



White Cross Offshore Windfarm Environmental Statement

Chapter 7: Consultation



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Glossary of Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
BEIS	Business, Energy and Industrial strategy
DCC	Devon County Council
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DWT	Devon Wildlife Trust
EA	Environment Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
HRA	Habitats Regulation Assessment
IFCA	Inshore Fisheries and Coastal Authority
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MW	Megawatts
NDC	North Devon Council
NDCP	North Devon Council Planning
NE	Natural England
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPS	National Policy Statement
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
RIAA	Report to Inform an Appropriate Assessment
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Act

Glossary of Terminology

Defined Term	Description
Applicant	White Cross Offshore Windfarm Limited
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Assessment of the potential impact of the proposed Project on the physical, biological and human environment during construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning.
Export Cable Corridor	The area in which the export cables will be laid, either from the Offshore Substation or the inter-array cable junction box (if no offshore substation), to the NG Onshore Substation comprising both the Offshore Export Cable Corridor and Onshore Export Cable Corridor.
Landfall	Where the offshore export cables come ashore
Mean high water springs	The average tidal height throughout the year of two successive high waters during those periods of 24 hours when the range of the tide is at its greatest.
Mean low water springs	The average tidal height throughout a year of two successive low waters during those periods of 24 hours when the range of the tide is at its greatest.
Mitigation	<p>Mitigation measures have been proposed where the assessment identifies that an aspect of the development is likely to give rise to significant environmental impacts and discussed with the relevant authorities and stakeholders in order to avoid, prevent or reduce impacts to acceptable levels.</p> <p>For the purposes of the EIA, two types of mitigation are defined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedded mitigation: consisting of mitigation measures that are identified and adopted as part of the evolution of the project design, and form part of the project design that is assessed in the EIA • Additional mitigation: consisting of mitigation measures that are identified during the EIA process specifically to reduce or eliminate any predicted significant impacts. Additional mitigation is therefore subsequently adopted by OWL as the EIA process progresses.
Onshore Development Area	The onshore area above MLWS including the underground onshore export cables connecting to the White Cross Onshore Substation and onward to the NG grid connection point at East Yelland. The onshore development area will form part of a separate Planning application to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
Onshore Export Cables	The cables which bring electricity from MLWS at the Landfall to the White Cross Onshore Substation and onward to the NG grid connection point at East Yelland.
Onshore Export Cable Corridor	The proposed onshore area in which the export cables will be laid, from MLWS at the Landfall to the White Cross Onshore Substation and onward to the NG grid connection point at East Yelland.

Defined Term	Description
Onshore Infrastructure	The combined name for all infrastructure associated with the Project from MLWS at the Landfall to the NG grid connection point at East Yelland. The onshore infrastructure will form part of a separate Planning application to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Onshore Transmission Assets	The aspects of the project related to the transmission of electricity from MLWS at the Landfall to the NG grid connection point at East Yelland including the Onshore Export Cable, the White Cross Onshore Substation and onward connection to the NG grid connection point at East Yelland.
the Onshore Project	The Onshore Project for the onshore TCPA application includes all elements onshore of MLWS. This includes the infrastructure associated with the offshore export cable (from MLWS), landfall, onshore export cable and associated infrastructure and new onshore substation (if required).
Offshore Wind Limited	Offshore Wind Ltd (OWL) is a joint venture between Cobra Instalaciones Servicios, S.A., and Flotation Energy Ltd
the Project	the Project is a proposed floating offshore windfarm called White Cross located in the Celtic Sea with a capacity of up to 100MW. It encompasses the project as a whole, i.e. all onshore and offshore infrastructure and activities associated with the Project.
Project Design Envelope	A description of the range of possible elements that make up the Project design options under consideration. The Project Design Envelope, or 'Rochdale Envelope' is used to define the Project for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) purposes when the exact parameters are not yet known but a bounded range of parameters are known for each key project aspect.
White Cross Offshore Windfarm	100MW capacity offshore windfarm including associated onshore and offshore infrastructure
White Cross Onshore Substation	A new substation built specifically for the White Cross project. It is required to ensure electrical power produced by the offshore windfarm is compliant with NG electrical requirements at the grid connection point at East Yelland.
Wind Turbine Generators (WTG)	The wind turbine generators convert wind energy into electrical power. Key components include the rotor blades, nacelle (housing for electrical generator and other electrical and control equipment) and tower. The final selection of project wind turbine model will be made post-consent application
Windfarm Site	The area within which the wind turbines, Offshore Substation Platform and inter-array cables will be present
Works completion date	Date at which construction works are deemed to be complete and the windfarm is handed to the operations team. In reality, this may take place over a period of time.

