

RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank
South (West) Limited

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Dogger Bank South Offshore
Wind Farms

The Applicants' Response to the Secretary of
State's Second Request for Information

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Rev No.	Date	Status/Reason for Issue	Author	Checked by	Approved by
01	January 2026	Request for Information 2	Haskoning	RWE	RWE

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).
Offshore Export Cable Corridor	This is the area which will contain the Offshore Export Cables between the Offshore Converter Platforms and Transition Joint Bays at the landfall.
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 (Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company) - Masdar (49% stake).
The Projects	DBS East and DBS West (collectively referred to as the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms).

Acronyms

Term	Definition
DCO	Development Consent Order
Defra	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
DML	Deemed Marine Licence
ExA	Examining Authority
IP	Interested Party
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MRF	Marine Recovery Fund
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission
NGT	National Gas Transmission
NPS	National Policy Statement
RFI	Request for Information
SNCB	Statutory Nature Conservation Body
SoS	Secretary of State

1 Introduction

1. This document presents the Applicants’ response to the Secretary of State’s (SoS) second Request for Information (RFI) dated 16th January 2026.
2. The responses provided in the tables in **section 2** of this document are in answer to the requests within the SoS’ letter.
3. The Applicants are also submitting a number of documents to accompany the text responses in section 2. These are listed in **Table 1-1**. The Applicants have provided tracked and clean versions where these are documents being revised to aid the SoS’s review.

Table 1-1 List of Documents Submitted to Accompany the Applicants' Response to Request for Information

RFI Paragraph Number	Document Number	Document Name	Revision
5	23.3	The Applicants’ Response to the Secretary of State’s Request for Information on Wake Effects	1
11	6.2.2	Appendix 2 - Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan	9
17	10.4	Land Rights Tracker	11

2 The Applicants' Responses to Request for Information

2.1 Wake Effects

Table 2-1 - Applicants' Response to the Secretary of State's Request for Information – Wake Effects

RFI Paragraph Number	Question to:	Request for Information	Applicants' Response
4 - 8	The Applicants, Projco IPs, and Ørsted IPs	<p>The Secretary of State notes the positions of the Applicants and Interested Parties ("IPs"), in particular Projco IPs and Ørsted IPs, in relation to wake effects, including their commitment to continue to work towards an agreement.</p> <p>The Applicant, Projco IPs, and Ørsted IPs are requested to provide an update on engagement between the parties, including any specific statements or agreements that may be under discussion.</p> <p>The Secretary of State notes the specific paragraphs on wake effects in NPS EN3 2025 (designated on 6 January 2026) as an important and relevant consideration for this application.</p> <p>Therefore, in providing this update, the parties should have regard to NPS EN-3 2025, which states at paragraphs 2.8.232-2.8.233 that applicants are expected to demonstrate that they have made reasonable endeavours to mitigate the impact of wake effects and that there is no expectation that such effects can be wholly removed between developments, nor that inter-project compensation arrangements are a necessary means of mitigation within the planning process.</p> <p>The update should set out how discussions are being progressed in light of this policy context, including any areas of agreement that may have been reached, any matters that remain under consideration, and the anticipated next steps and indicative timescales for the continuation or conclusion of discussions.</p>	The Applicants' response is provided in The Applicants' Response to the Secretary of State's Request for Information on Wake Effects [document reference 23.3].

2.2 Habitat Regulations Assessment

Table 2-2 - Applicants' Response to the Secretary of State's Request for Information – Habitat Regulations Assessment

RFI Paragraph Number	Question to:	Request for Information	Applicants' Response
9	Defra	<p>On 19th December 2025 the Secretary of State received a further response from the Applicant, outlining that they had met with Defra in regard to using the Marine Recovery Fund ("MRF") for ornithological compensation in relation to predator eradication schemes on the Isles of Scilly, and that this route may be available within Q1 of 2026 following the legislation coming into force in December 2025.</p> <p>Noting this, the Secretary of State invites Defra to provide a final update on when ornithological measures delivered via the MRF will become available within the coming months</p>	No response is required, question directed to Defra.

RFI Paragraph Number	Question to:	Request for Information	Applicants' Response
10	Natural England	Natural England commented during the examination [REP2-065] that the Favourable Condition Status for Annex I Sandbanks was likely to be published later in 2025. Natural England are requested to indicate when this is now likely to be published	No response is required, question directed to Natural England.
11	The Applicants	The Applicants are invited to provide an update with any further Letters of Comfort from landowners in relation to the sites selected to provide compensatory habitat for breeding guillemot and (without prejudice) razorbill.	The Applicants have received further letters of comfort from the landowners of Pabaigh Beag and Out Skerries, in relation to the proposed guillemot and razorbill compensation schemes for the Outer Hebrides and Out Skerries respectively. These are provided in Annex A of the updated Appendix 2 - Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan (Revision 9) [document reference 6.2.2]. The land covered by the three Letters of Comfort received to date would provide sufficient nesting space to satisfy Natural England's preferred compensation requirement for both guillemot and razorbill (for both the success criteria and scaling requirement). The Applicants continue to maintain that Natural England's approach is over precautionary in terms of the numbers required to compensate for the Projects' impacts, however the letters provided by landowners should give the Secretary of State comfort that compensation can be secured.

