

## PROPOSED OFFSHORE WIND FARM Statement of Community Consultation SEPTEMBER 2016

Published in accordance with  
Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008

### 1. The Purpose of Community Consultation

We at DONG Energy want to hear your views. This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) explains how we intend to consult with you on our proposed offshore wind farm Project as required under the Planning Act 2008.

It explains the opportunities for you to come and meet us, to ask questions and to comment on these plans. We adopt best practice for all of our projects, and would like to understand from you what will help us to do this in your area, so that we can deliver our Project responsibly and with community interests incorporated.

### 2. Background

DONG Energy is one of the leading energy groups in Northern Europe, headquartered in Denmark, with offices in London and elsewhere in the UK. We are the world leader in developing, constructing and operating offshore wind farms, with over 3,000 MW of operational capacity globally.

In August 2015, DONG Energy acquired the rights to develop the Hornsea Zone from Smart Wind Ltd, who was originally awarded the zone in The Crown Estate Round 3 bid process. To date, DONG Energy has obtained Development Consent Orders (DCOs) to develop Hornsea Project One and Hornsea Project Two.

This SoCC has been produced solely for the Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm, which is in the early pre-application stage for a DCO. We will provide full details about what this means from a community consultation perspective in the following sections.

### 3. Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm

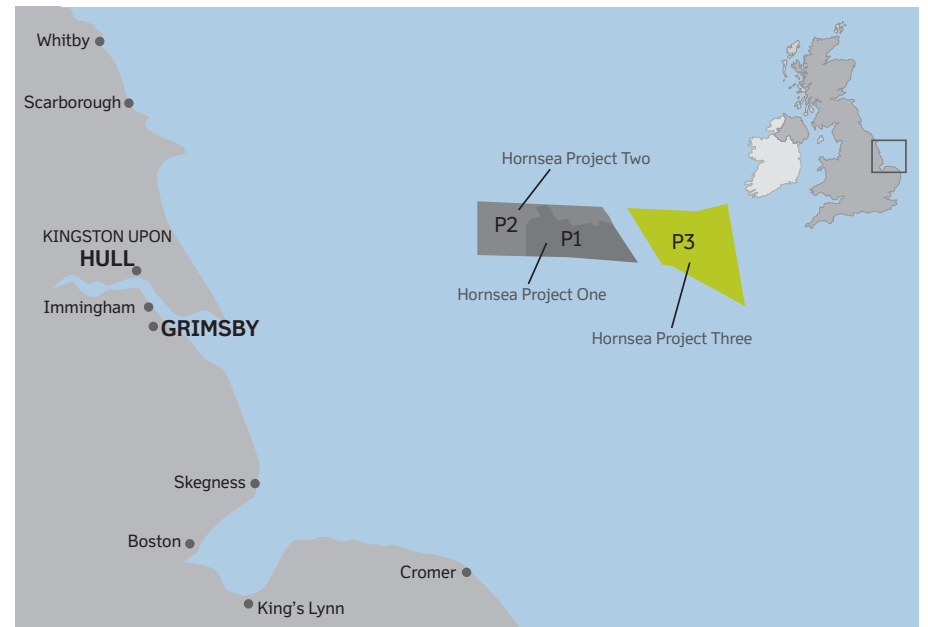
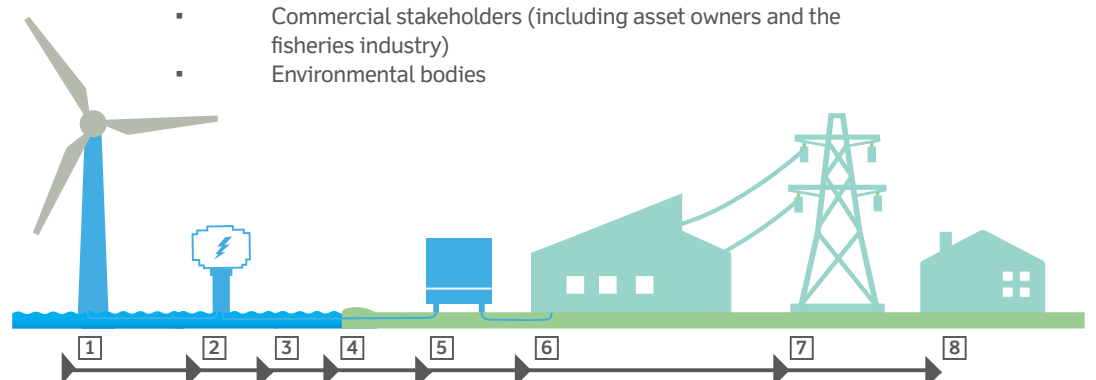
Hornsea Project Three will be located over 120km offshore to the east of Projects One and Two, and is exploring an area of up to 696km<sup>2</sup>. The offshore wind farm will be capable of generating up to 2,400 MW of electricity, which is enough to meet the average daily needs of well over 2 million homes.<sup>1</sup>