7. Consultation

1. This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) presents the approach taken to technical and public consultation relating specifically to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Onshore Project.
2. Technical consultation is defined as consultation with statutory and non-statutory bodies used to inform and focus the approach taken forward to the EIA. Public consultation is used to inform stakeholders, local communities, and those with an interest in the Onshore Project of project details, surveys, assessments, and potential effects. Feedback from public consultation benefits the Onshore Project development process. Consultations also feeds into the site selection and assessment of alternatives process, see **Chapter 4: Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives** for detail. The general requirements for consultation in relation to the EIA are described below.

7.1 Approach to Consultation

3. Ongoing consultation with stakeholders and regulators for the Onshore Project (and any other related or alternative) submission is an important aspect of the Onshore Project development process. Consultation provides an opportunity for all parties to discuss, agree and collaborate on key environmental areas of the Onshore Project. This also ensures early identification of environmental risks and/or opportunities associated with the Onshore Project.

7.2 Policy and Guidance

7.2.1 The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

4. In order for the Onshore Project to proceed, consent under the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) 1990 is required. Paragraph 17 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations) outlines the procedure to facilitate preparation of environmental statements:
5. *"(1) Any person who intends to submit an environmental statement to the relevant planning authority or the Secretary of State under these Regulations may give notice in writing to that authority or the Secretary of State under this paragraph.*
6. *(2) A notice under paragraph (1) must include the information necessary to identify the land and the nature and purpose of the development, and must indicate the*

main environmental consequences to which the person giving the notice proposes to refer in their environmental statement.

7. *(3) The recipient of— (a) such notice as is mentioned in paragraph (1); or (b) a written statement made pursuant to regulation 11(4)(a), 12(6), 13(6) or 14(7), must— (i) notify the consultation bodies in writing of the name and address of the person who intends to submit an environmental statement and of the duty imposed on the consultation bodies by paragraph*
8. *(4) to make information available to that person; and (ii) inform in writing the person who intends to submit an environmental statement of the names and addresses of the bodies so notified. (4) Subject to paragraph (5), the relevant planning authority and any body notified in accordance with paragraph (3) must, if requested by the person who intends to submit an environmental statement, consult that person to determine whether the authority or body has in its possession any information which that person or they consider relevant to the preparation of the environmental statement and, if they have, the authority or body must make that information available to that person.*
9. *(5) A planning authority or other body which receives a request for information under paragraph (4) must treat it as a request for information under regulation 5(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004(39) (duty to make available environmental information on request)."*
10. The consultation undertaken for the Onshore Project has adhered to the procedure set out in Paragraph 17 of the EIA Regulations where information has been sought from consultees.

7.2.2 Planning Act 2008

11. The Applicant has voluntarily decided to undertake a more comprehensive consultation approach, similar to that required under the Planning Act 2008. Despite the Onshore Project not being a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), consultation has been undertaken following the relevant National Policy Statements (NPS) to ensure adequate consultation for best practice only. The NPPF and Local Policy are the key documents related to the Onshore Project and the consultation requirements of these have been complied with.
12. The Planning Act sets out statutory requirements for applicants to engage in pre-application consultation with local communities, local authorities, and those who would be directly affected by the White Cross Offshore Windfarm (OWF) Project.

13. Sections 42 to 44 of the Planning Act set out details of who should be consulted, including local authorities, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) (where appropriate), other statutory bodies, and persons having an interest in the land to be developed.
14. Section 47 of the Planning Act sets out the applicant's statutory duty to consult local communities. The applicant has a duty under Section 47 to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), and to undertake consultation in line with that statement. In addition, consultation should be undertaken with other people or groups who are not statutory consultees, but who may still be significantly affected by the White Cross OWF Project.
15. Applicants are required under Section 37 of the Planning Act to produce a Consultation Report alongside the application, which details how the consultation requirements have been complied with.

