 and Stage 4) was held with Babergh District Council pursuant to Section 42(1)(b) of the PA2008.

1.3 Summary of Agreed, Not Agreed and In Discussion

11. In order to easily identify whether a matter is 'agreed', 'not agreed', or 'in discussion' the position status colour coding system set out in Table 2.1 is used in the SoCG.
12. Details of specific topics that are 'agreed', 'not agreed', or 'in discussion' between the Applicant and Babergh District Council are presented in Table 2.4.

Table 1.2 Position status key

Position Status	Position Colour Coding
Agreed. The matter is considered to be agreed between the parties.	Agreed
Not Agreed- no material impact The matter is not yet agreed between the parties however the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicant and Babergh Council is not considered to result in a material impact to the assessment conclusions and the matter is considered to be closed for the purposes of this SoCG. Discussion on these matters have concluded.	Not Agreed- no material impact
Not Agreed- material impact The matter is not agreed between the parties and the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicant or Babergh District Council is considered to result in a materially different impact to the assessment conclusions. Discussions on these matters have concluded.	Not Agreed- material impact
In discussion The matter is neither 'agreed' nor 'not agreed' and is a matter where further discussion is required between the parties (e.g. where the documents are yet to be shared with Babergh District Council).	In discussion

2. Statement of Common Ground

13. A summary of the consultation undertaken to date with Babergh District Council is set out in Table 2.1 below.
14. The matters agreed or not agreed between the Applicant and Babergh District Council are set out in Table 2.2 of this SoCG.

2.1 Consultation and Engagement

Table 2.1 Summary of Consultation with Babergh District Council.

Date	Contact Type	Topic
Pre-Application		
Stage 3 Statutory Consultation	Statutory Consultation (Section 43(2) and (2a))	Applicant proposals and the Preliminary Environmental Information Report
Meeting with the Applicant and Babergh District Council	MS Teams Meeting on the 16 July 2025	Draft SoCG Items

Table 2.2 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed

SoCG ID	Topic	The Applicant's Position	Babergh District Council's Position	Position Summary
NF.BD.01	Need for offshore wind energy generation and project coordination	<p>Please see the Applicant's Common Response - 001 with respect to matters related to an offshore grid connection.</p> <p>While the Secretary of State has decided not to grant further funding for the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) workstream, an offshore cable coordinated connection point remains a grid connection option within the North Falls DCO application.</p> <p>Whilst the National Grid onshore contracted grid connection point for North Falls comprised in Option 1 and Option 2 of the DCO application remains of utmost necessity due to the environmental, regulatory and commercial uncertainties associated with the overall co-ordinated cable delivery model for Option 3, the Applicant considers it prudent to maintain its offshore connection point (i.e. the inclusion of Work No. 4(b) converter station) in its Option 3 within the design envelope for North Falls. This is to ensure the offshore converter platform (the offshore co-ordination connection point) required to facilitate a third parties offshore cable connection can be properly considered</p>	The councils acknowledge the national importance of strategic energy infrastructure and have previously stated a preference for a coordinated, offshore approach to the delivery of transmission reinforcement, import and export objectives including consolidation of offshore connections and onshore infrastructure together with appropriate management of construction activities to effectively minimise and mitigate harm to Suffolk's communities and environment.	Not agreed – no material impact.

SoCG ID	Topic	The Applicant's Position	Babergh District Council's Position	Position Summary
		<p>during Examination in recognition of the ever evolving technical and commercial grid landscape within Great Britain.</p> <p>Currently, no third party is promoting a co-ordinated offshore cable option in collaboration with the North Falls proposed grid connection point, its Option 3.</p> <p>The Applicant understands Babergh District Council do not oppose the need for the offshore wind farm and additional low-carbon infrastructure, but that they consider the connection to the National Grid should be made offshore and not onshore via the East Anglia Connection Node.</p>		
NF.BD.02	Landscape Visual Impacts	<p>ES Chapter 30 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-044] recognises the potential for localised landscape and visual effects (including cumulative), associated with the proposed North Falls onshore substation. The impacts of the project on the landscape character of the study area are set out in detail in ES Chapter 30 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-044].</p> <p>No significant effects are anticipated on National Landscapes (NL) (Dedham Vale) to the north of the proposed onshore. Viewpoint 8</p>	The councils take this opportunity to register their concern in respect of the potential visual impacts of the onshore substation element of the project on the landscape of Babergh District Council, including the designated National Landscape, especially having regard to cumulative impacts with other projects in the area.	Not agreed – material impact.

SoCG ID	Topic	The Applicant's Position	Babergh District Council's Position	Position Summary
		(refer to ES Figure 30.2.8 [APP-083 to APP-088]), which is taken from a location on the southern edge of the NL (Essex Way, Dedham Road) represents some of the closest and potentially 'worst case' views from the NL. From this location hedgerow and woodland cover, across the relatively flat intervening landscape between the southern edge of the NL and the North Falls onshore substation, play a notable screening role.		

3. Signatures

15. The above SoCG is agreed between the Applicant and Babergh District Council on the day specified below.

Signed: _____

Print Name:

Job Title: Co

Date: 22 July

Duly authorised for and on behalf of the Applicant, North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited

Signed: _____

Print Name: _

Job Title: _____

Date: _____

Duly authorised for and on behalf of the



NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm



HARNESSING THE POWER OF NORTH SEA WIND

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited

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

To contact please email contact@northfallsoffshore.com

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