

## **5 PART 5: CONSULTATION**

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### **5.1 Overview**

1617. Under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) consultation relating to an NSIP must be undertaken with statutory or prescribed bodies (under Section 42 of the Act), with local communities (under Section 47) and more widely through the general notification of a proposed application (under Section 48). An applicant must have regard to any relevant response received as a result of this statutory consultation when deciding on the application it will make to the Planning Inspectorate (Section 49).
1618. Section 37 of the Act requires all applications for a DCO to be accompanied by a consultation report which gives details of compliance with the statutory requirements, any relevant responses received and the account taken of those responses. A Consultation Report will be provided along with the DCO application.
1619. Under Section 47 of the Act, a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) must be produced to describe how the applicant proposes to consult with the local community. The Applicant will publish the SoCC in early 2018 in advance of consultation on the PEIR (Section 1.1.8). In advance of publishing the SoCC, informal consultation will be on going, as described below.
1620. Under Section 48 of the Act, the applicant is required to advertise formal consultation of the PEIR and proposal to submit a DCO application in relevant newspapers, including a national newspaper, a local newspaper for at least two successive weeks, once in the London Gazette, once in Lloyds List and in a fishing trade journal. Formal consultation commences on the date of the last advert and continues for at least 28 days. During this period, all interested parties have the opportunity to provide feedback to the Applicant to inform the proposed application to be submitted.

### **5.2 Consultation with Statutory and prescribed bodies**

1621. As discussed in Section 1.6.2, the Applicant will undertake key technical stakeholder consultation under the EPP. The EPP provides a mechanism to help agree the information the Applicant needs to supply to the Planning Inspectorate as part of a DCO application for Norfolk Boreas to ensure compliance with the EIA Regulations and Habitat Regulations.
1622. The EPP aims to assist all parties in the process during the development of the proposed DCO application, by:

- Giving greater certainty to all parties on the amount and range of evidence to be presented within the application;
- Providing structure and efficiency to discussion and sequential identification of key environmental and consenting issues;
- Enabling time and resource requirements to be planned and optimised for all parties;
- Helping address and agree issues earlier on in the pre-application stage where possible so robust, streamlined decisions can be taken, and additional data can be collected as required; and
- Providing a platform to debate advice on one topic between multiple agencies.

1623. Although the EPP is not part of the formal consultation, it will provide the audit trail of discussion and where appropriate, agreement for the PEIR produced by the Applicant, which will then be formally consulted upon. It is hoped that the minutes from meetings, and other technical reports produced as part of the EPP will help to form the basis for Statements of Common Ground (SoCG), and relevant sections of the Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the DCO application. SoCG provide details of the areas of agreement and disagreement between the Norfolk Boreas development and technical stakeholders with regards to the application, to aid the examination process.

1624. The EPP will include expert topic group meetings. The process will be monitored by an EPP steering group chaired by the Planning Inspectorate, and will be formulated to meet the requirements of Planning Act 2008 and DCO application process.

1625. It is proposed that there are two parallel streams of the EPP, namely:

- Offshore – covering offshore topics of relevance to nature conservation which form part of the HRA and EIA:
  - Physical Processes (nearshore and offshore);
  - Offshore Ornithology;
  - Water and Sediment Quality
  - Benthic Ecology;
  - Marine Mammal Ecology; and
  - Fish and Shellfish Ecology.
- Onshore – covering topics of particular concern to onshore regulators and stakeholders:
  - Onshore ecology (including onshore ornithology);
  - Water Quality, WFD and Flood Risk;
  - Land Quality and Geology;
  - Traffic and Transport;

- Air Quality and Noise;
  - Health and Socio-Economics;
  - Archaeology (offshore and onshore); and
  - Landscape and Land Use.
- EIA topic areas for which there are established consultation processes will stand outside the EPP, namely:
    - Commercial Fisheries;
    - Shipping and Navigation; and
    - Aviation and Radar.
1626. Following refinement of the onshore project areas based on feedback from this Scoping Report, public consultation and ongoing constraints mapping, relevant landowners will be identified to allow further consultation.

