DOGGER BANK D
WIND FARM
Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 1
Chapter 1 Introduction

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Birkhill Wood Substation	The onshore grid connection point for DBD identified through the Holistic Network Design process. Birkhill Wood Substation which is being developed by National Grid Electricity Transmission and does not form part of the Project.
DBD	Dogger Bank D (DBD) Offshore Wind Farm, also referred to as the Project in this PEIR.
Array Area	The area within which the wind turbines, inter-array cables and offshore platform(s) will be located.
Deemed Marine Licence (DML)	A consent required under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 for certain activities undertaken within the UK marine area, which may be granted as part of the Development Consent Order.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	A consent required under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 to authorise the development of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, which is granted by the relevant Secretary of State following an application to the Planning Inspectorate.
Effect	An effect is the consequence of an impact when considered in combination with the receptor's sensitivity / value / importance, defined in terms of significance.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A process by which certain planned projects must be assessed before a formal decision to proceed can be made. It involves the collection and consideration of environmental information and includes the publication of an Environmental Statement.
Environmental Statement (ES)	A document reporting the findings of the EIA which describes the measures proposed to mitigate any likely significant effects.
Evidence Plan Process (EPP)	A voluntary consultation process with technical stakeholders which includes a Steering Group and Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings to encourage upfront agreement on the nature, volume and range of supporting evidence required to inform the EIA and HRA process.
Expert Topic Group (ETG)	A forum for targeted technical engagement with relevant stakeholders through the EPP.
HRA	A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is a process that determines whether or not development could negatively impact a designated European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. European sites are protected by the Habitats Regulations.
Grid Connection	The offshore and onshore electricity transmission network connection to Birkhill Wood Substation.
Impact	A change resulting from an activity associated with the Project, defined in terms of magnitude.
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project	Under The Planning Act 2008, these are large scale projects falling into five general categories (Energy; Transport; Water; Waste Water and Waste).
Offshore Development Area	The area in which all offshore infrastructure associated with the Project will be located, including any temporary works area during construction, which extends seaward of Mean High Water Springs. There is an overlap with the Onshore Development Area in the intertidal zone.
Onshore Development Area	The area in which all onshore infrastructure associated with the Project will be located, including any temporary works area required during construction and permanent land required for mitigation and enhancement areas, which extends landward of Mean Low Water Springs. There is an overlap with the Offshore Development Area in the intertidal zone.
Scoping Opinion	A written opinion issued by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State regarding the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided in the Applicant's Environmental Statement. The Scoping Opinion for the Project was adopted by the Secretary of State on 02 August 2024.

Term	Definition
Scoping Report	A request by the Applicant made to the Planning Inspectorate for a Scoping Opinion on behalf of the Secretary of State. The Scoping Report for the Project was submitted to the Secretary of State on 24th June 2024.
The Applicant	SSE Renewables and Equinor acting through 'Doggerbank Offshore Wind Farm Project 4 Projco Limited
The Project	Dogger Bank D (DBD) Offshore Wind Farm Project, also referred to as DBD in this PEIR.
Wind Turbines	Power generating devices located within the DBD Array Area that convert kinetic energy from wind into electricity.

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

1. This chapter of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) presents an introduction to Dogger Bank D Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter 'the Project' or 'DBD'), the Applicant (Doggerbank Offshore Wind Farm Project 4 Projco Limited), the consenting and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, consultation, and the structure of the PEIR.

2. This PEIR has been prepared for the Applicant by Royal HaskoningDHV. It has been developed to include the information reasonably required to enable an informed response to the statutory consultation and includes all relevant EIA topics identified in the Project's EIA Scoping Opinion (Planning Inspectorate, 2024). The EIA Scoping Report for the Project was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 25th June 2024. The Planning Inspectorate issued its Scoping Opinion on 2nd August 2024 which has informed the development of this PEIR.

3. The purpose of the PEIR is to provide a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Project, as required by The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the EIA Regulations 2017), using information available at the time of drafting.

4. The PEIR describes the potential environmental effects associated with the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Project including the associated infrastructure both onshore and offshore. It has been produced to support public and stakeholder consultation under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008. Through this process the Applicant actively seeks consultees' comments on the preliminary information presented. Comments received via this consultation will be considered in both the development of the Project and the Environmental Statement (ES).

5. The ES will build upon the information presented in this PEIR and will be submitted as part of the Project's application for a Development Consent Order (DCO). Further detail on the legislative context for the Project is provided in **Chapter 3 Policy and Legislative Context**.

