

DOGGER BANK D WIND FARM

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 2

Appendix 25.1 Consultation Responses for Noise and
Vibration

Document Reference No: 2.25.1

Date: June 2025

Revision: V1



www.doggerbankd.com

Document Title:	Volume 2, Appendix 25.1 Consultation Responses for Noise and Vibration
Document BIM No.	PC6250-RHD-XX-ON-RP-EV-0135
Prepared By:	Royal HaskoningDHV
Prepared For:	Dogger Bank D Offshore Wind Farm

Revision No.	Date	Status / Reason for Issue	Author	Checked By	Approved By
V1	27/05/2025	Final	TB	AT	RH

Table of Contents

25.1 Consultation Responses for Noise and Vibration 5

References12

List of Tables.....13

List of Acronyms13

Glossary

Term	Definition
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.
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.
Impact	A change resulting from an activity associated with the Project, defined in terms of magnitude.
Mitigation	Any action or process designed to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset potentially significant adverse effects of a development. All mitigation measures adopted by the Project are provided in the Commitments Register.
Project Design Envelope	A range of design parameters defined where appropriate to enable the identification and assessment of likely significant effects arising from a project's worst-case scenario. The Project Design Envelope incorporates flexibility and addresses uncertainty in the DCO application and will be further refined during the EIA process.

Term	Definition
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>
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>
Study Areas	<p>A geographical area and / or temporal limit defined for each EIA topic to identify sensitive receptors and assess the relevant likely significant effects.</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>

25.1 Consultation Responses for Noise and Vibration

1. **Volume 1, Chapter 25 Noise and Vibration** for the Dogger Bank D Offshore Wind Farm (herein referred to as ‘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 25 Noise and Vibration** and the Applicant’s responses in **Table 25.1-1**.
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 25.1-1 Consultation Responses for Noise and Vibration

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Onshore Converter Station (OCS(s)) and associated infrastructure vibration effects at Noise and Vibration Sensitive Receptors (NSVR) – operation</p> <p>The Scoping Report states that all onshore plant with potential to emit high levels of vibration will be isolated from the ground meaning any vibration transmitted into the ground would be negligible. It is further stated that as the vibration level would be negligible at source, it would be orders of magnitude less than what would be expected to give rise to significant effects at a NVSR. Details of the likely vibration emissions associated with operation of the OCS(s) and associated infrastructure are currently limited, additionally the confirmed location of the OCS(s) is currently unknown and therefore the proximity of this facility to sensitive receptors.</p>	<p>Section 25.7.2.2 of Volume 1, Chapter 25 Noise and Vibration identifies that the minimum distance from the OCS zones (Zones 4 and 8) to a NVSR is approximately 240m. Section 25.7.2.2 also identifies standard best practice measures for minimising vibration generation and transmission into the ground and provides evidence-based reasoning to show that there will be an absence of likely significant effect associated with operational vibration effects.</p>

APPENDIX 25.1 CONSULTATION REPONSES FOR NOISE AND VIBRATION

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
		In the absence of information such as evidence demonstrating clear agreement with relevant statutory bodies, the Inspectorate is not in a position to agree to scope these matters out from the assessment. The Environmental Statement (ES) should include an assessment of these matters or information demonstrating agreement with the relevant consultation bodies and the absence of a Likely Significant Effect (LSE).	<p>With regard to the request for agreement by the relevant consultation bodies by the Planning Inspectorate, East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) stated their agreement to scope out operational vibration effects during the Expert Topic Group (ETG) 11 meeting held on 27th August 2024. Agreement on the scope of the noise and vibration assessment has been obtained from Hull City Council through the Scoping Opinion as detailed below.</p> <p>The above shows that the requirements of The Planning Inspectorate as stated in the Scoping Opinion have been met. Hence, operational vibration effects associated with OCS zone infrastructure are not assessed further in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).</p>
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Road traffic vibration effects at NVSR - all phases</p> <p>The Inspectorate notes the Applicant's rationale for the scoping out of road traffic vibration at NVSR. In the absence of information such as the anticipated number and type of vehicles and evidence demonstrating clear agreement with relevant consultation bodies, the Inspectorate is not in a position to agree to scope these matters out from the assessment. The ES should include an assessment of road traffic vibration effects at NVSR or the information referred to demonstrating agreement with the relevant consultation bodies and the absence of a LSE.</p>	<p>Vehicles on road surfaces in good condition are not anticipated to emit vibration with the potential to cause annoyance effects.</p> <p>Where surface irregularities are present, vibration from road traffic could be perceptible. However, associated annoyance effects are lower than those due to noise and there is no evidence to suggest that building damage could occur. Further details are provided in Section 25.7.1.4 and Section 25.7.2.4 of Volume 1, Chapter 25 Noise and Vibration, which demonstrates evidence that there will be an</p>

