


**Cambois Connection Onshore Scheme
Environmental Statement Volume 2
Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments**

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Basis of Report

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	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION..... 5


Tables

TABLE 16.1 DESIGNED IN MEASURES 6
TABLE 16.2 SECONDARY MITIGATION MEASURES 16
TABLE 16.3 MONITORING COMMITMENTS 21


	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
		Rev: A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		

Acronyms

Acronym	Description
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
CMRA	Coal Mining Risk Assessment
CoCP	Code of Construction Plan
DAS	Design and Access Statement
DEFRA	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
DMP	Dust Management Plan
EA	Environment Agency
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPS	European Protected Species
ES	Environmental Statement
EU	European Union
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HMP	Habitat Management Plan
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
IAQM	Institute of Air Quality Management
INNS	Invasive Non Native Species
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Km	Kilometre
LCRM	Land Contamination Risk Management
m	Metre
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
NCC	Northumberland County Council

	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
Classification: Final		Rev: A01
Status: Final		

Acronym	Description
NE	Natural England
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
NRMM	Non-Road Mobile Machinery
NSR	Noise Sensitive Receptor
NVMP	Noise and Vibration Management Plan
OS	Ordinance Survey
PAMP	Public Access Management Plan
PERA	Preliminary Environmental Risk Assessment
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PRoW	Public Right of Way
SMP	Soil Management Plan
SSSI	Special Site of Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
SWMP	Site Waste Management Plan
SWO	Surface Water Outfall
TP	Travel Plan
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

16. Schedule of Commitments

1.1 Introduction

1. This chapter sets out a summary of the designed in measures, mitigation and monitoring commitments detailed within the Environmental Statement (ES) for the Cambois Connection (hereafter referred to as the 'Project') Onshore Scheme.
2. Table 1.1 outlines the designed in measures. These include measures which have been incorporated as part of the Onshore Scheme's design (referred to as 'designed in measures') and measures which will be implemented regardless of the assessment of likely significant effects (referred to as 'tertiary mitigation'). As there is a commitment to implementing these measures, they are considered inherently part of the design of the Onshore Scheme and have therefore been considered in the assessment presented in technical chapters (Volume 2, Chapter 7 to 15) (i.e., the determination of magnitude and therefore significance assumes implementation of these measures). These measures are considered standard industry practice for this type of development.
3. Table 1.2 details the secondary mitigation identified to either reduce any likely significant adverse effect to a level; which is 'not significant', or until it is deemed that no further changes or practicable mitigation measures are available, in line with the approach to methodology outlined in Volume 2, Chapter 3: EIA Methodology.
4. Table 1.3 outlines the recommendations for monitoring as detailed in the technical assessments (Volume 2, Chapter 7 to 15).
5. For the mitigation measures identified below, detailed plans will be prepared post consent based on confirmation of the detailed design of the Onshore Scheme and input from contractors. They will all be subject to approval with NCC and prepared in consultation with relevant stakeholders.




	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

Table 16.1 Designed in measures

Title	Commitment and Justification
Avoidance of intertidal area at Cambois beach	A trenchless technique, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), will be deployed to bring the Offshore Export Cables ashore via ducts that will be installed from a point landward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) to an exit point at least 250 m seaward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS), thus completely bypassing the intertidal area. All construction works and infrastructure associated with the Onshore Scheme will be above MHWS, and landward of the dune system on Cambois beach, and therefore there is no potential for any direct interaction with the intertidal area. Direct impacts on Northumberland Shore SSSI and priority sand dune habitats will be avoided via the use of trenchless techniques such as HDD under the beach and sand dunes.
Route Selection and Avoidance	The Project has undergone a site selection process which has involved incorporating environmental considerations in collaboration with the engineering design requirements. Careful routing of the onshore infrastructure including commitment to trenchless techniques at Landfall to avoid key areas of sensitivity. Further detail on this is provided in Volume 2, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives.
Project Design	<p><u>Outline Design Commitments</u></p> <p>To ensure that the Onshore Scheme is integrated into the landscape, and to reduce visual impacts on visual receptors, the following design choices have been taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Onshore Export Cables will be underground, rather than on overhead lines. • The transition joint bays and the jointing bays will be accessed via manhole covers once installed. • Design of the Converter Station built form, including use of appropriate materials, colours, and finished for the facades, roofs, boundary features, and lighting. • The Applicant has committed to retain certain areas of woodland within the Site. <p>To ensure that the Onshore Scheme minimises impacts on hydrological and hydrogeological receptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routing of the HVDC and HVAC cable routes to minimise watercourse crossings, where possible. <p><u>Detailed Design Commitments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinement of the HVDC and HVAC cable routes and other infrastructure to avoid interactions with suspected areas of land contamination.

