



# Hornsea Project Four: Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

## Volume 1, Chapter 6: Consultation

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## Glossary

Term	Definition
Commitment	A term used interchangeably with mitigation. Commitments are Embedded Mitigation Measures. Commitments are either Primary (Design) or Tertiary (Inherent) and embedded within the assessment at the relevant point in the EIA (e.g. at Scoping or PEIR). The purpose of Commitments is to reduce and/or eliminate Likely Significant Effects (LSE's), in EIA terms.
Cumulative effects	The combined effect of Hornsea Four in combination with the effects from a number of different projects, on the same single receptor/resource. Cumulative impacts are those that result from changes caused by other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions together with Hornsea Project Four.
Design Envelope	A description of the range of possible elements that make up the Hornsea Project Four design options under consideration, as set out in detail in the project description. This envelope is used to define Hornsea Project Four for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) purposes when the exact engineering parameters are not yet known. This is also often referred to as the "Rochdale Envelope" approach.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for one or more Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP).
Effect	Term used to express the consequence of an impact. The significance of an effect is determined by correlating the magnitude of the impact with the importance, or sensitivity, of the receptor or resource in accordance with defined significance criteria.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A statutory 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, which fulfils the assessment requirements of the EIA Directive and EIA Regulations, including the publication of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report.
EIA Directive	European Union Directive 85/337/EEC, as amended by Directives 97/11/EC, 2003/35/EC and 2009/31/EC and then codified by <a href="#">Directive 2011/92/EU</a> of 13 December 2011 (as amended in 2014 by <a href="#">Directive 2014/52/EU</a> ).
EIA Regulations	The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017
Electrical Infrastructure Study Area	The study area between the onshore substation and offshore array area
Export cable corridor (ECC)	The specific corridor of seabed (seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)) and land (landward of MHWS) from the Hornsea Project Four array area to the Creyke Beck National Grid substation, within which the export cables will be located.
Export cable corridor (ECC) search area	The broad offshore corridor of seabed (seaward of the MHWS) and land (landward of MHWS) from the Hornsea Project Four array area to the Creyke Beck National Grid substation considered within this Scoping Report, within which the refined ECR corridor will be located.
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	A process which helps determine likely significant effects and (where appropriate) assesses adverse impacts on the integrity of European conservation sites and Ramsar sites. The process consists of up to four stages of assessment: screening, appropriate assessment, assessment of alternative solutions and assessment of imperative reasons of over-riding public interest (IROPI).
High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC)	High voltage alternating current is the bulk transmission of electricity by alternating current (AC), whereby the flow of electric charge periodically reverses direction.
High Voltage Direct Current	High voltage direct current is the bulk transmission of electricity by direct current (DC),

Term	Definition
(HVDC)	whereby the flow of electric charge is in one direction.
Ørsted Hornsea Project Four Ltd.	The Applicant for the proposed Hornsea Project Four offshore wind farm project.
Local Authority	The Local Authority is a body empowered by law to exercise various statutory functions for a particular area of the United Kingdom. This includes County Councils, District Councils and the Broads Authority, as set out in Section 43 of the Planning Act 2008. East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) is the Local Authority for the entirety of the onshore project footprint.
Maximum design scenario	The maximum design parameters of each Hornsea Four asset (both on and offshore) considered to be a worst case for any given assessment.
Mitigation	A term used interchangeably with Commitment(s) by Hornsea Four. Mitigation measures (Commitments) are embedded within the assessment at the relevant point in the EIA (e.g. at Scoping or PEIR).
Non-statutory consultee	Organisations that the Local Planning Authorities and/or PINS may choose to engage (if, for example, there are planning policy reasons to do so) who are not designated in law but are likely to have an interest in a proposed development.
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	The agency responsible for operating the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).
Relevant Planning Authority	The Relevant Planning Authority is the Local Authority (ERYC for the entirety of onshore elements of Hornsea Four) in respect of an area within which a project is situated, as set out in Section 173 of the Planning Act 2008. The Relevant Planning Authority is the body empowered by law to exercise statutory town planning functions for a particular area of the United Kingdom. Relevant Planning Authorities may have responsibility for discharging requirements and some functions pursuant to the Development Consent Order, once made.
Section 47 consultee	Consultees identified in the Hornsea Four Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), including the local community. Once the SoCC is finalised, the Applicant has a duty under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 to carry out the consultation in accordance with that document.
Statutory consultee	Organisations that are required to be consulted by the Local Planning Authorities and/or PINS, and who also have with a duty to respond to that consultation within a set deadline. This includes consultees that the Applicant is required to consult with, under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. Not all consultees will be statutory consultees (see non-statutory consultee definition below).
The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	The ultimate decision maker with regards to Hornsea Four's application for Development Consent.

## Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
DCO	Development Consent Order
DAA	Developable Area Approach
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment

Acronym	Definition
ERYC	East Riding Yorkshire Council
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
MCA	Maritime Coastguard Agency
NPS	National Policy Statement
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
OSCG	Onshore Substation Consultation Group
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SoS	Secretary of State
TCE	The Crown Estate
THLS	Trinity House Lighthouse Services

## 6.1 Introduction

### 6.1.1 Background

- 6.1.1.1 This chapter of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) provides an overview of the approach and summary to formal, informal and technical consultation undertaken to date during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Hornsea Project Four offshore wind farm (hereafter Hornsea Four).
- 6.1.1.2 Ørsted Hornsea Project Four Limited (the Applicant) is proposing to develop Hornsea Four. Hornsea Four will be located approximately 65 km from the East Riding of Yorkshire in the Southern North Sea and will be the fourth project to be developed in the former Hornsea Zone please see [Chapter 1: Introduction](#) for further details on the Hornsea Zone). Hornsea Four will include both offshore and onshore infrastructure including an offshore generating station (wind farm), export cables to landfall, and connection to the electricity transmission network (please see [Chapter 4: Project Description](#) for full details on the Project Design).
- 6.1.1.3 All consultation, including technical, community, landowner, other stakeholders and statutory consultation under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act, will be recorded within a Consultation Report which will accompany the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. In discharging its duties under Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant will have due regard to the relevant responses received following compliance with its statutory consultation and publicity requirements.
- 6.1.1.4 The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to the Secretary of State on 15th October 2018. A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Secretary of State on 23rd November 2018. A summary of relevant scoping responses and the account taken of them by the Applicant is provided in each technical chapter of the PEIR and where feedback has informed the site selection or project design; this is outlined in [Chapter 3: Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives](#) and [Chapter 4: Project Description](#), respectively.
- 6.1.1.5 Consultation is a continuous process throughout the development of the Hornsea Four project. Hornsea Four will continue to engage and consult with stakeholders until DCO submission anticipated in Quarter 1 2020 and during the examination phase where appropriate.

### 6.1.2 Overview

- 6.1.2.1 The EIA Regulations require Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) to be provided for public consultation by those seeking a DCO for development that constitutes EIA development. The format and level of detail required in the PEIR is not defined in a prescriptive way by the EIA regulations. However, it must be sufficient to enable consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the project. The PEIR incorporates the findings of the surveys and assessments undertaken to date in order to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely

significant environmental effects of Hornsea Four. Offshore assessments are presented in [Volume 2](#) and onshore assessments are presented in [Volume 3](#).

6.1.2.2 Hornsea Four will be further refined where appropriate post PEIR based upon the consultation responses received from the PEI process. The final results of the EIA will be presented in the ES and a summary of all the consultation responses received will be presented in the Consultation Report, both of which will accompany the DCO application.

### 6.1.3 Statement of Community Consultation

6.1.3.1 Under Section 47 of the Planning Act (2008), Hornsea Four has a duty to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which sets out how it plans to consult local communities on the proposed development. Hornsea Four must conduct its consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the SoCC. Hornsea Four must consult on the contents of the SoCC with each of the local authorities, in whose area the proposed development is situated (as prescribed in section 43(1)). Due regard must be given to any responses received from the local authorities. A summary of the responses received, and the regard had by the Applicant is set out in [Table 6.1](#).

6.1.3.2 In the case of Hornsea Four, the onshore works will be situated in, on, over or under land that is under the local authority jurisdiction of East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC). Consultation was carried out between June and July 2018.

6.1.3.3 In addition to ERYC, a number of neighbouring local authorities were consulted on the contents of the SoCC. Specifically, this included:

- Hull City Council;
- Scarborough Borough Council;
- Ryedale District Council;
- North Yorkshire County Council;
- York City Council;
- Selby District Council;
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council; and
- North Lincolnshire Council.

**Table 6.1: Local Planning Authority comments received on the draft SoCC.**

Date	Consultee	Comment on draft SoCC	Changes made to SoCC
26/062018	Doncaster Metropolitan Council	Could you please confirm that the cable will run only within East Riding of Yorkshire Council area and have its final destination a location north of Hull as shown on the indicative map on attached consultation document?	Noted – no further action required.
26/06/2018	Ryedale District Council	The Council have no comments to make at this stage. As an adjacent authority, we note that we will be consulted again	Noted – no further action required.

