

**RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank
South (West) Limited**

**RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank
South (East) Limited**

**Dogger Bank South Offshore
Wind Farms**

**Environment Agency Statement of Common
Ground (Revision 3)**

Submission for Deadline 8


Document Date: July 2025

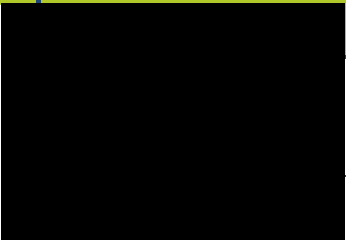
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Glossary

Term	Definition
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for one or more Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A statutory process by which certain planned projects must be assessed before a formal decision to proceed can be made. It involves the collection and consideration of environmental information, which fulfils the assessment requirements of the EIA Directive and EIA Regulations, including the publication of an Environmental Statement (ES).
Environmental Statement (ES)	A document reporting the findings of the EIA and produced in accordance with the EIA Directive as transposed into UK law by the EIA Regulations.
Expert Topic Group (ETG)	A forum for targeted engagement with regulators and interested stakeholders through the EPP.
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	The agency responsible for operating the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	Defined in the EIA Regulations as information referred to in part 1, Schedule 4 (information for inclusion in Environmental Statements) which has been compiled by the Applicants and is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development.
Project Change Request 1	The changes to the DCO application for the Projects set out in Project Change Request 1 - Offshore & Intertidal Works [AS-141] which was accepted into Examination on 21 st January 2025.
Project Change Request 2	The changes to the DCO application for the Projects set out in Project Change Request 2 Onshore Substation Zone [AS-152] which was accepted into Examination on 21 st January 2025.
Receptor	A distinct part of the environment on which effects could occur and can be the subject of specific assessments. Examples of Receptors include species (or groups) of animals, plants, people (often categorised further such as 'residential' or those using areas for amenity or recreation), watercourses etc.
Statutory consultation	The statutory consultation ran in two periods. The first period ran between 6th June and 17th July 2023, with a second period running between 4th August and 15th September 2023 to gather responses from third parties missed during the initial consultation period. The PEIR was presented as part of this consultation.

Term	Definition
The Applicants	The Applicants for the Projects are RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Limited and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Limited. The Applicants are themselves jointly owned by the RWE Group of companies (51% stake) and Masdar (49% stake).
The Projects	DBS East and DBS West (collectively referred to as the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms).

Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
ALARP	As Low As Reasonably Practicable
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
DBS	Dogger Bank South
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
EPR	Flood Risk Activity Permits
ETG	Expert Topic Group
ES	Environmental Statement
ExA	Examining Authority
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
GWDTE	Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
PEMP	Project Environmental Management Plan
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment

Acronym	Definition
RR	Relevant Representation
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
WER	Water Environment Regulations Compliance Assessment

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared between RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Ltd and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Ltd, ('the Applicants') and the Environment Agency ('Environment Agency') to set out the areas of agreement and disagreement between the two parties in relation to the proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Dogger Bank South ('DBS') West Offshore Wind Farm and DBS East Offshore Wind Farm, collectively known as DBS Offshore Wind Farms (herein 'the Projects').
2. The Applicants have applied for development consent to construct and operate the proposed Projects under the Planning Act 2008. Further description of the Projects is available in **Chapter 5 Project Description (Revision 4)** [REP7-032].
3. In drafting this SoCG, the Applicants have had regard to the Planning Act 2008 Guidance: Examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2024).
4. The need for a SoCG between the Applicants and the Environment Agency is set out within the Rule 6 Letter [PD-002] issued by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on the 24th September 2024 and reiterated in the updated Rule 6 Letter [PD-010] issued on 17th December 2024.
5. This SoCG is intended to provide the Examining Authority (ExA) with a clear summary of discussions between the parties and has been structured to reflect topics which are of interest to the Environment Agency, and which have been raised within the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation (RR) [RR-015] to the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms DCO that has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate pursuant to the Planning Act 2008.
6. This SoCG covers issues that have been raised throughout the Evidence Plan Process (EPP) through the Expert Topic Groups (ETGs) in addition to correspondence on potential Protective Provisions and land matters.
7. It is the intention that this document will facilitate further discussions between the Applicants and the Environment Agency and will provide the ExA with a clear overview of the level of common ground between both parties. This document has been updated throughout the Examination process.
8. The following application documents have informed the discussions with the Environment Agency and address the elements of the Projects that may affect the interests of the Environment Agency:

Table 1-1 - Application Documents of interest to the Environment Agency

ES Chapter/ Application Document	Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Reference
Draft Development Consent Order superseded by Draft Development Consent Order (Revision 10)	APP-027 superseded by REP7-011
Book of Reference superseded by Book of Reference (Revision 6)	APP-031 superseded by – REP4-011
Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives superseded by Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Revision 3)	APP-067 superseded by – REP7-028
Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment (Revision 2)	APP-080 superseded by REP7-035
Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology superseded by Environmental Statement Chapter 18 - Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology (Revision 6)	APP-140 superseded by REP7-064
Appendix 18-10 Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy superseded by Appendix 18-10 Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Revision 2)	APP-157 superseded by REP5-015
Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality superseded by Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality (Revision 2)	APP-158 superseded by REP6-020
Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology superseded by Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology (Revision 3)	APP-163 superseded by REP5-017
Water Environment Regulations Compliance Assessment superseded by Appendix 20-3 - Water Environment Regulations Compliance Assessment (Revision 4)	APP-167 superseded by REP5-020
Appendix 20-4 Flood Risk Assessment superseded by Appendix 20-4 Flood Risk Assessment (Revision 2)	APP-168 superseded by REP7-071
Outline Code of Construction Practise (CoCP) superseded by Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision 5)	APP-234 superseded by REP7-105

ES Chapter/ Application Document	Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Reference
Outline Ecological Management Plan superseded by Outline Ecological Management Plan (Revision 6)	APP-235 superseded by REP7-107
Outline Drainage Strategy superseded by Outline Operational Drainage Strategy (Revision 4)	APP-237 superseded by REP7-109
Project Change Request 1 - Environmental Assessment Update	AS-141
Project Change Request 2 - Onshore Substation Zone	AS-152
Arboricultural Survey Report, Preliminary Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Outline Arboricultural Method Statement (Revision 4)	AS-036 superseded by REP7-121
Coastal Erosion Rate Technical Note superseded by Coastal Erosion Rate Technical Note (Revision 2)	AS-116 superseded by REP3-023

9. The Environment Agency and the Applicants have been working together to minimise possible impacts of the Projects on the Environment Agency's operations, and so the Environment Agency may influence and enhance the design of the Projects where appropriate.