	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01


Title	Commitment and Justification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro-siting within the Onshore Scheme will be carried out to help avoid or minimise interactions with archaeological constraints identified during pre-construction surveys. • The Applicant will seek to retain further areas of woodland within the Site, where practicable.
Avoidance of sensitive habitats	<p>Direct impacts on Northumberland Shore SSSI and priority sand dune habitats will be avoided via the use of trenchless techniques such as HDD under the beach and sand dunes.</p> <p>Priority woodland habitat to the west of the Converter Station Zone and certain other areas of woodland within the Site (as shown in Figure 7.2, Volume 3) will be avoided at the detailed design stage.</p> <p>Intertidal habitats in the Sleek Burn, where lying within the Site boundary, will all be avoided as far as practicable and the SWO into the Sleek Burn will not be located directly above areas of saltmarsh habitat.</p>
Volume and spatial extent of rock protection coverage at the SWO	The volume and spatial extent of rock protection used for the outfall will be designed in consideration of the presence and spatial extent of sensitive habitats and species within the outfall site. The design of rock protection will be discussed with the Environment Agency (EA) and Marine Management Organisation (MMO).
Drainage Design	A swale will be constructed around the converter station which will eventually discharge into Sleek Burn Estuary. A minimum of two linked Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) components will be constructed to filter the water prior to discharge. The Surface Water Outfall (SWO) will be designed in consultation with the Environment Agency to avoid degradation of Sleek Burn Estuary and this will include flow energy dissipation to prevent erosion of the banks. The drainage design will also include the use of native plants and ecological connectivity where practicable. A full SuDS maintenance plan would be produced as part of the detailed drainage design post-development and the precise requirement would depend on manufacture specification of the final design. The maintenance of the drainage network would be the responsibility of the Site owners and/or operators. This could be secured as an appropriately worded planning condition.
Construction timing restriction	In order to avoid disturbance to wintering birds utilising the Sleek Burn construction works relating to the SWO into the Sleek Burn will be restricted to avoid the winter period (October to March inclusive).
Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	A CEMP will be developed and adhered to, and will set out the management measures, commitments, and working standards proposed to be adopted and implemented throughout the construction process. The various measures

	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01


Title	Commitment and Justification
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proposed as part of the CEMP are detailed below. An outline CEMP has been provided as part of this application (Technical Appendix 5.1, Volume 3).


- Pollution Commitments- relevant Pollution Prevention Guidelines and CIRIA guidance, would be followed to reduce any potential risks of ground pollution.
- A Marine Pollution Response Plan will be developed in line with MMO guidance. In the event of an oil, fuel or chemical spill affecting the intertidal environment as a result of construction works the event must be reported to the MMO Marine Pollution Response Team within 12 hours of the incident.
- A Reptile Protection Plan would be produced and included as part of the CEMP and would provide further details of the proposed mitigation measures during construction that would be implemented to prevent killing or injury of reptiles.
- Bird Protection Plan – Further details of proposed mitigation measures will be provided within a bird protection plan which would form part of the CEMP.
- Contamination Commitments - Standard industry practice and mitigation measures, comprising relevant contaminated land guidelines would be followed to reduce any potential risks from contaminated land. A Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) will be developed to monitor waste arising and ensure adherence to duty of care and waste legislation. All works will be carried out in accordance with Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM) guidance; BS5930: 1999 (The Code of Practice for Site Investigations) and BS10175:2001 (Investigation of Potentially Contaminated Sites); Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005.
- Construction dust - Proportionate mitigation, as recommended by the Institute of Air Quality Management, is proposed in order to reduce, or where practicable remove potential impacts. A Dust and Air Quality Management Plan will be included within the CEMP and will include best practice measures in accordance with the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) recommended guidance.
- Soil Management -A Soil Management Plan (SMP) will be developed and will be produced in advance of construction. The SMP will provide further details of mitigation measures and standard industry practice handling techniques during stripping, handling and reinstatement to safeguard soil resources by ensuring their protection, conservation and appropriate reinstatement following the construction of the onshore works. The SMP will also include measures to manage soil handling to prevent sediment entrainment. As part of the SMP, a pre-construction soil survey would be undertaken by a competent soil science contractor to record details of soil condition. Following construction, land not required through the operational phase will be reinstated to allow