Date	Consultee	Comment on draft SoCC	Changes made to SoCC
04/07/2018	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	<p data-bbox="600 271 743 304">in due course.</p> <p data-bbox="600 315 1031 450">We (East Riding of Yorkshire Council) raised several points during our meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, and I can summarise them here:</p> <ul data-bbox="600 461 1031 1413" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="600 461 1031 595">• No Comments on the content which is comprehensive. For appearance: Font size/colour could be made clearer in section 1 to 3 in particular;</li> <li data-bbox="600 607 1031 875">• The map 'Onshore Consultation Area' – 'Pecklington' should be 'Pockington'. Could include more detail such as main roads to get a better idea of the location of the works. Include the man villages nearest the cable route – in particular, Leconfield, Cottingham;</li> <li data-bbox="600 887 1031 954">• No need to include adjoining authorities in such big type.</li> <li data-bbox="600 965 1031 1032">• Map in section 4 should show Beverley and Bridlington;</li> <li data-bbox="600 1043 1031 1234">• For consultation: Suggest Civic Societies in Beverley, Cottingham and Bridlington are included. There are no local interest groups of note in this area that could be consulted; and</li> <li data-bbox="600 1245 1031 1413">• Local newspapers include the Hull Daily Mail, Holderness Gazette, Bridlington Free Press, Driffield and Wolds Weekly (also does 'Beverley Life).</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="600 1424 1031 1518">Possible locations for public events could be Cottingham, Leconfield and Ulrome or Barmston.</p>	<p data-bbox="1051 309 1388 600">Changes were made by Hornsea Four in response to the comments raised including an update to the maps to show local road networks and villages in the vicinity of the core consultation zone, including Leconfield.</p> <p data-bbox="1051 633 1388 846">Local information event were organised in Foston on the Wolds, Barmston, Leconfield and Woodmansey. These details were included in the final SoCC.</p>
23/07/2018	Scarborough Borough Council	<p data-bbox="600 1529 1031 1700">It can confirm that the Borough Council is satisfied with the consultation process outlined within the draft SoCC and would ask that it is kept abreast of the project as it proceeds.</p>	<p data-bbox="1051 1529 1388 1597">Noted – no further action required.</p>

6.1.3.4 The SoCC can be found on the Hornsea Four website, along with other consultation materials in the Document Library:

<https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/Hornsea-Project-Four/Documents-Library>

## 6.2 Policy and Guidance

### 6.2.1 The Planning Act

6.2.1.1 As detailed in [Chapter 2: Policy and Legislative Context](#), the project is defined under Part 3, Section 15(3) of the Planning Act 2008 as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). Hornsea Four must therefore undertake pre-application consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008. As the development is EIA development, Hornsea Four must also ensure that it complies with the consultation requirements under the EIA Regulations.

6.2.1.2 The relevant sections of Part 5, Chapter 2 of the Planning Act 2008 are:

- Section 42 – Duty to consult;
- Section 43 – Local authorities for the purpose of section 42(1)(b);
- Section 44 – Categories for purposes of section 42(1)(d);
- Section 45 – Timetable for consultation under section 42;
- Section 46 – Duty to notify the Secretary of State of proposed application;
- Section 47 – Duty to consult local community;
- Section 48 – Duty to publicise; and
- Section 49 – Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity.

### 6.2.2 National Policy Statements

6.2.2.1 The relevant National Policy Statements (NPS) which form the primary national guidance documents for NSIPs are listed below. These documents encourage applicants to carry out pre-application consultation with a range of stakeholders.

- EN-1 - Overarching NPS for Energy;
- EN-3 - Renewable Energy Infrastructure; and
- EN-5 - Electricity Networks, which covers the electrical infrastructure in conjunction with EN-1.

### 6.2.3 EIA Regulations

6.2.3.1 Hornsea Four has notified the SoS under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it proposes to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Proposed Development. Therefore, in accordance with Regulation 6(2)(a) of the EIA Regulations, the Proposed Development is EIA development. An ES presenting the findings of the EIA will be submitted with the DCO application.

6.2.3.2 An EIA Scoping Report was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 8th October 2018 and can be viewed at:

<https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/Hornsea-Project-Four/Documents-Library>

6.2.3.3 The Planning Inspectorate reviewed and consulted on the EIA Scoping Report and published a Scoping Opinion on 23rd November 2018 which can be viewed at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010098/EN010098-000064-H4WF%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf>

6.2.3.4 Hornsea Four acknowledges the comments of the Planning Inspectorate given within the Scoping Opinion and also notes the comments provided by the statutory consultees in Appendix 2 to the Scoping Opinion. Both the Scoping Opinion and the comments from the consultees have been considered in undertaking the ongoing EIA and in preparing this PEI Report.