1.2 Approach to SoCG

10. This SoCG has been developed during the pre-examination and examination phases of the Projects. In accordance with discussions between the Applicants and the Environment Agency, this SoCG is focused on matters of material interest and relevance to the Environment Agency, namely matters covered in the Application Documents outlined in **Table 1-1** and related topics.
11. The structure of this SoCG is as follows:
- **Introduction:** background to the development of the SoCG.
 - **Consultation and Engagement:** a summary of consultation and engagement with the Environment Agency to date.
 - **Agreement Log:** a record of the Applicants' position alongside the Environment Agency's position. **Table 3-2** to **Table 3-6** sets out those areas agreed in relation to the application documents set out in **Table 1-1**.

12. It is agreed that this SoCG is an accurate description of the areas agreed between the parties, and that this SoCG accurately records key meetings and consultation with the Environment Agency.
13. As referenced in **Table 2-1**, the Applicants consulted the Environment Agency on Project Change Requests 1 and 2 between 15th November and 16th December 2024. The Environment Agency did not provide any consultation comments on the Project Change Requests.

2 Consultation

2.1 Introduction to Consultation

14. The Environment Agency have been consulted on the proposed development throughout the pre-application stage, having engaged in the Marine Physical Environment, Water Resources, Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology, Geology and Land Quality, and Flood Risk and Hydrology Expert Topic Groups (ETGs) under the Evidence Plan Process, as well as via non-statutory and statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.

2.2 Consultation Summary

15. **Table 2-1** summarises the consultation that the Applicants have undertaken with Environment Agency as statutory or non-statutory consultation during the pre-application and post-application phases. In addition, a number of draft documents have been issued throughout the pre-application stage of the Projects, for review and comments.

Table 2-1 - Summary of pre-application and post-application consultation with the Environment Agency

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title / Topic	Summary of Consultation
Pre – Application			
14/09/2021	ETG Meeting	Onshore Ecology and Ornithology – Pre-Scoping	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project overview; The Evidence Plan Process (EPP); Scoping Report and approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); and Site selection methodology.
17/09/2021	ETG Meeting	Water Resources – Pre-Scoping	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project overview; The Evidence Plan Process (EPP); Scoping Report and approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); and Site selection methodology.

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title / Topic	Summary of Consultation
07/04/2022	Technical Note	Marine Physical Environment – Method Statement	Method statement outlining the proposed conceptual modelling approach that was proposed to be taken in the assessment of marine physical processes (including the intertidal areas of the possible landfall locations) effects of the Projects.
04/05/2022	ETG Meeting	Site Selection ETG	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update; • Site selection process and methodology; • Landfall site; • Offshore cable corridor; • Onshore substation; and • Onshore cable corridor.
26/05/2022	ETG Meeting	Seabed – Methods Statements	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update • Benthic survey method statement • Marine Physical Processes method statement
13/12/2022	Technical Note	Marine Physical Environment – Method Statement	Technical note that expanded on the previous method statement issued on 7 th April 2022, provided further evidence for the relevance of the previous marine physical processes modelling conducted for Dogger Bank A and B in relation to the Projects.
20/01/2023	ETG Meeting	Marine Physical Environment – Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) Approach	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update; • Existing environment; and • Applicability of Creyke Beck modelling studies.
07/02/2023	ETG Meeting	Seabed ETG – PEIR Approach	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update; • Benthic and Intertidal Ecology – existing environment;

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title / Topic	Summary of Consultation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish and Shellfish Ecology – existing environment; and Benthic and Intertidal Ecology PEIR assessed impacts.
20/04/2023	ETG Meeting	Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology – Project Update, Surveys, PEIR Assessment	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project update; Site selection update; Scoping Report status; Ecological survey programme; Desk study; Habitat survey; Wildlife surveys; Assessment scenarios; Ecology assessment; and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) strategy.
17/07/2023	Section 42 Consultation	Marine Physical Environment, Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology, Flood Risk and Hydrology, Geology and Land Quality, EIA Methodology	<p>The Environment Agency's response to Section 42 consultation on PEIR. See Consultation Report Appendix G1 [APP-044].</p>
20/07/2023	ETG Meeting	Flood Risk and Hydrology / Geology and Land Use – PEIR Assessments	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project update; Surface water Internal Drainage Board (IDB) drains geomorphology; and PEIR Geology and Land Quality.
11/09/2023	ETG Meeting	Marine Physical Environment – PEIR Comments	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project update; Programme; Sensitivity test results; Modelling results; Ongoing modelling; and

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title / Topic	Summary of Consultation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEIR comments.
21/09/2023	ETG Meeting	Seabed – PEIR Comments	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project update; Benthic and Intertidal Ecology PEIR comments; Project Design Envelope comments; Holderness Coast inshore Marine Conservation Zone; Cumulative Environmental Assessment; Herring and Sandeel Habitat Assessment and Physical Disturbance; and Underwater noise comments.
28/11/2023	Email	Flood Risk and Hydrology	Provision of the Outline Drainage Strategy [AS-098] and Environment Agency consultation responses from RWE to Environment Agency.
11/12/2023	ETG Meeting	Terrestrial Ecology ETG	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project overview; Onshore updates; PEIR responses; Terrestrial Ecology baseline survey results; Priority habitats; ES progress; Cumulative Effects Assessment; and BNG update.
28/11/2023	Draft Documents	Issue of draft Outline Drainage Strategy and written response to comments provided at Statutory S.42 Consultation	Issue of Outline Drainage Strategy [AS-098] and written response to comments provided at Statutory S.42 Consultation ahead of ETG 13/12/2023
13/12/2023	ETG Meeting	Flood Risk and Geology ETG	The following topics were discussed during the ETG:

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title / Topic	Summary of Consultation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project design update; Flood risk and hydrology – PEIR comments and ES updates; Outline Drainage Strategy; and Geology and Land Quality– PEIR comments and ES updates.
29/01/2024	ETG Meeting	Benthic Ecology / Marine Physical Environment – Pre-ES ETG	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project design update; Physical Processes – summary approach; Physical Processes operational modelling results; Benthic Ecology monitoring survey summary; and PEIR comments.
13/02/2024	Email	Protective Provisions	Response to Environment Agency regarding their feedback again potentially disapplying the Environmental Permitting in relation to a Flood Defence Consent.
22/02/2024	Meeting	Protective Provisions	Call to review the draft Environment Agency Protective Provisions
08/03/2024	Email	Protective Provisions	Actions from call on the 22/02/2024 and issue of draft protective provision for Environment Agency review (no comments received)
15/03/2024	Email	Project Shapefiles	Provision of latest project route for the Environment Agency's further review (shapefiles). Agreement that DBS would submit the draft Protective Provisions issued in the DCO application and the Environment Agency would provide further comment after submission.
15/03/2024	Draft Documents	Issue of Draft FRA and Flood Risk and Hydrology mitigation	Draft FRA and Flood Risk and Hydrology mitigation issued ahead of the ETG meeting on the 20/03.
20/03/2024	ETG Meeting	Flood Risk and Geology ETG	The following topics were discussed during the ETG:

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title / Topic	Summary of Consultation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project update; Flood Risk and Hydrology ES chapter update; Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) update; Geology and Land Quality ES chapter update; and Agreement logs.
11/04/2024	ETG Meeting	Benthic Compensation Plan ETG	<p>The following topics were discussed during the ETG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project design update; Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) conclusions; and Compensation.
Post – Application			
23/08/2024	Email	Coastal Processes Query	Neil Wallace issued queries regarding the coastal processes baseline detailed in Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-081].
05/09/2024	Email	Coastal Processes Query	Daniel Brutto provided an interim response to Neil Wallace regarding his coastal processes queries, noting additional information would be provided at the previous draft Deadline 1 ¹ .
01/10/2024	Email	SoCG	The Applicants issued a draft SoCG and provided a link to the Rule 6 Letter [PD-002] and Examination Library ahead of the 09/10/2024 meeting.
09/10/2024	Meeting	SoCG and RR	Meeting to review the draft SoCG and the Applicant's responses to the Environment Agency's RR.
16/10/2024	Email	SoCG and RR Meeting	The Applicants issued the meeting minutes and presentation slides from the 09/10/2024 meeting and requested comments from the Environment Agency on the SoCG by the 23 rd October 2024.

¹ Following postponement of the Projects examination, this additional information was provided in the Coastal Erosion Rate Technical Note, issued to the Planning Inspectorate on 6th December 2024.

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title / Topic	Summary of Consultation
24/10/2024	Email	SoCG Comments	The Applicants requested an update on when to expect the Environment Agency's comments on the draft SoCG.
24/10/2024	Email	SoCG Comments	Richard Jennings provided comments on the Terrestrial Ecology section of the SoCG.
25/10/2024	Email	SoCG Comments	Matthew Wilcock confirmed the Environment Agency's agreement with the Flood Risk and Hydrology section of the draft of the SoCG.
28/10/2024	Email	SoCG Comments	Lily Booth confirmed her agreement with the Marine Physical Processes section of the draft of the SoCG.
07/11/2024	Meeting	Ecology Comments from the Environment Agency	<p>Richard Jennings requested a conversation around his comments on the Terrestrial Ecology section of the SoCG. The following topics were discussed during the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination update and change request; and SoCG comments provided by the Environment Agency.
15/11/2024	Email	Meeting Minutes from 07/11/2024 Meeting	The Applicants issued the minutes from the 07/11/2024 meeting to the Environment Agency.
15/11/2024	Email	Examination Update and Change Requests 1 and 2	The Applicants informed the Environment Agency about the Project Change Request 1 and 2 and that they will continue to progress the SoCG based on the original onshore converter station design, but the SoCG will reflect that the change is 'under discussion'.
19/12/2025	Email	SoCG	The Applicants issued a revised draft of the SoCG and informed the Environment Agency of the new Rule 6 Letter [PD-010] and key Examination dates.
05/01/2025	Email	Coastal Erosion	Lily Booth at the Environment Agency confirmed she would provide feedback on Coastal Erosion and requested the Coastal Erosion Rate Technical Note [AS-116].

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title / Topic	Summary of Consultation
06/01/2025	Email	Coastal Erosion	The Applicants provided the updated Coastal Erosion Rate Technical Note [AS-116].
07/01/2025	Email	Marine Physical Processes	Lily Booth confirmed her satisfaction with the new way of calculating the erosion rates is appropriate, that items 19 and 20 of the SoCG are agreed, and that item 18 remains not agreed.
07/01/2025	Email	SoCG	The Applicants followed up with the Environment Agency to ask if they have any comments on the onshore topics in the draft revision of the SoCG and requested a call to discuss.
10/01/2025	Email	SoCG	The Applicants followed up with the Environment Agency with further dates for a call to discuss SoCG matters and thanked Lily Booth for confirming her position.
23/01/2025	Email	SoCG	The Applicants shared the version of the SoCG they intend to submit to PINS at Deadline 1.
06/03/2025	Email	SoCG and Relevant Representations	The Applicants requested a meeting with the Environment Agency to confirm their position on the responses provided to the Relevant Representation in the SoCG ahead of Deadline 4, DCO protective provisions (requested a copy of their wording/comments) and agreement on the scope of River Condition Assessment Surveys and to remind them a response to the ExA's Written Questions was due on the 19 th March.
06/03/2025	Email	Data Request	Data request sent to the central team to request further flood risk data in the location of the TCC's, located in Flood Zone 3.
07/03/2025	Email	SoCG and Relevant Representations	Confirmation the EA would attend a meeting in the next two weeks and send the protective provision wording.

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title / Topic	Summary of Consultation
21/03/2025	Email	DCO Protective Provisions	The Environment Agency's most recent standard set of protective provisions (January 2025) were issued.
27/03/2025	Email	Marine Physical Processes	Lily Booth confirmed agreement with the mitigation proposed by the Applicants regarding nearshore cable protection.
02/04/2025	Email	Environment Agency Response to Written Questions at DL3 and SoCG	Request to discuss the Environment Agency responses to written questions at Deadline 3 and seek a meeting date to agree the current draft of the SoCG agreed ahead of the ISH4 hearings. Draft SoCG Issued.
04/04/2025	Email	DCO Protective Provisions	The Applicants issued their comments on the DCO protective provisions and requested a meeting.
11/04/2025	Email	Meeting Request	A further meeting request and proposed agenda was issued, following ISH4. Draft SoCG Issued 02/04 attached for reference.
15/04/2025	Email	Meeting Dates	Meeting dates provided by the Environment Agency.
16/04/2025	Email	Shape Files	Shapefiles requested by the Environment Agency and sent by the Applicants the same day, along with confirmation of a meeting on the 22 nd April.
22/04/2025	Meeting	SoCG, Written Question responses, Deadline 4 and Flood Risk Data	Meeting to agree SoCG Flood Risk Issues ahead of Deadline 4, agreement made to update the SoCG but keep issues under discussion and follow up meeting required. Flood risk data discussed to feed into technical note being prepared for Deadline 5 and outstanding responses to the ExA's written questions.
22/04/2025	Email	Data Request	Response provided to the data request regarding the 2013 Hull and Holderness modelling.

