


**Cambois Connection Onshore Scheme  
Environmental Statement Volume 2  
Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and  
Engagement**

	<b>Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01 – Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement – A01
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### Approval for Issue

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### Basis of Report

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	<b>Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01 – Consultation – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

## Contents

<b>6. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT .....</b>	<b>4</b>
6.1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
6.2. PURPOSE OF THIS CHAPTER .....	5
6.3. POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT .....	5
6.4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT .....	7
6.5. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.....	16
6.6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.....	16
6.7. REFERENCES.....	18


## Tables

TABLE 6-1 SUMMARY OF THE EIA DIRECTIVE AND REGULATIONS RELEVANT TO STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT .....	6
TABLE 6-2: STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED IN RELATION TO THE ONSHORE SCHEME .....	9
TABLE 6-3 SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT WITH CONSULTEES AND WHERE CONSIDERED IN THIS ONSHORE SCHEME ES .....	10

	<b>Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01 – Consultation – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

## Acronyms

Acronym	Description
BBWF	Berwick Bank Wind Farm
BBWFL	Berwick Bank Wind Farm Limited
EA	Environment Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
HE	Historic England
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal / Assessment
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
MLA	Marine Licence application(s)
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MD-LOT	Marine Scotland Licensing and Operations Team
NCC	Northumberland County Council
NE	Natural England
PAC	Pre-Application Consultation
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
SEM	Stakeholder Engagement Manager
SSER	SSE Renewables

	<b>Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01 – Consultation – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

## 6. Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement

### 6.1. Introduction


1. This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) presents an overview of the stakeholder engagement and consultation carried out during the pre-application stage for the Onshore Scheme (as defined) aspects of the Cambois Connection (hereafter referred to as ‘the Project’).
2. Berwick Bank Wind Farm Limited (BBWFL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of SSE Renewables (SSER) (hereafter referred to as ‘the Applicant’). The Applicant is proposing to develop the Project, comprising the development of Offshore Export Cables, Onshore Export Cables, an onshore Converter Station, and associated grid connection at Blyth substation in Northumberland, comprising two distinct proposals, the Marine Scheme<sup>1</sup> and the Onshore Scheme<sup>2</sup>.
3. Due to the integrated nature of the Onshore Scheme and the Marine Scheme, and physical overlap in the intertidal zone, some of the consultation and engagement undertaken for the Project encompassed information on the Cambois Connection (the Project) as a whole. This chapter therefore covers those consultations applicable to the Project as a whole, whilst also considering the specific engagement and consultation activity which the Applicant has carried out for the Onshore Scheme. By following this approach, stakeholders have been given the opportunity to meaningfully engage with the complete suite of proposals across the Onshore Scheme and the Marine Scheme, supporting a holistic appreciation of all potential impacts. In particular, this approach has facilitated engagement and consultation on the impact assessments covering the intertidal zone in both the Onshore Scheme and the Marine Scheme, offering a streamlined approach for consultees for the purposes of coverage of the overlapping assessments in the intertidal zone.
4. As outlined in Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction, the purpose of the Project is to facilitate the export of a portion of the green energy from the generation assets associated with the Berwick Bank Wind Farm (BBWF), located in the outer Firth of Forth<sup>3</sup>. This chapter summarises all consultation and engagement related to the Onshore Scheme of the Project.
5. Consent for the Onshore Scheme is being sought via an application for planning permission to Northumberland County Council (NCC) as the local planning authority (LPA) under Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. There are some design details related to the Onshore Scheme that are still to be finalised due to further ground investigations required, ongoing engineering design work and the procurement of cable and converter station suppliers. These details will inform the final specification. The Site boundary has been chosen to allow flexibility to accommodate these design details which will be subject to future application(s) for approval of Reserved Matters.
6. Whilst there are no formal pre-application consultation requirements for planning applications under the Order, the Applicant has undertaken extensive consultation on a voluntary basis, by seeking views from onshore-related stakeholders. This consultation effort and the results thereof are documented on

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<sup>1</sup> The offshore components of the Project seaward below mean high water springs (MHWS). The consultation and engagement activities required and carried out in support of this aspect of the Project are distinct and are reported within the EIA in support of the Marine Scheme; this is discussed further in paragraph 3, and further details are available within Volume 1, Non-Technical Summary of the Onshore Scheme application.