6.2.3.5 Hornsea Four is maintaining ongoing dialogue with the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory stakeholders in relation to the scope of EIA in order to ensure that it is proportionate and meets the requirements of the EIA Regulations. The scope of the EIA for each topic is being agreed with the relevant statutory stakeholders and this will be reported in the ES.

## **6.2.4 Planning Inspectorate Advice Notes**

6.2.4.1 The Planning Inspectorate has published a series of advice notes in relation to NSIPs. The advice notes are non-statutory but provide advice and information on a range of issues arising throughout the whole life of the application process.

6.2.4.2 Hornsea Fours approach to consultation has been informed by a range of the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Notes, with particular reference to:

- Advice Note 3: EIA consultation and notification (August 2017);
- Advice Note 7: Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping (December 2017);
- Advice Note 10: Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) relevant to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (November 2017);
- Advice Note 11: Working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process (November 2017)
- Advice Note 14: Compiling the Consultation Report (April 2012).

## **6.3 Consultation Process**

6.3.1.1 Hornsea Four has sought to engage actively and openly with a range of key stakeholders throughout the project development phase, seeking feedback and providing updates at key stages and intervals. Introductory meetings were held with the Planning Inspectorate, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, MMO and Natural England in April and May 2018. An overview of further key consultation activities is presented in the following sections.

## 6.3.2 Route Planning and Site Selection (RPSS)

- 6.3.2.1 An important part of the project development process is the refinement, and subsequent selection of, the final configuration of project infrastructure, taking into consideration the sensitivity of the existing environment, wider engineering considerations and consultation feedback.
- 6.3.2.2 Hornsea Four has engaged with East Riding of Yorkshire Council specifically on the RPSS process with an initial workshop held in October 2018 and a further workshop held in November 2018. The latter workshop discussed matters relating to selection of the Onshore Substation and key issues relating to traffic.
- 6.3.2.3 Hornsea Four has used the consultation feedback from the Scoping Report (Ørsted, 2018) and subsequent informal consultation activities with key stakeholders, including The Crown Estate, Planning Inspectorate, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, MMO, Natural England, MCA and Trinity House, to inform the RPSS process to date. Further to this, Hornsea Four have adopted a range of commitments which include a number of primary design principles to avoid a range of sensitive sites within the onshore and offshore environment. All such commitments are detailed within the Commitments Register ([Volume 4, Annex 5.2](#)).

## 6.3.3 Local Information Events

- 6.3.3.1 In parallel with consultation activities in support of the preparation of of the Scoping Report, and the subsequent adoption by the Secretary of State of the Scoping Opinion, Hornsea Four held a number of public consultation events as set out in SoCC. These Local Information Events (LIEs) provided attendees with the opportunity to provide feedback on the project proposals. Full details of the feedback received will be provided within the Consultation Report which will be submitted at DCO application. The Consultation Summary Report is available from the Document Library section of the Hornsea Four website:

<https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/Hornsea-Project-Four/Documents-Library>

- 6.3.3.2 Specific feedback from members of the public at the LIEs has been taken on board. In particular, where possible Hornsea Four have amended or adopted new Commitments directly in response to such feedback. The feedback received from members of the public and details how such feedback has been considered by Hornsea Four is set out within the Commitments Register (see [Volume 4, Annex 5.2](#)).

## 6.3.4 Proportionality Roadshows

- 6.3.4.1 In line with the guidance from the Planning Inspectorate in Advice Note 7, Hornsea Four has sought to undertake a proportionate approach to EIA. The approach follows a recent report (IEMA, 2017), by the UK's professional body for EIA, the Institute of Environment

Management and Assessment (IEMA) which set out details of a collaborate strategy for enhancing EIA practice.

6.3.4.2 Hornsea Four identified a range of tangible actions, tools and processes to support the delivery of a proportionate EIA. These measures are described in detail in [Chapter 5 Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology](#). Due to the variable understanding of, and sign up to the proportionate approach, it was considered important by the project to undertake specific consultation on the topic of proportionality. Hornsea Four therefore undertook a Proportionality Roadshow with a range of key consultees. [Table 6.2](#) sets out the stakeholders which Hornsea Four engaged with specifically on proportionality, however as proportionality is central to Hornsea Four, this has been presented and discussed with stakeholders throughout the process, for example through Evidence Plan meetings (see [Section 6.3.5](#)).

