

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

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

Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

**Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farm Project 1 Projco
Limited, Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farm Project
2 Projco Limited, and Dogger Bank Offshore Wind
Farm Project 3 Projco Limited Statement of
Common Ground (Revision 3)
Submission for Deadline 8**

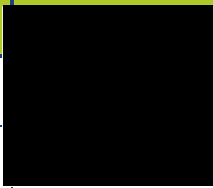
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Glossary

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 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.
National Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)	Large scale development including power generating stations which requires development consent under the Planning Act 2008. An offshore wind farm project with a capacity of more than 100 MW constitutes an NSIP.
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
Section 42 Consultee	Organisations and individuals that are required to be consulted by the Applicants under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. Non-prescribed Section 42 consultees may be included by Applicants if identified as being of significance.
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 Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) was presented as part of this consultation.
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

Term	Definition
AEP	Annual Energy Production
DBS	Dogger Bank South
DCO	Development Consent Order
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
ExA	Examining Authority
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IP	Interested Party
ISH ₂	Issue Specific Hearing 2
ISH ₃	Issue Specific Hearing 3
ISH ₆	Issue Specific Hearing 6
NPS	National Policy Statement
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PPs	Protective Provisions
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SoS	Secretary of State
TCE	The Crown Estate

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1. The Application is for development consent for the Applicants to construct and operate the proposed Projects under the Planning Act 2008. Further description of the Projects is available in **Chapter 5 Project Description** [REP7-032].
2. 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 Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farm Project 1 Projco Limited ('DBA Projco'), Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farm Project 2 Projco Limited ('DBB Projco') and Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farm Project 3 Projco Limited ('DBC Projco'), collectively known as 'the Projcos' 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').
3. In drafting this SoCG, the Applicants have had regard to the Planning Act 2008: 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 Projcos is set out within the Rule 4, 6, 9, 13, and 17 letter [PD-010] dated 17th December 2024, issued by the Planning Inspectorate post-application of the Projects' DCO. Within the letter, the Planning Inspectorate requested the SoCG to include but not be limited to:
 - Whether potential wake loss and effects on annual energy production form a material consideration to the Examination of the Proposed Development, with reference to paragraphs 2.8.197 and 2.8.347 of National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-3 (or any others deemed relevant);
 - What effects the Proposed Development would have on annual energy production of offshore wind farms owned by the Interested Parties from wake loss caused by the Proposed Development;
 - Whether any effects on annual energy production would affect the viability of operation of those wind farms;
 - Potential cumulative wake loss effects on annual energy production; and
 - What types of mitigation could reduce any potential wake loss effects, or what other measures could be utilised to mitigate effects (such as Protective Provisions, Proximity Agreements or a requirement in the **Draft DCO (Revision 10)** [document reference: 3.1].

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 Projcos, and which have been raised within the following submissions by the Projcos to the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farm DCO that has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate pursuant to the Planning Act 2008:
- **Projcos' Relevant Representation** [RR-007];
 - **Written Representation** [REP1-071];
 - **Deadline 2 Submission** [REP2-071];
 - **Response to Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1)** [REP3-063];
 - **Post-hearing submissions including written summaries of oral cases and other documents requested by the ExA at the Hearings** [REP4-117];
 - **Response to The Examining Authority's Second Written Questions (ExQ2)** [REP5-071];
 - **Assessment of Potential Dogger Bank South Wake Impacts Rev 01** [REP5-070]; and
 - **Post-hearing submissions including written summaries of oral cases and other documents requested by the ExA at the Hearings** [REP6-081]
6. It is the intention that this document will facilitate further discussions between the Applicants and the Projcos 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.

1.2 Approach to SoCG

7. This SoCG has been developed during the examination phases of the Projects in accordance with discussions between the Applicants and the Projcos.
8. The structure of this SoCG is as follows:
- **Introduction:** background to the development of the SoCG.
 - **Consultation:** a summary of consultation to date.
 - **Agreement Log:** a record of the Applicants' position alongside those of the Projcos relating to topics discussed between parties and the status of agreement on those topics.

2 Consultation and Engagement

2.1 Introduction

9. The Projcos note within their **Relevant Representation** [RR-007] and **Written Representation** [REP1-071] that insufficient information has been provided to allow the Projcos to understand the impacts of wake loss or productivity losses from the Projects on DBA Projco, DBB Projco and DBC Projco. The Projcos do not consider that the information provided in **Chapter 16 Infrastructure and Other Users (Revision 2)** [REP1-012] is sufficient to reach a reasoned conclusion on the impacts of wake loss or productivity loss. As a result, the Projcos do not consider that the Applicants have met their obligations under NPS EN-3. The Projcos remain open to collaborating with the Applicants to inform a coordinated position.
10. The Projcos have been consulted on the proposed development throughout the pre-application stage, as well as via non-statutory and statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.

2.2 Consultation and Engagement Summary

11. **Table 2-1** summarises the consultation that the Applicants have undertaken with the Projcos as statutory or non-statutory consultation during the pre-application and post-application phases.