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title / Topic	Summary of Consultation
23/04/2025	Email	SoCG	The Applicants issued the SoCG and let the Environment Agency know this version would be submitted at Deadline 4.
04/06/2025	Email	SoCG	The Applicants informed the Environment Agency of the key dates relating to the submission of the SoCG at Deadline 8, outlined the remaining matters for agreement and asked to meet to discuss.
06/06/2025	Email	SoCG	Matthew Wilcock confirmed he will be the one to sign the SoCG ahead of Deadline 8, and let the Applicants know that the Protective Provision wording as submitted could not be agreed by the Environment Agency.
12/06/2025	Meeting	Protective Provisions	The Applicants and the Environment Agency met to discuss the Protective Provisions. All matters were agreed except one which the Environment Agency would discuss with their legal team post the meeting.
19/06/2025	Meeting	Ecology	The Applicants discussed the Environment Agency's submission at Deadline 6 and the outstanding SoCG matters relating to Ecology. All matters were agreed.
19/06/2025	Meeting	Flood Risk	The Applicants discussed the Environment Agency's submission at Deadline 6 and the outstanding SoCG matters relating to Flood Risk.
25/06/2025	Email	SoCG	The Applicants issued the updated SoCG and updated Flood Risk Assessment for the Environment Agency's review.
27/06/2025	Email	SoCG	The Environment Agency confirmed their agreement with the updated Flood Risk assessment and all flood risk matters other than the Protective Provisions.
27/06/2025	Email	SoCG and Protective Provisions	The Environment Agency informed the Applicants that they would not accept the proposed amendments to paragraph 5 of the

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title / Topic	Summary of Consultation
			Protective Provisions, and that they would only accept their standard wording.
01/07/2025	Email	SoCG and Protective Provisions	The Applicants responded that they would accept the Environment Agency's draft Protective Provisions and that the updates to the Revision 11 of the draft DCO would be made at Deadline 8.
01/07/2025	Email	SoCG	The Applicants reissued the SoCG with all matters agreed for the Environment Agency to sign.
01/07/2025	Email	SoCG	The Environment Agency returned the signed SoCG with all matters agreed.

3 Agreement Log

3.1 Overview

16. The following sections of this SoCG summarise the level of agreement between the parties for each relevant onshore and offshore topic.
17. To easily identify whether a matter is 'agreed', 'not agreed' or 'under discussion', a colour coding system, red, amber, green, is used respectively within the 'position status colour' column as set out in **Table 3-1**.

Table 3-1 - Agreement logs position status key

Position Status	Position Status Colour
The matter is considered to be agreed between the parties.	Agreed
The matter is neither 'agreed' or 'not agreed' and is a matter where further discussion is required between the parties, for example where relevant documents are being prepared or reviewed.	Under discussion
The matter is not agreed between the parties, however the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicant or the Environment Agency is not considered to result in a material impact to the assessment conclusions. Discussions have concluded.	Not agreed – No material impact
The matter is not agreed between the parties and the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicant or the Environment Agency is considered to result in a materially different outcome on the assessment conclusions.	Not agreed – material impact

3.2 General

Table 3-2 - General Topics agreed or not agreed with the Environment Agency

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
Consultation			
1.	<p>The Applicants have adequately consulted with the Environment Agency throughout all stages of the Projects to date and the summary of Consultation (section 2.2 of this SoCG) is a fair and accurate record of pre-application consultation.</p> <p>Section 2 of this document evidences the engagement and consultation process between the Parties. It is the Applicant's position that the Environment Agency have been appropriately engaged throughout the Application process by the Applicant.</p>		
2.	<p>The Environment Agency have been adequately consulted on the Project Change Request 2 – Onshore Substation Zone which was provided to the Environment Agency as part of a targeted non-statutory consultation exercise on 14th November 2024 by the Applicants.</p>	<p>The Project Change Request 2 was under consultation until the 16/12/2024, no comments were received.</p>	
Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives			
3.	<p>The site selection and route refinement outlined in Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives [AS-017] has properly considered the alternatives for the relevant elements of the Projects.</p>	<p>The Environment Agency confirmed in Onshore Ecology and Ornithology – Pre-Scoping (14/09/2021) that they agree with the approach</p>	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
		taken to considering constraints for site selection.	

3.3 Marine Physical Environment

Table 3-3 - Topics agreed or not agreed in relation to Marine Physical Environment