6.3.4.3 The Roadshow aimed to familiarise consultees with the proportionate approach Hornsea Four has adopted in relation the PEIR. The following information was presented and discussed during the Roadshow:

- Overview of the purpose and aim of proportionate EIA;
- Update on Hornsea Four’s approach to proportionality since Scoping, including an update on impacts to be ‘scoped out’ of the assessment;
- Overview of the Hornsea Four’s proportionality tools including the Impacts Register and Commitments Register;
- Provided information on Hornsea Fours approach to the PEIR and what it will look like; and
- Provided a timeline for future engagement.

6.3.4.4 In response to feedback received from stakeholders during the Proportionality Roadshow, a guide to Hornsea Fours proportionate PEIR has been prepared and is provided within [Volume 4, Annex 1.2](#).

**Table 6.2: Proportionality Roadshow Meetings.**

Date	Activity/ Consultees
03/04/2019	Proportionality Meeting - MMO
10/04/2019	Proportionality Meeting – Natural England
18/04/2019	Proportionality Meeting - PINS
29/05/2019	Proportionality Meeting - RSPB
17/06/2019	Proportionality Meeting – The Wildlife Trusts & The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

## 6.3.5 Evidence Plan Process

6.3.5.1 In order to ensure key stakeholders are consulted on a regular and formalised basis an Evidence Plan (EP) process has been adopted. The EP process for Hornsea Four commenced in September 2018 and aims to agree the evidence required to be submitted

within the ES as part of the DCO Application. EP meetings will continue throughout the pre-application phase until the point of DCO application.

6.3.5.2 The primary objective of the EP process is to seek agreement with key stakeholders on the data and information to be included in the ES. The process will also be used to supplement the Proportionate Roadshow (see [Section 6.3.4](#)) in communicating Hornsea Four's approach to proportionate EIA and how it intends to deliver this through the preparation of the ES. A further detailed overview of the approach by Hornsea Four to proportionality is provided within [Volume 4, Annex 1.2](#). The EP process will also incorporate matters relevant to the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) that will also accompany the DCO application (taking into account the guidance in PINS Advice Note 10).

6.3.5.3 The EP process is a voluntary informal process and will form a record of the agreements and disagreements between Hornsea Four and the interested parties and will help inform Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) such as may be required by PINS during the Examination of Hornsea Four.

6.3.5.4 The EP Steering Group consists of the following organisations:

- the Applicant;
- PINS;
- Natural England;
- Marine Management Organisation (MMO);
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC); and
- Historic England.