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

Date	Form of consultation	Originator of communications	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
Pre – Application				
10/05/2023	Email	The Applicants	Project Intro	Request for meeting.
15/05/2023	Email	The Projcos	Project Intro	Request for meeting.
16/05/2023	Meeting	The Applicants	Project Intro	Introductory call.
18/05/2023	Email	The Projcos	Query on legal entity	Query on DBS legal entity.
15/09/2023	Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) Consultation	The Projcos	Wake Loss	The Projcos' response to Section 42 consultation on PEIR. See Appendix G Section 42 and 47 Responses and Applicants

Date	Form of consultation	Originator of communications	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
				regard [APP-044] and Appendix 16-1 - Infrastructure and Other Users Consultation Responses [APP-132].
02/05/2024	Email	The Applicants	Draft Chapter 16 Infrastructure and Other Users [APP-130]	Draft Chapter 16 Infrastructure and Other Users [APP-130] provided to the Projcos for comment ahead of submission.
13/05/2024	Email	The Projcos	Draft Chapter 16 Infrastructure and Other Users [APP-130]	Request for wake loss modelling assessment to be provided for consideration alongside Chapter 16 Infrastructure and Other Users [APP-130].
04/06/2024	Emails	The Applicants	Wake loss modelling assessment	Update on progress of wake loss modelling assessment and submission.
Post – Application				
01/08/2024	Emails	The Projcos	Wake loss modelling assessment	Following up on the request regarding the sharing of the wake loss modelling assessment.
06/08/2024	Email	The Projcos	Wake loss modelling assessment	Following up on the request regarding the sharing of the wake loss modelling assessment or sharing of model parameters
29/08/2024	Email	The Projcos	Wake loss modelling assessment	Request for call to provide an update on the wake loss modelling assessment.

Date	Form of consultation	Originator of communications	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
09/09/2024	Environmental Statement Consultation	The Projcos	Relevant Representation	The Projcos' Relevant Representation [RR-007] was published by the Planning Inspectorate.
08/10/2024	Relevant Representation Response	The Applicants	Relevant Representation	The Applicants responded to the Relevant Representations from the Projcos within The Applicants' Responses to Relevant Representations [PDA-013].
23/12/2024	Email	The Projcos	Wake loss modelling assessment	Request for a call to provide an update on the wake loss modelling assessment.
07/01/2025	Email	The Applicants	Wake loss modelling assessment	Confirmation on the Applicants' unavailability for a call ahead of Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2). Notification of draft SoCG in preparation.
08/01/2025	Emails	The Applicants	Wake loss modelling assessment	Confirmation on the Applicants' new availability for a call ahead of ISH2.
09/01/2025	Meeting	All	Wake loss modelling assessment	Update call where the Applicants informed the Projcos that they will not be sharing the basis of assessment for wake loss.
14/01/2025	Email	The Applicants	Wake loss modelling parameters	Confirmation that wake loss modelling parameters cannot be shared with the Projcos, as they contain commercially sensitive information.

Date	Form of consultation	Originator of communications	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
15/01/2025	Meeting	All	ISH 2	Attendance by the Projco's legal representative at ISH2 to discuss agenda items regarding wake loss.
20/01/2025	Email	The Projcos	Wake loss modelling parameters	Confirmation that the Projcos are still open for collaboration with the Applicants regarding wake loss.
24/01/2025	Email	The Applicants	Draft SoCG	Issued draft SoCG for the Projcos to review. Stated to the Projcos that the Applicants were open to further meetings but the position on wake loss is unlikely to change.
29/01/2025	Environmental Statement Consultation	The Projcos	Written Representation	The Projcos' Written Representation [REP1-071] was published by the Planning Inspectorate.
10/02/2025	Email	The Projcos	Draft SoCG	The Projcos provided comments on the draft SoCG previously issued.
12/02/2025	Email	The Applicants	Draft SocG	The Applicants issued a revised draft of the SoCG to the Projcos.
13/02/2025	Email	The Projcos	Draft SoCG	The Projcos confirmed agreement of the draft SoCG for submission into Examination at Deadline 2.
14/02/2025	Written Representation Response	The Applicants	Written Representation	The Applicants responded to the Written Representations from the Projcos within The Applicants' Responses to

Date	Form of consultation	Originator of communications	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
				Deadline 1 Documents [REP2-058].
08/04/2025	Meeting	All	ISH3	Attendance by the Projco's legal representative at ISH3 to discuss agenda items regarding wake loss.
15/04/2025	Email	The Applicants	Draft SoCG (Revision 2)	The Applicants issued Revision 2 of the draft SoCG for the Projcos to review.
22/04/2025	Email	The Projcos	Draft SoCG (Revision 2)	The Projcos confirmed agreement on Revision 2 of the SoCG for submission at Deadline 4 providing the following wording is added to SOCG ID 2: <i>"The Projcos note that the Applicants are anticipating submitting materials at Deadline 4, including reference to the results of their withdrawn wake assessment, and reserve their right to update their position once these are submitted."</i>
23/04/2025	Email	The Applicants	Draft SoCG (Revision 2)	The Applicants issued an updated version of the SOCG which included the requested wording from the Projcos.
23/04/2025	Email	The Projcos	Draft SoCG (Revision 2)	The Projcos confirmed agreement of Revision 2 of the SoCG for submission into Examination at Deadline 4.
15/05/2025	Email	The Applicants	Projco's Wake Assessment	The Applicants advised that they have reviewed

