

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

**Statement of Common Ground with Boston
Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council,
South Holland District Council**

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Abbreviations / Acronyms

Abbreviation / Acronym	Description
AIS	Air Insulated System
BBC	Boston Borough Council
CNP	Critical National Priority
DCO	Development Consent Order
dDCO	Draft Development Consent Order
ELDC	East Lindsey District Council
EA	Environment Agency
ETG	Expert Topic Group
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
GIS	Gas Insulated System
GW	gigawatt
LCC	Lincolnshire County Council
MDS	Maximum Design Scenario
NPS	National Policy Statement
ODOW	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind
OnSS	Onshore substation
SHDC	South Holland District Council
SOCG	Statement of Common Ground

Terminology

Term	Definition
The Applicant	GT R4 Ltd. The Applicant making the application for a DCO. The Applicant is GT R4 Limited (a joint venture between Corio Generation (and its affiliates), Total Energies and Gulf Energy Development (GULF)), trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind. The Project is being developed by Corio Generation, TotalEnergies and GULF.
Environmental Statement	The suite of documents that detail the processes and results of the EIA.
The Project	Refers to the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Project
LPAs	Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) and South Holland District Council (SHDC)

1 Introduction

1.1 Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW)

1. Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (“The Project”) is a proposed offshore windfarm, with an Array Area located approximately 33 miles (54km) off the coast of Lincolnshire. The Project has a total installed capacity of 1.5GW which is roughly equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of over 1.6 million UK households.
2. The Project includes the offshore and onshore infrastructure required to transmit the power generated by the wind turbines to an onshore substation (OnSS) at Surfleet Marsh and subsequently into the National Grid Transmission System at Weston Marsh, the grid connection point specified by National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO), in its grid connection offer for the Project.

1.2 The purpose of this Statement of Common Ground (SOCG)

3. This Statement of Common Ground (SOCG) has been prepared between GTR4 Limited (the Applicant) and Boston Borough Council (BBC), East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) and South Holland District Council (SHDC), together the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs).
4. It identifies topics that are relevant to the LPA’s statutory role and states whether relevant matters are agreed, not agreed or still in discussion.
5. This SOCG has been prepared with due regard to the Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (2024).
6. The need for a SOCG between the Applicant and the LPAs was set out by the Examining Authority (ExA) on 4 September 2024 (PD-009). The LPAs have requested that one SOCG be entered into, covering the interests of all three parties.
7. The onshore elements of the Project are wholly located within the county of Lincolnshire within the three districts which BBC, ELDC and SHDC have responsibility for.
8. The LPAs have participated throughout the consultation process undertaken by the Applicant pre-application and pre-examination and will be responsible for discharging some of the DCO requirements for the Project as presented in the draft Development Consent Order (PD1-024).

1.3 Topics addressed in this Statement of Common Ground (SOCG)

9. Table 1 sets out the topics addressed in this SOCG which relate to the LPA’s statutory function. The topics referred to are referenced against the relevant chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES), or other DCO application plans or documents.
10. The LPAs have deferred to Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), on highways, surface water and flood risk matters (as they have the statutory function as Highways Authority and Lead Local Flood Authority), and also to other relevant stakeholders, such as the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, for onshore ecological matters.

Table 1 Topics included in this SOCG

Topic	Application Documents and references
Project wide aspects	ES Project Description (APP-058) Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives (APP-059)
Air Quality	Chapter 19 Onshore Air Quality (AS1-046) Air Quality Management Plan (APP-270)
Noise and Vibration	Chapter 26 Onshore Noise and Vibration (APP-081) Outline Noise and Vibration Management Plan (APP-269)
Traffic and Transport	Outline Code of Construction Practice (PD1-038) Chapter 27 Traffic & Transport (AS1-052) Transport Assessment (AS1-086) Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (APP-289) Outline Travel Plan (APP-290)
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	Chapter 28 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (APP-083) Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (OLEMS) (PD1-054)
Draft DCO	Draft Development Consent Order (PD1-024)