1.2 Background

6. As part of its third licensing round in 2008, The Crown Estate identified the Dogger Bank Zone, located between 125km and 290km off the east coast of Yorkshire, as one of the nine offshore wind farm development zones in the UK. Following the 2008 licensing round, four project areas were identified within the zone to take to development consent, namely Creyke Beck A, Creyke Beck B, Teesside A and Teesside B. In 2015, development consent was granted for all four project areas.

7. In 2017, the four project areas were restructured under new ownership arrangements. Creyke Beck A, Creyke Beck B and Teesside A were renamed as Dogger Bank A (DBA), Dogger Bank B (DBB) and Dogger Bank C (DBC) respectively and would progress collectively as the Dogger Bank Wind Farm in three build-out phases by SSE Renewables, Equinor and Vårgrønn. Teesside B was renamed as Sofia Offshore Wind Farm and would be progressed separately from the Dogger Bank Wind Farm by RWE.

8. In 2021, an opportunity was identified by the Applicant to maximise the capacity of the third phase of the Dogger Bank Wind Farm, namely DBC, such that additional capacity of up to 1.5GW of renewable energy could potentially be consented and constructed in the eastern part of the original DBC site. This new development phase is known as Dogger Bank D (see **Plate 1-1**), and is an independent project being promoted by a separate commercial entity from the previous phases of the Dogger Bank Wind Farm.

9. In 2023 The Crown Estate confirmed that a Plan-Level Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) would be undertaken to assess the collective environmental impact at plan level of DBD together with six other offshore wind projects identified in either The Crown Estate's Offshore Wind Leasing Round 3, or The Crown Estate's 2021 Offshore Wind Extensions opportunity, collectively known as the Capacity Increases Programme (CIP). In March 2025, The Crown Estate notified the Secretary of State of the conclusions reached under the Plan-Level HRA. In May 2025, the Secretary of State confirmed that TCE has adequately assessed the impacts of the plan on protected sites within the National Site Network and endorsed the outcome of the Plan-Level HRA to proceed with the CIP.

10. Once fully operational, Dogger Bank Wind Farm (comprising DBA, DBB, DBC and DBD) will be the world's largest offshore wind farm, generating a total of 3.6GW of energy. This capacity will be enough to power six million homes in the UK each year and is a critical contribution to the transition to net zero. As Dogger Bank D is proposed to be constructed within the original footprint of Dogger Bank Wind Farm, this new development stage could add an additional 1.5GW of capacity, taking the total generating capacity of all stages (DBA, DBB, DBC and DBD) to over 5GW.

11. Dogger Bank Wind Farm will employ one of the world's most powerful offshore wind turbines in operation today and is the first wind farm in the UK to utilise a High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) connection. Moreover, the construction and future operation of Dogger Bank Wind Farm will support over 2,000 new or existing jobs in the UK, increasing the country's supply chain capacity and building capabilities within the national offshore wind sector.

12. The DBD Array Area covers an area of approximately 262km^2 and is located approximately 210km off the Yorkshire coast at its closest point, with its eastern boundary located approximately 160m west of the Dutch Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

13. The Project is being developed as a radial connection into Birkhill Wood Substation, a proposed new substation north of Hull as identified through the Holistic Network Design process (National Grid ESO, 2024a). Birkhill Wood Substation will serve as the onshore grid connection point for DBD and will be developed and constructed by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET). The development of Birkhill Wood Substation does not form part of DBD.