6.3.5.5 The EPP is divided into Expert Topic Group (ETG) areas which are summarised in [Figure 6.1](#).

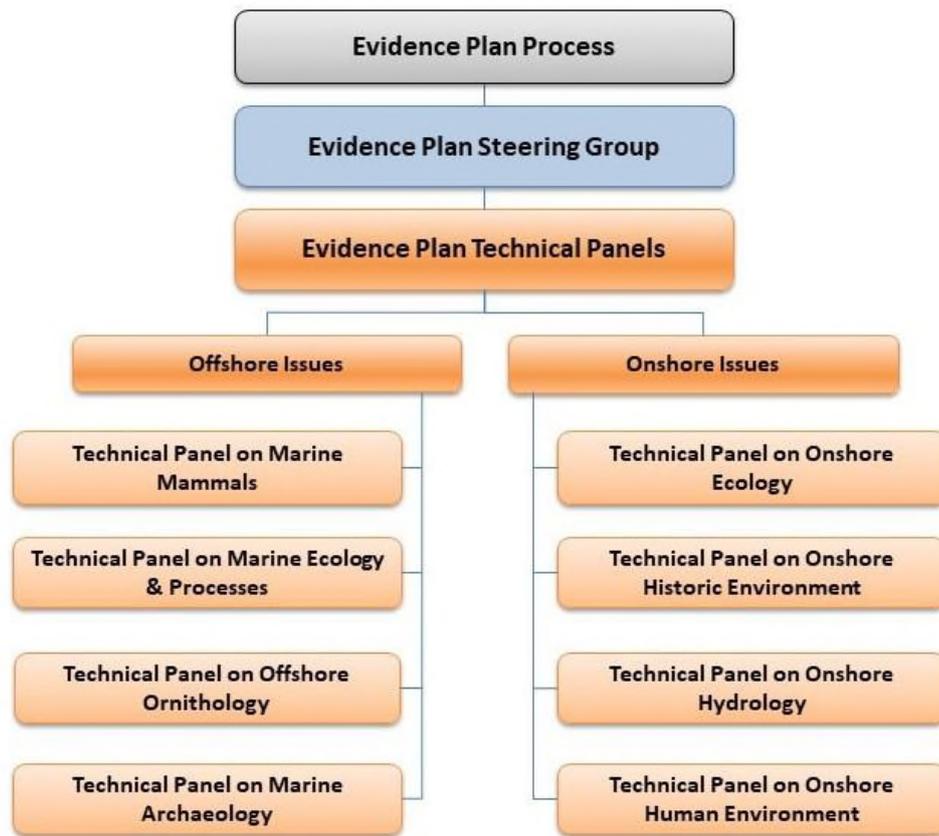


Figure 6.1: Overview of Expert Topic Groups.

6.3.5.6 A summary of the consultation meetings held under the EPP is provided in [Table 6.3](#).

Table 6.3: Overview of meetings under the EPP (to date).

Date	Activity	Consultees
<b>Offshore</b>		
18/12/2018	Marine Archaeology Technical Panel Meeting 1	Historic England
12/09/2018	Marine processes and ecology technical panel 1	Natural England; Wildlife Trust; MMO; Cefas;
13/09/2018	Offshore & intertidal ornithology technical panel meeting 1	Natural England; RSPB
13/09/2018	Marine mammals technical panel meeting 1	Natural England; Wildlife Trust; MMO. Cefas
03/10/2018	Marine mammals technical panel meeting 2	Natural England; Wildlife Trust; MMO. Cefas
12/12/2018	Marine processes and ecology technical panel 2	MMO; Cefas
17/12/2018	Offshore & intertidal ornithology technical panel meeting 2	RSPB
10/04/2019	Offshore & intertidal ornithology technical panel meeting 3	Natural England; RSPB
11/06/2019	Offshore & intertidal ornithology technical panel meeting 4	Natural England; RSPB

Date	Activity	Consultees
14/01/2019	Marine mammals technical panel meeting 3	Natural England; Wildlife Trust; MMO. Cefas;
30/04/2019	Marine mammals technical panel meeting 4	Natural England; Wildlife Trust; MMO. Cefas; Whale & Dolphin Conservation
30/04/2019	Marine processes and ecology technical panel 3	Natural England; MMO; Cefas;
26/06/2019	Marine mammals technical panel meeting 5	Natural England; Wildlife Trust; MMO. Cefas; Whale & Dolphin Conservation
<b>Onshore</b>		
11/09/2018	Hornsea Four Historic Environment Technical Panel Meeting 1	Historic England; Hull City Council (Humber Historic Environmental Record)
12/09/2018	Hornsea Four Water and Flood Risk Technical Panel Meeting 1	ERYC (LLFA); Environment Agency; Internal Drainage Board
12/09/2018	Hornsea Four onshore Ecology Technical Panel Meeting 1	ERYC; Natural England; Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
07/01/2019	Hornsea Four Human Environment Technical Panel Meeting 1	ERYC
08/01/2019	Hornsea Four onshore Ecology Technical Panel Meeting 2	ERYC; Natural England; Yorkshire Wildlife Trust; RSPB
15/01/2019	Hornsea Four Water and Flood Risk Technical Panel Meeting 2	ERYC (LLFA); Environment Agency; Internal Drainage Board
16/01/2019	Hornsea Four Historic Environment Technical Panel Meeting 2	ERYC, Historic England; Hull City Council (Humber Historic Environmental Record)
02/04/2019	Hornsea Four Historic Environment Technical Panel Meeting 3	ERYC, Hull City Council (Humber Historic Environmental Record)
05/04/2019	Hornsea Four Water and Flood Risk Technical Panel Meeting 3	ERYC (LLFA); Environment Agency; Internal Drainage Board
08/04/2019	Hornsea Four onshore Ecology Technical Panel Meeting 3	ERYC; Natural England; Yorkshire Wildlife Trust; RSPB; Environment Agency
01/05/2019	Hornsea Four Human Environment Technical Panel Meeting 2	ERYC
27/06/2019	Hornsea Four Water and Flood Risk Technical Panel Meeting 4	ERYC (LLFA); Environment Agency; Internal Drainage Board
09/07/2019	Hornsea Four onshore Ecology Technical Panel Meeting 4	ERYC; Natural England; Yorkshire Wildlife Trust; RSPB; Environment

6.3.5.7 In addition to the consultation activities presented above, Hornsea Four has met with the Planning Inspectorate and ERYC on a regular basis, to provide updates and to seek advice on subjects including the site selection process, approach to the EIA and drafting the application documents. Hornsea Four has also met with a range of key stakeholders prior to PEIR specifically to discuss the adoption of a proportionate approach to EIA. These meetings have supplemented discussions within the EP process where proportionality has also been presented.