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
EIA – Planning and Policy			
4.	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in section 8.4.1 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email 28/10/2024 that this matter is agreed.	
EIA – Baseline Environment			
5.	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment in as detailed in section 8.5 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o].	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email 28/10/2024 that this matter is agreed.	
6.	Sufficient site-specific survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within section 8.5 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o].	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email 28/10/2024 that this matter is agreed.	
EIA – Assessment Methodology			
7.	The study area identified in section 8.3.1 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o] is appropriate.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email 28/10/2024 that this matter is agreed.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
8.	The realistic worst case scenario presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 8-1 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o] is appropriate.	No response received on this point from the Environment Agency, assumed agreed.	
9.	The embedded mitigation in Table 8-3 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o] are appropriate.	No response received on this point from the Environment Agency, assumed agreed.	
10.	The project-specific numerical modelling undertaken for the assessment as presented in the Marine Physical Processes Modelling Technical Report [APP-o84] is sufficient to inform the assessment of effects presented in section 8.6 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o].	No response received on this point from the Environment Agency, assumed agreed.	
11.	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, as presented in section 8.4.3 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o] provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts on the Projects.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email 28/10/2024 that this matter is agreed.	
12.	The assessment of the significance of effects presented in section 8.7 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email 28/10/2024 that this matter is agreed.	
13.	Section 8.7.3 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during construction.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email 28/10/2024 that this matter is agreed.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
14.	Section 8.7.4 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during operation.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email 28/10/2024 that this matter is agreed.	
15.	The assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 8.8 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	No response received on this point from the Environment Agency, assumed agreed	
EIA - Assessment Conclusions			
16.	The conclusions of assessment of significance as detailed in section 8.7 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	No response received on this point from the Environment Agency, assumed agreed	
EIA – Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) Conclusions			
17.	The conclusions of the CEA as detailed in section 8.8 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	No response received on this point from the Environment Agency, assumed agreed	
Other Matters as Required			
18.	The proposed minimising of cable protection measures in the nearshore environment is considered acceptable with regards to the significance of effect assessed in section 8.7 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o].	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email dated 27 th March 2025 that they were satisfied with the information provided and with the mitigation proposed by the Applicants, and that the position of this item as agreed.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
	The Applicants provided further information regarding their position regarding cable protection in the nearshore environment to the Environment Agency in an email dated 27 th March 2025. This included references to the Applicants responses provided to Natural England on the matter through the pre-examination and examination process to date and the proposed plans to submit an updated physical processes modelling technical note at Deadline 5, focused specifically on the nearshore environment.		
19.	No significant effects on coastal processes within the landfall and wider region will occur as a result of the Projects. The Applicants provided an update to the baseline coastal processes data in the Coastal Erosion Rate Technical Note [AS-116] which answers queries provided by the Environment Agency's on 23 rd August 2024.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email 07/01/2025 that this matter is agreed.	
20.	The coastal erosion rate data presented in Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o] is sufficient to inform the assessment. The Applicants provided an update to the baseline coastal processes data in the Coastal Erosion Rate Technical Note [AS-116] which answers queries provided by the Environment Agency's on 23 rd August 2024.	In an email separate to their RR the Environment Agency requested more information on the coastal erosion rates the Applicants presented in the report. They also queried whether there was a mistake in the data presented in Table 8-20 of Chapter 8 Marine Physical Environment [APP-o8o]. The Environment Agency since confirmed in an email 07/01/2025 that this matter is agreed.	

3.4 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology

Table 3-4 - Topics agreed or not agreed in relation to Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
EIA – Planning and Policy			
21.	<p>All relevant plans and policies have been identified in section 18.4.1 of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.</p> <p>The Applicants confirmed in the meeting 7th November 2024 that the new East Riding of Yorkshire Council Local Plan has been referred to in the update to Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [AS-110] submitted to the ExA on 22nd November 2024.</p>	<p>A comment was raised in the Environment Agency's RR to request reference to the more recent East Riding of Yorkshire Local Plan.</p> <p>The Environment Agency confirmed in the 07/11/2024 meeting that updating the wording of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [PDC-002] would address their comment.</p>	
EIA – Baseline Environment			
22.	<p>The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment in of the Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology risks as detailed in section 18.5 of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] Discussed and agreed in the Onshore Ecology and Ornithology – Pre-Scoping (14/09/2021) and Terrestrial Ecology (11/12/2023) ETGs.</p>	<p>The Environment Agency confirmed in the Onshore Ecology and Ornithology – Pre-Scoping (14/09/2021) and Terrestrial Ecology (11/12/2023) ETGs they agree with the approach to categorising the baseline.</p> <p>The Environment Agency further confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.</p>	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
23.	Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within section 18.6 of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140].	<p>The Environment Agency confirmed in the Onshore Ecology and Ornithology – Pre-Scoping ETG (14/09/2021) they agree with the data sources and approach to data collection used to characterise the baseline and the ecological receptors and features being scoped into the survey effort.</p> <p>The Environment Agency further confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.</p>	
24.	The impacts scoped in for further assessment detailed in section 18.3.1 of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] are appropriate.	<p>The Environment Agency confirmed in the Onshore Ecology and Ornithology – Pre-Scoping ETG (14/09/2021) they agree with the impacts scoped in for further assessment.</p> <p>The Environment Agency further confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.</p>	
EIA – Assessment Methodology			
25.	The study areas identified in section 18.3.2 of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] are appropriate.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
26.	The realistic worst case scenario presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 18-2 of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] are appropriate.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
27.	The embedded Mitigation in Table 18-4 of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] are appropriate.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
28.	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, as presented in section 18.4.3 of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts on the Projects.	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Onshore Ecology and Ornithology – Pre-Scoping ETG (14/09/2021) they agree with the approach to the Ecological Impact Assessment. The Environment Agency further confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
29.	The assessment of significance presented in section 18.6 Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
30.	Section 18.6.1 of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during construction.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
31.	Section 18.6.2 Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during operation.	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Terrestrial Ecology ETG (19/03/2024) that they agree with the impacts scoped out that do not	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
		<p>require further assessment. As such the impacts scoped in are agreed.</p> <p>The Environment Agency further confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.</p>	
32.	<p>The additional mitigation set out in section 18.6 of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] is acceptable and appropriate.</p> <p>The Applicants confirmed in the 7th November 2024 meeting that the wording of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] has been updated in the to reflect the Environment Agency's comments. The additional wording is included in Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology (Revision 3) [AS-110].</p>	<p>RR commented on Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] para 344 (p.115) <i>'If vegetation removal is required during the bird nesting season, an ornithologist/ecologist should be on site and oversee each section that is cut down. Leaving it for 48 hours after the initial check, risks birds coming in and starting nesting'</i> and on para 454 (p.151) that <i>'As well as covering excavations at night, they should also be fitted with a ramp to allow pets and wild animals to escape if they should fall into them'</i>.</p> <p>The Environment Agency confirmed in the 07/11/2024 meeting that updating the wording of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [PDC-002] would address their comment.</p>	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
33.	The assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 18.8 of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
EIA - Assessment Conclusions			
34.	The conclusions of the assessment of significance as detailed in in section 18.6 of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
35.	The conclusions of the impact assessment as detailed in section 18.12 of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] are appropriate in relation to residual significant effects identified in relation to breeding birds and ancient woodland.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
EIA – CEA Conclusions			
36.	The conclusions of the CEA as detailed in section 18.8 of Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring			
37.	The Outline Ecological Management Plan (OEMP) [AS-114] includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] and is appropriate	The Environment Agency submitted in their RR that as well as covering excavations at night, they should also be fitted with a ramp to allow	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
	<p>for managing construction impacts from the Projects on ecological receptors.</p> <p>Requirement 12 of the Draft DCO is to submit a EMP to the planning authority in consultation with Natural England and (where works have potential to affect wetland habitat) the Environment Agency for approval post-consent is appropriate.</p>	<p>pets and wild animals to escape if they should fall into them.</p> <p>The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.</p>	
38.	<p>The outcomes of the biodiversity assessment set out in the BNG Strategy [APP-157] are agreed and Requirement 32 of the Draft DCO to submit a revised net gain strategy, based on the final design to the planning authority for approval post-consent is appropriate.</p> <p>The Environment Agency's comments in their RR were addressed in the updated Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Revision 2) [REP5-015]. The requirement for the Applicants to provide no net loss for Biodiversity, but not a 10% net gain under the Environment Act (2021) was discussed at the 19th June 2025 SoCG meeting and it was confirmed that the understanding of both parties is that the Projects are not required to provide a 10% gain, but that they would seek to provide Biodiversity Net Gain where possible. The Applicants confirmed their commitment to no net loss and explained that the 2.7% loss of habitat units will be made up.</p> <p>The Environment Agency's comments on the 30-year management of habitats were discussed at the 19th June 2025 meeting, and it was agreed that it was acceptable for the time period of habitat management to be based on the guidance due to be published ahead</p>	<p>Comments were raised in the RR on the following elements of the BNG strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing Baseline Information / Data – River Condition Assessment; Watercourse Strategic Significance; Watercourse Distinctiveness; Failure to Demonstrate No Net Loss or Biodiversity Net Gain; and Opportunity for river restoration to support BNG & Humber RBMP. <p>At the 19th June 2025 SoCG meeting the Environment Agency agreed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The updated Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Revision 2) [REP5-015] is acceptable; Their understanding that the Projects do not need to provide a 10% net gain, and that they will be providing no net loss; 	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
	<p>of the November 2026 Biodiversity Net Gain guidance, and guided by East Riding of Yorkshire Council.</p> <p>Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy was further discussed at the 19th June 2025 SoCG meeting regarding the RCA surveys undertaken in Spring 2025 and watercourse distinctiveness, which were submitted at Deadline 5 within the Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Revision 2) [REP5-015].</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the habitat management periods will be subject to guidance due to be published ahead of the November 2026 Biodiversity Net Gain guidance; and That the river conditions assessments carried out were acceptable and addressed the Environment Agency's previous comments 	
Other Matters as Required			
39.	There are no impacts upon fisheries as per Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140].	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
40.	The responses provided to the Environment Agency's Section 42 Consultation comments on the 28/11/2023 and included in the Consultation Report Appendix G [APP-044] are appropriate and acceptable.	<p>The Environment Agency confirmed in the Terrestrial Ecology ETG (11/12/2023) they accept the responses to the PEIR comments provided in advance of the ETG.</p> <p>The Environment Agency further confirmed in an email (24/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.</p>	
41.	<p>Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology [APP-140] fully considers the following topics as set out in the Rule 6 Letter [PD-002]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> groundwater dependent ecosystems 	<p>A comment about chalk streams was raised in the Environment Agency's RR.</p> <p>The Environment Agency did not comment further on chalk rivers or groundwater ecosystems in an ecological capacity after the</p>	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
	In The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013] the Applicants set out that the cable route does not cross any chalk rivers. The Natural England Chalk Rivers data set (Chalk Rivers (England) Natural England Open Data Geoportal has been checked to confirm this.	receipt of The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013]. The matter is considered agreed and closed.	

