

# DOGGER BANK D WIND FARM

## Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 2

Appendix 6.1 Consultation Responses for  
Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology

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APPENDIX 6.1 CONSULTATION REPONSES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
METHODOLOGY

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## Glossary

Term	Definition
Baseline	The existing conditions as represented by the latest available survey and other data which is used as a benchmark for making comparisons to assess the impact of the Project.
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.
Commitment	<p>Refers to any embedded mitigation and additional mitigation, enhancement or monitoring measures identified through the EIA process and those identified outside the EIA process such as through stakeholder engagement and design evolution.</p> <p>All commitments adopted by the Project are provided in the Commitments Register.</p>
DBD	Dogger Bank D Offshore Wind Farm, also referred to as the Project in this PEIR.
Design	All of the decisions that shape a development throughout its design and pre-construction, construction / commissioning, operation and, where relevant, decommissioning phases.
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.
Embedded Mitigation	<p>Embedded mitigation includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures that form an inherent part of the project design evolution such as modifications to the location or design of the development made during the pre-application phase (also known as primary (inherent) mitigation); and</li> <li>Measures that will occur regardless of the EIA process as they are imposed by other existing legislative requirements or are considered as standard or best practice to manage commonly occurring environmental impacts (also known as tertiary (inexorable) mitigation).</li> </ul> <p>All embedded mitigation measures adopted by the Project are provided in the Commitments Register.</p>

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Term	Definition
Enhancement	<p>Measures committed to by the Project to create or enhance positive benefits to the environment or communities, as a result of the Project.</p> <p>All enhancement measures adopted by the Project are provided in the Commitments Register.</p>
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.
Mitigation	<p>Any action or process designed to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset potentially significant adverse effects of a development.</p> <p>All mitigation measures adopted by the Project are provided in the Commitments Register.</p>
Monitoring	<p>Measures to ensure the systematic and ongoing collection, analysis and evaluation of data related to the implementation and performance of a development. Monitoring can be undertaken to monitor conditions in the future to verify any environmental effects identified by the EIA, the effectiveness of mitigation or enhancement measures or ensure remedial action are taken should adverse effects above a set threshold occur.</p> <p>All monitoring measures adopted by the Project are provided in the Commitments Register.</p>
Offshore	Area seaward of nearshore in which the transport of sediment is not caused by wave activity.
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	The PEIR provides a draft environmental assessment and information to support and inform the statutory consultation process in the pre-application phase. The PEIR will be updated to produce the Project's ES that will accompany the DCO application.
Scoping Opinion	<p>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.</p> <p>The Scoping Opinion for the Project was adopted by the Secretary of State on 02 August 2024.</p>

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Term	Definition
Scoping Report	<p>A request by the Applicant made to the Planning Inspectorate for a Scoping Opinion on behalf of the Secretary of State.</p> <p>The Scoping Report for the Project was submitted to the Secretary of State on 24 June 2024.</p>
The Applicant	<p>SSE Renewables and Equinor acting through 'Doggerbank Offshore Wind Farm Project 4 Projco Limited'.</p>
The Project	<p>Dogger Bank D Offshore Wind Farm Project, also referred to as DBD in this PEIR.</p>

## 6.1 Consultation Responses for Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology

1. **Volume 1, Chapter 6 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Methodology** for the Dogger Bank D Offshore Wind Farm (herein ‘the Project’ or ‘DBD’) has been informed by consultation with the Planning Inspectorate and stakeholders following the publication of the Scoping Report (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2024) and the comments contained within the Scoping Opinion (Planning Inspectorate, 2024). This appendix contains details of the relevant comments for **Volume 1, Chapter 6 Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology** and the Applicant’s responses in **Table 6.1-1**.
2. The Applicant previously submitted a Scoping Report in 2023 based on project parameters at that time. The 2024 Scoping Report (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2024) and adopted Scoping Opinion (Planning Inspectorate, 2024) have superseded the 2023 Scoping Report and as such consultation responses on the 2023 Scoping Report are not considered further in this document except where they are included in the 2024 consultee responses and remain relevant to the Project.