1.4 Identification of items agreed / not agreed / in discussion

11. The following sections of this SoCG identify the level of agreement between the Applicant and the LPAs for each of the relevant topics listed in Table 1 . The following topic tables detail the position of the Applicant, alongside those of the LPAs and whether the matter is agreed, not agreed or in discussion using a colour coding system. The system used throughout this SOCG is summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Colour coding system – Position status key

Classification	Meaning
Agreed	Agreement has been reached between the parties
In discussion	This matter has not been 'agreed' or 'not agreed' but discussions are continuing, or information is to be provided with the intention of reaching agreement.
Not agreed (No material impact)	This matter has not been agreed, but discussions have been concluded and it is considered that it does not have a material impact upon the conclusions of the assessment.
Not Agreed	This matter has not been agreed, but discussions have been concluded. It is considered that it does have a material impact upon the conclusions of the assessment.

1.5 Consultation and Engagement undertaken to date

12. The Applicant engaged early on in the pre-application process with the LPAs through the quarterly Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings and regular meetings to address development issues. This section highlights key meetings and engagement held directly with the LPAs out with the EPP.
13. The Project hosted both introductory and follow up meetings with the host local authorities via the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (S&ELCP). The S&ELCP is comprised of Boston Borough Council (BBC), East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council. Following the initial introductory meetings, a main Point of Contact (POC) was appointed to act on behalf of all three district councils.

Table 3 Engagement with LPAs

Date	Headline Topics
BBC	
August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Introduction • Consultation overview • Economic development opportunities
SHDC	
December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Introduction • Consultation overview
ELDC	
March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Introduction • Consultation overview • Onshore ECC and substation site selection process • Community benefit process
January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Opportunities • Socio-economic assessment
S&ELCP	
April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback and briefing on previous and upcoming consultation • Briefing on PEIR
January 2024	Substation Local Design Panel Meeting 1 (LDP1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Panel Introduction & design progression discussion • Meeting Minutes: https://www.outerdowsing.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/31JAN24-CLG-Minutes-Substation.pdf
July 2024	Substation Local Design Panel Meeting 2 (LDP2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Panel presented with progressed visual options for the OnSS • External Design Review Panel in attendance to discuss their review conclusions • Meeting Minutes: https://www.outerdowsing.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/ODOW-CLG-Substation-minutes-july-2024.pdf

2 Statement of Common Ground

2.1 Project-wide aspects

14. The following aspects relate to the overall Project, including the needs case, the development of the site selection process and how the Applicant has engaged with the LPAs up to the submission of the DCO application.

Table 4 Project wide aspects

Ref	ODOW Position	LPAs Position	Status
National and Local Policy			
LPA1	As set out in the NPS EN-1 and EN-3 there is a Critical National Priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant low-carbon infrastructure, and the Project is classified as CNP infrastructure. The Project therefore accords with national renewable energy targets and objectives.	As the project is classed as CNP with regards to the onshore wind ambition it is agreed the proposed installation of the development would align with the objectives of NPS EN-1 and EN-3 in meeting energy objectives through the installation of major energy infrastructure.	
LPA2	As outlined in the Policy Compliance Document (AS-012), the application has identified all relevant local policies and appropriate consideration has been given to them in the assessment of the Project.	Agreed, the Policy Compliance Document sets out which local policies have been taken into consideration.	
Site Selection			
LPA3	As described in Chapter 3 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (APP-059) the methodology adopted in respect of the site selection is considered robust and appropriate.	Agreed. In addition to constraints the preference for shortest cable route and avoidance of sensitive features wherever feasible as well as minimising disruption to populated areas whilst accounting for the maximum design scenario for each element of the project is considered a robust and appropriate approach.	

