



Scotland England Green Link 2 - English Onshore Scheme

Environmental Statement:
Volume 2

Chapter 6: Stakeholder Engagement and
Consultation

May 2022

For: National Grid Electricity Transmission

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6. Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

6.1 Introduction

This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) presents an overview of the consultation activities which have been carried out as part of the environmental assessment process. This includes engagement with statutory bodies as well as consultation with the public. It also summarises the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening process and how the EIA scoping was undertaken to determine the appropriate assessment approach and technical content of this ES.

The purpose of stakeholder engagement and consultation is to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are aware of the Scotland England Green Link 2 (SEGL2) (hereafter referred to as the “Project”), and specifically the English Onshore Scheme, and have the opportunity to comment on issues of relevance to them. Consultation is an iterative process that continues throughout the different stages of the environmental assessment and design process.

A separate Community Engagement Report is included as part of the planning applications to East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) and Selby District Council (SDC), which has further details of how the public and other interested parties were engaged during the development of the English Onshore Scheme.

A Project website was launched in March 2021 and can be accessed via the link below. This website includes detailed information about the Project including an interactive map, online public information exhibitions and contact information. The website can be found at: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/segl2>.

A dedicated freephone number and email address have also been available since the start of 2021, as advertised on the website and at consultation events (0808 1968 407 and info@segl2.nationalgrid.com). Since the launch of the website, interested parties have been able to register to receive email updates about the Project, and hard copies of all website information are available on request.



Figure 6-1: Image from Virtual Consultation Boards

6.2 Screening Consultation

As detailed in **Chapter 5: Approach to Environmental Assessment**, a screening report was produced in February 2021 and submitted to ERYC and SDC to request a screening opinion. ERYC and SDC screening opinions (received 8 April and 19 March 2021) confirmed that the English Onshore Scheme is considered to be 'EIA Development'. Consequently, an EIA has been undertaken to support the planning applications. A copy of the screening opinions received are provided in **Appendix 5-A**.

6.3 Scoping Consultation

As detailed in **Chapter 5: Approach to Environmental Assessment**, a Scoping Report was submitted to ERYC and SDC in April 2021 requesting a Scoping Opinion on the information required to be provided in this ES. The Scoping Report identified those aspects of the environment which were considered likely to be significantly affected by the English Onshore Scheme and the approach to the identification and assessment of those effects. It also scoped out those aspects of the environment which were considered unlikely to be significantly affected.

ERYC and SDC provided Scoping Opinions on 21 June 2021 and 7 June 2021 respectively. A copy of the scoping opinions received are included within **Appendix 5-A**. The Scoping Opinions were based on consultations with statutory consultees and specialist advisors in relation to the key issues. The statutory consultees and specialist advisors who provided input to ERYC's Scoping Opinion comprised:

- ERYC (comprising of their Planning Team, Nature Conservation and Ecology Team, Conservation Team, Public Protection, Highways Team, Sustainable Development Team, Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Team);
- Environment Agency;
- Humber Archaeology Partnership;
- Historic England;
- Yorkshire Water;
- Lead Local Flood Authority (ERYC); and
- Natural England.

The statutory consultees and specialist advisors who provided input to SDC's Scoping Opinion comprised:

- SDC (comprising of their Planning Team, Landscape Team, Conservation Team, Contaminated Land Team and Environmental Health Team);
- North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Ecology;
- NYCC Archaeology;
- NYCC Public Right of Way;
- NYCC Highways;
- Selby Area Internal Drainage Board;
- Environment Agency;
- Natural England; and
- Yorkshire Water.

Each of the technical chapters of this ES (Chapters 7 to 16) details the scoping comments relevant to its topic area and outlines where and how they have been addressed within their technical assessments.

A further 18 comments were received which did not relate to a specific technical chapter and are therefore presented in **Table 6-1** along with where and how these have been addressed within the ES or will be addressed during the planning application process.

These comments concerned matters such as the overall scope and content of the ES to ensure conformity with the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, the EIA methodology, the consideration of relevant planning policy, the recording of consultation responses, and the requirements for validation of the planning application(s). Comments were also received on air quality and health and wellbeing, as air quality has been scoped out of the EIA and issues relating to health and wellbeing are addressed across multiple chapters (**Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport, and Chapter 15: Socio Economics, Recreation and Tourism**) these comments are also addressed in **Table 6-1**. The Table responds to comments in relation to the assessment of cumulative effects, including consideration of the combined effects of the English Onshore Scheme, Marine Scheme and Scottish Onshore Scheme. Finally, the Table addresses comments relating to the selection of the landfall site in consideration of coastal erosion and the long-term integrity of the infrastructure.