2.3 Draft Consent Order - Cable Protection

Table 2-3 -Applicants' Response to the Secretary of State's Request for Information – Draft Consent Order (Cable Protection)

RFI Paragraph Number	Question to:	Request for Information	Applicants' Response
12	The Applicants, MMO and Natural England	The Secretary of State notes that the ExA proposed amendments [PD-028] to the DCO provisions in respect of cable protection in the event that any area of cable protection exceeds 5 per cent of navigable depth. The Secretary of State notes that the Applicants, the MMO and Natural England commented on those amendments and, in the case of MMO, proposed further additions to the drafting. The Applicants, MMO and Natural England are invited to provide any further, final views on the following drafting in italics in condition 15(1)(c) of Schedules 10 and 11, condition 13(1)(c) of Schedules 12 and 13, and condition 11(1)(c) of Schedules 14 and 14A: (c) a construction method statement (in accordance with the cable statement), including details of— (i) cable burial, specification, installation and monitoring to include— (cc) the technical specification of cables below MHWS; (cc) a detailed cable laying plan for the authorised scheme, incorporating a detailed burial risk assessment encompassing the identification of any cable protection that exceeds 5 percent of navigable depth referenced to Chart Datum;	Firstly, as noted in The Applicants' Comments on the Examining Authority's Proposed Schedule of Changes to the draft Development Consent Order [REP7-130] , the proposed amendments are not applicable to condition 15(1)(c) of Schedules 10 and 11, or condition 11(1)(c) of Schedules 14 and 14A. Schedules 10, 11, 14 and 14A relate to geographical areas located >100km from shore (the array areas and the inter-array area respectively). The area landward of the 10m depth contour of interest to Natural England is present on the Offshore Export Cable Corridor only, specifically an area that lies <2km from shore. As such, no amendment to Schedules 10, 11, 14 or 14a should be made. Secondly, the Applicants maintain their position, as noted in The Applicants' Comments on the Examining Authority's Proposed Schedule of Changes to the draft Development Consent Order [REP7-130] , that amendments to condition 13(1)(c) of Schedules 12 and 13 are unnecessary, as controls relating to changes in navigable depths that exceed 5% are already written into the relevant Deemed Marine Licences. Notwithstanding the Applicants' previously stated reluctance to making changes similar in nature to those proposed, the Applicants have reviewed the wording suggested by the Secretary

RFI Paragraph Number	Question to:	Request for Information	Applicants' Response
		<p>(cc) in the event that any area of cable protection exceeding 5 percent of navigable depth is identified, details of any steps (to be determined following consultation with the MCA and Trinity House <i>and the MMO in consultation with the statutory nature conservation body</i>) to be taken to ensure existing and future safe navigation is not compromised, <i>including updated nearshore sediment transport modelling and comparison and demonstration against the environmental statement if within the 10m depth contour and/ or similar such assessment to ascertain suitable burial depths and cable laying techniques, including cable protection; and</i></p>	<p>of State, offering their alternative suggested wording on a Without Prejudice basis. This revised wording has been agreed with the MMO.</p> <p>Alternative wording is suggested, because the current condition 13(1)(c)(i)(bb) is intended to ensure that cable protection that exceeds 5 per cent of navigable depth does not compromise navigational safety. The Applicants consider that the Secretary of State's drafting appears to be seeking to address the concerns raised by Natural England that cable protection exceeding 5 per cent of navigable depth in the 10m depth contour closest to MHWS could result in environmental impacts relating to nearshore sediment transport that exceed those assessed within the Applicants' Environmental Statement.</p> <p>The Applicants suggest that drafting to capture concerns around cable protection impacts on sediment transport should be dealt with separately to cable protection impacts on navigational safety and this is reflected in the drafting below:</p> <p><i>(c) a construction method statement (in accordance with the cable statement), including details of—</i></p> <p><i>(i) cable burial, specification, installation and monitoring to include—</i></p> <p><i>(aa) the technical specification of cables below MHWS;</i></p> <p><i>(bb) a detailed cable laying plan for the authorised scheme, incorporating a detailed burial risk assessment encompassing the identification of any cable protection that exceeds 5 percent of navigable depth referenced to Chart Datum;</i></p> <p><i>(cc) in the event that any area of cable protection exceeding 5 percent of navigable depth is identified, details of any steps (to be determined following consultation with the MCA and Trinity House and the MMO in consultation with the statutory nature conservation body) to be taken to ensure existing and future safe navigation is not compromised, including updated nearshore sediment transport modelling and comparison and demonstration against the environmental statement if within the 10m depth contour and/ or similar such assessment to ascertain suitable burial depths and cable laying techniques, including cable protection; and</i></p> <p><i>(dd) in the event that any area of cable protection exceeding 5 percent of navigable depth is identified within the 10m depth contour closest to MHWS, details of updated nearshore sediment transport modelling to enable a comparison with the conclusions of the environmental statement to ensure that the impacts of the identified cable protection will not be significantly different to those assessed in the environmental statement</i></p> <p>The Applicants are of the opinion that the Without Prejudice wording offered clarifies the issues of navigational safety and sediment transport, whilst following the structure established by (cc) and preserving the intended meaning of SoS's amendments.</p> <p>The Applicants' suggested amendments do not include any requirement for the modelling to be approved by the MMO in consultation with the Natural England, because that requirement</p>