Ref	ODOW Position	LPAs Position	Status
LPA4	The Applicant's consultation in respect of the iterative site selection process is considered robust and appropriate.	Whilst we were not directly involved in the iteration site selection process we understand the reasons behind the various changes due to grid connection and localised site issues/practicalities and therefore are content with this	
Good Design			
LPA5	The Applicant has submitted a Design Principles Statement (APP-293) and Design Approach Document (APP-292) which set out the overarching principles and objectives in respect of good design that the Project will be delivered in accordance with. These overarching principles and objectives are acceptable.	<p>The Project has undertaken five phases of public consultation that have been key to the development of the design and the design principles) to date.</p> <p>At this stage the indicative designs represent a 'Maximum design envelope' approach, or the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach (The Inspectorate, 2018) and is considered appropriate.</p> <p>The finalisation of design will take place post consent within the parameters secured within the DCO (and relevant plans). The Project commenced the design and consultation process in the pre-application stage, and this will continue to be developed throughout the examination, when the parameters and principles will be confirmed, with the detailed design being undertaken post consent.</p> <p>This approach is similar to obtaining to an outline planning consent under the</p>	

Ref	ODOW Position	LPAs Position	Status
		Town and Country Planning Act that establishes the principle of a development and confirmation that the environmental impact of the development would be acceptable (this is established by the DCO application and ES), with the appearance, transport and layout being reserved matters.	

2.2 Air Quality

15. The Applicant has considered the potential impacts of the Project on Air Quality within Chapter 19 Onshore Air Quality (AS1-046) and Air Quality Management Plan (APP-270).
16. Air Quality was included within the Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Health and Socioeconomic Expert Topic Group (ETG) as part of the Evidence Plan Process (EPP). Minutes of the meetings held as part of the EPP can be found in Appendix 5.1.15 of the Consultation Report submitted as part of the application for development consent (APP-052).

Table 5 Air Quality

Ref	ODOW Position	LPAs Position	Status
Baseline Environment			
LPA6	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment regarding Air Quality as set out in Chapter 19 Air Quality (AS1-046).	Agreement reached	
Basis of Assessment			
LPA7	The Applicant has conducted a robust assessment of the Project's impacts and effects on sensitive air	Agreement reached	

Ref	ODOW Position	LPAs Position	Status
	quality receptors as set out in Chapter 19 Air Quality (AS1-046).		
Outline Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP)			
LPA8	The principles outlined in the Outline AQMP (APP-270) are acceptable and will be implemented in the final AQMP to be submitted post-consent.	The principles are considered acceptable with communications including community engagement considered a key element prior to any work commencing,	
LPA9	The Applicant has committed to avoiding burning of waste materials. Any burning of waste deemed strictly necessary would be undertaken in accordance with the relevant waste management exemption issued by the Environment Agency (EA) and consideration given the timing of burning, and the prevailing weather conditions to impact emissions to air and nuisance to offsite receptors. Compliance with this will be secured through implementation of the final Air Quality Management Plan, which must accord with the outline AQMP, as set out in Requirement 18 (Code of construction practice) of the draft DCO.	Agreement reached	
LPA10	The Applicant has committed to covering or seeding exposed areas and soil stockpiles (where soil is to be stored for over 6 months) to stabilise surfaces as soon as practicable and prevent fugitive dust emissions. Compliance with this will be secured through implementation of the final Air Quality Management Plan, which must accord with the outline AQMP, as set out in Requirement 18 (Code of construction practice) of the draft DCO.	Agreed.	

2.3 Noise and Vibration

17. The Applicant has assessed the potential impacts of the Project on noise and vibration within Chapter 26 Onshore Noise and Vibration (APP-281).

18. Mitigation measures in respect of noise and vibration have been set out in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) and Outline Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NVMP) which will be secured within the draft DCO.

Table 6 Noise and Vibration

Ref	ODOW Position	LPAs Position	Status
Baseline Environment			
LPA11	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment in respect of noise and vibration as set out in Chapter 26 Noise and Vibration (APP-081).	App-081 defines baseline as the status of the environment at the time of assessment, without the development in place. The baseline environment is adequately characterised and divided into study areas, related to the relevant proposed works.	
Basis of Assessment			
LPA12	The Applicant has carried out a robust assessment of the Project's noise and vibration effects as set out in Chapter 26 Onshore Noise and Vibration (APP-281).	APP-281 refers to the following - 8.7 In Principle Southern North Sea Special Area of Conservation Site Integrity Plan. Correct reference here is APP-081 APP-081 details assessment methodology as approved by the Planning Inspectorate within	