### 5.3 Community consultation

1627. The Applicant is committed to liaising with communities local to the project and will use a range of methods to disseminate information and seek feedback. Further information will be provided in the SoCC (Section 5.1).
1628. The Applicant is developing a communication strategy to support and drive engagement and evidence gathering compliant with the requirements of the Planning Inspectorate's NSIP process. The strategy will take into account the challenges of differentiation and/or confusion of the Norfolk Boreas project with other offshore wind farms in the area (including Norfolk Vanguard), and local consultation fatigue, and will seek to engage with a broad range of interested parties and demographics during the community consultation process. Where appropriate the Applicant will seek to provide information on both the Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas projects at once; this will allow the Applicant to highlight similarities and synergies linking the projects, as well as point out differences. The Applicant will be careful to develop information gathering and involvement methodologies that focus on the individual projects, particularly during statutory consultation on the PEIR.
1629. Key stakeholders will be the first point of contact locally, and will have early notice ahead of any planned engagement, and will be consulted on the Applicant's approach to engagement:
- Parish Councils;
  - District and County Council;
  - Elected Representatives;
  - Key network organisations (if relevant);
  - Key community groups e.g. Resident's Associations, development trusts / community

- development organisations; and
- Local Authority Neighbourhood Officer(s)/consultation officers (or equivalent function).
1630. In addition, within the agreed core consultation area, the following will be invited and encouraged to participate in the process:
- Local residents;
  - Local groups (i.e. those with environmental, social or economic interests,); and
  - Business groups.
1631. The Applicant will also engage with the ‘hard to reach’ audience and interested parties in the wider area, raising awareness of the project, and creating relevant opportunities to encourage participation in consultation events and activities.
1632. Drop-in exhibitions will continue to be held at specific intervals during the EIA process to allow ongoing engagement with local communities. The first phase of these events was held in October 2016 to introduce the projects and the second was held in March and April 2017 to provide further information on the development of the projects. Both phases included multiple locations throughout the onshore scoping area, enabling members of the public to learn about Norfolk Boreas and to share their knowledge of the area to help inform the project design. Further community consultation events will take place during 2018 and following the publication of PEIR.
1633. The display boards presented at the March 2017 drop-in exhibitions are available from the Norfolk Boreas project website<sup>25</sup>.
1634. Further to the drop-in exhibitions, members of the public will be given the opportunity to join a mailing list to receive updates on the project. In addition, information will be circulated through media advertising, posters, social media and regular updates to the project website:
- <http://norfolkboreas.vattenfall.co.uk>
1635. Consultation will also be ongoing with Norfolk County Council and relevant District Councils and Parish Councils throughout the EIA process.
1636. The information, views and opinions provided as part of the community consultation both informally and formally will be recorded and along with the views and advice from other stakeholders will be considered in the development of the EIA and in the refinement of the project prior to the DCO application being made. Wherever possible the PEIR and EIA will highlight where and how input and opinion received has been taken into account in the development of the project.

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<sup>25</sup> <http://norfolkboreas.vattenfall.co.uk/article/documents>.

## 6 PART 6: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

1637. Summaries of all the potential impacts considered within this scoping report are provided below in Table 6.1, Table 6.2 and Table 6.3. A ✓ indicates that the Applicant proposes to scope the impact into the EIA whereas an x indicates that the Applicant is proposing to scope the impact out of the assessment.

**Table 6.1 Summary of potential offshore environment impacts**

	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
<b>Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes</b>			
Effects to hydrodynamic regime (waves and tidal currents)	X	✓	X
Effects on sediments and sedimentary structures	✓	✓	✓
Effects on suspended sediment concentrations and transport	✓	✓	✓
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓
Transboundary impacts	X	X	X
<b>Marine Water and Sediment Quality</b>			
Deterioration in water quality due to re-suspension of sediments	✓	✓	✓
Release of contaminated sediments	✓	✓	✓
Accidental release of contaminants	X	X	X
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓
Transboundary impacts	X	X	X
<b>Air Quality</b>			
<b>Impacts on offshore air quality</b>	X	X	X
<b>Airborne noise</b>			
Impacts of airborne noise from the offshore project area	X	X	X
<b>Benthic and Intertidal Ecology</b>			
Physical disturbance	✓	✓	✓
Increased suspended sediments	✓	✓	✓
Smothering	✓	✓	✓
Re-mobilisation of contaminated sediments	✓	X	✓
Underwater noise and vibration	✓	X	✓
Loss of habitat	✓	✓	X
Colonisation of foundations	X	✓	X