RFI Paragraph Number	Question to:	Request for Information	Applicants' Response
			already applies to all documents submitted under condition 13 (as set out in 13(1)) – the SNCB is listed as a consultee “as appropriate”.

2.4 Draft Consent Order - Herring Spawning Season

Table 2-4 -Applicants' Response to the Secretary of State's Request for Information – Draft Consent Order (Herring Spawning Season)

RFI Paragraph Number	Question to:	Request for Information	Applicants' Response
13 - 15	The Applicants and the MMO	<p>The Secretary of State notes that, in the Applicants' and the MMO's Post-Examination Joint Statement on the Without Prejudice Herring Noise Restriction submission of October 2025, updated wording in respect of a 38km seaward boundary for piling during the herring spawning season was included on a without prejudice basis. The statement added:</p> <p><i>"If the Secretary of State is minded to impose a seasonal restriction on piling on the proposed construction of the Projects, then the above condition wording would need to be included in Deemed Marine Licences 1-4 (Schedules 10-13) presented in the Draft DCO (Revision 12) [REP9-003]. The wording would not apply to Deemed Marine Licences 5 or 6 as it covers the Projects' inter-project cabling which requires no piling."</i></p> <p>However, the Secretary of State notes that the track change DCO (revision 13) presented by the Applicants in December 2025 included the updated wording in respect of the 38km seaward boundary to DMLS 1 and 2 only (i.e. to Conditions 30 of Schedules 10 and 11 to the DCO). No changes are made to Condition 27 of Schedules 12 and 13 which are DMLs 3 and 4 respectively.</p> <p>The Applicants and the MMO are asked to clarify whether any changes are required to DMLs 3 and 4 (Schedules 12 and 13) in respect of the 38km seaward boundary, should the Secretary of State be minded to include such a condition.</p>	<p>The Applicants confirm that, should the Secretary of State be minded to include such a condition, the updated wording in respect of the 38km seaward boundary should also be included in DMLs 3 and 4 and its current exclusion was an omission on the Applicants' part.</p> <p>The Applicants reiterate their position that such a condition should not be imposed, for the reasons summarised in Summary of Herring Noise Impact Discussions During Examination [REP7-134], and in section 5.5 of The Applicants' Closing Statements [REP8-042].</p>

2.5 Land Rights

Table 2-5 -Applicants' Response to the Secretary of State's Request for Information – Land Rights

RFI Paragraph Number	Question to:	Request for Information	Applicants' Response
16 -17	The Applicants	The Secretary of State notes the responses from the Applicants and Interested Parties in relation to outstanding agreements for land acquisitions. The Secretary of State further notes the responses	In their closing submissions [REP8-042] the Applicants noted a number of matters that had not yet been resolved at the close of Examination and were subject to ongoing discussions between

RFI Paragraph Number	Question to:	Request for Information	Applicants' Response
		<p>from the Applicants, NGT, and NGET with respect to outstanding agreement of Protective Provisions.</p> <p>The Applicants are requested to provide a further update on all outstanding land acquisition negotiations, including agreement of Protective Provisions with NGT and with NGET</p>	<p>the Applicants and the relevant stakeholders (paragraph 7 and section 4 of the Executive Summary).</p> <p>Since the close of the Examination, the Applicants have held limited engagement with both NGT and NGET without any substantive progress being made. The Applicants would be very much open to further discussions if concessions could be made on both sides to reach agreement.</p> <p>Given the position between the Parties, it is likely that no separate agreement is to be entered into with either NGT or NGET, and so the Secretary of State will need to determine the appropriate form of protective provisions for the benefit of NGT and NGET.</p> <p>The Applicants' submissions to support their preferred wording for the NGT and NGET protective provisions are included in the following documents, which set out the Applicants' position in full:</p> <p>The Applicants' Section 127 and 138 case – Statutory Undertakers [REP8-044] (sections 5.2 and 5.3); The Applicants' Responses to Deadline 8 Documents [REP9-021] (section 2.10, Table 2-13); SoS Submission Cover Letter [PID-003b]; and The Applicants' Response to Secretary of State Request for Information [C1-016] (section 2.8, Table 2-8, RFI paragraph number 32).</p> <p>The Applicants can report that three further option agreements have been entered into, and these are reported in the Land Rights Tracker (Revision 11) [document reference 10.4]. The Applicants have now agreed Heads of Terms covering over 70% of Category 1 land interests and legally completed Options with 40%.</p>

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