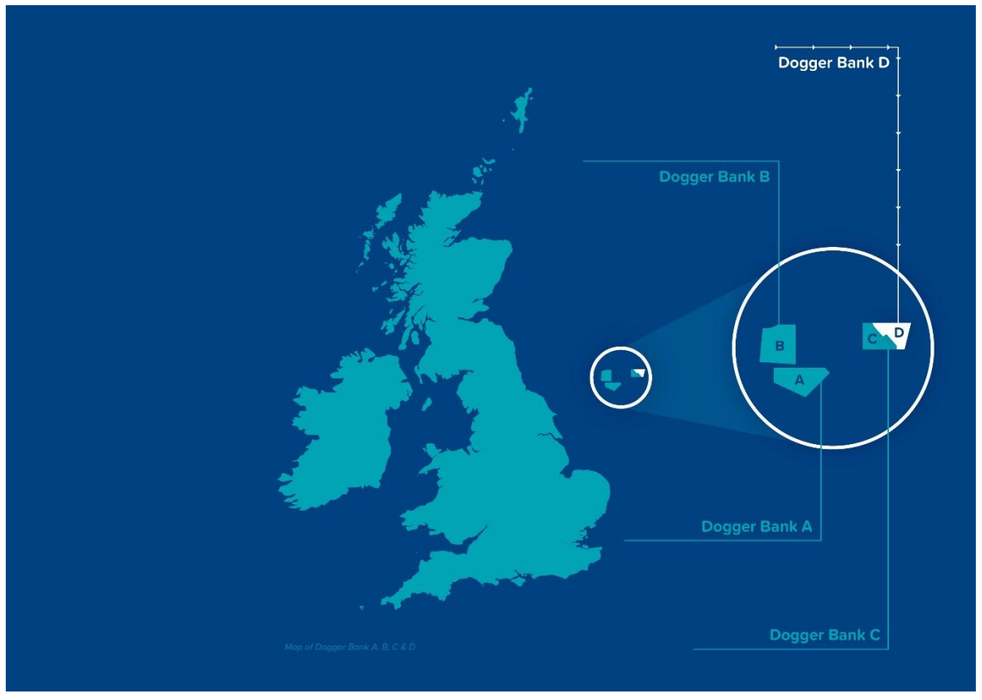

Plate 1-1 Location of Dogger Bank D Offshore Wind Farm

14. When operational, the Project would have the potential capacity of up to 1.5GW of renewable energy, powering up to 2.5 million typical United Kingdom (UK) homes (based on information available at the time of writing). See **Chapter 4 Project Description** for further information on the Project and associated parameters.

1.3 The Applicant and the Project Team

15. SSE Renewables and Equinor, acting through Doggerbank Offshore Wind Farm Project 4 Projco Limited (the Applicant), are developing the Project as a 50/50 joint venture. Both companies are two of the world's leading companies in the development and operation of offshore wind energy and were involved in the design and consenting of all current phases of the Dogger Bank Wind Farm (DBA, DBB and DBC).

16. SSE Renewables is a leading developer and operator of renewable energy generation, focusing on onshore and offshore wind, hydro, solar and battery storage. Part of energy infrastructure company SSE plc, UK-listed in the FTSE100, it is delivering clean power assets to increase SSE's operational renewable generation capacity from 5GW today to up to 9GW by 2027 as part of a ~£20bn clean energy plan, the five-year Net Zero Acceleration Programme Plus. Its core market focus is on the UK and Ireland, with a growing international presence in carefully selected markets in Continental Europe and Japan.

17. Equinor has been a reliable energy partner to the UK for over 40 years, providing a stable supply of oil and gas, developing the UK's offshore wind industry, and pioneering solutions to decarbonise the UK economy. Equinor has a long track record of developing offshore wind farms in the UK, having built and commissioned into operation the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm, Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm and Hywind Scotland Pilot Park, the world's first floating offshore wind farm. Equinor has been operating in the UK for more than 40 years and possesses over 50 years of offshore experience in the North Sea area. Equinor aims to power seven million homes from its UK windfarms by 2030.

18. For further information on Dogger Bank D Offshore Wind Farm, visit: https://doggerbankd.com/.

19. Royal HaskoningDHV has been commissioned by the Applicant as the EIA lead for the Project. Royal HaskoningDHV has provided environmental, development and consenting support on over 18.5GW of offshore renewable energy projects in UK waters. Their EIA activities and ESs are accredited by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) under the EIA Quality Mark Scheme. This demonstrates Royal HaskoningDHV's expertise in the field and commitment to ensuring EIA is maintained at a high quality, in accordance with best practice and thereby satisfying the requirements of the EIA Regulations 2017 under which the developer must ensure the ES is prepared by competent experts. Further information on competent experts can be found in **Chapter 6 Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology**.

1.4 Purpose of the Project

20. Climate change is driven by greenhouse gas emissions, which have increased over the last two centuries. These emissions contribute to global temperature rises and have adverse impacts on weather patterns, ecosystem health, human health and welfare. This issue is of direct concern to the UK.

21. The UK has made an ambitious commitment to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050, an increase from the 1990 target of an 80% reduction by 2050 (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), 2021).

22. Renewable and low carbon energy development, such as offshore wind, is an alternative technology for energy production to address climate change. As part of the UK government's British Energy Security Strategy published in 2022, the target for offshore wind capacity is now 50GW by 2030 (BEIS, 2022).

23. The UK is currently the second largest offshore wind market in the world, with 13.8GW of offshore wind in operation in UK waters. There is a further 78.1GW either committed (under construction or with government support on offer) or in the development pipeline (HM Government, 2023). However, according to recent advice from the Committee on Climate Change (CCC, 2020), the UK may need at least 125GW of operating offshore wind farms to reach the new legally binding net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2050.