	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01


Title	Commitment and Justification
	<p>it to return to its pre-development use, where applicable and where no permanent project infrastructure is required. The land take for the Onshore Scheme will be kept to the minimum necessary for safe construction and operation of the works. All construction work will be undertaken in accordance with DEFRA Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Construction Sites (2009).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biosecurity- Reasonable precautions to avoid the spread of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) during the construction phase will be taken. An INNS management plan will be produced. • Flood Risk – The HVDC/HVAC cable routes and the construction haul roads will be designed to minimise land take and to avoid, where practicable, impacts on existing drainage networks and features. • Socioeconomics – Good practice measures with regard to traffic management, control of noise and dust, signage and provisions for maintaining access for walkers.
Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)	<p>A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) will be provided at the detailed design state, this will include the full details of the proposed habitat creation within the Converter Station Zone.</p> <p>Loss/gains of biodiversity will be measured against monitoring targets set out within the relevant European Protected Species Licence(s) (if applicable) and the LEMP, or similar document.</p>
Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW)	<p>A suitably qualified ECoW will be employed for the duration of construction, to allow for natural heritage interests to be safeguarded. The role of the ECoW will be defined in detail within the CEMP.</p>
CEMP: General Site Good Practice	<p>Reasonable precautions to avoid injury or harm to protected and notable species during the construction phase will be taken, these include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capping pipes; • Covering excavations / providing ramps to allow animals to escape; • Appropriate storage of chemicals in line with chapter 11: Hydrology and Hydrogeology; and • Implementation of site speed limits and other traffic management controls <p>Wherever practicable, vegetation which could support nesting birds will be cleared outside the main bird breeding season (March to August inclusive) to avoid damage to, or destruction of nests. Where this is not practicable vegetation to be cleared will be checked for active nests by the ECoW prior to clearance. If active nests are found vegetation clearance in the applicable area will be delayed until the relevant nesting attempt(s) has finished.</p>

	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01


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CEMP: Protection of Retained Habitats	Measures to protect retained habitats during the construction phase will be implemented, including erection of temporary protective fencing demarcating the working footprint and policing by the ECoW.
CEMP: Habitat Reinstatement	Areas of habitat subject to temporary loss or disturbance will be reinstated to a similar standard. Details of habitat restoration to be set out in the detailed habitat plans to be provided at detailed design stage. Measures will be adopted to retain any intertidal mud disturbed and excavated during SWO construction works. Any intertidal mud/sediment removed for the construction of the outfall will be reinstated and returned to the intertidal environment as close to the area of removal as practicable.
CEMP: Pre-Construction Surveys	<p>Due to the time that will have elapsed since the previous surveys and the possibility that protected species activity within the site could have changed in the intervening period, pre-construction surveys will be undertaken, the results of which will inform the need for further mitigation (if required) in respect of working practices, or consultation with Natural England and NCC County Ecologist, if required.</p> <p>Surveys for Schedule 1 species and other breeding waders will take place in the Landfall / HVDC Zone prior to and during construction (as required). Avoidance of disturbance to these species whilst nesting will be achieved through the implementation of disturbance-free buffer zones around active nests. The extent of any buffer zones will be species and location-specific and will be determined by the ECoW, taking into consideration relevant guidance and experience from other sites, as appropriate. The ECoW will also monitor nesting attempts to check that the agreed buffer zones are successful.</p>
CEMP: Standard Industry Practice	<p>All construction work will be undertaken in accordance with the CEMP which will be drafted having consideration of good practice guidance including, but not limited to:</p> <p>Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites – Guidance for Consultants and Contractors CIRIA (C532) (CIRIA, 2001);</p> <p>Development and flood risk: guidance for the construction industry (C624) (CIRIA, 2004);</p> <p>CIRIA – SuDS Manual (C753) (CIRIA, 2015);</p> <p>The Environment Agency’s approach to groundwater protection, version 1.2, February 2018 (EA, 2018); and</p> <p>Code of Practice for Assessing and Managing Flood Risk in Development, BS8533 (BSI, 2017).</p>

	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
		Rev: A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		