Date	Form of consultation	Originator of communications	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
				<p>the Projco's wake assessment submitted at Deadline 4 [REP4-117] and requested the Projco's provide additional information so that the Applicants could work to understand the difference in wake assessment results presented for DBA.</p> <p>The Applicants suggested that their queries on the Projco's wake assessment be discussed via a meeting.</p>
20/05/2025	Email	The Applicants	Projco's Wake Assessment	<p>The Applicants asked whether the Projcos would be able to provide the information missing from their wake assessment in response to the Applicants' queries.</p>
20/05/2025	Email	The Projcos	Projco's Wake Assessment	<p>The Projcos advised that they would be submitting a wake assessment at Deadline 5 which would include the information requested by the Applicants.</p> <p>The Projcos confirmed they would be happy to consider the Applicants' request for a meeting with the Applicants' wake experts following review of the wake assessments by both parties.</p>
23/05/2025	Email	The Applicants	Projco's Wake Assessment	<p>The Applicants confirmed that they would review the Projco's wake assessment</p>

Date	Form of consultation	Originator of communications	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
				at Deadline 5 and follow up with any outstanding queries. The Applicants requested a copy of the Projco's wake assessment to be sent directly via email for their review.
28/05/2025	Email	The Applicants	Submission of the Applicants' wake assessment for DBB and DBC	The Applicants provided a copy of Addendum to Wake Effects - Response to ISH3 Action Points - Accepted at the discretion of the Examining Authority as a late submission for Deadline 5 [AS-179] to the Projcos.
02/06/2025	Email	The Applicants	Meeting 10/06/2025	The Applicants requested a meeting with the Projcos following submission of their wake assessment at Deadline 5.
02/06/2025	Email	The Projcos	Meeting 10/06/2025	The Projcos confirmed they were happy to meet with the Applicants and requested an agenda to be provided.
04/06/2025	Email	The Projcos	Meeting 10/06/2025	The Projcos asked the Applicants to provide dates for the suggested meeting.
04/06/2025	Email	The Applicants	Meeting 10/06/2025	The Applicants confirmed availability for a meeting on 10/06/2025 and provided an agenda.
05/06/2025	Meeting	All	ISH6	Attendance by the Projco's legal representative at ISH6 to discuss agenda items regarding wake loss.

Date	Form of consultation	Originator of communications	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
10/06/2025	Email	The Projcos	Meeting 10/06/2025	The Projcos asked for confirmation that neither party were bringing legal representatives to the meeting.
10/06/2025	Email	The Applicants	Meeting 10/06/2025	The Applicants confirmed that they would not have legal representatives in attendance.
10/06/2025	Meeting	The Applicants	Discussion to understand differences in wake assessments	The Applicants brought slides to the meeting to work through comments from the Projcos on the Applicants' assessment and to raise questions with the Projco's assessment as the Applicants had not been successful in replicating the Projco's reported effects.
11/06/2025	Email	The Projcos	Meeting Minutes	The Projcos asked when they could expect to receive the meeting minutes and slide pack.
11/06/2025	Email	The Applicants	Meeting Minutes	The Applicants confirmed the meeting minutes were in the process of being finalised and would be issued today.
11/06/2025	Email	The Applicants	Meeting Minutes	The Applicants issued a draft of the meeting minutes and slide pack presented for the Projcos' review and shared details of the bugs they had found in version of PyWake used by the Projcos.

Date	Form of consultation	Originator of communications	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
12/06/2025	Email	The Projcos	Meeting Minutes	The Projcos thanked the Applicants for the meeting minutes and slide park and confirmed that they would review the documents.
12/06/2025	Email	The Applicants	Meeting Minutes	The Applicants asked the Projcos whether they were able to review the meeting minutes with the aim to submit an agreed version at Deadline 6.
12/06/2025	Email	The Projcos	Meeting Minutes	The Projcos provided comments on the meeting minutes and advised that they could not agree to submission at Deadline 6.
12/06/2025	Email	The Applicants	Meeting Minutes	The Applicants acknowledged the comments from the Projcos and advised that a revised copy would be issued to the Projcos to resolve their comments.
19/06/2025	Email	The Applicants	Meeting Minutes	The Applicants issued a revised copy of the meeting minutes to the Projcos for review.
23/06/2025	Email	The Projcos	Meeting Minutes	The Projcos advised that they could not complete the review as some track changes were missing from the revised version.
23/06/2025	Email	The Applicants	Meeting Minutes	The Applicants sent a revised version of the meeting minutes to the Projcos.