<sup>2</sup> The onshore components of the Project down to the seaward extent of the Landfall at mean low water springs (MLWS).

<sup>3</sup> An application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) was submitted to MS-LOT and accepted in December 2022, and is currently being determined.

	<b>Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01 – Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

a topic-by-topic basis in Chapters 7-15 of this ES. The Applicant has, for example, sought the advice of through NCC’s formal Pre-Application Advice service, as summarised in section 6.4.2. The Applicant will adhere to all statutory publicity and consultation requirements under article 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure (England) Order 2015 and the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations), for the Onshore Scheme.

7. Early and ongoing engagement with stakeholders is an important part of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) best practice and the development of any project. It allows the integration of public and stakeholder concerns, opinions and data to inform decisions about the proposed development. The Applicant is committed to ongoing and targeted dialogue and engagement with stakeholders, regulators, and communities under a robust programme of meaningful stakeholder engagement and consultation activity to inform decision making and Project design.
8. All feedback gained through pre-application engagement has been recorded and reviewed as part of the iterative EIA process, to ensure that all feedback is considered as part of the ongoing Project development and used to meaningfully inform the final EIA design.
9. Whilst the Applicant has carried out a significant suite of consultation and engagement activity to date (discussed in further detail in section 6.4 of this chapter), the content of the planning application and this supporting ES will form the basis of the statutory consultation to be undertaken by NCC under Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
10. Beyond this, consultation and engagement activity will continue throughout the development of the Onshore Scheme and indeed a number of commitments within the ES and Planning Application reflect this. This is discussed further within Chapter 16, Volume 3: Commitments Register.


## 6.2. Purpose of this Chapter

11. The purpose of this ES chapter is to provide a record of the stakeholder and public engagement that has been undertaken in the pre-application stage for the Onshore Scheme, and to demonstrate how the outcomes of this consultation have shaped the approach to the Onshore Scheme, and how it has influenced mitigation and design. This chapter summarises:
  - The policy and legislative context against which consultation and engagement for the Onshore Scheme has been undertaken;
  - The approach which has been used to structure the pre-application consultation process;
  - The informal and formal stakeholder engagement undertaken;
  - Key feedback received during pre-application; and
  - How this engagement has been applied during the pre-application stage of the Project.

## 6.3. Policy and Legislative Context

12. The requirements of the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC codified by EIA Directive 2011/92/EU and then amended by EU Directive 2014/52/EU) are enacted in the UK for planning applications by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (‘the EIA Regulations’). Policy and legislation under the EIA Directive, specific to stakeholder consultation and engagement throughout the EIA process are summarised in Table 6-1.
13. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters was adopted on 25 June 1998 and entered into force on 30 October 2001 (Aarhus, 2001). The Aarhus Convention is



	<b>Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01 – Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

created to empower the role of citizens and civil society organisations in environmental matters and is founded on the principles of participative democracy. There are three primary provisions under the Aarhus convention:


- **Access to environmental information:** The right of the citizens to receive environmental information that is held by public authorities.
- **Public participation in environmental decision making:** The right of the citizens to participate in preparing plans, programmes, policies, and legislation that may affect the environment.
- **Access to justice:** The right of the citizens to have access to review procedures when their rights with respect to access to information or public participation have been violated.

14. The Aarhus Convention: An Implementation Guide (Aarhus, 2014) provides guidance on how proponents of major infrastructure projects may engage meaningfully with citizens and society and on the extent of environmental information which should, as a best practice, be provided to the public. Whilst the Project is not a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), the Applicant is committed to engaging meaningfully with the public. The Onshore Scheme ES will be made accessible digitally at [www.berwickbank.com](http://www.berwickbank.com). Consultation has been undertaken throughout the pre-application phase as detailed in this chapter of the Onshore Scheme ES.