APPENDIX 25.1 CONSULTATION REPONSES FOR NOISE AND VIBRATION

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
			<p>absence of likely significant effect associated with road traffic vibration effects.</p> <p>With regard to the request for agreement by the relevant consultation bodies by the Planning Inspectorate, ERYC stated their agreement to scope out road traffic vibration effects during the second ETG11 meeting held on 27th August 2024. Agreement on the scope of the noise and vibration assessment has been obtained from Hull City Council through the Scoping Opinion as detailed below.</p> <p>The above shows that the requirements of The Planning Inspectorate as stated in the Scoping Opinion have been met. Hence, road traffic vibration effects across all project phases are not assessed further in the EIA.</p>
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Noise and vibration effects from offshore construction at onshore NVSR</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees that given the offshore infrastructure will be circa 210km from the shore and any onshore NVSR's, this matter can be scoped out of the assessment, as significant effects from noise and vibration over this distance are unlikely to occur.</p>	Agreement to scope out offshore airborne noise impacts on onshore NVSR noted.
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Noise impacts associated with operation of the buried infrastructure at the landfall site and along the onshore ECC</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees that once buried, there is unlikely to be any significant noise effects from buried infrastructure, and this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.</p>	Agreement to scope out operational noise impacts from buried infrastructure noted.

APPENDIX 25.1 CONSULTATION REPONSES FOR NOISE AND VIBRATION

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Ecological receptors</p> <p>The Inspectorate notes that there is limited reference within this section of the Scoping Report to other receptor types which may be sensitive to noise and vibration, such as ecological receptors. The Inspectorate welcomes the consideration of noise and vibration effects on ecological receptors within Scoping Report Section 8.6 (Onshore Ecology, Ornithology and Nature Conservation). The sensitivity of ecological receptors to noise and vibration should be clearly defined and the ES should clearly explain any assumptions made regarding the assessment of LSE arising from noise and vibration on ecological receptors. The Onshore Noise and Vibration ES assessment should cross-refer to the findings of other relevant ES assessments, such as Onshore Ecology, Ornithology and Nature Conservation, to avoid duplication.</p>	Noise and vibration impacts on terrestrial ecological receptors are defined and assessed in Volume 1, Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology .
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Offshore Airborne Noise</p> <p>The Applicant proposes that an Offshore Airborne Noise aspect assessment is scoped out of the ES in its entirety. The Inspectorate agrees with this approach as detailed in the comments below. An Offshore Airborne Noise aspect assessment can be scoped out of further assessment in the ES.</p>	<p>Agreement to scope out offshore airborne noise impacts from Volume 1, Chapter 25 Noise and Vibration noted.</p> <p>Offshore airborne noise impacts on marine ecological receptors are discussed further in Volume 1, Chapter 13 Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology.</p>
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Offshore airborne noise impacts on human, intertidal and offshore ornithology, marine ecological receptors and coastal receptors – all phases</p> <p>The Scoping Report proposes that impacts from noise are considered in the following ES chapters:</p>	Underwater noise impacts on marine ecological receptors are discussed further in Volume 1, Chapter 10 Benthic and Intertidal Ecology, Chapter 11 Fish and Shellfish Ecology and Chapter 12 Marine Mammals .