Electricity generated by the offshore wind farm will be brought onshore via subsea cables buried onshore before connecting into an onshore substation and the national grid.

We are currently assessing potential cable route options from various locations in the proposed landfall area, in the vicinity of the North Norfolk coastline (see *Consultation Zone* map highlighting the Onshore Scoping Area), and connecting into Norwich Main National Grid substation. This will be presented in the Scoping Report (see *Environmental Information*) and is something we will be seeking your opinion on as part of the consultation and planning process (see *The Planning Process*).

#### Components of a typical offshore wind farm

1. Offshore wind turbines and inter array cables
2. Offshore substation
3. Offshore export cable and landfall
4. Onshore export cable
5. DONG Energy onshore substation
6. Existing National Grid substation
7. Existing National Grid power lines
8. Homes



Map showing the Hornsea Project Three offshore array area.

### 4. The Planning Process

As a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)<sup>2</sup>, the Project must apply for a DCO. Consents for the wind farm, offshore and onshore cable route, including substations, will be included in the DCO.

The DCO application will be examined by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), who will consider a number of issues, including the impacts on the local area, and must be satisfied that we have undertaken sufficient pre-application consultation with statutory consultees and local communities under consultation requirements contained in section 42 and section 47 of the Planning Act 2008.

If the application is accepted for examination, PINS will then coordinate the examination of our application with an independent Examining Authority panel, who will in turn make a recommendation to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The SoS will then review and comment on this before making a decision on whether to grant a DCO.

### 5. Who Will We Consult?

This consultation is open to anyone who may feel directly or indirectly impacted by our proposal to build a new offshore wind farm, and the associated onshore cable route and substation. We will consult with individuals and communities living within the vicinity of the land affected by the DCO application, who we have identified through our consultation screening exercise could be affected by, or take an active interest in our Project<sup>3</sup>.

This consultation will include relevant parish and town councils, area committees, community groups, organisations representing the local business communities and tourist boards, and we will be seeking input from your Local Planning Authority (LPA), among others, to identify these.

As well as this community consultation, we will be discussing the Project with a range of statutory consultees (under section 42) including:

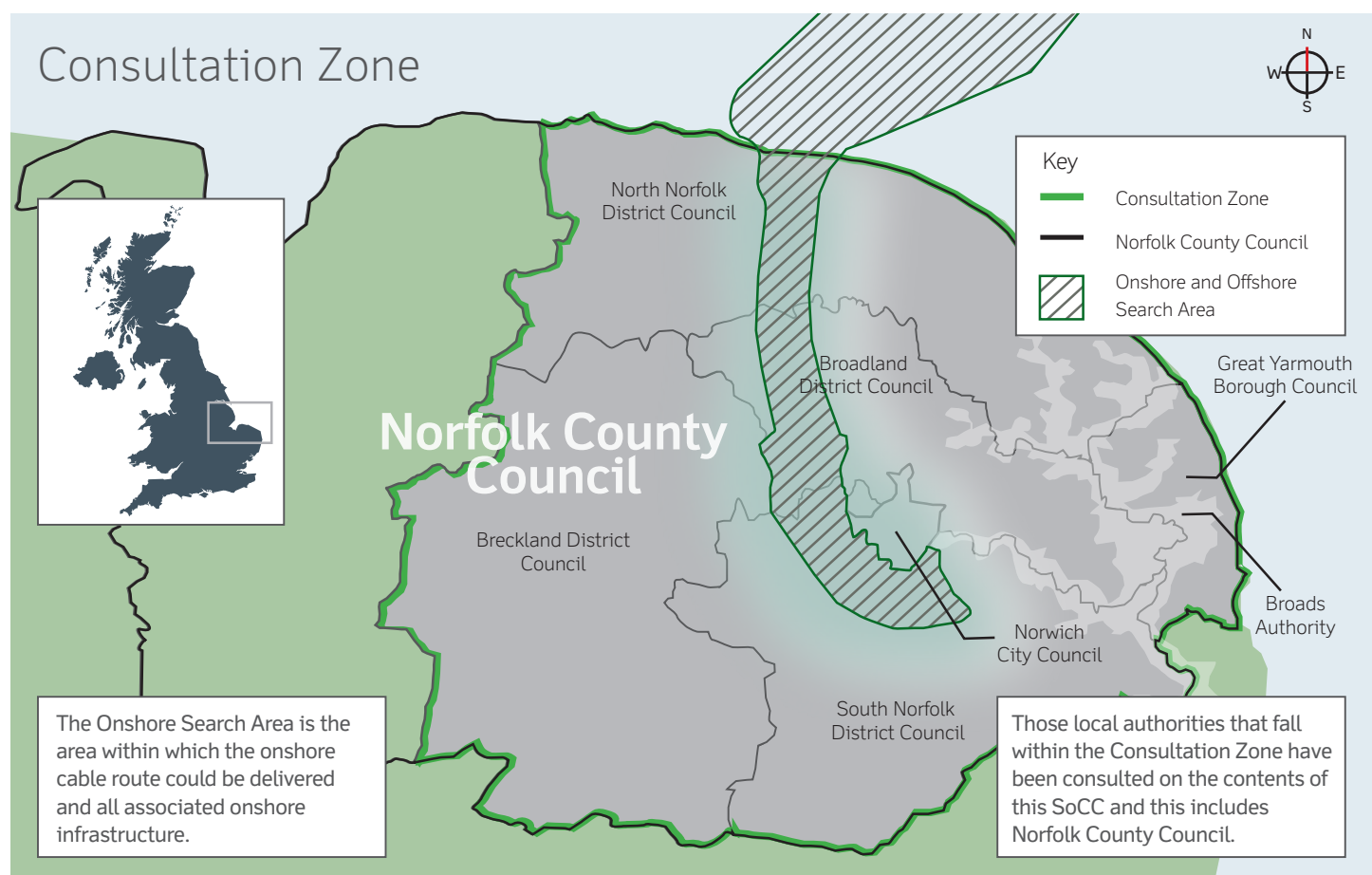
- Local Authorities
- Owners, tenants and occupiers of the land affected by the DCO application
- Commercial stakeholders (including asset owners and the fisheries industry)
- Environmental bodies

## 6. What Will We Consult On?

We will be seeking comments and suggestions on all aspects of our Project. We will encourage local communities to give us their views about the specific proposal and how it may affect them or their area, for example:

- Environmentally (e.g. landscape and visual amenity, local / marine ecology and wildlife)
- Economically (e.g. commercial activities such as shipping and fisheries, employment opportunities)
- Socially (e.g. public rights of way, noise and vibration during construction)

The Project Envelope, which are the parameters and description of the development being built, including the size, scale and construction methodologies, will be discussed at the community consultation events, with more information being available as the Project matures.



## 7. Environmental Information

In accordance with Regulation 10 of the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009, we confirm that the offshore wind farm falls within the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive and, as such, in parallel to this community consultation, we are undertaking an EIA of the offshore wind farm (for both offshore and onshore elements). The scope and methodology of the EIA will be issued to, and agreement sought with, regulatory bodies and relevant LPAs.

The following documentation forms part of the EIA process<sup>4</sup> and will be available to you as the application is prepared.

**Scoping Report** – Desk-based information on the existing offshore and onshore environments in the location of the proposed Project. The Scoping Report will present a summary of the Project Envelope parameters and describe the methodologies that will be applied to further characterise the existing environments and how any potential impacts will be assessed.<sup>5</sup>

**Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)** – This document will build upon and utilise the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion, and comments received from the consultation process. It will incorporate the findings of surveys and initial assessments and will enable consultees to develop an informed view of the potential environmental effects. We will be seeking feedback from local communities and other stakeholders on this (see *Consultation Timeline*).

**Final Environmental Statement (ES)** – The final ES will form part of the final DCO application for submission, and advance the content of the PEIR to explain the environmental effects predicted as a result of the Project. It will also further refine (where possible) the elements sought under the DCO application. It will incorporate the responses from the PEIR consultation and any further surveys undertaken (if required). It will also describe any changes to the Project Envelope and any mitigation measures that would be implemented.

Hard copies of this document and quarterly newsletters will be available at the below council offices.