7.2.3 Local and National Policy and Guidance

7.2.3.1 National Planning Policy Framework

16. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, updated July 2021) is the primary source of national planning guidance in England.
17. The NPPF sets out a series of core principles that cover protection and conservation of the natural and built environment, and the promotion of sustainable growth and development. Further information is given in **Chapter 3: Policy and Legislative Context**.
18. Pre-application engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. The Onshore Project has followed this through early and continuous consultation taking place with a range of stakeholders throughout the pre-application stage. This good-quality pre-application consultation enables better coordination between public and private resources and leads to an improved outcome for the community.

7.2.3.2 Local Policy and Guidance

19. Local authorities are required to prepare and maintain up to date Local Development Plans which set out their objectives for the use and land development within their administrative area, and general policies for implementation.
20. The Onshore Project infrastructure sits wholly within the Local Planning Authority (LPA) jurisdiction of North Devon District Council (hereafter referred to as 'North

Devon Council') and within parish councils of Braunton, Fremington and Instow. It should be noted that North Devon Council and Torridge District Council have a joint North Devon and Torridge District Local Plan ('the Local Plan') which covers the 'northern Devon' area (defined as comprising the districts of North Devon and Torridge but excluding that part of North Devon District within Exmoor National Park). The Local Plan forms part of the statutory development plan for North Devon and Torridge District Councils and is used to guide planning decisions. The Local Plan and further detail are provided in **Chapter 3: Policy and Legislative Context**.

21. Information on local consultation and public engagement is detailed in the **Community Involvement Statement**.

7.2.3.3 Policy, Guidance and Advice Notes

22. The consultation approach also takes into account relevant local and national policy and guidance, although not a requirement the following have been included for best practice:
 - Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (2015)
 - The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Two: The role of local authorities in the development consent process (2015, Version 1)
 - The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Three: EIA consultation and notification (2017, Version 7)
 - The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Eight: Overview of the nationally significant infrastructure planning process for members of the public and others (2016)
 - The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Eleven: Working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process (2017, Version 4)
 - The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report (2021, Version 3).
23. In addition, the approach to consultation has been guided by discussions with the relevant local authorities, statutory consultees, the Scoping Opinion and by a review of best practice on recent applications of a similar nature and scale.

7.2.4 National Policy Statements

24. Consultation has been undertaken with reference to the relevant NPSs which form the primary national guidance documents for NSIPs. The NPS are undergoing review / updates. These documents encourage applicants to carry out pre-application

consultation with a range of stakeholders. The NPS is being followed for best practice only and is not the document that will be used to determine the application. The relevant NPS for the White Cross OWF Project are:

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

25. Although the Offshore Project is not an NSIP, it is recognised that due to its size of 100MW and its location in English waters, certain NPSs are considered relevant to the Offshore Project. Therefore, to align with the approach to the assessment of the Offshore Project, certain NPSs will also be considered as part of the Onshore Project.

7.2.5 Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

26. For NSIPs, the EIA process is governed by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These Regulations make the pre-application publicity and consultation requirements for the EIA process consistent with those of the Planning Act.
27. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is undertaken in relation to potential effects on European sites (the 'national site network' within the United Kingdom (UK) territory) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as amended. Consultation is necessary with the relevant statutory bodies and any relevant non-statutory nature conservation bodies, in order to gather evidence to support the HRA. In practice this consultation is undertaken as an integral part of the EIA process, including a Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) submitted alongside the ES (see **Appendix 6.A: Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment**).
28. One way of consulting on HRA matters is to agree an Evidence Plan. Guidance on Evidence Plans was produced by Defra in 2012. The guidance provides an overview of the process and roles of the parties. Its focus is on compliance with the Habitats Regulations and the corresponding Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Advice Note 10 (HRA relevant to NSIPs), although it is now common practice for the Evidence Plan Process (EPP) to include all issues where there are potential significant environmental impacts which may benefit from additional consultation over and above that proposed as part of wider stakeholder consultation arrangements. This

approach is being followed for the White Cross OWF Project, with the EPP having been initiated in January 2022. See **Section 7.6** for further details.