3.5 Geology and Land Quality

Table 3-5 - Topics agreed or not agreed in relation to Geology and Land Quality

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
EIA – Planning and Policy			
42.	<p>All relevant plans and policies have been identified in section 19.4.1 of Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.</p> <p>The Environment Agency did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their RR. It is therefore considered by the Applicant that the matter is agreed.</p>		
EIA – Baseline Environment			
43.	<p>The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment in of the Geology and Land Quality risks as detailed in section 19.5 of Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158]. Discussed and agreed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETG (13/12/2023).</p>	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETG (13/12/2023) that they agree with the characterisation and coverage of the baseline environment.	
44.	<p>Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within section 19.6 of Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158].</p> <p>The Environment Agency did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or</p>		

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
	within their RR. It is therefore considered by the Applicant that the matter is agreed.		
EIA – Assessment Methodology			
45.	The study areas identified in section 19.3.2 of Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158] are appropriate.	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETG (13/12/2023) that they agree with the study area coverage.	
46.	The realistic worst case scenario presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 19-1 of Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158] are appropriate. The Environment Agency did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their RR. It is therefore considered by the Applicant that the matter is agreed.		
47.	The embedded mitigation measures in Table 19-3 of Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158] are appropriate. The Environment Agency did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their RR. It is therefore considered by the Applicant that the matter is agreed.		
48.	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, as presented in section 19.4.3 of Chapter 19 Geology and Land	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETG (13/12/2023) that they agree with the assessment methodologies,	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
	<p>Quality [APP-158], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts on the Projects.</p> <p>The Applicants have included potable groundwater abstractions within the Geo-environmental Desk Study and Preliminary Risk Assessment. The Applicants have also included an assessment on the identified potable groundwater abstractions within Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158].</p>	<p>including the scope of the Hydrogeological Risk Assessment.</p> <p>The Environment Agency requested in this ETG that potable ground water includes water intended for human consumption.</p>	
49.	The Receptors identified in section 19.6 of Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158] are appropriate.	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETG (13/12/2023) that they agree with the coverage of Receptors identified.	
50.	<p>The assessment of significance presented in section 19.6 of Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.</p> <p>The Environment Agency did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their RR. It is therefore considered by the Applicant that the matter is agreed.</p>		
51.	Section 19.6.1 of Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158] represents a comprehensive list of the potential effects during construction.	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETGs (13/12/2023 and 20/03/2024) that they agree with the potential effects during construction.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
52.	Section 19.6.2 of Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158] represents a comprehensive list of the potential effects during operation.	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETGs (13/12/2023 and 20/03/2024) that they agree with the potential effects during construction.	
53.	<p>The assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 19.8 of Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.</p> <p>The Environment Agency did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their RR. It is therefore considered by the Applicant that the matter is agreed.</p>		
EIA - Assessment Conclusions			
54.	The additional mitigation measures proposed in section 19.6.1 of Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158] during construction are appropriate and acceptable.	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETGs (13/12/2023 and 20/03/2024) that they agree with the mitigation measures proposed during construction.	
55.	The additional mitigation measures proposed in section 19.6.2 of Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158] during operation are appropriate and acceptable.	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETGs (13/12/2023 and 20/03/2024) that they agree with the mitigation measures proposed during operation.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
56.	<p>The conclusions of the assessment of significance as detailed in in section 19.6 of Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.</p> <p>The Environment Agency did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their RR. It is therefore considered by the Applicant that the matter is agreed.</p>		
EIA – CEA Conclusions			
57.	<p>The conclusions of the CEA as detailed in section 19.8 of Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.</p>	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETGs (13/12/2023 and 20/03/2024) that they agree with the approach and results of the CEA.	
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring			
58.	<p>The Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) [AS-094] includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158] and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Projects on geological and ground water receptors.</p> <p>Requirement 19 of the Draft DCO to submit a CoCP to the planning authority for approval post-consent is appropriate.</p>	<p>Comment received in the RR (RR-015: 22) in relation to works within SPZ1 and the requirement for appropriate mitigation. However, this was agreed at the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) meeting on the 09/10/2024 that no amendments to the application were required.</p>	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
59.	The Onshore Waste Assessment [APP-162] is appropriate and agreed.	Comment made in the RR (RR-015: 23) on ' <i>Mirror entry non-hazardous wastes and the WM₃ guidance</i> '. However this was agreed at the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) meeting on the 09/10/2024 that no amendments to the application were required.	
Other Matters as Required			
60.	The responses to the Environment Agency's Section 42 Consultation comments in Consultation Report Appendix G [APP-044] provided as a written response on the 3 rd November 2023 are appropriate and acceptable.	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETG (13/12/2023) that they agree with the Section 42 Consultation responses as provided in written correspondence.	
61.	<p>Volume 7, Chapter 19 Geology and Land Quality [APP-158] fully considers the following topics as set out in the Rule 6 Letter [PD-002]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land contamination; Ground water and SPZ's; Identification and assessment of existing landfill; and Waste Management. <p>Specific comments on SPZ's and waste management were raised in the Environment Agency RR RR-015: 22 and RR-015: 23 and have been agreed, as detailed above.</p>		

