

# Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms Community Newsletter

## Welcome

I would like to introduce myself, Colin McAllister, as the Development Project Manager. I have worked on DBS since March 2021 and have been with RWE since 2011. I will be leading the development and consents team as we take the projects through the Development Consent Order application.

Since our last newsletter, the team has been busy completing engineering and environmental studies and preparing Environmental Impact Assessment documents that are a fundamental part of the DBS Development Consent Order application.

At the end of 2023, the team welcomed a new Project Director, Rassim Hariz, who brings valuable expertise to the projects' management.

We are also delighted to announce that we have a new partner, Masdar, which has acquired a 49% stake in DBS. Masdar is one of the world's largest renewable energy companies, based in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The day-to-day development of DBS will continue as planned.

We have, however, taken the decision to refer to the projects as DBS more frequently rather than using the full name, Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms, to avoid confusion with other neighbouring projects that use 'Dogger Bank' in their name.

In this Spring edition of our newsletter you will find a project update and information about the next steps in the development process.



**Colin McAllister**  
Development Project Manager



**Rassim Hariz**  
Project Director

## Project update

**We continue to work towards submitting an application for a Development Consent Order in the second quarter of 2024.**

The site investigations and engineering studies are being completed and the results fed into the Environmental Impact Assessment which is a key part of the application. As part of this process, the team is attending a range of Environmental and Technical Expert Topic Group meetings. These meetings enable us to work closely with a range of key consultees to ensure that we have gathered all the relevant information and interpreted it appropriately to meet relevant criteria for the application.

### Onshore

**The Environmental Impact Assessment is progressing well. We continue to work closely with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and other stakeholders to develop strategies to manage activities in a way that protects sensitive environments and species during the construction and operation of DBS.**

Surveys will continue throughout the development phase of DBS to check that the proposed strategies are still appropriate. Where required, additional measures will be introduced.

A recent habitat survey report classified an area of Priority Habitat, including fenland, as particularly sensitive. We have made minor amendments to the cable route to avoid disturbing this area and will use trenchless techniques to go under the fenland. The haul road route has also been diverted to avoid this sensitive area.

Should DBS be granted consent, hedgerow removal will be minimised where possible and affected hedgerow along the onshore cable route will be reinstated. We have also committed to reinstate agricultural land within two years where possible.

We are planning to enhance biodiversity at the site of the converter stations and are working closely with East Riding of Yorkshire Council to deliver a biodiverse Landscape Management Plan that is sympathetic to the landscape in the area.

Some further minor amendments have been made to the cable corridor to enable vegetation clearance at road crossings to improve vehicle safety in response to the traffic and transport assessment and in consultation with East Riding of Yorkshire Council.



Archaeological trial trenching took place onshore within the red line boundary of the landfall zone.

## Archaeology at the landfall

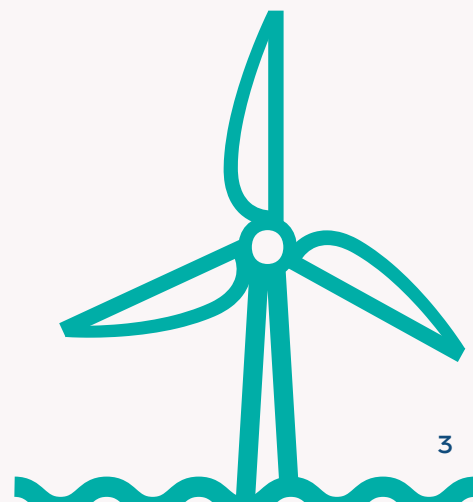
**The archaeological trial trenching at the landfall zone is now complete. The works took place between August 2023 and January 2024 and involved the excavation of 59 trenches.**

Initial analysis of the results identified archaeological activity across most parts of the site, with potential settlements in two areas. In the southeast corner, there was evidence of a double-ditched trackway and possible Iron Age/Roman settlement. Features found include a potential man-made pond, and hundreds of pottery shards suggestive of a rubbish dump.

In the northeast corner of the site, another concentration of Iron Age/Roman activity was found, containing firepits, burnt animal bone and handmade pottery. Further analysis of the results is

under way to help the team design the landfall zone in a way that avoids the key archaeological areas. The Interim Archaeological Evaluation Report will be submitted along with the Development Consent Order application.

The next step will be to complete trial trenching in the vicinity of the converter stations and to progress activity along the onshore cable corridor. This work is scheduled to take place between April and October 2024.





# Project update continued

## Local Liaison Committee

**We recognise the importance of communicating our plans for DBS to local communities during the projects' development and in the future, during potential construction. So, we have established a Local Liaison Committee to facilitate close dialogue with community representatives along the onshore export cable route, from landfall at Skipsea to the converter stations located to the southwest of Beverley.**

The committee comprises members of local parish councils and the DBS team and is by invitation. It is split into three groups that each focus on a different section of the onshore export cable route: landfall, mid-route, and the converter stations. The committee members will discuss upcoming activities relating to DBS to help identify the appropriate means and timescales to communicate information to the wider community. The inaugural meetings took place in February with subsequent meetings scheduled quarterly.