15. Policy and legislation relevant to climate change commitments, renewable energy (including transmission infrastructure) legislation and policy, and consenting legislation is provided in volume 2, chapter 2: Policy and Legislative Context.

**Table 6-1 Summary of the EIA Directive and Regulations relevant to stakeholder consultation and engagement**

Summary of EIA Regulations	How and Where Considered in the Onshore Scheme ES
<p>Part 4, Regulation 15 of the EIA Regulations: Scoping Opinions The applicant may request a scoping opinion from the appropriate authority, in accordance with the procedures set out in Schedule 4 to the EIA Regulations.</p>	<p>In November 2022, the Applicant submitted a request for Scoping Opinion and associated Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report for the Onshore Scheme (SSER, 2022) to the Local Planning Authority (NCC). A Scoping Opinion was received from NCC on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (NCC, 2022).</p> <p>In accordance with Regulation 18, specifically 18(4) of the EIA Regulations the Applicant has submitted an environmental statement which contains all the information requested in the Scoping Opinion.</p>
<p>Part 4 of the EIA regulations contains provisions regarding consultation as follows: Regulation 17. Procedure to facilitate preparation of environmental statements. Part 5 contains provisions regarding publication and notification as follows: Regulation 19 (Procedure where an environmental statement is submitted to a local planning authority), Regulation 20 (Publicity where an environmental statement is submitted after the planning application); Regulation 23 Availability of copies of environmental statements; Regulation 24: charges for copies of environmental statements.</p>	<p>Regulation 17 requires consultation on proposed regulated activity. This chapter of the Onshore Scheme ES outlines the consultation that has been undertaken with regards to the Project. A number of the consultation, publication and notification requirements of the EIA Regulations primarily place obligations on the LPA however the Applicant has fully supported this process and the requirements are presented here for completeness. The Onshore Scheme ES will be made accessible digitally on the Applicant's website at <a href="https://www.berwickbank.com/">https://www.berwickbank.com/</a>. On validation by the relevant licensing authorities, the Planning Application and supporting ES will be available on the NCC public register.</p>

	<b>Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01 – Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

### 6.3.1. Details of Regulatory Requirements relating to Pre-application Consultation

16. Pre-application consultation is a compulsory requirement if a project is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). The thresholds for a project to be considered an NSIP are outlined in Part 3 of The Planning Act 2008. The Onshore Scheme does not fall under the category of NSIP and therefore the requirements relating to pre-application consultation do not apply. As the Onshore Scheme does not fall under the category of NSIP, but instead will be considered pursuant to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, there is no requirement to undertake formal pre-application consultation.
17. The National Planning Policy Framework states that whilst Local Planning Authorities ‘cannot require that a developer engages with them before submitting a planning application... .. they should encourage take-up of any pre-application services they offer’. The Applicant has sought advice through NCC’s formal Pre-Application Advice service, as summarised in 6.4.2.

## 6.4. Stakeholder Engagement

18. Whilst there are no statutory pre-application consultation and engagement requirements from NCC as part of the planning application process for the Onshore Scheme, relevant guidance on best-practice and consultation has been used to inform consultation and engagement to-date.
19. The Applicant is committed to proactive engagement with all key stakeholders and the public, and as such has undertaken a significant volume of engagement since the inception of the Project, and the BBWF (BBWFL, 2022), which has continued throughout the EIA process. This has included a range of virtual and in-person meetings, email correspondence, document reviews and provision of digital documentation.


### 6.4.1. Scoping

20. In November 2022, the Applicant submitted a request for Scoping Opinion and associated EIA Scoping Report for the Onshore Scheme to NCC. A Scoping Opinion was received on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
21. The comments that have been received and are applicable to specific receptors are further detailed in the relevant technical chapters (Volume 2, Chapters 7 to 15) of this ES, along with detail of how the comments have been considered and addressed within the EIA.
22. As part of the Scoping process, the following organisations were approached, and responses were received:
- Environment Agency;
  - Historic England;
  - MMO (Marine Management Organisation);
  - Natural England;
  - NCC; and
  - NCC Ecologist.