Title	Commitment and Justification
	<p>All construction work will be undertaken in accordance with the Construction Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM Regulations) which requires contractors to make sure the client is aware of the client duties under CDM 2015 before any work starts;</p>
CEMP: Emergency Flood Response Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Flood Emergency Response Plan will be developed to ensure safe working and evacuation at all times; • If flows from excavations are required to be pumped offsite via local watercourses, this pumping would not be undertaken in storm conditions or when local watercourses are in full flow rates to ensure pump rates do not exceed the channel capacity.
Non-road Mobile Machinery Mitigation	<p>Proportionate mitigation, as recommended by relevant guidance is proposed in order to reduce, or where practicable remove potential impacts associated with Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM).</p>
Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)	<p>A CTMP will set out the traffic management measures to be implemented during construction of the Onshore Scheme and how the movement of construction traffic will be monitored. This will be agreed with NCC, but could include routeing and timing of HGVs, driver awareness training and on-site protocols to maintain safety.</p>
Travel Plan (TP)	<p>A TP will include demand management measures to be adopted.</p>
PERA	<p>The Onshore Scheme has undertaken a PERA and developed a conceptual site model and qualitative risk assessment. The PERA has identified potential contaminants of concern that could be present in the Study Area and could represent a risk of transfer to uncontaminated areas as well as presenting a risk to construction workers, land owners, land users and neighbouring land users if exposed during construction activities. Future secondary stage ground investigation will comprise targeted risk based intrusive surveys in specific areas where potential risk has been identified and laboratory analysis will highlight if any risks to construction materials are present (such as elevated sulphate levels in soil or groundwater) which will potentially require mitigation. Any ground investigations that may be required would be undertaken prior to construction. Following the completion of targeted ground investigations, a quantitative risk assessment would be undertaken with recommendations included for further works should they be deemed necessary.</p>

	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01


Title	Commitment and Justification
Public Access Management Plan (PAMP)	<p>A Public Access Management Plan will be prepared with the aim of determining the option with the lowest practicable impact to users if diversions are needed or in the unlikely case of temporary closures. Any closures or diversions of PRoWs would be communicated to the relevant authorities in advance of the works commencing, indicating the extent, duration and mitigation opportunities present. Further communications are also recommended for the PAMP to include a provision for the applicant to consult with neighbouring developments, including those noted in Table 15-14 in (ES Volume 2, Chapter 15) prior to the submission of these plans to NCC. The purpose of these would be to understand the timings, locations and directions of workings, as well as their respective impacts on recreational routes. Should diversions or closures be necessary, agreements could be considered to minimise their occurrence and length.</p>
Design and Access Statement (DAS)	<p>A DAS will be submitted alongside the ES as part of the planning application and will set out how access has been considered in developing the Onshore Scheme.</p>
Rolling Construction	<p>The cable corridor construction will be undertaken in stages, in order that the entirety of the construction works, and any related closures or diversions, do not occur simultaneously.</p> <p>This phased approach enables the gradual restoration of the export cable corridor to its original state as quickly as practicable, reducing closures and lessening the impact of the construction process.</p>
Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)	<p>Prior to the commencement of construction, a CoCP will be prepared setting out all construction commitments to be adhered to, to reduce and/or manage potential environmental impacts as a result of the construction works.</p>
CoCP: Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NVMP)	<p>In order to minimise the potential for noise and vibration impact on the sensitive receptors, it is proposed that the detailed design stage will show that the project can be delivered with acceptable levels of adverse impact and that the threshold values, as described in BS 5228-1 and in Table 13-22 (Chapter 13), will be adhered to at the noise-sensitive receptors in the Onshore Scheme Study Area.</p> <p>It is considered that it would be acceptable for these thresholds to be exceeded for short-term works that will enable mitigation measures to be implemented, such as building screening embankments.</p>