*Table 6.1-1 Consultation Responses for Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology*

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>(ID 2.2.1) <b>Baseline Conditions:</b></p> <p>The Scoping Report indicates that the ES will utilise existing data collected for other similar projects within the Dogger Bank Zone (updated where relevant), alongside data collected by the Applicant specifically for the Proposed Development. In addition, opportunities for coordination with other planned developments are currently being explored by the Applicant to share relevant information.</p> <p>The Inspectorate notes that some of the data collected specifically for the Proposed Development (e.g. data to inform the ornithology and marine mammal baseline collected between October 2021 to September 2023) will be at, or approaching, five years old by the expected time of submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application in Q3 2026.</p> <p>The ES should include an explanation of why such data is considered applicable and (where not updated) considered to remain representative of the current state of the environment. This should be supported by evidence of agreement with relevant consultation bodies on this point.</p>	<p>The five-year vintage data has been discussed in the Expert Topic Group (ETG) 2 (Offshore Ornithology EIA / HRA) meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 and further discussions were held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 following the collection of data from aerial surveys in October 2021. ES / DCO application submission is planned for Q3 2026, therefore submission would occur within five years of the commencement of baseline surveys. Therefore, it is considered that the baseline survey data will be sufficient and is appropriate for assessment purposes. The Dogger Bank D ETG2 (Offshore Ornithology EIA/HRA) Meeting 2 Stakeholder Response Note (PC6250-RHD-XX-OF-ME-EV-0001) was circulated to stakeholders via email on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024.</p>



Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
			In the ETG dated 21 <sup>st</sup> October, Natural England noted understanding of the stance, particularly with the construction of Dogger Bank C which would create difficulties for the collection of additional project baseline data. Natural England would prefer other datasets to be used to contextualise the baseline and determine how representative it is (e.g. other Dogger Bank projects), outlining two years of data is a minimum only. The Project will incorporate data from other Dogger Bank wind farms into the ornithological baseline.
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>(ID 2.2.2) <b>Non-Planning Permit, Licence and Consent Applications:</b></p> <p>The Applicant should have regard to the advice in Annex D of the Inspectorate's Advice Note 11: Working with Public Bodies, in particular the section on 'Parallel Tracking' of environmental permit application(s).</p>	Other required permits, licences or consents will be outlined in the Consents Management Plan document submitted with the DCO application.

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>(ID 2.2.3) <b>Mitigation and Monitoring:</b></p> <p>The ES should confirm how all mitigation proposed is secured, with reference to specific DCO requirements or other legal mechanism. The ES should describe any proposed monitoring and explain how the results of such monitoring would be utilised to inform any necessary remedial actions.</p>	<p>Each technical chapter within the PEIR will contain details on proposed mitigation measures, and where relevant, enhancement and monitoring measures. All measures in the PEIR will be documented in <b>Appendix 6.3, Commitments Register</b>, which will identify how they will be legally secured.</p> <p>The Commitments Register will be updated for ES / DCO application submission following feedback received from statutory consultation on the PEIR and as further design and environmental information becomes available.</p>

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>(ID2.2.4) <b>Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA):</b></p> <p>Paragraph 224 of the Scoping Report states “...only plans and projects that are accessible, reasonably well-defined, and sufficiently advanced to provide information on which to base a meaningful and robust assessment will be included in the CEA.”</p> <p>As set out in the Inspectorate’s Advice Note 17 on CEA, an assessment should be provided for all Tier 1 and Tier 2 other development, where possible. For other development falling into Tier 3, the Applicant should aim to undertake an assessment where possible, although this may be qualitative and at a very high level. The assessment should be carried out with reasonable effort and should be clearly documented in the ES, for example using the format presented in Matrix 2 of Advice Note 17.</p> <p>The assessment should include any cumulative effects with the proposed Birkhill Wood Substation.</p>	<p>The screening exercise will be undertaken based on availability of information for each development at the time of a six-month cut-off prior to issue (as agreed with stakeholders during the Evidence Plan Process) (see <b>Section 6.4.5, Appendix 6.4 Cumulative Effects Screening Report – Offshore</b>, and <b>Section 6.5.5, Appendix 6.5 Cumulative Effects Screening Report – Onshore</b>).</p>