Technical specialists have continued to consult with the relevant statutory consultees, regulatory bodies and specialist advisors throughout the production of the ES as part of the baseline data gathering and assessment process. This engagement process has supported in the progression of the ES, ensuring that available baseline data has been used and the assessment method, evaluation and mitigation is robust. Again, these consultations are summarised in the corresponding technical chapter.

Table 6-1: Consultation Summary

	Topic	Issue	Consultee	Comment	Where and How Addressed in the ES
1	Approach to EIA	Assessment methodology	SDC - EHO	Sections 4.3.2.1 and 4.3.2.2 [EIA methodology for assessing the sensitivity of receptors and the magnitude of change they will experience] seem to relate to ecological receptors only and not human receptors. Clarification on human receptors would be welcomed.	<p>The methodologies presented in section 4 of the Scoping Opinion set out the general approach to assessment with some examples provided for understanding. The discipline-specific methodologies set out in relevant chapters of the ES detail how impacts which could affect human receptors will be considered.</p> <p>Impacts to human receptors in terms of health and/or wellbeing, amenity (from noise, visual), connectivity and access to services are considered in relevant ES chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Amenity; • Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration; • Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport; and • Chapter 15: Socio Economics, Recreation and Tourism.
2	Air Quality	Scope of assessment: effects to ecology/habitats	Natural England	The assessment should take account of the risks of air pollution and how these can be managed or reduced. Further information on air pollution impacts and the sensitivity of different habitats/designated sites can be found on the Air Pollution Information System/the Environment Agency website.	<p>An Air Quality assessment was provided in section 11 of the Scoping Report, and in agreement with ERYC and SDC, air quality effects have been scoped out of the ES as detailed in Chapter 5: Approach to Environmental Assessment and reaffirmed by Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport. As such Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation concludes there are no sources of emissions to air arising from the English Onshore Scheme that could result in measurable changes to air quality within the following designated sites: Flamborough Head SAC, River Derwent SAC/ SSSI, River Hull Headwaters SSSI, Kiplingcotes Chalk Pit SSSI, Barn Hill Meadows SSSI and South Cliffe Common SSSI.</p> <p>The measures to reduce/mitigate air quality effects presented as Appendix D of the Scoping Report have been incorporated into Chapter 18: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan.</p>
3	Air Quality	Scope of assessment: effects to ecology/habitats and wellbeing	SDC - EHO	It should be noted that Air Quality has the potential to impact on Health and Wellbeing and Ecology and Nature Conservation.	<p>The measures presented in Chapter 18: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan will ensure that impacts to human health and wellbeing, and ecology and nature conservation are effectively mitigated. As noted at row 2, Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation concludes there are no sources of emissions to air arising from the English Onshore Scheme that could result in measurable changes to air quality within the following designated sites: Flamborough Head SAC, River Derwent SAC/ SSSI, River Hull Headwaters SSSI, Kiplingcotes Chalk Pit SSSI, Barn Hill Meadows SSSI and South Cliffe Common SSSI.</p>

	Topic	Issue	Consultee	Comment	Where and How Addressed in the ES
4	Air Quality	Scope of assessment	SDC - EHO	Agreed that air quality can be scoped out. However, the Council's Environmental Health Officer notes that whilst presently it is expected that the scheme is unlikely to give rise to any significant effects with regards to air quality, the effects of construction vehicles should be kept under review and if the screening criteria is met an assessment should be made.	An air quality assessment was presented as section 11 of the Scoping Report, this concluded that significant air quality effects due to the English Onshore Scheme are not expected to occur, but that this would be reviewed with respect to construction traffic. Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport assesses the level of construction traffic and, as the screening criteria have not been met, further assessment is not required. The measures to reduce/mitigate air quality effects presented as Appendix D of the Scoping Report have been incorporated into Chapter 18: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan .
5	Air Quality	Mitigation	SDC - EHO	The Council's Environmental Health Officer notes and welcomes the inclusion of a construction environmental management plan (CEMP).	The measures to reduce/mitigate air quality effects presented as Appendix D of the Scoping Report have been incorporated into Chapter 18: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan .

	Topic	Issue	Consultee	Comment	Where and How Addressed in the ES
6	Cumulative and Combined Effects	Scope of Assessment and Methodology	Natural England	<p>It will be important for any assessment to consider the potential cumulative effects of the proposed development, including all supporting infrastructure, with other similar proposals and a thorough assessment of the 'in combination' effects of the proposed development with any existing developments and current applications. A full consideration of the whole scheme should be included in the ES. All supporting infrastructure should be included within the assessment.</p> <p>The ES should include an impact assessment to identify, describe and evaluate the effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects and activities that are being, have been, or will be carried out. The following types of projects should be included in such an assessment (subject to available information):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • existing completed projects; • approved by uncompleted projects; • ongoing activities; • plans or projects for which an application has been made and which are under consideration by the consenting authorities; and • plans and projects which are reasonably foreseeable, i.e., projects for which an application has not yet been submitted, but which are likely to progress before completion of the development and for which sufficient information is available to assess the likelihood of cumulative and in-combination effects. 	<p>Chapter 17: Cumulative and In-Combination Effects considers the potential for cumulative intra-project effects (combinations of impacts from the Project upon a single receptor) and cumulative inter-project effects (impacts from the English Onshore Scheme in combination with other relevant developments upon a single receptor). An agreed list of 27 other relevant developments on which to base this assessment has been agreed with ERYC and SDC, as described in Chapter 17.</p> <p>Individual topic chapters (Chapters 7 to 16) also present an assessment of cumulative effects</p> <p>All supporting infrastructure necessary to develop and operate the English Onshore Scheme are included within the assessment. This is described in Chapter 3: Description of the English Onshore Scheme.</p> <p>The separate EIA/Environmental Appraisal reports produced for the English Onshore Scheme, Marine Scheme and Scottish Onshore Scheme provide an environmental assessment of each topic area for which potential environmental effects could arise from that element. Consideration has been given to the other components of the Project where these are relevant and have the potential to result in a significant in-combination effect.</p>
7	Cumulative and Combined Effects	Planning status of considered developments	SDC	In relation to Table 17-1 [of the Scoping Report], it should be noted that application reference 2020/1357/FULM [Development of an energy storage facility including battery storage containers on land off New Road, Drax] has now been approved.	Noted and status reflected in the assignment of Tier Criteria in Table 17-6 (Chapter 17: Cumulative and In-Combination Effects). These criteria are used to assign a level of certainty to each development based on the availability of detail and information necessary for the assessment.

	Topic	Issue	Consultee	Comment	Where and How Addressed in the ES
8	Environmental Statement	Scope and methodology	Natural England	<p>Schedule 4 of the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, sets out the necessary information to assess impacts on the natural environment to be included in an ES, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of the development; Expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc.) • An assessment of alternatives and clear reasoning as to why the preferred option has been chosen. • A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, • A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment – this should cover direct effects but also any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. • A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment. • A non-technical summary of the information. • An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information. 	<p>The ES is fully compliant with Schedule 4 of the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This is further discussed in Chapter 1: Introduction and Chapter 5: Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A general overview of the Project, the English Onshore Scheme, the approach to consenting and the structure of the ES is presented in Chapter 1: Introduction. • A description of the reasonable alternatives considered in the development of the English Onshore Scheme is presented in Chapter 2: Project Development and Alternatives. • A detailed description of the development is provided in Chapter 3: Description of the English Onshore Scheme. • Likely significant effects and any difficulties or potential limitations to the assessments presented are discussed on a topic-by-topic basis in Chapters 7 to 16, with cumulative effects discussed at Chapter 17: Cumulative and In-Combination Effects. • Chapter 18: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan sets out both general construction environmental management measures and best practice that will be implemented during the construction of the English Onshore Scheme, and also discusses the mitigation (mitigation by design, embedded mitigation and specific bespoke measures) identified by each topic discipline (Chapters 7 to 16) within the ES. • A Non-Technical Summary is presented as Volume 1 of the ES. • Individual discipline chapters (Chapters 7 to 16) discuss difficulties or potential limitations to the assessments presented.