Date	Form of consultation	Originator of communications	Meeting Title/Topic	Summary of Consultation
26/06/2025	Email	The Applicants	Meeting Minutes	The Applicants asked the Projcos whether the meeting minutes had been reviewed.
26/06/2025	Email	The Projcos	Meeting Minutes	The Projcos confirmed that, subject to the post meeting note on ABL height being removed, they were happy a clean version of the minutes could be submitted as agreed an agreed version.
27/06/2025	Email	The Applicants	Revised SoCG	<p>The Applicants issued the revised SoCG for the Projcos to review.</p> <p>The Applicants acknowledged that the meeting minutes had been agreed and noted that these would be appended to the final SoCG for submission at Deadline 8.</p>
02/07/2025	Email	The Projcos	Revised SoCG	The Projcos provided amendments to the revised SoCG and requested a clean version is issued to them for sign off.
02/07/2025	Email	The Applicants	Revised SoCG	The Applicants issued a clean version of the revised SoCG for sign off.
03/07/2025	Email	The Projcos	Revised SoCG	The Projcos returned a signed version of the revised SoCG.

3 Agreement Log

3.1 Overview

12. The following sections of this SoCG summarise the level of agreement between the parties for each relevant topic.
13. In order to easily identify whether a matter is 'agreed', 'not agreed' or 'under discussion', a colour coding system red, amber, green (RAG status) is used respectively within the 'status' column as set out in **Table 3-1**.

Table 3-1 - Agreement logs position status key

Position Status	Colour Code
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 Applicants or the Projcos 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 Applicants or the Projcos 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, in discussion or not agreed with the Projcos