<b>North Norfolk District Council</b> , Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer, Norfolk, NR27 9EN <b>Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 8:30am-5pm, Wednesday: 10am-5pm, Friday: 8:30am-4:30pm</b>
<b>Broadland District Council</b> , 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, NR7 0DU <b>Monday-Friday: 8:30am-5pm</b>
<b>South Norfolk District Council</b> , South Norfolk House, Cygnet Court, Long Stratton, Norwich, NR15 2XE <b>Monday-Friday: 8:15am-5pm</b>
<b>Broads Authority</b> , Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY <b>Monday-Friday: 9am-5pm</b>
<b>Breckland District Council</b> , Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke, Dereham, NR19 1EE <b>Monday-Thursday: 8am-6pm</b>
<b>Great Yarmouth Borough Council</b> , Town Hall, Hall Plain, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2QF <b>Monday-Friday: 9am-5pm</b>
<b>Norwich City Council</b> , City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH <b>Monday-Friday: 8am-5pm, Customer Centre: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 8:45am-5pm, Wednesday: 1pm-5pm</b>
<b>Norfolk County Council</b> , County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 2DH <b>Monday-Friday: 9am-5pm</b>

Note: There will also be copies of the full DCO application available at some of the council offices listed above.

## 8. Public Consultation

The Project will hold a minimum of two rounds of community consultation events at various locations in local authorities across the Consultation Zone.

### Phase One (non-statutory)

The publication of this document marks the start of Phase One consultation and includes the first round of community consultation events, scheduled to occur in late autumn 2016 (see table below for details). At these events, members of the public and other interested parties will be able to view information on the proposed offshore wind farm and comment on these plans.<sup>6</sup>

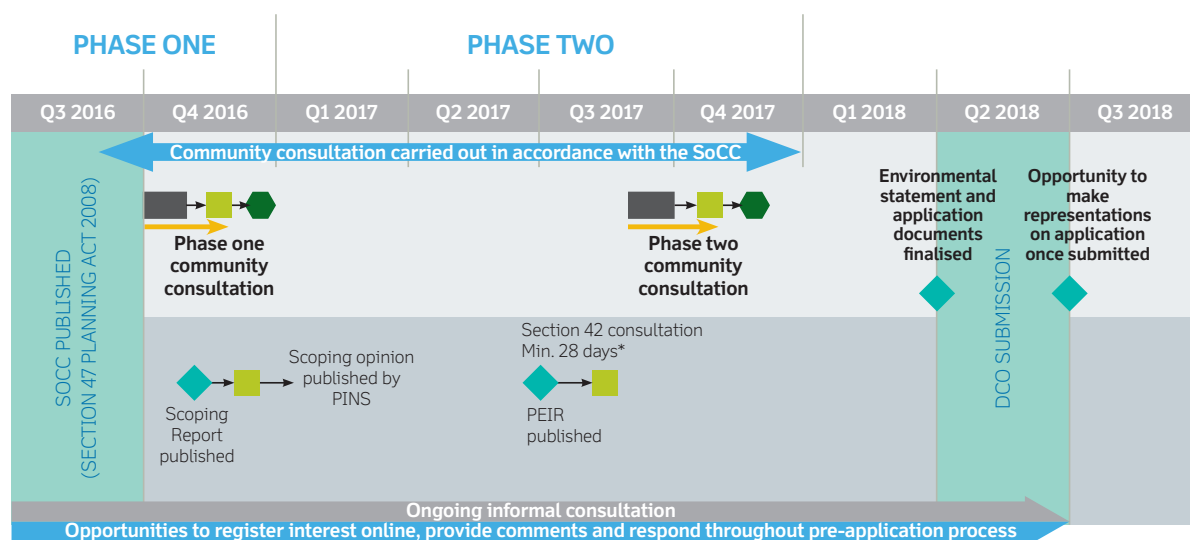
During and after the events, attendees will have the opportunity to complete a feedback form and comment on the proposed plans. The consultation period will last a minimum of 28 days and all feedback forms for Phase One consultation must be submitted by the **end of November 2016**. A period of time will then be given to enable us to review and consider your responses, and a short interim Consultation Summary Report will be produced. The Consultation Summary Report will be made available on the website and attendees will be notified<sup>7</sup>.