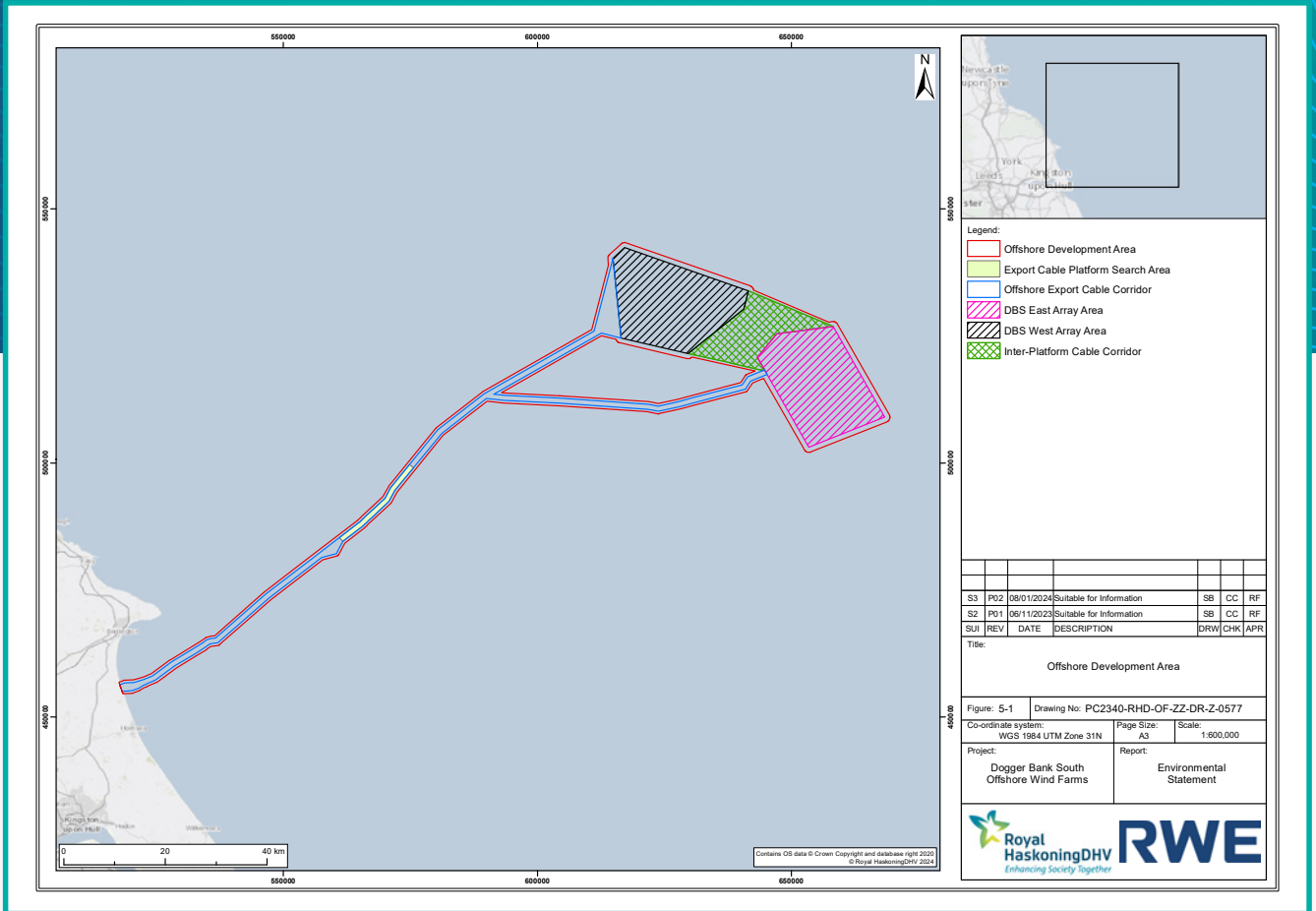
## Offshore

The offshore surveys required for the Environmental Impact Assessment of DBS are now complete and include:

- Geophysical and geotechnical surveys to better understand the seabed conditions and subsurface geology at the offshore array areas and export cable corridors;
- Offshore and intertidal surveys to understand the habitat types and species present at the sites;
- Aerial surveys of birds and marine mammals;
- Commercial fishing activity; and
- Vessel traffic surveys to identify the types and number of vessels operating in the area.

In 2024, three further survey campaigns are planned to help inform the final engineering design for DBS:

- A more detailed geophysical survey of the DBS West Array Area (and potentially the offshore export cable corridor);
- A geophysical survey of the offshore export cable landfall; and
- A more detailed geotechnical survey of the DBS West Array Area.



**Map to show the offshore location of DBS and associated infrastructure.**

This next phase of site investigations is planned to commence in May 2024 and will continue for approximately four months (depending on vessel availability and weather). These surveys will not form part of the Development Consent Order application but will further our understanding of the seafloor and subsurface conditions to inform future engineering decisions, including construction methodologies and layout proposals for the turbines, platforms, and cables. It is anticipated that these surveys will be repeated in the DBS East Array Area in due course.