	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

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	<p>In order to ensure that these threshold levels are met, a Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NVMP) will be submitted to NCC as part of the final Code of Construction Practice (CoCP), which will detail the mitigation measures that will be implemented to this end.</p> <p>Examples of the potential mitigation measures that could be included in the NVMP include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing localised acoustic screening close to source and/or receptor where necessary. • Reducing the simultaneous use of plant as far as reasonably practicable. • Re-positioning plant as far away from NSRs as reasonably practicable. • Not using particularly noisy items of plant pieces at night and limiting or eliminating certain works during more sensitive periods (e.g., Sundays) as far as reasonably practicable. • Use of low noise, e.g., electric or hybrid, construction plant where practicable. <p>However, the appropriate mitigation measures will be determined during detailed design once more details regarding the construction plant to be utilised and the exact location of the Landfall, HVDC and HVAC cable routes is finalised in order to provide cost-effective mitigation along the cable route, and will be detailed within the NVMP.</p>
Supply Chain Engagement Plan	A Supply Chain Engagement Plan will be prepared which will set out initiatives to enhance opportunities for procurement from local suppliers and to drive the investment in new facilities associated with the development, manufacturing and supply, and construction / installation supply chain. This looks to act on the opportunity presented by a more reliable pipeline of offshore wind sector activity and tackle the historic lack of investment in supply chain capacity.
Micro-siting within the Onshore Scheme	Micro-siting within the Onshore Scheme will be carried out to help avoid or minimise interactions with localised engineering and environmental constraints identified during pre-construction surveys.
Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan	A Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan (LEMP) will be developed post consent to ensure that the landscape within the Onshore Scheme is reinstated successfully and, where feasible, to assist in reducing likely landscape and visual impacts on receptors.

	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

Title	Commitment and Justification
Landscape and Visual Mitigation Strategy for the Landfall and Onshore Cable Corridor	<p>The precise location of the cable trenches at Landfall and within the Onshore Cable corridor, within the HVAC Zone and HVDC Zone will not be finalised until subsequent detailed design stages. Taking this into account, the following principles are considered an appropriate landscape and visual mitigation strategy for the Landfall and Onshore Cable corridor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As far as reasonably practicable, reduce hedgerow and tree loss along the onshore cable corridor through careful siting of the works areas; • Protection of trees and hedgerows during the construction phase where practicable; • Reinstatement or replacement of removed trees (where practicable) within the Onshore Scheme, aside from in locations where they would lie over cables; • Reinstatement or replacement of removed hedgerows (where reasonably practicable); • Restoration of all temporary construction, material storage and laydown areas to reinstate ground cover and return to previous land-use, where practical; and • During the detailed design process, the specification and design of permanent security fencing at Landfall Transition Joint Bays should be consistent with the coastal and agricultural setting, where practicable, to reduce effects upon visual amenity in this location.
Landscape and Visual Mitigation Strategy for the Onshore Converter Station	<p>As above, the location and micro-siting of the proposed Onshore Converter Station within the Converter Station Zone will not be finalised until subsequent detailed design stages. The following key principles are considered to form an appropriate landscape and visual mitigation strategy for the Onshore Converter Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed native species woodland planting, where practicable, to assist in mitigating visual effects and aid in visually integrating the Onshore Converter Station, as far as practicable, within inland views from surrounding areas; • Understorey of native species woodland to be sown with a locally appropriate meadow wildflower mix or species rich grassland, with a grass free area around woodland plants for establishment; • Proposed native species hedgerows or scrub vegetation planting in areas not constrained by operational requirements for the Onshore Cables, in conjunction with proposed woodland planting, to increase habitat connectivity and diversity;

	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

Title	Commitment and Justification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed areas of locally appropriate species rich grassland and wet meadow habitat sown / planted around SUDS ponds, where practicable, to enhance biodiversity; Colour and finish of Onshore Converter Station buildings specified during the detailed design process should be consistent with the vernacular of large-scale industrial buildings within the local context; and Restoration of all temporary construction, material storage and laydown areas to reinstate ground cover and return to previous land-use, where practical. Landscape mitigation proposals would be developed in consultation with key stakeholders, including NCC, and landowners.
Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) (or similar document) will be produced and will detail how the site will be managed throughout Operation and Decommissioning phases in order to avoid negative impacts on the environment. The EMP will contain good practice and pollution prevention procedures in line with the prevailing future guidance and legislation.
Habitat Management Plan	A Habitat Management Plan (HMP) will be produced and will be provided as part of the application for approval of Reserved Matters. The requirements for auditing against the BNG objectives will be set out within the HMP.
Marine Pollution Response Plan	A Marine Pollution Response Plan will be developed in line with MMO guidance. In the event of an oil, fuel or chemical spill affecting the intertidal environment as a result of construction works the event must be reported to the MMO Marine Pollution Response Team within 12 hours of the incident.
Decommissioning Plan	Provision of a decommissioning plan in advance of decommissioning works will be a condition of the planning consent, to include protection of ecological features, based on up-to-date survey information and relevant guidance in place at the time of decommissioning.