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
			<p>Developments considered in the CEA have been assigned a tier depending on the availability of information using the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note and guidance from Natural England and Defra as detailed in <b>Section 6.4.5.2 of Appendix 6.4 Cumulative Effects Screening Report – Offshore</b> and <b>Section 6.5.5.2 of Appendix 6.5 Cumulative Effects Screening Report – Onshore</b>. Where design and environmental information is available, a meaningful and robust CEA will be undertaken.</p> <p>Developments which were fully operational during baseline characterisation are considered as part of baseline conditions for the surrounding environment and are not included in the CEA screening exercise.</p>

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
			<p>Developments that were not fully operational during baseline characterisation and operational developments with potential for ongoing impacts are included in the CEA screening exercise.</p> <p>The onshore CEA longlist of developments will include the proposed Birkhill Wood Substation (<b>Appendix 6.5 Cumulative Effects Screening Report – Onshore</b>), and this will be considered in individual CEA within technical chapters of the PEIR where relevant.</p> <p>Cut-off dates for updating the longlist are six months prior to the publication of PEIR, and six months prior to DCO submission</p>

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>(ID 2.2.5) <b>CEA:</b></p> <p>In general, the description of the approach to the cumulative impact assessment within the aspect sections of the Scoping Report is limited. Some sections of the Scoping Report (e.g. Benthic and Intertidal Ecology; Fish and Shellfish Ecology) state that impacts that are considered highly localised (i.e. occur only within the red line boundary of the Proposed Development), may be screened out of the cumulative assessment on this basis. The Inspectorate considers that impacts that are highly localised still have potential to contribute to significant cumulative effects. For example, multiple highly localised impacts that occur across a broad area of the seabed could lead to a cumulative effect across multiple projects.</p> <p>Where impacts (including any ‘highly localised impacts’) are scoped out of the CEA, this should be sufficiently justified.</p>	<p><b>Section 6.5.4 of Volume 1, Chapter 6 Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology</b> presents the CEA methodology. Cumulative effects screening reports will be appended to this chapter for both onshore and offshore developments. Topic-specific approaches to the CEA will be described and justified where relevant within each technical chapter at the PEIR stage.</p>

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
Natural England	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>(ID 2.2.6) <b>Transboundary Effects:</b></p> <p>The Scoping Report identifies potential transboundary effects in relation to: Marine Physical Processes, Benthic and Intertidal Ecology; Fish and Shellfish Ecology; Marine Mammals; Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology; Commercial Fisheries; Shipping and Navigation; Aviation, Radar and Military; Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; and Other Marine Users.</p> <p>The Inspectorate notes that it has an ongoing duty in relation to consideration of transboundary effects and will undertake a separate transboundary re-screening exercise on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) under Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations following adoption of the new Scoping Opinion. As that re-screening exercise has yet to be undertaken, the Inspectorate is not in a position to agree to scope out all proposed transboundary effects at this stage. The Inspectorate recommends that where Regulation 32 applies, the ES should identify whether the Proposed Development has the potential for significant transboundary effects and if so, what these are and which European Economic Area (EEA) States would be affected</p>	<p>Where relevant, technical chapters in the PEIR will identify and assess potential transboundary effects. The Transboundary Screening Report will be included as <b>Appendix 6.6 Transboundary Screening Report</b> in the PEIR.</p>

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
Natural England	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	Natural England notes that the approach to the EIA assessment proposes to use a matrix approach. This matrix approach has been used throughout ESs to date to support the assessment of the magnitude and significance of impacts. Natural England notes numerous instances where significance has been presented as values (i.e. slight, or moderate, or large) and it is nearly always the lower value that has been taken forward. Indeed, to date no offshore windfarm has identified ecological impacts that are assessed as significant in EIA terms, either cumulatively or in-combination. In the absence of evidence to support the use of the lower value in a range, Natural England's view is that the higher value should always be assessed in order to ensure that impacts on features are not incorrectly screened out of further assessment. This is in line with the principles of the Rochdale envelope approach.	All significance statements made in each technical chapter will be reviewed to ensure their accuracy. Where professional judgement has been used to determine the appropriate value taken forward, the reasoning is set out within the chapter.



Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
Natural England	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	Natural England advises the provision of a plan in and of itself is not embedded mitigation, and the commitments within the plans will be key. Until plans have been provided, we are unable to advise if impacts have been adequately addressed and therefore the impacts (e.g. invasive non-native species, pollution events) cannot be scoped out. Natural England advises that outline plans including any mitigation measures should be provided at the time of Application.	<p>Outline plans will be included at PEIR and ES / DCO application stages, where appropriate.</p> <p>The following plans will be included in draft at PEIR stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Outline Code of Construction Practice</b> (document reference 8.9);</li> <li>• <b>Appendix A: Outline Public Rights of Way Strategy;</b></li> <li>• <b>Appendix B: Outline Site Waste Management Plan;</b></li> <li>• <b>Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan</b> (document reference 8.15);</li> <li>• <b>Outline Project Environmental Management Plan</b> (document reference 8.6); and</li> <li>• <b>Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan</b> (document reference 8.1).</li> </ul>

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
			<p>The mitigation which informs the outline plan is presented in the associated chapters.</p> <p>These outline plans will be re-submitted with the DCO application in line with the ES.</p>
Natural England	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>2023 comment: Three tiers are proposed for screening plans and projects for inclusion in the Cumulative Effects Assessment, rather than the seven suggested tiers for undertaking a staged CEA in Natural England's 'Offshore Wind Marine Environmental Assessments: Best Practice Advice for Evidence and Data Standards' (as referenced in Summary of Main Points section of this consultation).</p> <p>2024 Updated Comments: We note that the Applicant has justified use of the PINS 3-tiered approach as default for the CEA on the basis that "NE's CEA guidance relates to the offshore wind marine environment and focuses on other DCO projects rather than projects consented via other regimes e.g. Town and Country Planning Act and MACA 2008 [...] the NE guidance will be used in relation to DCO projects for offshore wind and the marine environment."</p>	<p>The screening exercise has been undertaken based on available information on each development. Plans and projects identified will be assigned a tier based on their development status, the level of information available and the degree of confidence.</p> <p>The intention is to use Defra and Natural England's seven tier system for projects in the marine environment only. The three-tier system provided by the Planning Inspectorate is to be followed for onshore projects.</p>

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
		It is unclear to Natural England how the Applicant intends to use both tiered approaches alongside one another, and until we receive further clarity on this, our recommendation remains that NE's 7-tiered approach is used as the default, given that the proposed project will be a DCO project in the marine environment.	
Natural England	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>It is stated that "Projects that are sufficiently implemented and are expected to be completed before the commencement of the proposed Project will be considered as part of the baseline for the EIA".</p> <p>As advised for Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension projects, Natural England does not consider projects to be 'part of the baseline' in terms of cumulative or in-combination effects, unless the data under-pinning the designation of a site (e.g., distribution, population size, survival rate) were all collected subsequent to the construction or operation of projects.</p>	<p>The screening exercise will be undertaken based on availability of information for each development. Developments considered in the CEA have been assigned a tier depending on the availability of information using the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note and guidance from Natural England and Defra as detailed in <b>Section 6.4.5.2 of Appendix 6.4 Cumulative Effects Screening Report – Offshore</b> and <b>Section 6.5.5.2 of Appendix 6.5 Cumulative Effects Screening Report – Onshore</b>. Where design and environmental information is available, a meaningful and robust CEA will be undertaken.</p>