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
	The Environment Agency has not raised any further issues on contamination or existing landfill throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their RR. It is therefore considered by the Applicant that the matter is agreed.		

3.6 Flood Risk and Hydrology

Table 3-6 - Topics agreed or not agreed in relation to Flood Risk and Hydrology

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
EIA – Planning and Policy			
62.	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in section 20.4.1 of Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
EIA – Baseline Environment			
63.	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment in of the Flood Risk and Hydrology risks as detailed in section 20.5 of Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163]. Discussed and agreed in the Water Resources – Pre -Scoping (17/09/2021) ETG.	<p>The Environment Agency confirmed in the Water Resources – Pre-Scoping (17/09/2021) and Flood Risk and Geology (13/12/2023) ETGs that they agree with the approach to characterising the baseline.</p> <p>In the Water Resources – Pre-Scoping (17/09/2021) the Environment Agency agreed with the baseline characterisation if future flood risk models and coastal change (Shoreline Management Plans) were considered. The Applicant has taken all current and relevant models, studies, and reports into account in the Flood Risk Assessment. This matter was closed out in the Flood Risk and Geology (13/12/2023) ETG.</p>	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
		The Environment Agency further confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
64.	Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within section 20.6 of Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163].	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Water Resources – Pre-Scoping (17/09/2021) ETG they agree with the approach to data collection.	
65.	The Receptors identified in section 20.6 of Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163] are appropriate.	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETG (13/12/2023) that they agree with the Receptors identified. The Environment Agency further confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
66.	The impacts scoped in for further assessment detailed in section 20.3.1 of Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163] are appropriate.	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Water Resources – Pre-Scoping (17/09/2021) ETG they agree with the impacts scoped in for further assessment. The Environment Agency further confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
EIA – Assessment Methodology			

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
67.	The study areas identified in section 20.3.2 of Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163] are appropriate.	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology (13/12/2023) ETG that they agree with the study areas identified. The Environment Agency further confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
68.	The realistic worst case scenario presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 20-1 of Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163] are appropriate.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
69.	The embedded mitigation measures in Table 20-3 of Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163] are appropriate.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
70.	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, as presented in section 20.4.3 of Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts on the Projects.	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Water Resources – Pre-Scoping (17/09/2021) and Flood Risk and Geology (13/12/2023) ETGs that they agree with the approach to the impact assessment methodologies. The Environment Agency further confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
71.	The assessment of significance presented in section 20.6 of Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Environment Agency's Position	Position Status
72.	Section 20.6.1 of Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163] represents a comprehensive list of the potential effects during construction.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
73.	Section 20.6.2 of Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163] represents a comprehensive list of the potential effects during operation.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
74.	The additional mitigation set out in section 20.6.1 of Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163] is appropriate and acceptable.	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETG (20/03/2024) that they agree with the proposed mitigation. The Environment Agency further confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
75.	The assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 20.8 of Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
EIA - Assessment Conclusions			
76.	The conclusions of the assessment of significance as detailed in in section 20.6 of Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
EIA – CEA Conclusions			

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77.	The conclusions of the CEA as detailed in section 20.8 of Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	<p>The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETG (13/12/2023) that they agree with the outcomes of the CEA.</p> <p>The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.</p>	
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring			
78.	<p>The Protective Provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the Draft DCO [AS-120] are considered appropriate.</p> <p>The Applicants received the draft protective provisions on the 21st March 2025 and provided comments to the Environment Agency on the 4th April 2025. Following this, a meeting to discuss the Protective Provisions was held on 12th June 2025, and were discussed further at the 19th June 2025 meeting.</p> <p>Following the Environment Agency's email on 27th June 2025, the Applicants have agreed to update the draft DCO (Revision 11) [document reference 3.1] to include reference to the Environment Agency's Protective Provisions. The matter is now agreed.</p>	<p>Bespoke protective provisions for the protection of the Environment Agency are included in Part 3, Schedule 15 of the draft DCO (Revision 10) [document reference 3.1].</p> <p>The Environment Agency considered whether it would be appropriate to agree to the disapplication of EPR and FRA permits. The Environment Agency then issued draft Protective Provisions on the 21st March 2025 and provided comments to the Environment Agency on the 4th April 2025.</p> <p>The Applicants met with the Environment Agency on the 12th June 2025 to discuss the protective provisions. The main outstanding point related to the ability of the Environment Agency to serve a notice requiring works to cease on the Projects in certain circumstances, where the Applicants were seeking some</p>	