24. The Government has recognised that due to an increase in electrification and decarbonisation of heat, transport and industry, the UK's demand for electricity is likely to increase significantly over the coming years and could double by 2050. This increase *"could require a fourfold increase in low carbon electricity, with most of this likely to come from renewable"* (UK Government, 2023).

25. In response to this need, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) published updated National Planning Statements in key energy policy areas:

- Overarching NPS for energy (EN-1) (DESNZ, 2023b);
- NPS for renewable energy infrastructure (EN-3) (DESNZ, 2023c); and
- NPS for electricity networks infrastructure (EN-5) (DESNZ, 2023d).

26. The Project will help deliver renewable energy to help meet this increased demand and would make a substantial contribution of up to 1.5GW to the UK's decarbonisation targets and global commitments to address climate change. In addition, the Project would help to reduce the UK's reliance on imported energy and improve energy security through the generation of low carbon, renewable and low-cost electricity in the UK.

27. Further detail is provided in **Chapter 2 Need for the Project** and **Chapter 3 Policy and Legislative Context**.

1.5 Consent and EIA Processes

28. The Project would include an offshore generating station in the English Renewable Energy Zone with an installed capacity exceeding 100MW and is therefore classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). As such, a DCO is required under the Planning Act 2008. An application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate who administers the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. The associated Deemed Marine Licences (DML) would be included as a schedule to the DCO to cover the marine aspects of the Project and would be developed in consultation with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

29. The requirement for an EIA is contained in the EIA Regulations 2017. This legislation stipulates that an EIA must be undertaken in support of applications for development consent of NSIPs. The EIA will consider the appropriate realistic worst-case development scenarios for the Project and present the results on a topic-by-topic basis.

30. This PEIR sets out the preliminary findings of the EIA based on the information available at the time of drafting. The ES will build upon the information presented in this PEIR and will be submitted in support of the DCO application. The assessment methodology that has been applied to the development of the PEIR is explained in further detail in **Chapter 6 Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology.**

1.6 Coordination

31. The Applicant is exploring opportunities for coordination as required by NPS-EN5. The design envelope assessed in this PEIR provides a level of flexibility for ongoing discussion on potential opportunities for coordination with other projects where appropriate. Details of engagement with other relevant developers and the process of evaluating feasible and practicable coordination measures undertaken will be summarised in a Coordination Report which will be submitted at ES stage.

32. Further information on this and other relevant policy and legislative requirements of the Project are outlined in **Chapter 3 Policy and Legislative Context.**

1.7 Technical Consultation

33. A non-statutory consultation was held from 26th September to 7th November 2023 on the initial proposals for the Project. Further non-statutory consultation was held between 10th September and 22nd October 2024 for the updated Project. These described the proposed scope and methodology of technical assessments to be included in the EIA. The EIA Scoping Report provided justification and evidence to scope out topics and impacts that are unlikely to give rise to significant effects. A Scoping Opinion was received on 2nd August 2024 (The Planning Inspectorate, 2024) and has informed the EIA process and technical assessments presented within this PEIR.

34. In addition to the feedback received through this process, the Applicant has undertaken technical consultation through the Evidence Plan Process (EPP). The EPP is a non-statutory, voluntary process which provides a mechanism to seek agreement on the information DBD should provide in the EIA and HRA as part of the DCO application with key technical stakeholders.

35. Feedback received through the ongoing EPP via the Evidence Plan Steering Group and Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings and wider technical consultation meetings with relevant stakeholders has also been considered in the preparation of the technical chapters (**Chapters 8 to 31**).

36. **Table 1-1** details the ETG groups and topics which make up the EPP. Further detail is provided in **Chapter 7 Consultation**.

Table 1-1 Evidence Plan Process, Groups and Topics

ETG Group	Topic
ETG1	Marine Physical Processes, Benthic Ecology, and Fish Ecology (EIA and HRA)
ETG2	Offshore Ornithology (EIA and HRA)
ETG3	Marine Mammal Ecology and Underwater Noise (EIA and HRA)
ETG4	Offshore Ornithology Compensation (HRA)
ETG5	Seabed Compensation (HRA) and Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit (MEEB)
ETG6	Onshore Ecology, Ornithology, and Land Use
ETG7	Onshore and Offshore Archaeology
ETG8	Traffic and Transport
ETG9	Landscape and Visual Assessment
ETG10	Water Resources and Flood Risk, Geology and Ground Conditions
ETG11	Air Quality, Noise and Vibration, Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation

1.8 Community Consultation

37. The local community and local interest groups are important stakeholders who can provide insight and local knowledge for the Project. The Applicant is committed to carrying out its duty to consult with the local community under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 and recognises the benefits of open, transparent and accessible consultation and engagement.