Ref	ODOW Position	LPAs Position	Status
		the previously submitted Scoping Opinion. Construction noise and vibration assessments have been undertaken at the landfall position, the cable route and the onshore substation position in accordance with the requirements of BS 5228:2009+A1:2014, Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites Part 1 Noise and Part 2 Vibration. It is considered to be a robust and appropriate assessment.	
Outline Noise and Vibration Management Plan (APP-269)/Outline Code of Construction Practice (APP-PD1-038)			
LPA13	The Applicant has committed to the appointment of a Community Liaison Officer to act as the main focal point within the community during the construction phase. Measures such as contact details in the event of complaints, and prior notification of works outside normal working hours will be complied with through the implementation of the final Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) and Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NVMP), which are secured through Requirement 18 (Code of construction practice) of the draft DCO (PD1-024).	Agreed	
LPA14	The Applicant has committed to notifying vibration sensitive receptors ahead of construction works which have the potential to generate significant vibration levels.	Agreed	
LPA15	The Applicant has committed to maintaining all temporary barriers in good order to ensure that they	Agreed	

Ref	ODOW Position	LPAs Position	Status
	continue to provide the appropriate amount of noise attenuation.		

2.4 Traffic and Transport

19. The Applicant has considered the potential impacts of the Project on onshore traffic and transport in respect of the highway infrastructure as set out in Chapter 27 Onshore Traffic and Transport (AS1-052).
20. Traffic and transport were included within the Traffic & Transport, Air Quality, Noise, Health and Socioeconomics Expert Topic Group (ETG) as part of the Evidence Plan Process (EPP). Minutes of the meetings held as part of the EPP can be found in Appendix 5.1.15 of the Consultation Report submitted as part of the application for development consent (APP-052).

Table 7 Traffic and Transport

Ref	ODOW Position	LPAs Position	Status
Baseline Environment			
LPA16	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment in terms of Traffic and Transport as set out in Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport (APP-082) and Transport Assessment (APP-119).	Agreement reached	
Basis of Assessment			
LPA17	The Applicant has carried out a robust assessment of the Project's Traffic and Transport impacts as set out in Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport (APP-082) and Transport Assessment (APP-119).	Agreement reached	
LPA18	The Applicant has carried out a robust assessment of the Project's Traffic and Transport impacts in combination with other projects as set out in Chapter 27 Traffic and Transport (APP-082) and Transport Assessment (APP-119).	Agreed	

Ref	ODOW Position	LPAs Position	Status
Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)			
LPA19	The outline CTMP (APP-289) is appropriate for the management of construction traffic for the Project and is suitable as the basis for the final CTMP.	Agreed but defer to LCC due to impacts on highway network under their jurisdiction	
LPA20	The outline CTMP sets out access routes (APP-289 Figure 3). The access routes ensure the avoidance of access through all Conservation Areas within the search area except for Wrangle, whose northern boundary includes the A52.	Wrangle Conservation Area Traffic not agreed yet-defer to LCC and Conservation	
LPA21	The use of the A52 as referenced above for construction traffic would not be deemed to affect the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.	Wrangle Conservation Area Traffic not agreed yet-defer to LCC and Conservation	
Outline Travel Plan (TP)			
LPA22	The outline TP (APP-290) is suitable to be developed into a final TP.	Agreed but defer to LCC due to impacts on highway network under their jurisdiction	
Traffic Regulation Orders			
LPA23	The draft DCO (PD1-024) and the Traffic Regulation Order Plan (APP-024) are appropriate for the TROs required to manage traffic in the parts of the highway affected by construction activity and traffic.	Agreed but defer to LCC due to impacts on highway network under their jurisdiction	
COCP			
LPA24	The Outline Code of Construction Practice (PD1-038), and its suite of associated documents, contain the general principles and management measures to be adopted during construction of the onshore infrastructure associated with the Project. A final CoCP will be produced and submitted to the relevant planning authority for approval before construction of the onshore infrastructure and will be in accordance	Agreed	