### 6.4.2. Pre-application request

23. On 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 formal pre-application advice was sought from NCC in respect of the Onshore Scheme.



	<b>Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01 – Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

24. The request included a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report and a figure showing proposed noise monitoring locations and an assessment of the Onshore Scheme in relation to the Policy REN1 technical considerations / constraints, which included:

- Landscape character and sensitivity of the landscape
- The Northumberland National Park, North Pennines Areas of Natural Beauty (AONB) and Northumberland Coast;
- Designated ecological assets;
- Designated heritage assets;
- Air, ground and surface water quality;
- Hydrology;
- Amenity (noise, dust vibration or visual impact);
- The openness of the greenbelt; and
- Cumulative effects.

25. A specific request was also made in relation to the confirmation of noise modelling locations and the approach to the noise assessment with regard to ecological receptors, as well as any other considerations, including any technical constraints not identified in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report that should be addressed. It was agreed with NCC that noise modelling for ecological receptors would not be required (email dated 31 May 2023 between David Love and Matthew Hewitt)


26. The advice provided by the Planning Case Officer under the heading of ‘environmental impacts’ covered environmental designations, heritage impacts and coastal erosion, and specific technical advice was provided from:

- The County Ecologist
- The Local Lead Flood Authority (LLFA) Officer;
- Architectural Heritage & Design Officer;
- The Environmental Protection Team; and
- The Area Countryside Officer.

27. The technical assessments reported in Chapters 7-15 cover how the design and assessment have responded to the comments raised by the various technical officers at NCC noted above.

### 6.4.3. Technical Engagement

28. Technical engagement has been carried out, and will continue to be carried out, with a range of relevant stakeholders in relation to the Onshore Scheme. The list of bodies and organisations that were approached and/or consulted during pre-application includes those shown in Table 6.2.

	<b>Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01 – Consultation – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01


**Table 6-2: Stakeholders Consulted in Relation to the Onshore Scheme**

Stakeholders Consulted in Relation to the Onshore Scheme	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCC</li> <li>• Natural England</li> <li>• East Bedlington Parish Council</li> <li>• Blyth Town Parish Council</li> <li>• Ian Lavery MP</li> <li>• Ian Levy MP</li> <li>• North East England Climate Coalition</li> <li>• Environmental Protection Team</li> <li>• Environmental Agency</li> <li>• NCC Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)</li> <li>• NCC Highways</li> <li>• Ministry of Defence</li> <li>• Country Ecologist (NCC)</li> <li>• The Coal Authority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambois Primary School</li> <li>• Northumberland Wildlife Trust Natural England</li> <li>• NCC Public Rights of Way officer</li> <li>• NCC Public protection officer</li> <li>• Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (no response)</li> <li>• Surfers against Sewage</li> <li>• Northumbrian Water</li> <li>• Network Rail</li> <li>• Cambois Community Association</li> <li>• Cllr Richard Wearmouth</li> <li>• Net Zero North East England</li> </ul>

29. Consultation has included both pre-application advice from regulatory bodies and technical engagement. Feedback received relating to the Project technical chapters has been addressed in topic chapters and appendices as outlined in Table 6-3, and is also summarised within the technical chapters. As noted in section 6.1 above, whilst the Marine Scheme is subject to separate consenting process, there is partial overlap in terms of the consultation and engagement undertaken for both projects due to their inherent links. On this basis, the findings from the consultation and engagement process have been used to help refine the Onshore Scheme. Please refer to the separate Marine Scheme consent application for further details (BBWFL, 2023).

30. In addition, feedback specific to the Onshore Scheme has been used to refine the design of the Onshore Scheme. For example, in their 26<sup>th</sup> April response to the Pre-Application Consultation request by the Applicant, the NCC County Ecologist stated that if works are proposed during wintering period, then appropriate mitigation measures will be required to mitigate impacts on wintering birds utilising the Northumbria Coast SPA and Northumberland Shore SSSI. As a consequence, in order to avoid disturbance to wintering birds utilising the Sleek Burn construction works relating to the outfall into the Sleek Burn, the Applicant has committed to a timing restricting to avoid the winter period (October to March inclusive), this is discussed further in Chapter 9 and 16.