	Topic	Issue	Consultee	Comment	Where and How Addressed in the ES
9	Environmental Statement	Approach to EIA and ES submission	ERYC	<p>The LPA would expect the applicant to appoint an appropriate consultant (e.g., one affiliated to IEMA), and to consult interested parties.</p> <p>In reviewing the ES, the LPA's officers would consult most of those specialists identified in the attached appendix of "useful contacts" (and others) and would therefore request the provision of at least 15 copies of the final ES.</p> <p>They would also examine the ES in terms of whether it meets the minimum statutory requirements as outlined in Part 4 of the 2017 Regs. If the ES does not contain sufficient and relevant information, the officers would request additional information accordingly or seek to refuse the application altogether.</p>	<p>As described in Chapter 1: Introduction, the ES has been co-ordinated, prepared and reviewed by AECOM on behalf of the Applicant (NGET). AECOM is registered to the EIA Quality Mark, which is a scheme operated by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA).</p> <p>The ES is fully compliant with Schedule 4 of the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This is further discussed in Chapter 1: Introduction and Chapter 5: Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment. The contents of the ES are further discussed row 8, above.</p> <p>It has subsequently been agreed with ERYC that a single hard copy of the ES, with the distribution of the ES to specialists expected to predominantly be in electronic format.</p> <p>Through the submission of a detailed Scoping Report and on-going consultation with relevant consultees where required throughout the design and assessment process, it is considered that the ES contains sufficient and relevant information to allow the determination of the application.</p>
10	Environmental Statement	Consultation	ERYC	<p>Details of any consultation that has taken place with statutory consultee's, Parish Councils, local residents and local organisations. You should provide evidence of this consultation and the feedback/ advice provided by the various consultees.</p>	<p>This chapter (Chapter 6: Stakeholder Engagement) summarises the consultations undertaken during the development of the English Onshore Scheme.</p> <p>Individual topic chapters (Chapters 7 to 16) detail consultation with statutory consultee's, ERYC, SDC and others through Scoping and additional topic-specific consultation undertaken through the design process.</p> <p>A Community Engagement Report is also submitted as a stand-alone document alongside the planning application.</p>
11	Health and Wellbeing	Scope of assessment	ERYC	<p>Given that individual topic chapters, namely Noise and Vibration, Traffic and Transport and Socio Economics will form part of the EIA and will consider and assess potential impacts to human receptors at an appropriate geographical scale, East Riding of Yorkshire Council agree it is not necessary to include a standalone chapter relating specifically to human health within the ES.</p>	<p>Impacts to human health and wellbeing are considered and assessed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration; • Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport; and • Chapter 15: Socio Economics, Recreation and Tourism. <p>The study areas defined in each chapter ensure that impacts are assessed at an appropriate geographical scale.</p> <p>Additionally, any potential cumulative effects are discussed in Chapter 17: Cumulative and In-Combination Effects, see row 11 below.</p>
12	Health and Wellbeing	Scope of assessment	SDC	<p>It may be necessary for further assessment in terms of cumulative impacts on Health and Wellbeing subject to the outcome of the baseline surveys. It also may demonstrate some positive</p>	<p>Chapter 17: Cumulative and In-Combination Effects considers the potential for cumulative intra-project effects (combinations of impacts from the Project upon a single receptor) and cumulative inter-project effects (impacts from the English Onshore Scheme in combination with other</p>

	Topic	Issue	Consultee	Comment	Where and How Addressed in the ES
				outcomes for Health and Wellbeing, such as climate change benefits the project will deliver.	relevant developments upon a single receptor). Individual topic chapters (Chapters 7 to 16) also present an assessment of cumulative effects. Through the routing of the underground cable and design mitigation, as well as project-specific mitigation identified for air quality, landscape and visual amenity, hydrology and land drainage, noise and vibration, traffic and transport, socio-economics, recreation and tourism there are no potentially significant impacts to human health as a result of the English Onshore Scheme. Chapter 1: Introduction sets out the need for the Project and its facilitation of Net Zero.
13	Health and Wellbeing	Consultation	SDC	The evaluation of any risks to human health arising from the site should be discussed with the Environmental Health Department.	As discussed in Table 13-3 of Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration the methodology and locations for baseline noise monitoring were agreed with both SDC and ERYC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDC- email received 29th July 2021 from Senior Environmental Health Officer. • ERYC - email received 21st July 2021 from Environmental Health Officer – Environmental Control. As discussed in section 14.3.2 of Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport , the scope of the environmental assessment was agreed with ERYC. This included agreement of traffic count data methodology including supplementary summer month traffic counts at locations which could perceivably be impacted by tourist seasonality. No additional consultation was undertaken for Chapter 15: Socio Economics, Recreation and Tourism following receipt of the Scoping Opinion. However, it is considered that as all comments received within the Scoping Opinion have been addressed (Table 15-1), impacts to human health and wellbeing are robustly assessed.