	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

Table 16.2 Secondary mitigation measures

Title	Commitment and Justification
Archaeological mitigation in the form of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or other appropriate works for the Romano-British enclosure remains (11778 and 28577) –prior to removal	Archaeological mitigation is proposed in the form of a WSI (or other works deemed appropriate by the NCC) for the potential enclosure remains. These assets, or lack thereof, have the potential to contribute further to our understanding of prehistoric and Romano-British archaeology within the locality, and the character, extent and period of the assets should be established prior to their complete removal. Pre-commencement mitigation within the location of the asset would be appropriate. Works would require agreement with the local authority through the agreement of a Written Scheme of Investigation.
Archaeological mitigation in the form of a WSI or other appropriate works for unknown archaeological remains –prior to removal	Archaeological mitigation is proposed in the form of a WSI (or other works deemed appropriate by the NCC) for areas of previously undisturbed ground, primarily within the Converter Station Zone. Any archaeological remains, or lack thereof, will contribute further to our understanding of the archaeological record in the locality of the Site. Works would require agreement with the local authority through the agreement of a Written Scheme of Investigation. Pre-commencement works may be required.
Ground Investigation to prove ground conditions due to historic mining activities.	The CMRA indicates that the Moorland (possible shallow mine workings) may have been present in the north west of the converter station area. A comprehensive ground investigation will be undertaken prior to construction as standard industry practice which will inform the foundation design and any remediation required for the Converter Station Zone. If evidence of workings are encountered during ground investigation or construction, works should cease, and the Coal Authority be informed. Based on the Coal Mining Risk Assessment (CMRA), it is recommended that the targeted ground investigation referred to above will include the assessment of hazardous gases associated with mine workings to identify any risks to receptors and, where required, relevant mitigation measures which will be based on standard industry practice. The location of any features identified will need to be considered when undertaking detailed design of the layout of the development.
A non-intrusive unexploded ordnance detection survey to be undertaken.	Zetica, a UXO specialist company, has undertaken a pre-desk study for the Onshore Scheme scoping area to further assess the potential for UXO risk. Based upon the findings, Zetica recommend a non-intrusive UXO detection survey is undertaken in the areas of potential pipe mines, in advance of intrusive works, in order to detect pipe mine features. The non-intrusive survey will determine whether any pipe mines or other UXO are present in the moderate risk areas. This also determines

	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

Title	Commitment and Justification
	<p>whether further investigation is required. Further investigation would involve an intrusive target investigation and disposal. If no potential pipe mine features are detected construction works can proceed. However, it is recommended that UXO awareness briefings should be provided to those involved in the construction.</p>
Mitigation to queues forming due to temporary lane closures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require that the works are undertaken in as short a timeframe as practicable, through conditions of contract, to include night-time working if deemed acceptable by NCC; • Adopt a co-ordinated approach with the type and operation of the temporary control measure selected, to give greater green time to the direction with the greatest flow, such as known shift change over periods or to be able to react to changes in traffic accordingly; and • Provide a hardstrip on the edge of the carriageway (for each open lane) through the work area to allow vehicles to pull over and allow an emergency vehicle to pass through.
Temporary Screening over winter	If required (to be determined at the detailed design stage), temporary screening would be implemented over the winter period (October-March inclusive) during the construction of the HVAC cable connection to the existing National Grid substation. Temporary screening would be used to prevent visual disturbance during construction works that would otherwise lie within direct line of sight of the Sleek Burn and/or Blyth Estuary;
Converter station construction	If required, based on noise modelling to be completed at the detailed design stage, measures would be put in place to avoid disturbance to birds on the Sleek Burn from construction activities within the converter station site, including impact/percussive piling. These would include relevant noise reduction measures outlined in Table 13-22 (Chapter 13) and, if necessary, a timing restriction on impact/percussive piling during the winter period (October to March inclusive).
Suspension of HVAC works near Northumberland SSSI during extended cold periods	If necessary, (to be determined at detailed design stage) construction of the HVAC cables would be suspended during prolonged periods of very cold weather when disturbance to non-breeding waterbirds is likely to be most critical. Measures would be based on a scheme to minimise the level of disturbance from wildfowl shooting in frozen conditions that has been in place since 1983 (JNCC, 2019). As such, in line with the JNCC scheme, works would be suspended after seven consecutive days on which the ground was frozen (seven consecutive days of sub-zero temperatures as measured at a nearby weather station). Any suspension of works would last for a minimum of seven days thereafter and any lifting of the suspension would take into consideration the need for a period of recovery for waterbirds after the end of the severe weather itself, to be determined by the ECoW.