#### *Habitat Regulations Assessment consultation*

6.3.5.8 Hornsea Four has consulted specifically on HRA through the EP process, in line with the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 10: Habitats Regulations Assessment relevant to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (January 2017). Hornsea Four submitted the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report for consultation on the 08 October 2018. At the request of Natural England, additional sites were "screened in" to the HRA and the report updated and issued on 18 June 2019.

6.3.5.9 The Draft Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) shall be made available for consultation with the statutory nature conservation bodies (SNCBs) and other potentially affected transboundary consultees and interested parties. The consultation period for the RIAA will conclude on 23 September 2019, aligned with the conclusion of the S42 consultation of the PEIR. This on-going dialogue with the nature conservation bodies will continue throughout the EP process as the HRA is progressed.

### **6.3.6 Developable Area Approach**

6.3.6.1 In the spirit of keeping with the approach by Hornsea Four to proportionate EIA, due consideration was given to the size and location (within the exiting offshore Agreement for Lease array area) of the final project that will be taken forward in the application for development consent. This consideration has been captured internally as a "Developable Area Approach" (DAA), which includes Physical, Biological and Human constraints in refining the developable area, balancing consenting and commercial considerations with technical feasibility for construction.

6.3.6.2 Hornsea Four sought to engage with a number of key stakeholders on the DAA. Specifically, between December 2018 and February 2019, Hornsea Four held meetings with The Crown Estate (TCE); Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA); Trinity House; Natural England and the RSPB to present the DAA and seek early feedback on the approach. The DAA has sought to promote more pro-active and early engagement with relevant stakeholders on refining the site to reduce constraints where possible and provide stakeholders with the opportunity to influence the final shape and size of the project.

6.3.6.3 While the initial requirements of various stakeholders proved challenging to reconcile with Hornsea Four's commercial aspirations, the DAA meetings have ultimately led to a major site reduction, the narrative of which is captured in [Chapter 3: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives](#).

### **6.3.7 Onshore substation consultation group (OSCG)**

6.3.7.1 The aim of the Onshore Substation Consultation Group (OSCG) is to create a consultation forum within which the local community can materially influence site selection and alternatives, design and mitigation. The OSCG focus is on the key areas of interest for respective local communities (via their respective Parish Council representative(s)) in relation to the design evolution of the Hornsea Four Onshore Substation and Electrical Balancing Infrastructure (EBI).

6.3.7.2 The OSCG first convened in March 2019 and set out a timeframe for regular interaction between Hornsea Four and interested parties on key issues raised through consultation (e.g. construction traffic access through Cottingham and protection of views to and from Beverley Minster). Engagement is achieved via planned early and focussed engagement with the local representatives to gain feedback into the Hornsea Four plans and proposals and is facilitated by a full-time and locally residing Community Liaison Officer (CLO). Full details of engagement will be detailed in the Consultation Report that will be submitted with the DCO application.

### **6.3.8 Outline Design Vision Statement**

6.3.8.1 The Outline Design Vision Statement (see [Volume 4, Annex 4.6](#)) sets out methods of best practice alongside aspirational approaches that will guide the future development of Hornsea Four's on-shore infrastructure, in consultation with the local community and key stakeholders. The Outline Design Vision Statement has been developed through early consultation with the OSCG and aims to ensure that a sense of place is considered and integrated throughout the design process and adverse environmental effects are mitigated where possible whilst respecting landscape character. This will be achieved through the integration of locally inspired design principles and engineering optimisation. Key factors including the use of materials, colour and landscape treatments will be considered. Proposals seek to bring not only greater visual mitigation as part of Hornsea Four but also encourage ecological and amenity benefits. The Outline Design Vision Statement will be updated to incorporate stakeholder feedback where possible and submitted with the DCO Application.

## 6.3.9 Public consultation at PEIR

6.3.9.1 Members of the public will be encouraged to provide feedback on the PEIR. A series of Local Information Events are therefore planned to take place in September 2019, where the local community will be able to view the project proposals and discuss with the Hornsea Four team.