	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
Sites of Marine Conservation Interest	✓	✓	✓
Electromagnetic fields (EMF)	X	X	X
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓
Transboundary impacts	X	X	X
<b>Fish Ecology</b>			
Physical Disturbance	✓	✓	✓
Suspended sediments	✓	✓	✓
Re-suspension of contaminants	✓	X	✓
Loss of habitat	X	✓	X
Noise and vibration disturbance	✓	✓	✓
Fish aggregation	X	✓	X
EMF	X	✓	X
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓
Transboundary impacts	✓	✓	✓
<b>Marine Mammal Ecology</b>			
Underwater noise	✓	✓	✓
Barrier effects	✓	✓	✓
Entanglement	X	✓	X
Impacts upon prey species	✓	✓	✓
Vessel interactions	✓	✓	✓
EMF	X	X	X
Disturbance at haul out sites	✓	X	✓
Changes to water quality	✓	✓	✓
Potential impacts on sites of Marine Conservation Interest	✓	✓	✓
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓
Transboundary impacts	✓	✓	✓
<b>Offshore Ornithology</b>			
Disturbance and displacement	✓	✓*	✓
Indirect impacts through effects on habitats and prey species.	✓	X	✓
Collision risk	X	✓*	X
Barrier effect	X	✓*	X
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓

	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
Transboundary impacts	✓	✓	✓
<b>Commercial Fisheries</b>			
Impacts on commercially exploited species	✓	✓	✓
Loss of or restricted access to traditional fishing grounds	✓	✓	✓
Displacement of fishing activity	✓	✓	✓
Loss of or damage to fishing gear	x	✓	✓
Increased collision risk (to be covered by NRA)	✓	✓	✓
Increased steaming times	✓	✓	✓
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓
Transboundary impacts	✓	✓	✓
<b>Shipping and Navigation</b>			
Vessel routeing	✓	✓	✓
Displacement of Third Party marine activities:	✓	✓	✓
Increased collision risk	✓	✓	✓
Allision risk	✓	✓	✓
Interference with marine navigational equipment	x	✓	x
Interaction with subsea cables	✓	✓	✓
Impacts on Emergency Response Resources	✓	✓	✓
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓
Transboundary impacts	✓	✓	✓
<b>Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</b>			
Direct physical disturbance	✓	✓	✓
Indirect physical disturbance	✓	✓	✓
Indirect disturbance of setting (offshore)	✓	✓	✓
Indirect disturbance of setting (landfall)	✓	x	x
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓
Transboundary impacts	✓	✓	✓
<b>Aviation and Radar</b>			
Impact on Radar Systems	x	✓	x
Impact HMRs and Offshore Platforms	✓	✓	✓
Impact on Military Training Area	x	x	x
Increased collision risk	✓	✓	✓

	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓
Transboundary impacts	X	X	X
<b>Infrastructure and Other Users</b>			
Potential interference with other wind farms development	X	X	X
Potential interference with oil and gas operations	✓	X	X
Physical impacts on subsea cables and pipelines	✓	X	✓
Impacts on aggregate dredging activities	✓	X	✓
Impacts on disposal sites	X	X	X
Initiation of UXO	X	X	X
Impacts on MOD activities	X	X	X
Cumulative impacts	X	X	X
Transboundary impacts	X	X	X

\*Only assessed in relation to the Norfolk Boreas site and not the export cable. Scoped in (✓), scoped out (x)

**Table 6.2 Summary of potential onshore environment impacts**

	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
<b>Ground Condition and Contamination</b>			
Contaminant mobilisation from earthworks during construction	✓	X	✓
Alteration to coast line, including coastal geological designated sites	✓	X	✓
Sterilisation of mineral resources and waste generation	✓	X	✓
Cumulative impacts	✓	X	✓
<b>Air Quality</b>			
Increase in traffic based air quality pollutant concentrations – human receptor locations	✓	X	✓
Increase in traffic based air quality pollutant concentrations – ecological habitats	✓	X	✓
Construction dust impacts – human receptors	✓	X	✓
Construction dust impacts – ecological habitats	✓	X	✓
Cumulative impacts	✓	X	✓
<b>Water Resource and Flood Risk</b>			
Impacts on water resources	✓	✓	✓