APPENDIX 25.1 CONSULTATION REPONSES FOR NOISE AND VIBRATION

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
		<p>Chapter 7.7 (Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology) – impacts from airborne noise on intertidal and offshore ornithology receptors;</p> <p>Chapters 7.4 (Benthic and Intertidal Ecology); 7.5 (Fish and Shellfish Ecology); and 7.6 (Marine Mammals) – impacts from underwater noise on marine ecological receptors; and</p> <p>Chapter 8.8 (Onshore Noise and Vibration) – impacts from airborne noise from nearshore construction activities on coastal receptors.</p> <p>On the basis of the above, the information presented in sections 7.15.4 7.15.4.1 and 7.15.4.2 of the Scoping Report concerning the offshore activities that would generate airborne noise, and the distance of these activities from the nearest onshore receptors (at approx.140km), the Inspectorate agrees that offshore airborne noise can be scoped out of further assessment in the ES.</p> <p>The ES should provide clear cross-referencing to where the relevant impacts are considered.</p>	
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Cumulative effects – all phases</p> <p>The Inspectorate considers that due to the nature and location of the Proposed Development it is unlikely that offshore airborne noise emissions from it would combine with other offshore proposals to result in significant cumulative effects. This matter can therefore be scoped out of further assessment in the ES.</p>	Agreement to scope out offshore airborne noise impacts from the cumulative effects assessment in Volume 1, Chapter 25 Noise and Vibration noted.

APPENDIX 25.1 CONSULTATION REPONSES FOR NOISE AND VIBRATION

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Transboundary effects – all phases</p> <p>The Applicant proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that although the Array Area is located adjacent to Dutch Territorial Waters, it is unlikely that noise emissions from project vessels and offshore construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning works would give rise to any significant transboundary effects. As noted in Table 2.2 above, the Inspectorate has not yet concluded its separate transboundary re-screening exercise. However, given that no LSE are predicted, the Inspectorate agrees that impacts on the environment of European Economic Area (EEA) States are unlikely. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter may be scoped out of further assessment in the ES.</p>	Agreement to scope out transboundary effects from Volume 1, Chapter 25 Noise and Vibration noted.
Hull City Council	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Do you agree with the characterisation of the existing environment?</p> <p>Yes, as far as it relates to the Hull City Council administrative area</p>	<p>Agreement noted.</p> <p>Section 25.6 of Volume 1, Chapter 25 Noise and Vibration provides further details on the existing baseline environment.</p>
Hull City Council	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Have all the onshore noise and vibration impacts resulting from the Project been identified in the Scoping Report?</p> <p>Yes, with regard to the Hull City Council administrative area.</p>	<p>Agreement noted.</p> <p>Section 25.4 of Volume 1, Chapter 25 Noise and Vibration provides further details on the scope of the noise and vibration assessment.</p>
Hull City Council	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Do you agree with the onshore noise and vibration impacts that have been scoped in for / out from further consideration within the EIA?</p> <p>Yes, as far as they relate to the Hull City Council administrative area.</p>	

APPENDIX 25.1 CONSULTATION REPONSES FOR NOISE AND VIBRATION

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
Hull City Council	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Have all the relevant data sources been identified in the Scoping Report?</p> <p>Yes, with regard to the Hull City Council administrative area.</p>	<p>Agreement noted.</p> <p>Section 25.5 of Volume 1, Chapter 25 Noise and Vibration provides further details on the data sources used in the noise and vibration assessment.</p>
ERYC	ETG11 Meeting 02 Minutes (Meeting held on 27/08/24)	ERYC confirmed agreement at the meeting with the proposed scope, study areas and methodology for the noise and vibration assessment and the proposed data sources and survey approach for baseline characterisation.	The agreements and feedback obtained from the second ETG11 meeting held on 27 th August 2024 with ERYC have informed the preparation of Volume 1, Chapter 25 Noise and Vibration .

References

Royal HaskoningDHV (2024). Dogger Bank D Scoping Report (Part 1 & 2). Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010144/EN010144-000069-EN010144%20-%20Scoping%20Report%20-%20Part%201.pdf> & <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010144/EN010144-000070-EN010144%20-%20Scoping%20Report%20-%20Part%202.pdf> [Accessed September 2024].

The Planning Inspectorate (2024). Scoping Opinion adopted by the Secretary of State on 02 August 2024. Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010144/EN010144-000071-EN010144%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf> [Accessed September 2024].

List of Tables

Table 25.1-1 Consultation Responses for Noise and Vibration	5
---	---

List of Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
DBD	Dogger Bank D
ECC	Export Cable Corridor
EEA	European Economic Area
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ERYC	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
NVVR	Noise and Vibration Sensitive Receptors
OCS	Onshore Converter Station