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Projcos' Position	Position Status
Engagement			
1.	The Applicants have adequately consulted with the Projcos at the pre-application and acceptance 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>The Projcos are satisfied that they were adequately consulted at the pre-application stages (i.e. on the scoping report and PEIR) and at the acceptance stage but do not consider that the Applicants engaged on detailed wake loss modelling matters.</p> <p>The Projcos are content that section 2.2 of this document is a fair and accurate record of pre-application consultation.</p>	
2.	The Applicants have adequately consulted with the Projcos to date considering the accepted industry position on wake effects until recently. The Applicants therefore consider the Summary of Consultation (section 2.2 of this SoCG) is a fair and accurate record of post-application consultation.	The Projcos do not consider there to have been adequate consultation post-acceptance. This is because the Applicant has fundamentally changed the position it maintained throughout pre-application without an explanation or sufficient notice. The Applicants were willing to share wake loss modelling with the Projcos (and took the position that DBA Projco would be assessed) right up until the ISH, at which point they changed position. The Projcos do not consider that they	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Projcos' Position	Position Status
		<p>have been adequately consulted on the Applicants' new position, nor do they consider adequate consultation to have taken place throughout 'all stages' of the Projects to date.</p> <p>Whilst there has been engagement since Deadline 4, the Projcos consider that this has been too late to come to any agreements. This timing has only demonstrated the flaws in the engagement, which has been purely technical rather than solution-focused; most, if not all of which could have been closed out pre-application.</p> <p>The Projcos are content that section 2.2 of this document is a fair and accurate record of post-application consultation.</p>	
Wake Effects			
3.	<p>The Applicants consider that neither NPS nor the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 require an assessment of wake effects.</p> <p>The Applicants do not consider that the "Other offshore infrastructure and activities" policies in EN-3 apply to existing offshore wind farms and believe the new Secretary of State (SoS) needs to reconsider the NPS interpretation in the Awel y Mor decision. Even if</p>	<p>The Projcos do not agree with the Applicants' position on this topic, for the reasons set out in their Relevant Representation [RR-007], and their Deadline 1 submission [REP1-071] and all subsequent submissions.</p> <p>In summary, it is established precedent (following the Awel y Mor decision, which was reconfirmed by the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan) that the "Other offshore infrastructure and activities" policies in EN-3 do apply to existing offshore wind farms. Wake loss is a planning</p>	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Projcos' Position	Position Status
	<p>the Awel y Mor interpretation is followed, the Applicants consider that the application contains sufficient information to allow the Examining Authority and the SoS to reach a reasoned conclusion on the matters set out in paragraphs 2.8.342 – 2.8.348 to ensure that the relevant NPS policy tests have been met.</p> <p>With regard to the Examining Authority's request at the Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3) for further information in respect of the Applicants' withdrawn wake assessment conclusion previously referred to in Chapter 16 of the ES in relation to Dogger Bank A and the strong indication from the ExA of the risk of further delay to the Examination if the ExA's requested information on this matter is not provided, the Applicants responded to the questions raised by the Examining Authority at ISH3 in respect of the Applicants' withdrawn wake assessment at Deadline 4. This was done on a "without prejudice" basis. The Applicants' provided an assessment of wake effects at Deadline 4 [REP4-099] for Dogger Bank A and provided an assessment on other wind farms after Deadline 5 before ISH6 [AS-179].</p> <p>It should be noted that as stated during the Hearings and Applicants' submissions to date, we consider that</p>	<p>matter, and the mitigation hierarchy applies to the Projects and the consideration of wake loss.</p> <p>The Projco IP's have submitted their Updated Wake Loss Assessment and have set out the reasons why their assessment should be preferred in determining the impacts on DBA, DBB and DBC.</p> <p>The Projco IPs have identified that the matter of wake loss does not start and stop with the TCE process, which is separate to planning and which the TCE has addressed in its responses to this examination.</p> <p>The Projco IPs have set out in detail the rationale for the justification of the inclusion of protective provisions within the Order, and the Projco IPs and Applicants agree that as a matter of law and principle such a matter can be included in the Order. The Projco IPs have set out in detail the justification for the protective provisions and has demonstrated that the protective provisions are lawful, workable and justified. The parties are agreed that the tests for requirements in EN-1 do not strictly apply but the Projco IPs have addressed them in any event.</p> <p>The Projco IPs position is that the Applicant has wrongly disregarded policy in EN-1 and EN-3 in spite of Awel y Mor and that it is not compliant with a number of these</p>	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Projcos' Position	Position Status
	<p>wake effects is not a matter that should be dealt with in the planning system. The Dogger Bank Projcos submitted their own wake assessment at Deadline 5.</p> <p>The Applicants consider the resolution to this issue is for the Projcos to accept that the question of wake effects was resolved through The Crown Estates (TCE's) Round 4 leasing process and the 7.5km buffer which was fixed. This approach has been generally accepted by the offshore wind sector, until the wholly unexpected outcome of the Awel y Mor decision. New projects should continue to be designed to achieve the maximum AEP, if they have respected TCE's buffer.</p> <p>It is the Applicants' position that a requirement would be unnecessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms, and wholly unreasonable for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implication of a requirement of the type imposed on Awel y Mor were not properly considered during Examination or consulted upon during drafting; • Any requirement would fail the tests in EN-1 in relation to certainty, enforceability, and overall reasonableness; • Lack of specific DESNZ policy and guidance as to how wake loss might be assessed, what constitutes 	<p>policies, meaning that the protective provisions allow a route to the lawful grant of consent whilst protecting DBA, DBB and DBC.</p> <p>The Projco IPs protective provisions do not require that mitigation be brought forward by the Applicant, but allow for this and allow for a third party to undertake the assessment of both wake loss and the ensuing compensation mechanism. This assures independence.</p>	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Projcos' Position	Position Status