	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
Flood risk	✓	✓	✓
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓
<b>Land Use</b>			
Agricultural productivity	✓	✓	✓
Drainage	✓	✓	✓
Disruption to farming practices	✓	✓	✓
Temporary closure/redirection of PRoWs/cycle paths	✓	✓	✓
Existing utilities	✓	X	✓
Public health and safety	✓	✓	✓
Loss of land	X	✓	X
Diversion of PRoWs	X	✓	X
Soil heating/ desiccation	X	✓	X
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓
<b>Onshore Ecology</b>			
Impacts to statutory and non-statutory designated sites	✓	✓	✓
Permanent and temporary loss of habitats	✓	X	✓
Temporary habitat fragmentation and species isolation	✓	X	✓
Impacts to legally protected and notable species	✓	✓	✓
Spread of non-native invasive species	✓	X	✓
Impacts from lighting	✓	✓	✓
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓
<b>Onshore Ornithology</b>			
Impacts to legally protected and notable species	✓	X	✓
Temporary and permanent loss of habitat suitable for nesting, roosting and foraging birds	✓	✓	X
Noise, vibration and visual disturbance to birds	✓	✓	✓
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓
<b>Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</b>			
Direct impact on (permanent change to) buried archaeological remains	✓	X	✓
Direct impact on (permanent change to) above ground archaeological remains – e.g. historic earthworks (including the historic landscape character)	✓	X	✓

	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
Indirect impact on the setting of heritage assets (designated and non-designated, including historic landscape character)	✓	✓	✓
Impact on potential geoarchaeological / palaeoenvironmental remains, potentially indicative of former land surfaces	✓	x	✓
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓
<b>Noise and Vibration</b>			
Noise affecting human and ecological receptors	✓	✓	✓
Vibration affecting human and ecological receptors	✓	x	✓
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓
<b>Traffic and Transport</b>			
Driver delay	✓	x	✓
Severance	✓	x	✓
Pedestrian/cycle amenity	✓	x	✓
Road safety	✓	✓	✓
Abnormal loads	✓	x	✓
Cumulative impacts	✓	x	✓
<b>Health</b>			
Accidental / Incidental Chemical Spills / Leaks to Surface / Ground / Coastal waters or Soils	✓	x	✓
Emissions to air (including dust)	✓	x	✓
Waste disposal and transport	✓	x	✓
Transport related accidents	✓	✓	✓
Obstruction to or loss of open space and health benefits	✓	✓	✓
Community stress and anxiety as a result of increased pollution (water) risk, flood risk, noise, visual, heavy traffic, or crime due to in-migrant workers	✓	✓	✓
EMF	x	✓	x
Cumulative	✓	✓	✓

Scoped in (✓) and scoped out (x)

**Table 6.3 Summary of potential impacts on wider scheme aspects**

	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
<b>Landscape, Seascape and Visual amenity</b>			
Landscape, visual and cumulative impacts of offshore components	X	X	X
Landscape and visual impacts of landfall	✓	X	X
Landscape and visual impacts of cable relay station	✓	✓	✓
Landscape and visual impacts of onshore cable route	✓	X	X
Landscape and visual impacts of substation	✓	✓	✓
Cumulative impacts of landfall	X	X	X
Cumulative impacts of cable relay station	✓	✓	✓
Cumulative impacts of onshore cable route	✓	X	X
Cumulative impacts of substation	✓	✓	✓
<b>Socio-economics</b>			
Employment opportunities and supply chain	✓	✓	✓
Impact on the demand for housing, accommodation and local services	✓	✓	✓
Impact on offshore industries (will be considered in Section 2.10 and Section 2.11)	✓	✓	✓
Impact on offshore and coastal tourism and associated economic value	✓	✓	✓
Impacts on local tourism and recreation resources, including PRoWs	✓	✓	✓
Cumulative socio-economic impacts	✓	✓	✓
<b>Tourism and Recreation</b>			
<b>Coastal and marine</b>			
Visual impacts	✓	✓	✓
Disruption to marine and coastal recreational activities	✓	X	✓
Restricted beach access	✓	X	✓
Deterioration to Bathing water / Blue flag beaches and resulting effect on tourism and recreation	X	X	X
<b>Onshore (inland)</b>			
Disturbance including noise, dust and visual impact	✓	X	✓
Disruption to local recreation and tourism provisions and businesses	✓	✓	✓
Reduction in Available Accommodation due to Construction Personnel	✓	✓	✓

	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
Alternate routes / temporary/permanent closure of PRowS	✓	✓	✓
Reverting land and amenity to an improved condition	x	x	✓
Cumulative impacts	✓	✓	✓

Scoped in (✓) and scoped out (x)

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