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
		<p>Consideration should therefore be given to built and operational projects to ensure that those excluded from CEA were operational when the environmental characterisation surveys were undertaken, that residual impacts have had the time to be fed through to and captured in estimates of baseline conditions and that ongoing impacts are as predicted. Where this is not the case, projects may need to be considered through CEA rather than as part of the baseline. Furthermore, any projects with ongoing impacts should be considered as part of the cumulative impact assessment.</p>	<p>Developments which were fully operational during baseline characterisation are considered as part of baseline conditions for the surrounding environment and are not included in the CEA screening exercise.</p> <p>Developments that were not fully operational during baseline characterisation and operational developments with potential for ongoing impacts are included in the CEA screening exercise.</p>
Natural England	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>The EIA Regulations sets out the necessary information to assess impacts on the natural environment to be included in an Environmental Statement (ES), specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A description of the development – including physical characteristics and the full marine use requirements of the site during construction and operational phases.</li> <li>• Expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development.</li> </ul>	<p>A description of the development will be provided in <b>Volume 1, Chapter 4 Project Description</b> and alternatives are described in <b>Volume 1, Chapter 5 Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives</b>.</p>

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An assessment of alternatives and clear reasoning as to why the preferred option has been chosen.</li> <li>• A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape/seascape and the interrelationship between the above factors.</li> <li>• A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment – this should cover direct effects but also any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. Effects should relate to the existence of the development, the use of natural resources and the emissions from pollutants. This should also include a description of the forecasting methods to predict the likely effects on the environment.</li> <li>• A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.</li> </ul>	<p>Each technical chapter contains details on the baseline environment, likely significant effects, proposed mitigation measures, and where relevant enhancement and monitoring measures, and assumptions and limitations.</p> <p>A <b>Non-Technical Summary</b> will accompany the PEIR and DCO Application.</p>

APPENDIX 6.1 CONSULTATION REPONSES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A non-technical summary of the information.</li> <li>• An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information.</li> </ul>	
Natural England	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>We note that an effect significance matrix will be used to determine the significance of effects. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (2022) discourage the use of the matrix approach and encourage the use of alternative approaches. We would encourage the use of an alternative approach for determining the significance of effects. However, if a matrix approach is used, then we advise that a clear distinction should be made between evidence-based and value-based judgements.</p>	<p>All significance statements made in each technical chapter will be reviewed to ensure their accuracy. Where professional judgement has been used to determine the appropriate value taken forward, the reasoning is set out within the chapter. Topic specific assessment methodology will be described and justified in each technical chapter where relevant, including where they deviate from the standard matrix approach outlined in <b>Section 6.3.2.5 of Volume 1, Chapter 6 Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology.</b></p>

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
Natural England	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>It will be important for any assessment to consider the potential cumulative effects of this proposal, including all supporting infrastructure, with other similar proposals and a thorough assessment of the ‘in-combination’ effects of the proposed development with any existing developments and current applications. A full consideration of the implications of the whole scheme should be included in the ES. All supporting infrastructure and activities should be included within the assessment.</p> <p>An impact assessment should identify, describe, and evaluate the effects that are likely to result from the project in-combination with other projects and activities that are being, have been or will be carried out. The following types of projects should be included in such an assessment (subject to available information):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>existing completed projects;</li> <li>approved but uncompleted projects;</li> <li>ongoing activities;</li> <li>plans or projects for which an application has been made and which are under consideration by the consenting authorities; and</li> </ul>	<p>Cumulative effects are considered within each technical chapter where relevant. The CEA methodology is described in <b>Section 6.5.4 of Volume 1, Chapter 6 Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology</b>, and detailed further in <b>Appendix 6.4 Cumulative Effects Screening Report – Offshore</b> and <b>Appendix 6.5 Cumulative Effects Screening Report – Onshore</b>.</p> <p>The screening exercise has been undertaken based on available information on each development. Plans and projects identified will be assigned a tier based on their development status, the level of information available and the degree of confidence.</p>