Classification: Final

Status: Final

Rev: A01

Title	Commitment and Justification
Habitat Creation	<p>Habitat creation within the Onshore Converter Station Zone and the provision of offsite habitat creation to meet BNG requirements will provide compensation for habitats subject to temporary loss and will also provide a minimum 10% net gain (see BNG Assessment (SLR, 2023)). Note, although not yet mandatory, the Applicant has committed to delivering a minimum of 10% BNG through onsite habitat creation and offsite provision.</p>
<p>Mitigation measures during construction to prevent killing or injury of reptiles where practicable.</p>	<p>The following secondary mitigation measures would be implemented during the construction phase to prevent killing or injury of reptiles as far as practicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-development habitat creation within the Onshore Converter Station Zone to compensate for the permanent habitat loss; • Cutting vegetation in stages during the active season (March-October) to encourage displacement from working areas; and • Removal of all potential refugia present on Site by the ECoW (e.g., log piles, stone piles, brash piles etc) ahead of construction works taking place in affected areas. <p>Further details of proposed mitigation measures during construction will be provided within a reptile protection plan which would form part of the CEMP. Further details of proposed habitat creation and management at the converter station will be provided within a LEMP, at the detailed design stage.</p>
<p>Mitigation measures during construction to prevent damage or disturbance to active badger setts where practicable.</p>	<p>If required, i.e., if damage or disturbance to active badger setts is unavoidable (to be determined at the detailed design stage), the following secondary mitigation measures would be implemented during the construction phase as far as practicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro-siting works to avoid damage or disturbance to active setts during construction, if possible. • Maintaining a disturbance exclusion buffer around any retained setts that are active at the time of construction; • If destruction of an active sett is unavoidable then a licence will be sought from NE to allow the exclusion of badgers and destruction of a sett, this may also require the provision of a replacement artificial sett; and/or • If disturbance of an active sett is unavoidable then a licence will be sought from NE to allow a temporary closure of the sett or works within the disturbance buffer. Such works may be subject to timing restrictions to reduce disturbance.
<p>Mitigation measures during construction to prevent damage or disturbance to</p>	<p>If required, i.e. if disturbance or destruction of a red squirrel drey is unavoidable (to be determined at detailed design stage), the following secondary mitigation measures would be implemented as far as practicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micrositing of the works to avoid disturbance or destruction of an active drey, if possible;

Title

Commitment and Justification

red squirrel dreys where practicable.

- Rescheduling works in close proximity to active dreys (if present);
- Implementing a disturbance-free buffer of 50 m (February to September) or 5 m (October to January); and/or
- If disturbance of a drey is unavoidable, a licence will be sought in order for works to proceed.

Mitigation measures to prevent disturbance to bat roosts and habitats.


If required, i.e., if disturbance to a roosting bat or destruction of a bat roost is unavoidable (to be determined at detailed design stage following more detailed bat roost surveys, as necessary), the following secondary mitigation is proposed:

- Provision of bat boxes in suitable habitat areas to mitigate permanent loss of potential roosts;
- Retention of linear habitats, where practicable, to reduce fragmentation of foraging/commuting habitats;
- Micrositing the works to avoid disturbance of roosting bats or destruction of bat roosts (if practicable);
- Implementing a disturbance free buffer around confirmed roosts as far as is practicable;
- Lighting should be directional and light spill should be avoided onto suitable roosting, commuting or foraging habitat as far as is practicable;
- Precautionary felling measures (through timing of works to avoid maternity and hibernation seasons, and through 'soft telling') of any trees with Low bat roosting suitability;
- If disturbance to a roosting bat is unavoidable, a licence will be sought from NE to allow works to proceed, and/or
- If destruction of a bat roost is unavoidable, a licence will be sought from NE to allow works to proceed. Any works will be undertaken sensitively, in accordance with the licence/best practice when destroying the roost.

If required, i.e., if disturbance to or destruction of habitats used for commuting/foraging is unavoidable (to be determined at detailed design stage), the following secondary mitigation is proposed:

- Retention of linear habitat where practicable , to reduce fragmentation of foraging/commuting routes;
- Provision of temporary artificial hedges, where practicable, to maintain commuting routes during construction/until relevant habitats have been re-established; and
- Provision of good quality foraging habitat within the habitat creation area at the Converter Station.