38. A non-statutory consultation was held from 26th September to 7th November 2023 on the initial proposals for the Project. Further non-statutory consultation was held between 10th September and 22nd October 2024 for the updated proposals (as described in **Chapter 4 Project Description**). Feedback from the 2024 non-statutory consultation has helped guide site selection of the preferred cable corridor (see **Chapter 5 Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives**). Input from local communities, environmental groups, landowners and other stakeholders TPhave helped identify concerns and preferences, highlight sensitive ecological areas and cultural heritage sites.

39. A Statement of Community Consultation has been produced which sets out how the Applicant proposes to consult with the local community. A copy of the SoCC is available at www.doggerbankd.com.

40. Further detail is provided in **Chapter 7 Consultation**.

1.9 Section 42, 47 and 48 Consultation

41. Through this PEIR the Applicant actively seeks consultation under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008 with the relevant consultees. Consultees' comments on the preliminary information presented in this PEIR will be considered where practicable and appropriate in both the development of the Project and the ES.

42. This PEIR can be downloaded at www.doggerbankd.com and USB copies are available on request via email (contact@doggerbankd.com). A non-technical summary (NTS) is also available with the statutory consultation materials on the website and at deposit locations around East Riding.

43. DBD welcome feedback on this PEIR via the following:

- Email: contact@doggerbankd.com
- Website: www.doggerbankd.com (feedback form)
- Post: FREEPOST DOGGER BANK D

1.10 Structure of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report

44. This PEIR covers both the Offshore and Onshore Development Areas of the Project. It comprises two volumes:

- **Volume 1**: PEIR Chapters (see **Table 1-2**); and
- **Volume 2**: PEIR Appendices.

45. The NTS sets out the main themes and findings in a way that is accessible to a general audience. Full details of the chapters and appendices which comprise the PEIR are presented in **Volume 2, Appendix 1.3 Document Register** and **Volume 2, Appendix 1.2 Guide to PEIR**.

46. In addition to the PEIR, the following outline management plans will be available for consultation at PEIR stage, these will be further developed post PEIR and submitted with the DCO application:

- **Outline Code of Construction Practice** (document reference 8.9), including:
  - Appendix A: **Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan** (document reference 8.9.1); and
  - Appendix B: **Outline Site Waste Management Plan** (document reference 8.9.2);
- **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan** (document reference 8.15);
- **Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan** (document reference 8.1); and
- **Outline Project Environmental Management Plan** (document reference 8.6).

Table 1-2 PEIR Volume 1 Chapter List

Section	Chapter	Title
Introductory	Chapter 1	Introduction
	Chapter 2	Need for the Project
	Chapter 3	Policy and Legislative Context
	Chapter 4	Project Description
	Chapter 5	Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives
	Chapter 6	Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology
	Chapter 7	Consultation
Offshore	Chapter 8	Marine Physical Processes
	Chapter 9	Marine Water and Sediment Quality
	Chapter 10	Benthic and Intertidal Ecology
	Chapter 11	Fish and Shellfish Ecology
	Chapter 12	Marine Mammals
	Chapter 13	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
	Chapter 14	Commercial Fisheries
	Chapter 15	Shipping and Navigation
	Chapter 16	Aviation, Radar and Military
	Chapter 17	Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
	Chapter 18	Other Marine Users
Onshore	Chapter 19	Geology and Ground Conditions
	Chapter 20	Air Quality and Dust
	Chapter 21	Water Resources and Flood Risk
	Chapter 22	Soils and Land Use
	Chapter 23	Onshore Ecology and Ornithology

Section	Chapter	Title
	Chapter 24	Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
	Chapter 25	Noise and Vibration
	Chapter 26	Traffic and Transport
	Chapter 27	Landscape and Visual Impacts
	Chapter 28	Major Accidents and Disasters
Project-wide	Chapter 29	Human Health
	Chapter 30	Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation
	Chapter 31	Climate Change

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List of Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
CCC	Climate Change Committee
DBA	Dogger Bank A Offshore Wind Farm
DBB	Dogger Bank B Offshore Wind Farm
DBC	Dogger Bank C Offshore Wind Farm
DBD	Dogger Bank D Offshore Wind Farm
DBS	Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farm
DCO	Development Consent Order
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
DML	Deemed Marine Licence
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
EU	European Union
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
UK	United Kingdom