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
		plans and projects which are reasonably foreseeable, i.e. projects for which an application has not yet been submitted, but which are likely to progress before completion of the development and for which sufficient information is available to assess the likelihood of cumulative and in-combination effects.	The intention is to use Defra and Natural England's seven tier system for projects in the marine environment only. The three-tier system provided by the Planning Inspectorate is to be followed for onshore projects.
Natural England	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>In order to predict the significance of an impact, it is also important to consider:</p> <p>Temporal scale in terms of permanent or temporary changes in the ecology. Whilst careful consideration should be given to:</p> <p>Duration of the impact relate to the time over which the impact will last as opposed to the duration of the activity. Furthermore, 'short-term to long-term' is also rather broad, and should include 'medium-term', along with some indication of the timescales e.g. &gt; 5 years, 1-5 years, &lt; 1 year etc.</p> <p>Scale or spatial extent – 'small scale to large scale' is vague, and can be broken down into, for example, transboundary, national, regional, local, site specific etc.</p>	<p>Each technical chapter will consider the temporal scale, duration and scale or spatial extent of an impact to predict the significance as relevant. Technical chapters will also make consideration for the phase of the development. Topic-specific assessment methodology will be described and justified in each technical chapter in addition to the standard methodology outlined in <b>Volume 1, Chapter 6 Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology.</b></p>



Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
		The magnitude of change should also consider the different phases of the development. Please consider definitions of temporal scale, duration, and spatial extent carefully, Please also consider the different phases of the development when defining the significance of an impact.	
Natural England	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Natural England has been leading the 'Offshore Wind Marine Environmental Assessments: Best Practice Advice for Evidence and Data Standards' project, funded by Defra's Offshore Wind Enabling Actions Programme (OWEAP) [...]</p> <p>Natural England advises that the ES should be fully informed by the recommendations in the Best Practice Advice, and we will increasingly be appraising ESs with respect to the extent to which the guidance has been followed.</p>	Offshore technical chapter assessments will be undertaken with consideration for Natural England's Offshore Wind Marine Environmental Assessments: Best Practice advice for Evidence and Data Standards.
Natural England	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	The Scoping Report identifies potential transboundary effects in relation to: Marine Physical Processes, Benthic and Intertidal Ecology; Fish and Shellfish Ecology; Marine Mammals; Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology; Commercial Fisheries; Shipping and Navigation; Aviation, Radar and Military; Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; and Other Marine Users.	Where relevant, technical chapters in the PEIR will identify and assess potential transboundary effects. The Transboundary Screening Report will be included as <b>Appendix 6.6 Transboundary Screening Report</b> in the PEIR.

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
		The Inspectorate notes that it has an ongoing duty in relation to consideration of transboundary effects and will undertake a separate transboundary re-screening exercise on behalf of the SoS under Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations following adoption of the new Scoping Opinion. As that re-screening exercise has yet to be undertaken, the Inspectorate is not in a position to agree to scope out all proposed transboundary effects at this stage. The Inspectorate recommends that where Regulation 32 applies, the ES should identify whether the Proposed Development has the potential for significant transboundary effects and if so, what these are, and which European Economic Area (EEA) States would be affected	

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	(Ref 3.1.2) Section 2.3.4 mentions marine planning. DBD could be within the Northeast and East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan Areas. This needs to be taken into consideration while preparing the EIA and Environmental statement (ES). The Marine Planning Explore Marine Plans ( <a href="https://explore-marine-plans.marineservices.org.uk/marine-plans-explorer">https://explore-marine-plans.marineservices.org.uk/marine-plans-explorer</a> ) should be used to identify which marine plans the project needs to be assessed against. The MMO requests that for the final ES a table is produced to highlight all policies within these plans and whether these have been screened in or out, including justification. The MMO welcomes any further discussions in relation to this.	The Northeast and East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan Areas are considered in <b>Volume 1, Chapter 3 Policy and Legislative Context</b> , and will be considered in technical chapters where relevant. This will be fully considered at ES stage, and at PEIR stage, a summary of policies screened in will be provided.

## References

Planning Inspectorate (2023). Scoping Opinion: Proposed Dogger Bank D Wind Farm. Available at: <https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN010144-000018-DBD%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion%202017%20EIA%20Regs.pdf>

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## List of Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
DCO	Development Consent Order
DBD	Dogger Bank D Offshore Wind Farm
EEA	European Economic Area
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
OTNR	Offshore Transmission Network Review
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
SNCB	Statutory Nature Conservation Body