6.3.9.2 In addition, Hornsea Four have adopted Commonplace, an online community consultation tool. The tool will help Hornsea Four to engage with a wider audience and receive digital feedback on core aspects of the project. Commonplace is available online at:

<https://hornsea4feedback.commonplace.is/>

6.3.9.3 All feedback from the Local Information Events and Commonplace along with a summary of how feedback has shaped the proposals will be provided in the Consultation Report that will be submitted with the DCO application.

6.3.9.1 As identified in **Chapter 3: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives** and **Chapter 4: Project Description**, the Hornsea Four design envelope has been refined significantly and is anticipated to be further refined for the DCO submission. This process is reliant upon stakeholder consultation feedback.

6.3.9.2 The Hornsea Four PEIR boundary currently comprises two landfall options (shown in **Chapter 4: Project Description, Figure 4.13**), which have been assessed in the respective PEIR receptor chapters. A decision on the preferred landfall (A3 or A4) will be made post-PEIR and the Project Description and assessments updated for the ES and DCO for the preferred 40,000 m<sup>2</sup> compound within the landfall location.

6.3.9.3 Onshore substation operation and maintenance access - Hornsea Four are currently investigating the possibility of making the temporary construction access off the A1079 a permanent operational access. Feedback is welcomed on this amendment.

6.3.9.4 This decision-making process will be based on the results of the PEIR assessments, in addition to stakeholder feedback.

## 6.4 Transboundary Consultation

6.4.1.1 Transboundary effects arise when impacts from the development within one European Economic Area (EEA) state affects the environment of another EEA state(s). The need to consider such transboundary effects has been embodied by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context (commonly referred to as the 'Espoo Convention'). The Convention requires that assessments are extended across borders between Parties of the Convention when a planned activity may cause significant adverse transboundary effects. **Table 6.4** identifies the approximate distances of Hornsea Four from the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundaries of other EEA states that share a maritime border with the UK.

**Table 6.4: Summary of approximate distance to nearest EEZ (median line) of other EEA states.**

EEA state	Distance from Hornsea Four to the nearest marine boundary (km)
The Netherlands	84
Germany	222
Belgium	243
Denmark	235
Norway	247
France	271
Iceland	1,153
Republic of Ireland	333

- 6.4.1.2 The Espoo Convention has been implemented in the UK for the purposes of NSIPs by the Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017. Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations sets out a prescribed process for notifying and consulting EEA States that maybe affected by a development that is likely to have significant transboundary effects.
- 6.4.1.3 In addition, PINS Advice Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts and Processes (PINS, 2018b) sets out the procedures for a consultation in association with an application for a DCO where such a development may have significant transboundary effects. It recommends that the developer undertakes independent consultation with other EEA states that may be affected to speed up the consultation process and reduce the risk to the development of a lack of time to consider transboundary impacts at a later stage in the application process.
- 6.4.1.4 A transboundary screening process has been carried out and is provided at [Annex K](#) of Scoping Report (Orsted 2018). This confirmed that only certain offshore (marine) technical aspects could result in transboundary effects, namely: fish and shellfish ecology; marine mammals; ornithology; commercial fisheries; shipping and navigation; and aviation and radar. Each of these technical assessment chapters includes details of such potential transboundary effects.
- 6.4.1.5 All consultation will be recorded within the Consultation Report submitted with the DCO application.

## 6.5 Summary

- 6.5.1.1 Hornsea Four have sought to engage stakeholders in the project from an early stage and subsequently throughout the process to date. Responses to the Scoping Report and feedback from the Evidence Plan Process and other stakeholder meetings (see [Section 6.3](#)) has been carefully considered in the ongoing design of the project and considered in the PEIR where appropriate. Responses which are considered relevant to specific topic areas are set out within each of the individual technical chapters.
- 6.5.1.2 Hornsea Four has adopted a proportionate approach to EIA which has shaped the development of the PEIR. Hornsea Four has engaged with key stakeholders on the topic of proportionality and undertook targeted meetings in the form of a Proportionality Roadshow to ensure clear messaging and a consistent understanding of the approach adopted by the project.
- 6.5.1.3 Hornsea Four will continue to engage with stakeholder on the project proposals and responses from the PEIR consultation and other stakeholder meetings will be considered in the development of the ES. Further information on the consultation activities undertaken, and how consultation responses have influenced the project design and the preparation of the EIA, will be reported within the Consultation Report submitted with the DCO application.

## 6.6 References

Ørsted (2018). Hornsea Four Environmental Impact Assessment: Scoping Report (EN010098-000021-EN010098)

IEMA (2017) Delivering Proportionate EIA - A Collaborative Strategy for Enhancing UK Environmental Impact Assessment Practice, IEMA Lincoln.