



NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

Date: 13 March 2024

*North Falls Offshore Wind Farm
Targeted Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008*

Dear Sir / Madam,

We are writing to consult with you on the proposed North Falls Offshore Wind Farm ('North Falls' or 'the Project'). This Project is being promoted by North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited, company number 12435947, with a registered office at Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 6PB ('the Applicant'). North Falls is an equal joint venture between SSE Renewables and RWE. The Applicant is carrying out this targeted consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act') and you have been identified as a consultee for this purpose.

If you were identified as a consultee at the time, we may have previously consulted you on our proposals for North Falls, including our formal statutory consultation on the proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) application and the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). This statutory consultation ran between 16 May and 14 July 2023.

Since the close of the statutory consultation in July 2023, the proposed DCO application for North Falls has continued to develop, which has resulted in additional land being included within the proposed DCO application boundary. This targeted consultation is being carried out specifically in relation to this additional land, as further detailed below and in the accompanying consultation materials.

This targeted consultation begins on 14 March 2024 and closes at 11.59pm on 22 April 2024. Details of how to respond to the consultation are outlined below. The consultation brochure enclosed provides more information and additional information can also be found in our PEIR Addendum – a supplement to the PEIR that focuses specifically on the proposed localised changes, including the additional land, as presented in the enclosed brochure. This can also be found to view and download free of charge on the Project’s consultation website: **targetedconsultation.northfallsoffshore.com**.

Project Description

North Falls is a proposed offshore wind farm located in the southern North Sea, approximately 42 kilometres from the East Anglia coast at its nearest point. An offer from National Grid for an onshore grid connection in Tendring, North Essex, has been accepted. This is approximately 24 kilometres from the landfall location between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea. North Falls is set to support the UK government’s target of 50 gigawatts (GW) of installed offshore wind capacity by 2030.

The key offshore components the Project comprises:

- Up to 57 offshore wind turbine generators (reduced from PEIR) and their associated foundations;
- Up to two offshore platforms and their associated foundations to facilitate the export of electricity via the Project’s offshore export cables;
- Subsea cables:
 - Array cables between the wind turbine generators and offshore substation platform(s);
 - Export cables between the offshore substation platform(s) and landfall; and
- Scour protection around foundations and subsea cables where required.

The key onshore components the Project comprises:

- Landfall;
- Onshore export cables and associated link boxes;
- Onshore substation; and
- Connection to the national grid.

There are three options for transmission infrastructure:

- Option 1: Onshore electrical connection at a National Grid connection point within Tendring, Essex, with a Project alone onshore cable route and onshore substation infrastructure;
- Option 2: Onshore electrical connection at a National Grid connection point within Tendring, Essex, sharing an onshore cable route and onshore cable duct installation, but with separate onshore export cables, and co-locating separate project onshore substation infrastructure with Five Estuaries; or
- Option 3: Offshore electrical connection supplied by a third-party electricity network provider.

Further information on the Project, including the PEIR Addendum and other materials supporting this targeted consultation, is available to view and download free of charge via the documents page on the Project's consultation website targetedconsultation.northfallsoffshore.com/documents.

Application for a DCO

The Project will have a generating capacity exceeding 100 megawatts (MW) and is therefore classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), for which a DCO is required. The Applicant therefore intends to submit a DCO application which will contain full details of the Project. North Falls is Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development and will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement in accordance with the Act and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

It is anticipated the proposed DCO will, if granted and among other things, authorise:

- The construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of an offshore wind generating station and associated development comprised in the Project;
- The compulsory acquisition of land, and imposition of restrictions, powers to override, suspend or extinguish rights over land and the temporary use of land;
- The application, modification and / or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project including that relating to the compulsory acquisition of land; and
- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licences, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and / or convenient.

The Project is currently in the pre-application phase of the DCO application process. In accordance with the Act, the Applicant is required to consult on the proposed application prior to submission and have regard to consultation responses. This targeted consultation forms part of that process. A Consultation Report outlining the consultation processes undertaken, and how the Applicant has had regard to responses, will be included in the DCO application documents.

If the DCO application is accepted, the Planning Inspectorate will process and examine the application and make a recommendation for approval or refusal to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. The final decision to approve or refuse the application will be made by the Secretary of State.

Targeted Consultation on North Falls

As noted above, pre-application statutory consultation was originally undertaken by the Applicant on the proposed DCO application, including the PEIR, between 16 May 2023 and 14 July 2023.

Feedback received has been considered and used to develop the Applicant's proposed DCO application. As a result of this feedback, as well as further engineering, road safety, environmental, and technical work, some additional areas of land have been added to the proposed DCO application boundary which were not included at the time the statutory consultation on the PEIR was carried out.