7.3 Pre-Scoping Consultation

29. To outline the proposed project, focussed introductory consultation meetings took place with experts from relevant organisations (**Table 7.1**) with a clear statutory role or non-statutory interest in the topics considered. Introductory meetings also sought to agree and discuss the Site Selection, EIA and RIAA requirements during the scoping stage. Scoping stage consultation was targeted at stakeholders considered the highest priority.
30. Pre-scoping and Scoping stage consultation aimed to achieve the following:
- Agree the scope of the EIA, the impacts to be considered
 - Agree scope of and methods for data collection where necessary (if not already agreed)
 - Following collection of data, discuss and agree the appropriateness & sufficiency of data for the assessments to be undertaken
 - Agree realistic worst-case parameters (Rochdale Envelope) for assessment
 - Discuss and agree the assessment and analysis methods for the EIA (or RIAA) including agreement on appropriate thresholds and agreeing terms for interpretation of impact and levels of significance.
31. Agreements and disagreements have been documented through meeting minutes and addressed later through the EIA and development process.

Table 7.1 Pre-scoping consultation meetings undertaken

Organisation Consulted	Activity	Dates
The Crown Estate	Document Review RIAA Approach Development Plans	14/07/2021 09/11/2021 26/11/2021
National Grid ESO	Introductory meeting	20/08/2021
Marine Energy Wales	Introductory meeting	06/09/2021
Catapult	Introductory meeting	09/09/2021
Celtic Sea Power	MOU and data sharing agreement	27/11/2021
Saunton Golf Club	Project update and cable route options	11/01/2022
Cornwall Wildlife Trust	Introductory meeting	24/11/2021
Devon Wildlife Trust	Introductory meeting	24/11/2021
RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)	Introductory meeting	13/12/2021
Cornish Fish Producers Organisation	Introductory meeting	10/12/2021

Organisation Consulted	Activity	Dates
North Devon Fishermans Association	Introductory meeting	10/12/2021
Cornish Fish Producers Organisation	Route selection workshop	28/01/2022
North Devon Fishermans Association	Route selection workshop	28/01/2022
Savills – Christie Devon Estates	Introductory meeting Route selection workshop Project update	23/11/2021 02/02/2022 16/03/2022 18/05/2022
North Devon Council	Introductory meeting	26/11/2021
Cornwall County Council	Introductory meeting	02/12/2021
Devon County Council	Introductory meeting	02/12/2021
Historic England	Introductory meeting	02/12/2021
Torrige District Council Planning	Introductory meeting	14/12/2021
Simply Blue Energy	Working together	19/08/2021
A&P Falmouth	Introductory meeting	21/09/2021
H&W Appledore	Introductory meeting	22/09/2021
ABP Port Talbot	Introductory meeting	28/09/2021
Pembroke Dock	Introductory meeting	08/10/2021
Bristol Port	Introductory meeting	06/04/2022
Marine Management Organisation	Introductory meeting	14/12/2021
Natural England	Introductory meeting	15/12/2021
Natural Resources Wales	Introductory meeting	30/11/2021

7.4 Scoping opinion

32. A request for a Scoping Opinion was submitted to the MMO on 18th January 2022, which focussed primarily on the Offshore Project, however it did consider some of the onshore infrastructure of the Project. This described broadly the impacts to be assessed as part of the EIA and the methodology for these assessments. A formal Scoping Opinion, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial strategy (BEIS), was received on 30th May 2022 (MMO Ref: EIA/2022/00002). The Scoping Opinion collated comments from consultees, and highlights where agreements were reached on what topics could be scoped in or out of the EIA. Scoping opinion responses were received from the following consultees:

- CEFAS
- Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Cornwall County Council
- Devon County Council
- Environment Agency
- Historic England

- Inshore Fisheries and Coastal Authority (IFCA) – Devon and Severn
 - Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (Marine)
 - Marine Management Organisation – South West Marine Area
 - Maritime Coastguard Agency
 - Marine Conservation Team
 - Ministry of Defence (MOD) – Defence Estates
 - Natural England
 - National Federation of Fisherman Organisation
 - Natural Resource Wales
 - North Devon Council
 - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.
 - Royal Yachting Association
 - Torridge District Council
 - Trinity House
 - The Crown Estate
 - The Wildlife Trusts.
33. This ES has been partially informed by the Scoping Opinion from the MMO. Feedback from consultation has also been used to inform the final design and impact assessment for the Project as a whole.
34. The design of the Onshore Project has varied since the receipt of the MMO Scoping Opinion and now includes a new White Cross Onshore Substation within the Project Design Envelope. Extensive engagement with North Devon Council (NDC) has been undertaken to confirm the expanded scope of the EIA for the Onshore Project, on the basis that this is a significant design change and the original Scoping Opinion came from the MMO, rather than NDC. The site selection process and need for the White Cross Onshore Substation is outlined in **Chapter 4: Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives**.