Further details of proposed mitigation measures will be provided at the detailed design stage, if required, to inform subsequent reserved matters applications.

	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

Title	Commitment and Justification
<p>Consultation with Northumberland Minerals and Waste Planning Authority regarding the potential presence of any mineral resources.</p>	<p>Mitigation may be required post consent to determine the quality and viability of potential resources. This mitigation would include consultation with Northumberland Minerals and Waste Planning Authority regarding the potential presence of any mineral resources and the practicality and viability of extraction of mineral resource present within the works footprint. A Minerals Resource Assessment would be undertaken (if required, to be determined during the detailed design stage) post consent, and prior to the commencement of construction works, to provide an indication of the presence of, likely quality and extent of the mineral resource, the commercial viability of extraction and environmental impact. This may also aid in determining whether it is reasonably practical for the resource to be extracted prior to the commencement of construction works and therefore, reduce the area that may be potentially sterilised.</p>
<p>Submission of detailed noise impact assessment for approval by Northumberland County Council as part of the Approval of Reserved Matters.</p>	<p>Once the detailed design has been finalised and sound power level data are available for the associated plant items, a detailed noise impact assessment will be produced for approval by Northumberland County Council as part of the Approval of Reserved Matters application. The noise impact assessment will detail any noise mitigation required over and above that inherent in the design of the site to demonstrate compliance with the relevant planning condition relating to operational noise. Mitigation options may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of quieter plant if necessary • Siting of plant within buildings, and minimum acoustic specifications of building materials where necessary • Purpose built acoustic enclosures where necessary • Barriers providing acoustic screening where required


	Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments	Doc No: A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments – A01
		Rev: A01
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		

Table 16.3 Monitoring Commitments

Title	Commitment and Justification
Gas Monitoring to determine presence of mine gas	Gas monitoring should be included as part of any site investigation, to determine whether mitigations against mine gas are required.
Dust / PM ₁₀ effects during construction	<p>Daily on-site and off-site inspections, where receptors (including roads) are nearby, to monitor dust, record inspection results, and make the log available to the local authority.</p> <p>Including regular dust soiling checks of surfaces such as street furniture, cars and windowsills within 100 m of the Site boundary, with cleaning to be provided if necessary.</p> <p>Increase the frequency of site inspections by the person accountable for air quality and dust issues on site when activities with a high potential to produce dust are being carried out and during prolonged dry or windy conditions.</p>
Dust / PM ₁₀ effects during construction	<p>Carry out regular site inspections to monitor compliance with the CEMP.</p> <p>Increase the frequency of site inspections by the person accountable for air quality and dust issues on site when activities with a high potential to produce dust are being carried out and during prolonged dry or windy conditions.</p>
Dust/PM ₁₀ effects during construction	Agree dust deposition, dust flux, or real-time PM ₁₀ continuous monitoring locations with the Local Authority. Where practicable commence baseline monitoring at least three months before work commences on site or, if it is a large site, before work on a phase commences. Further guidance is provided by IAQM on monitoring during demolition, earthworks and construction.
Construction noise and vibration on nearby residential receptors	Monitoring to be undertaken during sensitive periods (i.e., trenchless drilling operations during the night-time) and where predicted construction noise and vibration levels are predicted to be close or above threshold limits to confirm a significant level of effect is not reached. This will be implemented through a planning condition and a Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NVMP).
Botanical monitoring of areas of reinstated habitat for 5 years	Monitoring to be undertaken to monitor the success of reinstatement of habitats temporarily lost. This will be implemented through a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP).



**Cambois Connection - Onshore Scheme ES Chapter 16:
Schedule of Commitments**

Doc No:
A100796-S01: Schedule of Commitments
– A01

Classification: Final

Status: Final

Rev: A01

Title	Commitment and Justification
Botanical monitoring of areas of habitat creation for at least 5 years	Monitoring to be undertaken at areas of habitat creation (both within the Converter Station Zone and potentially offsite habitat creation) for at least 5 years (to be determined at the detailed design stage based on habitats to be created/enhanced) to monitor the success of habitat creation and enhancement to meet BNG requirements of a minimum 10% gain in biodiversity. This will be implemented through the LEMP.
Species specific monitoring	Species specific monitoring would be implemented as required, based on results of pre-construction surveys, to monitor the effectiveness of species-specific mitigation measures, if required. This would be implemented through the CEMP.