We would like to thank all marine users for their co-operation during the surveys.

We remain committed to meaningful fisheries engagement. Precision Marine Survey Limited continues as our dedicated Fisheries Liaison Officer for DBS. Any fisheries related stakeholders who would like to discuss the projects can contact Nigel Proctor on [n.proctor@precisionmarine.co.uk](mailto:n.proctor@precisionmarine.co.uk) or +44(0) 7702 730891.

# What's next?

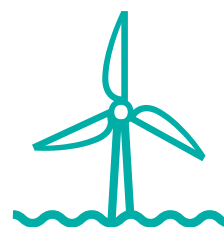
To view the onshore and offshore elements of the projects, please visit the website and use the interactive map:  
<https://consultation.doggerbanksouth.co.uk/>

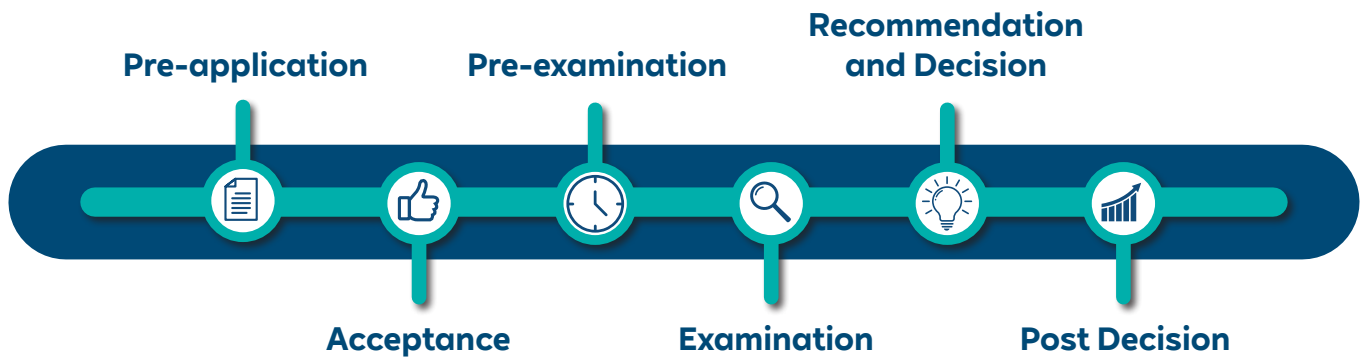
The two DBS projects are being consented as a single development. They are classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and require a Development Consent Order under the Planning Act 2008 before they can be built.

Applications for development consent are examined by a government organisation called the Planning Inspectorate. Following examination, the Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero who will make the final decision.

We plan to submit an application for a Development Consent Order in the second quarter of 2024. For anyone wanting to get involved and share their views about DBS, there will be opportunities to do so during the examination. We will issue the next edition of the newsletter with details of how to get involved around the time of the application.

In the meantime, the diagram at the top of the next page shows the six stages of the Development Consent Order application process and a brief description of what each stage means for the project.





## Six-step DCO application process

### 1. Pre-application

#### The DBS projects are at this stage.

Following the Statutory Consultation, we have now refined the design envelope for the project and are currently communicating our proposals to interested parties.

### 2. Acceptance

Once we submit our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate, they will have up to 28 days to decide if our application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination.

### 3. Pre-examination

If accepted, DBS will progress to the pre-examination phase. At this stage, there is a statutory requirement to publish a formal notification that our proposals have been accepted and this will usually be via newsletter and via the required newspaper advertisements.

Our formal notification will detail how you can register to take part in the examination process. Anyone wishing to take part will need to register as an 'Interested Party' to make a 'Relevant Representation' which is simply a summary of your interest in the application.

The Planning Inspectorate will appoint an Examining Authority who will manage the planning process and chair any meetings.

### 4. Examination

The Examination period opens with the Preliminary Meeting and anyone who has registered as an Interested Party will be invited to attend. A Preliminary Meeting is a procedural meeting run by the Examining Authority to agree the examination process and related timescales.

After the Preliminary Meeting, the formal examination process will commence and will last for up to six months.

### 5. Recommendation and Decision

Once the examination period has closed, the Planning Inspectorate will prepare a report for the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. The report will include a recommendation on whether to grant a Development Consent Order to the projects. The Secretary of State will then make the decision to grant or refuse development consent. The decision will be published on the Planning Inspectorate website.

### 6. Post Decision

Once a decision has been made and published, there is a six-week period in which the decision may be challenged via a Judicial Review.

For more detailed information on the Development Consent Order application process, please visit the Planning Inspectorate website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>



Turbines installed at the Triton Knoll offshore wind farm – not intended to represent the appearance, size or scale of the DBS offshore wind farms.

## Further information

For more information on the projects,  
please visit our website at  
[www.doggerbanksouth.co.uk](http://www.doggerbanksouth.co.uk)

### Contact us:

**Email:** [dbs@rwe.com](mailto:dbs@rwe.com)

**Telephone:** 0800 254 5459

**Website:** [www.doggerbanksouth.co.uk](http://www.doggerbanksouth.co.uk)

**Post:** FREEPOST DBSOWF