7.5 Public engagement

35. Public and landowner consultation has been undertaken using a variety of methods and includes opinions gained through the Scoping Report, public consultation, and project publicity. This information is captured in the Stakeholder Consultation database. The public consultation process has fed into the requirements of and complies with the parallel technical consultation. For public exhibitions we prepared materials and had technical leads and core team staff in attendance.
36. Feedback forms were made available during a public event to gain further insight into the public opinion. An online exhibition with a feedback form was also produced.

37. Most responses of the feedback gained from the public event indicated there was an agreement for the need of the Project due to the benefits of renewable energy. Local community benefit projects suggested by the public included:
- Education and skills development opportunities
 - Support for Saunton cycle route
 - Sustainable travel (road quality improvements, cycle paths etc.)
 - Community services (e.g., a public swimming pool / tennis courts / play parks near the beach).
38. Those that disagreed with the need for the Onshore Project had concerns over the potential impacts of construction vehicles present in the local area. For further information on how this concern has been addressed, refer to **Chapters 19: Traffic and Transport**. The feedback also indicated concerns over impacts to biodiversity and what biodiversity net gain has been proposed by the Onshore Project. These points are discussed further within **Chapter 16: Onshore Ecology and Ornithology** and a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment is provided in **Appendix 16.A: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment**.
39. The public feedback highlighted concerns for the potential environmental impacts on the Taw estuary and Braunton Burrows. **Appendix 5.A: Braunton Burrows and Taw Estuary Crossing Method Statement** details the trenchless technology that will be used to route the Onshore Export Cable below Braunton Burrows to avoid direct impacts.
40. Other public concerns were the potential impacts on surfing; however wave modelling has been undertaken at Saunton Sands to determine the impact of the Project. The approach to modelling was agreed with North Devon World Surfing Reserve. The results of wave modelling have shown the impact of the Wind Turbine Generators to be imperceptible. In the nearshore area, the cable will be buried at a sufficient depth to avoid it becoming exposed as a result of coastal processes. See **Chapter 8: Marine and Coastal Processes** and **Appendix 8.A: Benthic Characterisation Report** for further information.
41. Further details on the public engagement undertaken by the project is presented in the Statement of Community Involvement which has been produced to support the planning application.

7.6 The Evidence Plan Process

42. The EPP is a non-statutory, voluntary process, and there are no legal obligations associated with it. The EPP is a mechanism to help agree the information needed in the EIA and HRA. It has been used on multiple NSIPs in England, and was adopted for this project. The EPP improves the consultation process by:
- Giving greater certainty to all parties on the amount and range of evidence to be presented within the application
 - Providing structure and efficiency to discussion and sequential identification of key environmental and consenting issues
 - Enabling time and resource requirements to be planned and optimised for all parties
 - Helping address and agree issues earlier on in the pre-application stage where possible so robust, streamlined decisions can be taken, and additional data can be collected as required
 - Providing a platform to debate advice on each topic between multiple agencies.
43. The EPP should also:
- Ensure advice of the Expert Topic Groups is compliant with planning requirements and regulations, including:
 - National Planning Policy Framework
 - Local plans for the relevant local planning authorities
 - Focus the evidence requirements so they are proportionate to the Project's potential impacts
 - The following are being followed for best practice only:
 - Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1)
 - NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)
 - NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5).
44. The EPP did not replace or duplicate existing requirements. The EPP was formulated to fit with the TCPA application process and provides the audit trail for documents produced by the Onshore Project, which were formally consulted upon.
45. Meetings were constructive in enabling the Onshore Project and stakeholders to reach agreement where possible in an efficient manner. It is however recognised that on some occasions, stakeholders were not able to confirm the position of their organisation during a meeting. In this event, the disagreement was included within minutes and marked as an action to be resolved to confirm the stakeholders' position. After considering any disagreements further, this either resulted in the

project team amending the original proposal made or discussing the action further in the next meeting to reach an agreement with the stakeholders.