In addition, the Applicant has further developed its plans in relation to construction access to its onshore cable corridor and its proposed onshore substation zone, both to facilitate construction of the Project and allow future operational maintenance access throughout the Project's lifespan. This includes road widening and improvements to sections of Bentley Road and where Bentley Road adjoins the A120. The widening and improvements have resulted in additional areas of land being added to the proposed DCO application boundary.

The additional areas of land required are shown on pages 10-19 of the consultation brochure enclosed and more information can be found in the PEIR Addendum. In summary, the additional areas of land comprise:

- Additional land required at National Grid Electricity Transmission's (NGET) proposed substation site, the East Anglia Connection Node (the Project's National Grid Connection Point), to align with land ownership boundaries;
- 10 locations where we require additional land to make localised changes to the onshore PEIR boundary to accommodate the onshore cable corridor at Little Clacton Road, south of Walton Road, north of Tendring Road, and between Barlon Road and Spratts Lane, as well as access to temporary construction haul roads;
- 14 locations where we've identified access points for operating and maintaining the onshore electrical connection throughout the Project's lifespan;
- Inclusion of 11 construction traffic visibility splays, where we need a wider area of hedgerow adjustment to meet the requirements of road safety audits and the current proposals for construction access points, allowing safe movement of traffic between the public highway and the onshore cable corridor;
- 12 proposed locations of temporary construction compounds (TCCs); and
- Improvements and widening of Bentley Road to facilitate the Project's construction, as well as potential use of Bentley Road for maintenance during the Project's operational lifespan.

Please note that this information is considered up to date at the time the targeted consultation takes place, however this is an ongoing process, and the Applicant's red line boundary will be confirmed at the point of DCO application.

Consultation Materials

The consultation materials supporting this targeted consultation are:

- Targeted consultation brochure (enclosed), which provides a non-technical overview of the localised changes, including additional land, to the Project, as well as plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed changes;
- Feedback form, enclosed for you to complete and return to us. There is a digital version of this feedback form on the Project's consultation website if you would prefer to submit your feedback electronically;
- PEIR Addendum, a supplement to the PEIR which considers the likely significant effects of the proposed changes. This is available to view and download free of charge on the consultation website; and

- Consultation website, which hosts digital versions of the consultation brochure, PEIR Addendum, and feedback form. It also includes an interactive map, where you can zoom in, search by postcode, explore the updated proposals in more detail and provide feedback.

These materials are available to view and download free of charge via **targetedconsultation.northfallsoffshore.com** from the beginning of the targeted consultation on **14 March 2024 until at least 11.59pm on 22 April 2024**.

The PEIR chapters and reports, including documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of North Falls, can be accessed directly under the ‘Documents’ tab of the North Falls website and at the following link: **northfallsoffshore.com/peir**. Please note that the EIA is an ongoing process and the information contained within the PEIR is subject to change as the design of the Project develops.

Alternatively, copies of the documents can be requested by calling **0800 254 5340** or by emailing **contact@northfallsoffshore.com**. These contact details can also be used for any enquiries relating to the documents, plans and maps accompanying this consultation.

Electronic copies of the documents on a USB stick can be requested free of charge. Paper copies of the targeted consultation materials and the PEIR Non-Technical Summary can be provided on request free of charge. Due to the size of the PEIR, a charge of £3,500 would be applied for a paper copy, to cover the production costs.

How to Respond to the Consultation

Your response to this consultation must be received no later than **11.59pm on 22 April 2024**. Responses received after this time may not be considered.

If you would like to provide feedback as part of this targeted consultation, you can do so by using the following methods:

- Completing the feedback form enclosed and returning it free of charge by following the instructions on the back page of the form;
- Using the online interactive map on our consultation website: **targetedconsultation.northfallsoffshore.com**. The map allows you to scroll, zoom and search by postcode;
- Sending an email to **contact@northfallsoffshore.com**; or
- Sending a letter to our freepost address: **FREEPOST North Falls**.

When providing your response, please include your name and contact details and confirm the nature of your interest in the Project.

Please note that representations received and any accompanying personal data, such as the names of persons over 18, may be made public. If you do not wish personal information to be made public, you should state that when submitting your representation. Responses and personal data may be provided to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate or other

relevant statutory authorities in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008.
To find out about how the Applicant will manage your personal data please refer to our
Privacy Notice: consultation.northfallsoffshore.com/privacy.

Yours faithfully

Daniel Harper
Consents Manager
North Falls Offshore Wind Farm