	Topic	Issue	Consultee	Comment	Where and How Addressed in the ES
14	Environmental Mitigation	Contents of the CEMP	ERYC - Public Protection	It is recommended that the CEMP includes construction phase lighting in addition to construction phase noise, vibration, dust, fumes and smoke.	<p>Within Chapter 18: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan, measures to reduce the impacts of construction phase lighting are outlined at section 18.5.4, including references to guidance documents which should be considered in the lighting design.</p> <p>Measures to reduce emissions to air (dust, fume and smoke) are considered at section 18.5.12, in relation of vehicles and plant; and at section 18.5.14 which specifically outlines measures to reduce impacts to air quality. The Outline CEMP also contains commitments for a Travel Plan (to promote sustainable travel thereby reducing emissions) and a Construction Logistics Plan (to manage the sustainable delivery of goods and materials, again reducing emissions) to be produced prior to construction. This reflects commitments made in Appendix D of the Scoping Report in relation to air quality mitigation.</p> <p>Some of the good practice measures set out in sections 18.5.12 and 18.5.14 will also reduce noise and vibration impacts, and specific mitigation in relation to noise and vibration is discussed at section 18.6.7.</p>
15	Planning application	Required validation documents	ERYC	<p>You are advised to refer to the Council's Planning Application Requirements and Validation Checklist which can be viewed at:</p> <p>https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planningpermission-and-building-control/applications-for-planning-and-building-control/householderplanning-and-building-control-applications/after-you-apply-for-planning-permission/</p>	This is noted and the ERYC planning application contains all required documents for validation.
16	Planning policy	Local Plans	SDC	For the avoidance of doubt: current Development Plan or Selby District comprises two adopted Local Plans, those being the Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan (2013) and the saved policies within the Selby District Local Plan (2005). There are also a number of other documents that form the Development Plan, including adopted Neighbourhood Plan, Community Infrastructure Levy, East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan, saved policies within the Minerals Local Plan, saved policies within the Waste Local Plan and Policy E8 of the North Yorkshire Structure Plan.	These policy documents are discussed in the Planning Statement which accompanies the planning application. They are also referenced in ES Chapter 4: Planning Policy Context and in the planning policy sections of individual topic chapters (Chapters 7 to 16) where relevant.
17	Planning policy	Local Plans	ERYC	The Development Plan for the site currently comprises saved policies in the East Riding Local	This is acknowledged in Chapter 4: Planning Policy Context and the chapter reflects the current published timescales for submission and