Ref	ODOW Position	LPAs Position	Status
	with the principles established in this Outline CoCP, as set out in Requirement 18 (Code of construction practice) of the draft DCO (PD1-024).		
LPA25	As stated in Section 8.1.8 of APP-058, once commissioning is complete, demobilisation and reinstatement can occur. Reinstatement will be undertaken in line with the Code of Construction Practice which must accord with the Outline Code of Construction Practice (APP-268) as set out in requirement 18 (Code of construction practice) of the draft DCO (PD1-024). Additional information on reinstatement measures can be found in Section 5.10 of the Outline Soil Management Plan (APP-271).	Agreed	

2.5 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

21. The Applicant has assessed the potential impacts of the Project on landscape and visual receptors within Chapter 28 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (APP-083)
22. Landscape and Visual Impacts were discussed as part of the Seascape and Landscape Visual Impact Assessment ETG. Minutes of the meetings held as part of the EPP can be found in Appendix 5.1.15 of the Consultation Report submitted as part of the application for development consent (APP-052).

Table 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Ref	ODOW Position	LPAs Position	Status
Baseline Environment			
LPA26	The ES accurately characterises the baseline environment in respect of landscape and visual receptors as set out in Chapter 28 Landscape and Visual (APP-083).	Agreement reached	

Ref	ODOW Position	LPAs Position	Status
Basis of Assessment			
LPA27	The Applicant has carried out a robust assessment of the effects of the Project on landscape and visual receptors during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases.	Agreement reached	
Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (OLEMS) (PD1-054)			
LPA28	The mitigation planting proposed sufficiently mitigates the potential Landscape and Visual impacts of the OnSS based on a Maximum Design Scenario (MDS).	Agreement reached	
LPA29	The mitigation planting layout has been developed based on the MDS for the two technology types; Air Insulated System (AIS) and Gas Insulated System (GIS). Any refinements to the planting layout will be undertaken at detailed design to ensure that the layout is responsive to the final design. Any refinements to the planting layout will seek to retain its effectiveness in reducing landscape and visual effects over the operational phase of the Project. Any refinements to the planting layout would need to be approved through a Landscape Management Plan by the LPA in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) in adherence with Requirement 10 of the draft DCO (Document 3.1, version 3).	Strategic mitigation planting based on the MDS is appropriate at this stage and should be refined and resolved during the detailed design stage once final designs are fixed in order to ensure mitigation measures are appropriate and effective.	
LPA30	The final design of the onshore substation must accord with the design principles statement (APP-293) which, if required, will be updated to capture any additional commitments as agreed through the design review process.	In addition to according with the design principles statement, final designs should be submitted to the LPA for review. It is noted that the design principles statement may be revised and updated during the design review process.	

Ref	ODOW Position	LPAs Position	Status
		Changes to this document should be highlighted at each revision.	

2.6 Draft DCO

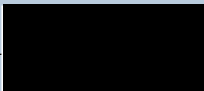
23. The Applicant has submitted a draft Development Consent Order (APP-303), which was subsequently updated by PD1-024.

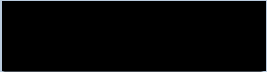
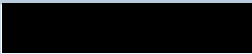
Table 9 Draft DCO

Ref	ODOW Position	LPAs Position	Status
Schedule 1 (Part 3) Requirements			
LPA31	The LPAs are satisfied with the wording of the draft Requirements within Schedule 1 (Part 3) of the dDCO and that it provides the necessary control required.	Agreed	
LPA32	The LPAs are satisfied that its role within the discharge of Requirements has been adequately reflected within Schedule 1 (Part 3) of the dDCO.	Agreed	

3 Signatures

This SOCG has been prepared by the Applicant and the S&ELCP's is agreed on the date below.

Signed for East Lindsey DC, South Holland DC and Boston BC	
Name	
Position	CONSULTANT PLANNING OFFICER
Date	16/10/2024
Duly authorised for and on behalf of the LPAs	

Signed for the Applicant	
	
Name	
Position	DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
Date	16/10/2024
Duly authorised for and on behalf of the Applicant	