	<p>an effect, and when this would result in mitigation being required; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considerable doubt as to how a requirement could be discharged and how it could be enforced by SoS. <p>The Applicants do not consider there are any acceptable design solutions which would resolve the concerns regarding wake loss or mitigate for any potential impacts. Any theoretical mitigation options would reduce the overall AEP in aggregate, therefore any mitigation imposed would have a significantly more detrimental impact on the energy generation from the Projects than any benefit that may be accrued by the Projcos, leading to an overall net reduction in AEP. Furthermore, the Applicants agree with the SoS that a DCO requirement which provides for financial indemnity is inappropriate.</p>		
4.	<p><u>The draft NPS</u></p> <p>The Applicants position is that the draft NPS (April 2025) that was published for consultation cannot simply be considered a simple clarification of NPS-EN-3 (2023). The update published for circulation did not outline it was to be considered a clarification of the existing NPS, and other mechanisms to provide such</p>	<p>The Projcos position is that the aim of the new policies in the draft NPS EN-3 is to provide greater clarity on how applicants can consider and potentially mitigate the impact of inter-array wake effects between new developments and nearby consented and operational wind farms.</p>	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Projcos' Position	Position Status
	clarity would have been put forward by DESNZ was that the totality of the case. The wording provided clearly introduces aspects for consideration of wake effects for future projects, with the Applicants welcoming confirmation that financial compensation is not a consideration in line with the SoS decision on AyM in September 2023.	<p>The Projcos position is that draft EN-3 does not confirm that financial compensation is not a consideration (particularly for the application which is to be determined in accordance with the current NPS).</p> <p>The Projcos position is that the SoS decision on AyM in September 2023 did not confirm that financial compensation is not a consideration.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Greenhouse Gas Assessment</u></p> <p>The Applicants have submitted two documents [REP4-095 and REP5-034] into examination that provide an assessment of the impacts of the Projects on GHG emissions when including potential wake effects on other projects.</p> <p>These assessments have now been incorporated into the update of Chapter 30 – Climate Change [REP6-036] submitted at Deadline 6.</p>	<p>The Projcos' are satisfied that wake effects have been suitably assessed and accounted for within the Applicants' assessment of Greenhouse Gas emissions in Chapter 30 – Climate Change [REP6-036] but the Projco IP's position is that the assessment should be based on the impact it identifies to AEP at DBA, DBB and DBC].</p>	
6.	<p><u>Wake Assessments</u></p> <p>The Applicants do not agree with the methodology or conclusions of the Projco's wake assessment [REP5-070] for the reasons provided in The Applicants' Deadline 7 Wake Loss Submission [document reference: 17.9] submitted at Deadline 7.</p>	<p>The Projcos do not agree with the methodology and conclusions of the Applicants wake assessment [REP4-099 and AS-179] preferring the conclusions of their own assessment. The Projcos have addressed two of the three material issues that the Applicant has raised and provided a robust rationale for why its approach on the third issue (blockage modelling) is to be preferred.</p>	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Projcos' Position	Position Status
	<p>The Applicants consider the results of the Applicants' assessment to be a significantly more accurate representation of potential wake effects upon the Projcos and Orsted IPs projects.</p>	<p>Furthermore, the Projcos disagree with the Applicants' approach to blockage modelling.</p> <p>In the meeting on 10th June 2025, it was agreed that long term wind speed data would be provided, as this could be a reason for differences in modelling outputs. At Deadline 7, the Projcos shared the data they used, however long term wind speed data used by DBS is still to be provided.</p> <p>The Projcos agree with the Applicant's previous written position which is that it is the wake effected party that is best placed to assess the impact of the new project and that this supports its assessment as the preferred assessment.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Mitigation</u></p> <p>The Applicants' position is that the draft NPS support for offshore wind would provide strong justification for the criteria of 'reasonable mitigation' including that it is at minimum net neutral on AEP as a key focus for SoS in decision making is ensuring the greatest electricity production via renewables.</p> <p>Due to disagreements upon the criteria that should be passed for a mitigation measure to be considered 'reasonable', the parties have not been able to come to</p>	<p>The Projcos disagree with this position, citing that mitigation requested as part of the planning process regularly impacts the finances of a project, and that therefore it should not be considered a criteria for 'reasonable mitigation'.</p> <p>The Projcos consider a requirement to mitigate wake loss is the minimum that is required to address this wake effects from the DBS Projects. On the basis that the Applicant cites that there is no mitigation, this leaves compensation as part of the mitigation hierarchy.</p>	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The Projcos' Position	Position Status
	<p>agreements regarding which wake effects cannot be considered 'reasonable' with the exception being Turbine size/height.</p> <p>The Applicants maintain fundamental disagreement with the Projcos regarding their position that financial compensation forms the final step of the mitigation hierarchy for wake effects.</p>	<p>The Projcos have demonstrated why protective provisions which allow (but do not require) mitigation to come forward and which allow for compensation are justified.</p> <p>The Projcos position is consistent with the NPS and with policy in respect of the mitigation hierarchy, which requires compensation absent mitigation.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Protective Provisions (PPs)</u></p> <p>The Applicants do not consider it necessary that wake effects be managed post consent via PPs. Financial compensation is not justified or appropriate.</p> <p>The Applicants are therefore not providing draft PPs.</p> <p>The PPs proposed by the Projcos are completely unreasonable and unworkable. If imposed by the SoS they would be unlawful as failing the <i>Wednesbury</i> test.</p>	<p>The Projcos consider Protective Provisions for inclusion within a granted DCO appropriate to ensure management of wake effects post consent and have provided draft PPs for the consideration of the ExA and the Secretary of State. Those protective provisions are reasonable and workable.</p> <p>The Applicant has not meaningfully engaged on the issue of protective provisions, has not worked with the Projco IPs on protective provisions and has not submitted drafting of protective provisions. It has been afforded plenty of opportunity to do so in the examination.</p> <p>If the Protective Provisions were not imposed, that would be <i>Wednesbury</i> unreasonable.</p>	