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		<p>amendments to the wording suggested by the Environment Agency.</p> <p>The Environment Agency advised by email on 27th June 2025 that they would not accept the Applicants' proposed amendments to paragraph 5, and that they would only accept the wording proposed in their standard Protective Provisions. The Applicants responded on 1^e July 2025 to state they agree to include the Environment Agency's Protective Provisions in the draft DCO.</p>	
79.	<p>The Outline CoCP [AS-094] includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in Chapter 20 Flood Risk and Hydrology [APP-163] and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Projects on ecological receptors.</p> <p>Requirement 19 of the Draft DCO to submit a CoCP to the planning authority for approval post-consent is appropriate.</p>	<p>The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETG (13/12/2023) that they agree with the proposed mitigation measures.</p> <p>The Environment Agency's comments regarding haul road design and additional mitigation measures in Flood Zones 2 and 3 were closed out and agreed in this meeting.</p> <p>The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.</p>	
80.	<p>The Outline Drainage Strategy [AS-098] includes sufficient clarification regarding Greenfield run-off rates and is appropriate and acceptable.</p>	<p>The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETG (20/03/2024) they agree with the Outline Drainage Strategy.</p>	

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		The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
81.	The outcomes of the Flood Risk Assessment [APP-168] including the climate change allowances are acceptable.	<p>The draft Flood Risk Assessment was discussed with the Environment Agency in the Flood Risk and Geology ETG (20/03/2024) and no points of discussion were raised regarding the document.</p> <p>The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.</p>	
82.	<p>The outcomes of the Water Environment Regulations Compliance Assessment (WER) [AS-074] are acceptable.</p> <p>It was discussed at the SoCG meeting on the 22nd April and agreed that there would be no permanent culverts crossings of main rivers. It was confirmed the one temporary Ordinary water course crossings would be agree with the EA for a haul road.</p>	<p>The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETG (13/12/2023) they agree with the WER.</p> <p>Further comments were raised in their RR. At the SoCG meeting on the 22nd April 2025 the Environment Agency agreed that the depth of crossings could be confirmed as part of the Crossing Method Statement and this would include consideration of '<i>local geology and geomorphological risks</i>' to agree a suitable depth to avoid future exposure and consider potential maintenance activities. They queried how the requirement to agree a Crossing Method Statement was secured in the DCO, which was then discussed and agreed at the</p>	

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		19 th June 2025 meeting and confirmed that it is secured by the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision 4) [REP4-040] and Development Consent Order (Revision 8) [REP5-002] Requirement 19.	
Other Matters as Required			
83.	<p>The Crossing methodology for Flood Risk and Hydrology assets detailed in the Obstacle Crossing Register [APP-074] is appropriate and acceptable.</p> <p>Vibration and settlement predictions will be considered in the detailed design of the trenchless crossing e.g. Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) methodology to specify a drill path and depth to avoid impact on existing assets being crossed. As was detailed in section 6.3.2.7 the of the Outline Code of Construction Practice (OCoCP) [AS-094], the Applicants have committed to Flood Defence Monitoring to be agreed with the Environment Agency prior to construction. This was discussed at the meeting on the 22nd April and agreed.</p> <p>In the 19th June 2025 meeting the main crossings for rivers were discussed and the Environment Agency agreed that the wording within the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision 4) [REP4-040], secured by Draft Development Consent Order (Revision 8) [REP5-002] Requirement 19 is acceptable.</p>	<p>The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETGs (13/12/2023 & 20/03/2024) that they agree with the Crossing methodology.</p> <p>Vibration and settlement predictions will be considered in the detailed design of the trenchless crossing were agreed by the Environment Agency at the 22nd April 2025 meeting.</p> <p>However further comments were raised in their RR, and around reinstatement and monitoring in their Response to Issue Specific Hearing 4 Action Points and Rule 17 letter [REP4-108].</p> <p>These comments were discussed at the 19th June 2025 Flood Risk meeting and it was agreed that and the wording in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision 4)</p>	

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		[REP4-040], secured by Requirement 19 of the Draft Development Consent Order (Revision 8) [REP5-002] resolves these concerns. Piling was also discussed, and it was agreed that this was sufficiently secured by Requirement 19, and that Temporary Culvert Design is sufficiently covered by the Crossing Methodology.	
84.	The responses to the Environment Agency's Section 42 Consultation comments in Consultation Report Appendix G [APP-044] provided as a written response on the 11 th November 2023 are appropriate and acceptable. Additional clarification regarding the 30-year design lifetime was added to the FRA in response to the Environment Agency's Section 42 Consultation comments.	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETG (20/03/2024) that they agree with the Applicant's response to their Section 42 Consultation comments. The Environment Agency confirmed in an email (25/10/2024) that this matter is agreed.	
85.	The Works proposed to be undertaken in Flood Zones 2 and 3 are appropriate and acceptable. The two TCCs located outside of Flood Zone 1 were discussed at the 19 th June 2025 meeting considering the Flood Risk and Climate Change Technical Note [REP5-039]. It was confirmed that the Environment Agency are satisfied with the findings on the potential impacts to Section 7 - TCC-A. The 'defence reach removed' scenario in relation to Section 8 - TCC-B was discussed and it was clarified by the Applicants that the scenario is unlikely to occur as it would require the entire defence to be	The Environment Agency confirmed in the Flood Risk and Geology ETG (13/12/2023) that they agree with the proposed Works. The Environment Agency then raised comments in their RR [RR-015]. The Environment Agency provided comments on this matter in their Response to Rule 17 Request for Information [REP6-063]. These comments were discussed at the 19 th June	

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	removed, and that the changes in elevation between Section 8 - TCC-B and the area of removed defence is such that water from the River Hull would have to travel uphill to flood Section 8 - TCC-B. The Applicants will include this detail as part of an update to the Flood Risk and Climate Change Technical Note (Revision 2) [document reference 15.5]. This was accepted by the Environment Agency and the matter confirmed as agreed subject to this update.	2025 meeting and it was confirmed the matter is agreed.	

4 Summary

18. This SoCG has outlined the consultation that has taken place between the Applicants and the Environment Agency during the pre-application and pre-examination phases. This SoCG has been updated throughout the Examination and represents the agreed position and final SoCG between the Applicants and the Environment Agency at Deadline 8.

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