7.6.1 Technical Consultation

46. Technical consultation has been undertaken with statutory and non-statutory consultees and stakeholders regarding technical matters of the TCPA application. Following the receipt of the Scoping Opinion, Expert Topic Groups (ETGs) were established to provide additional expert input into the EIA and HRA processes. This facilitated a consensus to be reached on the scope and approach to the impacts included within the EIA, and the comprehensiveness and suitability of data used. Individual chapters within the ES have a section on consultation, the section details how specific queries relevant to that particular topic were addressed.
47. To agree and discuss the EIA and HRA requirements following the scoping stage, ETGs were established for each topic area with experts from relevant organisations with a clear statutory role or non-statutory interest in the topics to be considered. ETGs are an effective tool in the Development Consent Order process, therefore the process has been used and adapted to support the TCPA application in order to take this best practice approach. Regular meetings took place following the scoping stage. The ETGs had the following responsibilities:
 - Agree the final scope of the EIA, the impacts to be considered.
 - Agree methods for data collection where necessary (if not already agreed).
 - Following collection of data, discuss and agree the appropriateness & sufficiency of data for the assessments to be undertaken.
 - Agree realistic worst-case parameters (Rochdale Envelope) for assessment.
 - Discuss and agree the assessment and analysis methods for the EIA (or HRA) including agreement on appropriate thresholds and agreeing terms for interpretation of impact and levels of significance.
 - If significant issues are present following assessment, discuss and agree the mitigation or management requirements to avoid or reduce adverse effects
 - It is recognised that this process can be iterative as the process develops, each topic group should follow the above process and agree as much as is reasonably practicable in the pre-application phase. Anything that wasn't agreed during pre-application was documented.
48. The programme of ETG meetings were broadly structured around the key project milestones and the number and frequency of meetings for each topic were agreed by each ETG. **Table 7.2** shows the onshore ETGs and organisations represented.

Table 7.2 Onshore Expert Topic Groups and Organisations Represented

ETG	Members
Terrestrial Ecology (for further information see Chapter 16: Onshore Ecology and Ornithology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency (EA) • Devon County Council (DCC) • Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) • North Devon Council Planning (NDCP) • Natural England (NE).
Ornithology (for further information see Chapter 16: Onshore Ecology and Ornithology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NE • RSPB • MMO • DCC • DWT • NDDP.
Traffic and Transport (for further information see Chapter 19: Traffic and Transport)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDCP • DCC Highways • Braunton Parish Council.
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (for further information see Chapter 17: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic England • DCC • National Trust.
Water Quality (for further information see Chapter 14: Water Resources and Flood Risk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCC • EA.
Flood Risk (for further information see Chapter 14: Water Resources and Flood Risk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA • DCC.
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) (for further information see Chapter 20: Onshore Landscape and Visual Amenity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NE • NDCP • DCC • Torridge County Council • Cornwall AONB • Devon AONB • Historic England.

ETG	Members
Air Quality (for further information see Chapter 13: Air Quality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCC/ NDCC.
Noise and vibration (for further information see Chapter 18: Noise and vibration)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCC/ NDCC.
Human Health (for further information see Chapter 22: Human Health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCC.

7.6.2 Consultation under the EPP

49. A summary of the consultation held under the EPP is provided in **Table 7.3**.

Table 7.3 Overview of onshore meetings

Group	Meeting Dates	Purpose
Public and Councillors meeting	08/12/2021 09/12/2021	Project introductory meeting
Public consultation 1	08/07/2022	Present project and gain feedback
Traffic and Transport ETG	06/04/2022 23/06/2023	Present project and assessment methods
Water Quality ETG	14/04/2022 26/05/2023	Present project and assessment methods
Ornithology ETG	09/05/2022	Present project and assessment methods
Heritage ETG	17/05/2022	Present project and assessment methods
Terrestrial Ecology ETG	20/05/2022 25/05/2023	Present project and assessment methods
Noise and Vibration ETG	16/06/2022 23/05/2023	Present project and assessment methods
Braunton Parish Council	23/06/2022	Braunton Parish Council project update
Collective DCC and NDCC meeting	14/07/2022	Discussion of project across a range of topics
Coastwise North Devon meeting	20/10/2022	Present project and gain feedback
Public Consultation 2	21/10/2022	Present Project progress and gain feedback
LVIA ETG	02/11/2022	Project update, methods and impacts scoped in

Group	Meeting Dates	Purpose
Flood Risk ETG	06/06/2023	Project update and assessment methods
Human Health ETG	01/06/2023	Project update and assessment methods