31. In addition, third party infrastructure assets, such as other cables, have been considered for the Onshore Scheme and the Applicant is in discussions with the owners of third-party assets to reduce disruption and agree crossing and proximity agreements, as needed.

	<b>Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01 – Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement – A01
	Classification: Final	Status: Final

**Table 6-3 Summary of Engagement with Consultees and where considered in this Onshore Scheme ES**

Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Consultation for Onshore Scheme only	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Onshore Scheme ES
13 January 2022	NCC	No-covered both onshore and offshore	<p>A meeting was held to introduce the Project to the Local Planning Authority for the Onshore Scheme. Owing to the requirement for a landfall along the Cambois coastline, the approach to the consent application process for this area was discussed, (including in terms of any potential overlap in environmental assessments for the Marine Scheme and the Onshore Scheme between MHWS and MLWS, and how NCC may work with the MMO. Confirmation was received that NCC is not a signatory to the Coastal Concordat (MMO, 2021), however the Applicant confirmed their intention to adopt these principles where practicable to help guide the EIA process. They confirmed that a similar approach to NSL (who submitted an outline planning application) could be undertaken.</p> <p>Confirmed the need to make sure our proposal doesn't significantly sterilise any potential employment land sites as defined in the Local Plan.</p>	<p>Advice from NCC was used to inform the landfall selection process.</p> <p>Following the discussions with NCC an aligned approach to the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) has been followed.</p> <p>In practice, this means that a separate RIAA for the Onshore Scheme has been developed.</p> <p>Volume 2, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives.</p>
3 August 2022	NCC	Both	<p>The Applicant provided an update on the Project. NCC confirmed that the Project was classified as an EIA development with no requirement for a formal screening letter in the meeting and in follow up correspondence.</p>	<p>Subsequent to the confirmation of requirement for an EIA, a request for Scoping Opinion together with an EIA Scoping Report for the Onshore Scheme was submitted to NCC in November 2022 to define the scope of the Onshore Scheme EIA (refer to section f.1 or further information on scoping).</p> <p>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</p> <p>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement (this ES Chapter)</p> <p>Volume 3, Appendix 3.1: Scoping Report</p>
19 December 2022	East Bedlington Community Council	Onshore	<p>The Applicant's Stakeholder Engagement Manager and members of the Applicant's engineering teams provided a Project introduction and overview to members of East Bedlington Community Council</p>	N/A



**Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme  
ES Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement**

Doc No:  
A100796-S01 – Stakeholder Consultation  
and Engagement – A01

Classification: Final

Status: Final

Rev: A01

Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Consultation for Onshore Scheme only	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Onshore Scheme ES
16 January 2023	Natural England	Both	The Applicant provided a general Project update. The proposed approach to develop a single HRA Stage 1 Screening Report to cover both the Marine Scheme and the Onshore Scheme was discussed, including the advantages to this approach. Natural England confirmed agreement with this approach for the HRA Screening Report.	Advice from Natural England was used to inform the HRA Screening Report and RIAA, submitted as part of the Onshore Scheme application.
24 January 2023	NCC	Onshore	The Applicant provided a general Project update via a Microsoft Teams meeting. Discussion was undertaken on the potential landfall locations, with 2 Northern landfalls discounted due to constraints, with further feasibility studies required. The onshore application is expected to be submitted in Q3 2023. NCC recommended the Applicant to opt for pre-application advice, discussions were held on who should be approached for advice. NCC recommended council ecologist, public protection team, and potentially archaeology. A landfall option was discussed further as the most feasible route, but with certain challenges, particularly given close proximity to Cambois Primary School – NCC confirmed that no immediate issues anticipated, and recommended the Applicant to develop and engage with stakeholders, including NCC, and the school itself. The Applicant confirmed contact with the school had been attempted.	The Applicant submitted a pre-application request to define the scope of this ES (refer to section 4.1.3 for further information on the pre-application request). Volume 2, Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement (this ES Chapter) Technical Appendix 1 Pre-app request and responses Volume 2, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives.
01 February 2023	Ian Levy MP	Onshore	Project introduction provided to Ian Levy MP	N/A
10 February 2023	Public Event	Onshore	The Applicant's Stakeholder Engagement Manager attended local skills and supply chain event, held in Cramlington. This event allowed the Applicant to introduce the Project to locally interested businesses.	Volume 2, Chapter 15: Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation
15 February 2023	NCC - Cllr Richard Wearmouth	Onshore	Project introduction provided to Cllr Wearmouth to discuss potential onshore infrastructure options.	N/A
17 February 2023	Ian Lavery MP	Onshore	Project introduction given to Ian Lavery MP by the Applicant's Project Director and Stakeholder Engagement Manager.	N/A



**Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme  
ES Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement**


Doc No:  
A100796-S01 – Stakeholder Consultation  
and Engagement – A01

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Rev: A01

Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Consultation for Onshore Scheme only	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Onshore Scheme ES
10 March 2023	Cambois Primary School	Onshore	Project introduction held with Cambois primary school. Key focus to highlight potential proximity to school.	N/A
30 March 2023	Cambois Community Association	Onshore	An email was issued by the Applicant with no response received at the time of writing.	N/A
12 April 2023	North East England Climate Coalition	Onshore	The Applicant's Stakeholder Engagement Manager and Cambois Connection Project Manager provided the NEECC with a Project introduction and overview.	N/A
19 April 2023	Surfers against Sewage	Onshore	An email was issued by the Applicant with no response received at the time of writing.	N/A
25 April 2023	RSPB	Onshore	An email was issued by the Applicant with no response received at the time of writing.	N/A
2 May 2023	Northumberland Wildlife Trust	Onshore	A Project update was provided via a Microsoft Teams meeting. Discussions were held on planned ecological surveys with NWT confirming that Dingy Skipper surveys should be completed between mid-May and mid-June.	Dingy skipper surveys were completed during the period 12th June to 22nd June under optimal conditions. Volume 2, Chapter 9 – Ecology and Ornithology
5 May 2023	NCC Built Heritage & Design Officer	Onshore	The officer requested an assessment of Grade II Cambois War Memorial and Grade II Coat Staithes, due to proximity of development site.	The setting of these two assets have been scoped into the assessment for indirect impacts within Volume 2, Chapter 8 – Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
12 May 2023	Environment Agency	Onshore	The Environment Agency provided clarification via email that they do not believe that detailed flood modelling would be necessary for the Proposal. They went on to advise that it may be prudent to undertake detailed modelling if any significant ground raising or development is occurring within flood zones 2 and/or 3 or if there are any in-channels works planned.	Volume 2, Chapter 10 – Geology and Soils Volume 2, Chapter 11 – Hydrology and Hydrogeology Volume 3, Technical Appendix 11.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Landfall and Cable Route) Volume 3, Technical Appendix 11.2: Flood Risk Assessment (Converter Station) Volume 3, Technical Appendix 11.3: Drainage Strategy

	<b>Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01 – Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement – A01
	Classification: Final	Status: Final

Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Consultation for Onshore Scheme only	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Onshore Scheme ES
16 May 2023	NCC Ecologist	Onshore	<p>A Project update was provided via a Microsoft Teams meeting, with discussion undertaken on ecological survey methodologies to be used, and the preferred approach to Biodiversity Net Gain.</p> <p>Further correspondence received from the ecologist on 24th May confirmed that NCC are happy with the proposed scope of ecological survey works and have no objections to the survey work proceeding as detailed within 'Berwick Bank Offshore Wind Farm: Cambois Connection – Proposed Scope of Ecology Survey Works, SLR Consulting Ltd., 18 May 2023'.</p> <p>The proposed approach to BNG was also agreed on 9th June 2023.</p>	<p>Ecological surveys were carried out in accordance with the agreed scope with the NCC Ecologist.</p> <p>Volume 2, Chapter 9 – Ecology and Ornithology</p> <p>Volume 3, Technical Appendix 9.8: Biodiversity Net Gain.</p>
30 May 2023	Blyth Valley Parish Council	Onshore	<p>The Applicant's Stakeholder Engagement Manager and Cambois Connection Project Manager provided a Project introduction to members of the Blyth Valley Parish Council</p>	N/A
02 June 2023	NCC	Onshore	<p>NCC were asked to confirm that the 5 no. proposed viewpoints were acceptable. NCC confirmed that the 5 no. proposed viewpoints were acceptable. The Council requested an additional viewpoint from the dunes at Cambois.</p>	<p>An additional viewpoint has been included at the North Beach car park, to the east of Cambois.</p> <p>Volume 2, Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity</p>
6 June 2023	Local Lead Flood Authority (LLFA) – NCC	Onshore	<p>A project updated was provided to the LLFA officer, by email confirming that a decision had been taken to only use trenchless techniques at the landfall with no open cut trenching. An update on the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) undertaken for the cable route, the drainage strategy for the converter station, and on Environment Agency engagement was also provided by the Applicant. Further detail was also requested by the Applicant by email on the requirement for a Coastal Vulnerability Assessment.</p> <p>An email response was received which confirmed that the LLFA Officer would review the construction phase surface water drainage 'as a technical note contributing to the CEMP' as it would not usually fall within the remit of the FRA, and that this technical note should be clearly identifiable in the EIA documentation. Clarification was provided on the role of the LLFA in the drainage strategy for the converter station: if there is a requirement for more than 1000m2 of floorspace then the LLFA is a statutory consultee.</p>	<p>Volume 2, Chapter 11 – Hydrology and Hydrogeology</p> <p>Volume 3, Technical Appendix 11.1: Flood Risk Assessment (Landfall and Cable Route)</p> <p>Volume 3, Technical Appendix 11.2: Flood Risk Assessment (Converter Station)</p> <p>Volume 3, Technical Appendix 11.3: Drainage Strategy</p> <p>Volume 3, Technical Appendix 11.4 Coastal Vulnerability Assessment</p>





**Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme  
ES Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement**

Doc No:  
A100796-S01 – Stakeholder Consultation  
and Engagement – A01

Classification: Final

Status: Final

Rev: A01

Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Consultation for Onshore Scheme only	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Onshore Scheme ES
12 July 2023	Cambois Primary School	Onshore	Meeting to update Cambois Primary School on project	N/A
01 August 2023	Northumbrian Water	Onshore	Discussion via email on Landfall and Nearshore Northumbrian Water owned Infrastructure and the current status of them	N/A
24 August 2023	NCC environmental protection officer	Onshore	<p>Note sent to gain agreement on the proposed approach and assessment methodology for the Air Quality assessment. Response was general agreement to the assessment methodology raised. A Dust Management Plan (DMP) should form part of any Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).</p> <p>It is recommended that an onsite metrological station or handheld anemometer is used during onsite construction works to provide a tool to identify wind directions and speeds which could cause impacts upon receptors through entrained dust being carried offsite.</p> <p>It is also recommended that at the site entrance / entrances, that a notice board is displayed which has contact information both during normal work hours and out-of-hours for complaints to be addressed to the appropriate persons / companies.</p>	A DMP will form part of the CEMP, draft version of this in Volume 3, Appendix 5.2: Outline CEMP.
10 August 2023	MMO and NE	Both	<p>Purpose of the call was to:</p> <p>Provide context to the Berwick Bank Wind Farm project programme and overall project drivers</p> <p>Address concerns raised regarding sufficiency of information about the Onshore Scheme within the Marine Scheme Application</p> <p>Provide assurance that approach taken in Marine Scheme Application is in accordance with: Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017</p>	<p>It was agreed that the approach presented is in accordance with both EIA and habitat regulations. NCC are in agreement with the presented approach.</p> <p>No permanent above ground infrastructure associated with the Onshore Scheme nor Marine Scheme will be located in the intertidal zone.</p> <p>No significant effects predicted for the Marine Scheme within the intertidal area alone or cumulatively (EIA)/in-combination (HRA/MCZ)</p> <p>Volume 2, Chapter 5 – Project Description Volume 3, Technical Appendix 11.4: Coastal Vulnerability Assessment</p>



**Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme  
ES Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement**


Doc No:  
A100796-S01 – Stakeholder Consultation  
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Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Consultation for Onshore Scheme only	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Onshore Scheme ES
5 October 2023	NCC including County ecologist, LLFA, NCC Highways	Onshore	<p>A project update was provided to the NCC case officer, ecologist, LLFA and NCC Highways. It was confirmed that a Coastal Vulnerability Assessment would be submitted as part of the submission.</p> <p>It was also confirmed that an abnormal loads assessment would not be undertaken at this stage as the design hadn't been finalised nor contractors confirmed. This assessment would be undertaken at the reserved matters stage and managed through the use of a CTMP.</p> <p>A figure of woodland retention commitments was also shared and the county ecologist confirmed that there would be no requirement to re-do any BNG calculations should the application be submitted in advance of the publication of the new metric.</p>	<p>Volume 2, Chapter 9 Ecology and Ornithology Volume 3, Technical Appendix 9.8: Biodiversity Net Gain Volume 2, Chapter 12 – Traffic, Transport and Access Volume 3, Technical Appendix 11.4: Coastal Vulnerability Assessment</p>

	<b>Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	A100796-S01 – Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

## 6.5. Public Engagement

32. Key groups of public stakeholders have been engaged throughout the pre-application phase of the Project. The Applicant has met with local organisations and members of the public, as detailed in Table 6-3.
33. A dedicated Stakeholder Engagement Manager (SEM) has been in place from the Project inception stage, to facilitate and support engagement with the community. The SEM is available 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday, or alternatively by appointment outside of these hours. Contact details for the SEM have been made available on the Project website, at a public exhibition on 11 May 2023 and 26 September 2023, and via direct mailings to all residents located within 2.5 miles of Cambois<sup>4</sup>.
34. The SEM carried out local engagement with members of the public, community councils, businesses and local organisations in the form of virtual and in person meetings. A Project specific e-mail for public queries was also set up, monitored and responded to when appropriate by the SEM.
35. A Project mailing list has also been created and is managed by the Project SEM. This list allows members of the public to voluntarily provide their e-mail address to ensure they are directly contacted with major Project information, such as notification of when the MLAs are submitted and how to view/comment on the applications.

### 6.5.1. Pre-Application Consultation


36. Two in person public exhibitions have been held in proximity to the Onshore Scheme.
37. The first was held on 11 May 2023 in East Bedlington to introduce and update members of the public on the progress of the Project. Approximately 50 attendees joined this event which allowed the Project team to respond to any queries and questions the public had on the proposals. A follow up public exhibition event was held on 26 September 2023 in Cambois Primary School with approximately 20 attendees. The Applicant has ensured that communities and wider public stakeholders who are most affected by the proposals have been engaged in the development of the Project and have had the opportunity to comment on the proposals at key decision making points.
38. A summary of the public exhibitions and how the Applicant engaged members of the public can be found in Volume 3, Technical Appendix 4.1: Cambois Connection – Report on Public Consultation May 2023 and Technical Appendix 4.2: Cambois Connection – Report on Public Consultation September 2023.
39. The Applicant has and will continue to offer a range of ways for the public to contact the Project team, and share their views based on the most appropriate mechanisms for the community.

## 6.6. Summary and Conclusions

40. The Applicant has reviewed and had regard to all feedback received throughout the pre-application process, as described in this ES chapter and specifically within technical chapters (Volume 2, Chapters 7 to 15). The main feedback from stakeholders has related to data sources and designated sites, approach to assessment and survey methodology. This feedback has been used to inform the


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<sup>4</sup> Identified as postcode NE24 1RD.

	<b>Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01 – Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

assessment of the Onshore Scheme and the wider Project, and has been used by the Applicant to inform key decisions on the development of the Project such as refinement of the potential Landfall locations.

41. The Applicant is committed to and will continue stakeholder engagement and consultation as the Onshore Scheme and the Project progresses.

	<b>Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 6: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01 – Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

## 6.7. References

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