4 Summary

14. This SoCG has outlined the consultation and engagement that has taken place between the Applicants and the Projcos during the pre-application and Examination phases. This SoCG has been updated throughout the Examination and represents the agreed position and final SoCG between the Applicants and the Projcos.

5 References

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2024). Planning Act 2008: Examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-examination-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>. [Accessed January 2025].

Appendix A - Meeting Minutes

10/06/2025

DBS DBWF Wake Loss Technical Discussion			
Document Number: -			
Meeting with:	Dogger Bank Wind Farms (the Projcos)		
Location:	Online		
Start Time of Meeting:		Date of Meeting:	10/06/2025
Attendees	Initials	Role & Organisation	
Thomas Tremlett	TT	Senior Consents Manager, RWE	
Phoebe Meredith	PM	Offshore Consent Manager, RWE	
Kester Gunn	KG	Chief Scientist, RWE	
Justin Burstein	JB	Lead Expert Offshore Resource Assessment, RWE	
Sam Williams	SW	Wake and Blockage Modelling Specialist, RWE	
David Scott	DS	Consents Team Manager, SSE	
Elizabeth Reynolds	ER	Offshore Consent Manager, SSE	
Eliott Lindsay	EL	Wind Energy Analyst, SSE	
David Malins	DM	Energy Analytics Team Lead SSE	
Meeting Agenda/Objective(s):	<p>Points for discussion, as set out by RWE as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Projcos objections to DBS’ wake report• Clarifying some of DBS’ questions about the Projcos’ report: model selection, which farms are modelled• Consistency of inputs between the assessments e.g. layouts, power curves, and wind data• Discussion regarding what mitigation DBS haven't considered in the Projcos’ view• Updates to the SoCG		
Item	Description/ Discussion		Presenter
The Projcos’ objections to DBS’ wake report	<p>JB suggested that both sides speak openly during the meeting. Both sides have the right to flag before disclosing any confidential information that is not to be shared. DS requested a summary of the meeting to be shared for the Projcos to review and ensure no confidential information will be shared.</p> <p>JB presented the following points from the Projcos’ Deadline 5 submission [REP5-071] in response to IOU 2.15 where the Projcos identified a number of issues and risks with the methodology presented in DBS’ wake assessment [REP4-099]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 2 point 7 – JB confirmed no scaling was used as results were represented as % of AEP loss and not in GWh. EL asked if this could be reflected in the report. JB confirmed that it could be.• Section 2.1 point 9 – JB explained that DBS have used the met mast data in our model (VV) and this reduced the wake loss compared to the results obtained when using the Cavendish LiDAR. EL found the opposite trend.• <i>[Update post meeting]</i>		JB