### Phase One Community Consultation Events

Monday 31st October 2016 <b>3pm – 7pm</b> <b>Sheringham Community Centre</b> , Holway Road, Sheringham, NR26 8NP
Wednesday 2nd November 2016 <b>3pm – 7pm</b> <b>Aylsham Town Council</b> , Town Hall, Market Place, Aylsham, Norfolk, NR11 6EL
Thursday 3rd November 2016 <b>3pm – 7pm</b> <b>The Green Britain Centre</b> , Turbine Way, Swaffham, PE37 7HT
Monday 7th November 2016 <b>3pm – 7pm</b> <b>Great Yarmouth Town Hall</b> , Hall Plain, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2QF
Tuesday 8th November 2016 <b>2pm – 5:30pm</b> <b>Harford Community Centre</b> , Harford Park, Peterkin Road, Norwich, NR4 6LQ
Wednesday 9th November 2016 <b>2pm – 6:30pm</b> <b>Blackfriars' Hall</b> , St Andrews St, Norwich, NR3 1AU

### Phase Two (statutory)

The second round of consultation events will take place during the second half of 2017. At this stage, we will specifically consult on the contents of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR - see section 7) and update you on the Project. The dates and timings of these events and the deadline for feedback will be publicised nearer the time on our website (details provided below) and in local media.



**Note: Regular newsletters and key documents will be available throughout the consultation process.**

Key

SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation	→	Event material available online	■	Feedback deadline	* Statutory time period for consultation
◆	Consultation documents	■	Public community consultation event	◆	Consultation Summary Report	

Please note that all of our event venues have disabled access. Furthermore, if you require documents in different formats (e.g. braille, audio or large text) please contact us and we can make these available. If you are unable to attend a consultation event in person, you will be able to access all of the information on our website, where you can also request a feedback form<sup>8</sup>.

This consultation process gives you time to consider our Project and make your views known. It also enables us to consider your feedback and address any potential impacts, so that everyone's views can inform the Project as it evolves. This document has been published in local media, at various community information points and on our website to ensure maximum visibility. We will make the results of this consultation public after each phase on our website and at the locations listed at the end of this document.

In addition to the pre-application consultation detailed above, you, your community and all interested organisations will also have further opportunity to comment on the application once it has been submitted to PINS. Guidance on the process can be found on the PINS website at:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/>

## 9. How Will We Consult With You?

During the consultation period, we will be using a number of different methods to consult with you and our other stakeholders. These include:

**Briefing sessions and stakeholder meetings:** A mix of stand-alone events with local stakeholder groups to discuss issues of interest will be held throughout the consultation period.

**Consultation events:** Meeting people and seeking feedback at a series of local community events.

**Advertising and editorial:** Publications and updates in local and social media.

**Literature:** Briefing notes and non-technical documents available at LPAs, libraries and on our website.

You can register your interest in the Project and sign up to receive regular newsletters on our website, or alternatively by contacting us directly (details provided below).

## 10. Next Steps

We will carefully consider and respond to the issues raised, and incorporate these into our final DCO application. Consultees will be notified via email that the application has been submitted. As part of the application, we will also publish a Consultation Report, which will:

- Describe the consultation process that we used
- List and explain how we abided by all the legal requirements for delivering the consultation, and the advice we followed
- Detail how the LPAs helped to ensure the process was right for your area
- Provide a summary of all the consultation responses (from both local communities and statutory consultees)
- Describe the changes we have made to our application as a result of what you told us
- Explain if and why changes were not made to any areas of the application you told us needed changing

<sup>1</sup> This figure assumes a load factor of 42% and a household consumption of 4.1MWh per year. Source: DECC (July 2015).

<sup>2</sup> Any energy project over 100 MW.

<sup>3</sup> You will be able to find information on how we defined the consultation zone in our Consultation Process report, which will be available on our website, along with our other consultation documents in due course.

<sup>4</sup> A separate Habitats Regulations Assessment in relation to nature conservation areas (with European conservation status) will also be produced.

<sup>5</sup> A statutory process in the form of a Scoping Opinion coordinated by PINS will result in feedback on this from local communities and other stakeholders.

<sup>6</sup> You will be able to access the event material on our website ahead of the events.

<sup>7</sup> If you do not have computer access you can request a copy of the Consultation Summary Report by contacting us directly.

<sup>8</sup> Online requests for feedback forms will be subject to individuals living or working within the defined Consultation Zone, and require a degree of personal information (which will not be shared publicly) to be given to confirm this.