	Topic	Issue	Consultee	Comment	Where and How Addressed in the ES
				Plan Strategy Document (ERLP-SD). The Local Development Plan is currently under review with further updates regarding timescales available from East Riding of Yorkshire Councils Forward Planning Team (forward.planning@eastriding.gov.uk).	adoption (submission in Autumn 2022 and adoption shortly after). As this is after the proposed planning submission for the English Onshore Scheme, the updated Local Plan will have limited weight as a material consideration in determining the planning application but has been considered by the Project through the continued development of the English Onshore Scheme.
18	Site selection (landfall)	Coastal erosion	ERYC	<p>Whilst the risk of coastal erosion has been mentioned, there is no exact location of where the TJP will be located or whether any consideration has been made regarding the impacts to the landfall site from construction phase and future erosion as the cliff retreats. Whilst it is also noted that there will be no above ground structures, the buried TJP may become exposed from coastal erosion and become an environmental hazard. For any comments to be made further for the Environmental Impact Statement to be prepared, we would need more information on exactly where the TJP is located and how future erosion will be monitored and managed. More information on what the potential impacts of foreshore lowering will pose to the exposure of the cable, and what decommissioning plans for all structures are in place come the end of the project life.</p>	<p>As set out in Chapter 3: Description of the English Onshore Scheme, the landfall is located to the north of Fraisthorpe, East Yorkshire. This is the location where subsea cables (which are larger due to increased protection), will connect to the underground cables at a buried Transition Joint Pit (TJP). The TJP will be set back from the coastline, beyond the coastal erosion risk area to avoid future cable exposure and to reduce risk of exacerbating any existing erosion. The TJP is to be located approximately 150 m inland from the average high tide mark (Mean High Water Springs). The six shortlisted potential landfall locations in relation to the maximum extent of predicted coastal erosion (taken from National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping) are shown on Figure 2-3. The chosen location (LF01), which is shown in greater detail in Figure 3-3, is located on open agricultural land outside of areas at risk of coastal erosion. The potential impacts to the coastline are therefore scoped out from the assessment presented in Chapter 10: Geology and Hydrogeology.</p> <p>The precise breakout point of the subsea HDD within the landfall site is subject to the appointed Contractor's final design and dependent on the ground conditions and the depth that the cable will need to be installed to ensure suitable protection.</p> <p>Chapter 3 further describes that, as refurbishment and plant replacement is likely to extend the operational life of the English Onshore Scheme beyond the predicted 40-year lifespan of the originally installed infrastructure, the impacts of decommissioning have not been assessed in the ES. However, should decommissioning be required, it would be subject to the consents and permissions legally required at that time. Dependent on specific requirements the redundant cables could either be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • left in-situ (which would have the least environmental effect), • all or parts of the cable could be removed for recycling. <p>Where recycling is not possible removed cables would be disposed of in accordance with the relevant waste disposal regulations at the time of decommissioning.</p>

6.4 Key Stakeholder and Public Consultations

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), as the proponent of the English Onshore Scheme, is committed to engaging with all communities in which it works in and takes great pride in its legacy of thorough public consultations. To ensure that its plans take account of the views of the local area and community, NGET delivered a comprehensive pre-application consultation to gauge local residents' and stakeholders' views on the proposed English Onshore Scheme, with feedback helping to shape the design development of the Project.

Full details of the public consultation, the responses received, and how the feedback has/will be incorporated is presented in a Community Engagement Report submitted alongside the planning application(s). The following section therefore provides a brief summary of the scale of the consultations undertaken.

Two phases of public engagement were undertaken, public consultation in March and April 2021 (Phase 1 public consultation) and public information exhibition and events in February to March 2022 (Phase 2 public information). Due to the Covid 19 pandemic both phases of the public consultation were undertaken digitally, augmented by live chat and video sessions. In-person briefings with councillors and other stakeholders were also undertaken when safe and appropriate to do so.

In between the formal public consultations NGET continued to provide information and respond to any queries submitted through the website, email or freephone number; and to provide project update emails to registered parties. All consultees who submitted feedback or questions to the Project received a response from the project team.



Figure 6-2: Image from Virtual Consultation Boards

In addition to the Phase 1 and 2 public consultations, landowners along the English Onshore Scheme preferred route were approached by the Project's lands team in early 2021 to organise surveys. At the same time, NGET proactively introduced the English Onshore Scheme to the wider community and stakeholders by issuing a newsletter to landowners, issuing letters to stakeholders, opening the dedicated phone number and email address, and launching the website. This ensured that NGET effectively communicated the rationale and potential impact of the English Onshore Scheme from the outset and laid the groundwork for constructive engagement during the consultation.

To promote the consultation, NGET also contacted local parish councils and MPs directly via email and reached out to planning officers at ERYC and SDC to request permission to approach their members, which was granted.

Every MP, ward councillor and parish council whose area would be directly impacted by the English Onshore Scheme was contacted and offered a briefing. Separately, NGET contacted any stakeholder whose electoral area was within 5 km of the preferred converter station and cable route introducing the Project and informing them of the public consultation.

To ensure wider engagement, the NGET also contacted local hard-to-reach organisations informing them of the consultations and offering briefings, these included Age UK, Selby District Disability Forum and Hull Ethnic Minorities Community Centre.

Of the stakeholders who received a briefing offer, the following accepted:

- Middleton-on-the-Wolds Parish Council;
- Long Drax Parish Council; and
- ERYC.