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ [During meeting] Both parties agreed this wasn't material and was not a key variable that could bridge the 2% difference in the assessments for DBA. ○ [Post Meeting] EL: Upon further review of RWE "cascade chart" showing the impact of changes, EL stated he no longer agrees with this point, and believes the wind resource could have a material impact. • Section 2.1 point 11 – JB stated that wind speed preparation isn't going to be material to bridge the gap of 2%. • [Update post meeting] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ [During meeting] EL agrees. EL has done internal check and asks about long term corrected mean wind speed. DBS agreed to provide long term wind speeds. ○ [Post Meeting] Upon further review of RWE "cascade chart" showing the impact of changes, EL stated he no longer agrees with this point, and believes the wind resource could have a material impact. • Section 3.1 point 24 – JB explains that the long term wind speeds can be shared for EL to review. (See section 2.1 point 9). • Section 3.2.1 Point 30 – JB confirmed that Openwind (version 0.1.09.00 4545e) was used. EL can't provide comment as not an Openwind user. EL raised that there are a number of versions of TurboPark and that this could be a source of the % difference between the assessments. JB confirmed there are three versions of TurboPark and that the original implementation was used. EL asked if DBS can point them towards any documentation. JB agreed to describe TurboPark implementation and provide to the Projcos. • Section 3.3 point 40 – JB explained that IAV value was essentially the same when data up to the current year was used. EL agreed that the difference in values was not material and not the source of the 2% difference in assessment. <p>[Post meeting note]: DS requested further clarification on the impact of number of years on the long-term wind speed. This will be covered in existing actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5 point 49 – JB clarified that DBS aren't saying there's no wake loss but the point being made is that the conclusion of the DBA wake assessment was negligible in EIA terms and given this is the closest wind farm, DBS concluded the impacts on DBB and DBC would also be negligible. EL welcomed the clarification but doesn't agree with DBS' conclusions. The parties agreed to disagree on the significance of impact and are unlikely to reach agreement on this matter, noting our point of disagreement. KG also noted that DBS have now submitted an assessment of the other wind farms anyway so this matter is now resolved. <p>[Post meeting note]: In response to section 3.2.1 point 30 and action point 3, DBS have provided the following link: TurbOPark. TurbOPark was run using the standard value of "Tuneable Parameter A = 0.04"</p>	
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<p>Clarifying DBS' questions about the Projcos' report: model selection, which farms are modelled etc. and consistency of inputs between the assessments e.g. layouts, power curves, and wind data</p>	<p>JB has been investigating the source of the 2% difference in the assessment. JB presented the following potential sources of difference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind climate Turbulence Turbine types (power and thrust curves) Farms included Models <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wake models Blockage models <p>Wind climate: Was covered in the previous agenda item and concluded not significant.</p> <p><i>[Post Meeting] Upon further review of RWE "cascade chart" showing the impact of changes, EL stated he no longer agrees with this point, and believes the wind resource could have a material impact.</i></p> <p>Turbulence: JB queries the mean turbulence level used by the Projcos. EL agreed to check and provide a follow up response to DBS.</p> <p>Farms included: JB asked if the Projcos were intending to update their assessment to include the Hornsea projects. EL confirmed that the assessment will be updated.</p> <p>Wake models: EL asked RWE to clarify if there is broad agreement between TurboPark and VV. JB confirmed that is correct.</p> <p>Blockage models: JB explained that DBS' investigations have concluded that the blockage model, and the method used to combine blockage and wakes are contributing to a significant proportion of the 2% point of disagreement between the assessments.</p> <p>DBS have endeavoured to replicate the Projcos' assessment and still have a 1.5% discrepancy in the results.</p> <p>EL, JB and KG discussed superposition models within PyWake, discussing how wakes and blockage are combined and seeking clarification on what setup should be used.</p> <p>EL advised they are reviewing the superposition setup they used and need to check before sharing full details.</p> <p>EL asked whether there was a reason DBS didn't use an induction (blockage) model in OpenWind. JB explained that they have substantially worse performance than RWE's own models.</p>	<p>JB</p>
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	<p>JB explained that the TurboPark results were modified by VV and therefore it is not a true coupling. KG clarified that the blockage model isn't identical to that delivered by the GloBE project and that RWE have their own implementation which matches more accurately with data over long distances.</p> <p>DS questioned the usefulness of the technical nature of the discussion on blockage models and how likely this was in resolving the 2% difference in assessment. DS asked if the blockage model is the source of the difference. KG explained that RWE have reproduced the Projcos' wake assessment and still have a 1.5% discrepancy that can't be accounted for. DW asked the Projcos to advise what they think the source of the difference might be.</p> <p>Both parties confirmed that PyWake version 2.6.7 was used. SW explained that RWE should have been able to replicate the 4% result of AEP loss on DBA with the same open source code.</p> <p>EL asked what atmospheric boundary layer height (ABLH) inputs DBS have used. KG and JB advised that 500-600m is a reasonable/representative number for offshore. JB explained how ABLH varies with wind speed and direction in VV.</p> <p>JB to confirm what ABLH is representative at Dogger Bank. EL asked what boundary layer inputs DBS have used. KG advised that the boundary layer height 500-600m is a reasonable/representative number for offshore.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note: DBS confirm the mean ABLH of approximately 300m for the primary wind directions between 5-13 m/s in response to action point 7.</i></p> <p>EL noted that the model currently used by the Projcos does not have an ABL implementation and only represents the turbines with a single point source, rather than a series (as in the GloBE model the ProjCos cite) or a line-source (as in VV).</p> <p>EL explained that the GloBE model doesn't provide a perfectly rigid boundary layer and asked if RWE's model (VV) does provide this. KG advised that it's not a 100% reflection and explained that global blockage is calculated as if it's a hard lid then multiplied by a fixed constant tuned to measurements. EL asked if the constant is equivalent to N sum 5 rigidity. KG advised that 5 is too small to use as the blockage would decay away too quickly and is also a function of boundary layer height. KG considers the Projcos' model to be a local blockage model only because it doesn't consider boundary layer effects.</p> <p>EL indicated that they are working to understand the impact of including the boundary layer.</p> <p>SW asked if the Projcos could run a TurboPark only (without blockage) model and provide the results to DBS. EL advised this request would</p>	
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	have to be taken away. JB offered to share a standalone result without blockage to try to resolve the 2% difference in assessment.	
Discussion regarding what mitigation DBS haven't considered in the Projcos' view	<p>JB presented the mitigations DBS have considered and presented in REP4-099. EL advised the Projcos agree that only buffer distance and wake control are reasonable in the current situation. EL explained that it is not clear why buffer distance is a failure for the meaningful impact criteria and that a site-specific assessment is required (acknowledging DBS had presented results from AyM and GyM). EL suggested a combination of mitigation measures should be considered i.e. buffer distance with wake control. EL acknowledged that the farm to farm impact cannot be eliminated. KG advised that wake control (wake steering) will not be available because there isn't enough evidence that this technology will be developed in time for DBS and that a site-specific assessment with wake control is not something that can be done in a realistic manner. The parties have a difference in opinion regarding wake control and the applicability of the technology.</p> <p>Both parties agreed that curtailment is not a credible solution.</p> <p>EL notes again that the Projcos do not agree that the impact on the DB Projcos is negligible.</p>	
AOB	<p>JB asked whether the Projcos would join another meeting with DBS. DS advised that the Projcos will review the outcomes of action points first before committing to a further discussion with DBS. JB advised DBS would appreciate a follow up call with the Projcos to try to resolve the 2% difference in assessments.</p> <p>TT advised SOCGs due at Deadline 8 and that some items today where we have agreed can be incorporated into the SOCG. DBS will try to capture both sides' position and will circulate to the Projcos for review. TT advised DBS will circulate action points from today.</p>	JB/TT
Action ID	Action	Owner
1.	DBS to update assessment to reflect that scaling factor was not used for the results presented.	DBS
2.	DBS to provide long term wind speeds	DBS
3.	DBS to provide details of the TurboPark implementation used (complete, provided in this document)	DBS
4.	Projcos to check the mean turbulence level used.	Projcos
5.	Projcos to update wake assessment to include Hornsea projects.	Projcos
6.	Can the Projcos confirm that the PyWake setup DBS are using is the same as that used in the Projcos' assessment.	Projcos
7.	DBS to confirm ABL of 500-600m is appropriate. (complete, provided in this document)	DBS
8.	Projcos to undertake further work to understand the impact of including a boundary layer height.	Projcos
9.	Projcos to confirm if results from TurboPark (without blockage) could be provided.	Projcos
10.	DBS to provide results from TurboPark (without blockage) to the Projcos.	DBS
11.	DBS to provide a copy of slides presented (complete).	DBS

12.	Projcos to provide position on reasonableness criterion presented in Table 4 of REP4-099.	Projcos
13.	DBS to consider whether a site-specific assessment of buffer distance can be provided.	DBS

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