

# **Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Projects**

Extension to Scoping Area

Title:		
<b>Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Projects: Extension to Scoping Area</b>		
Document no.: -	Contract no.: -	Project: <b>UK Extensions</b>

Classification: <b>Open</b>	Distribution: <b>External Stakeholders</b>
Expiry date: -	Status: <b>Final</b>

Distribution date: <b>2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020</b>	Rev. no.: <b>00</b>	Copy no.: -
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## Table of Contents

1	Introduction .....	4
2	Existing Scoping Opinion .....	4
3	Need to Extend Scoping Area.....	5
4	Environmental Impact Assessment .....	5
5	Publicity .....	6
Appendix 1 .....		7

## Glossary of Acronyms

AfL	Agreement for Lease
CWS	County Wildlife Site
DEP	Dudgeon Extension Project
DCO	Development Consent Order
DOW	Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm
EC	European Commission
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
SEP	Sheringham Extension Projects
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

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## 1 Introduction

This document explains the decision to extend the onshore scoping area submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for the proposed Dudgeon Extension Project (DEP) and Sheringham Extension Project (SEP) in October 2019 (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2019).

DEP is located to the north and southeast of the existing Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm and SEP is located to the north and east of the existing Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm. Both DEP and SEP share borders with the operational assets.

Offshore export cables will connect the offshore substation(s), situated within the wind farm area/s, to shore on the North Norfolk Coast. Onshore export cables will connect the projects to a new purpose-built substation in the vicinity of the existing Norwich Main substation south of Norwich. DEP and SEP will be connected to the National Grid at Norwich Main substation.

The existing Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farms are owned by different partners, with Equinor New Energy Limited (hereafter called Equinor) being the only partner with ownership in both projects. It has been agreed by the partners that Equinor will lead on the development work for both projects and will be the named Applicant.

## 2 Existing Scoping Opinion

Equinor requested a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in relation to DEP and SEP on 8 October 2019 pursuant to The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations).

PINS adopted its Scoping Opinion on 18 November 2019. The organisations consulted by PINS during the preparation of the Scoping Opinion are listed Appendix 1 of the Opinion. Both the Scoping Opinion and the Scoping Report to which it responds are on the Projects' page (under Documents) for DEP and SEP at the following link:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sheringham-and-dudgeon-extension-projects>

For the reasons explained in Section 3 below, Equinor has decided to extend the onshore scoping area for the project. The EIA Regulations do not provide a specific mechanism for this type of extension. Equinor has discussed this with PINS, which has confirmed this and advised that there is no defined procedure which an Applicant should follow in this situation, if it considers it would be disproportionate to re-run the entire scoping process. The legal status of the Scoping Opinion and the approach Equinor is following to publicise this decision are explained in Sections 4 and 5 below.

Equinor can confirm that the Projects are not changing – simply the scoping area to consider the options for delivering the Projects.

### 3 Need to Extend Scoping Area

Following submission of the Scoping report for SEP and DEP in October 2019 Equinor consulted with Local Planning Authorities, statutory stakeholders and landowners. The discussions and the progression of screening of constraints identified a need to amend the previously submitted onshore scoping area in five locations described below. Maps of the locations are included in Annex 1.

**Area 1 Weybourne Woods /Kelling Heath:** various challenges with routing the cables south of Weybourne have been identified and it is necessary to widen the scoping corridor in this area to ensure that all viable options can be explored. The key constraints in the original corridor include National Trust land that is also designated as a registered park and garden, extensive woodland (Weybourne Wood and Hundred Acre Wood), residential properties, existing Sheringham Shoal buried cables, Kelling Heath holiday park, Kelling Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and County Wildlife Site (CWS), and Hornsea Project 3 onshore cable corridor. We are now widening the scoping corridor as shown on the attached plan.

**Area 2 River Bure crossing:** it is necessary to increase the area in the scoping corridor to allow more flexibility to drill under the River Bure due to constraints identified to the south and north of the river mostly of an archaeological nature, together with the presence of National Grid High pressure gas pipeline in proximity to the river crossing.

**Area 3 Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas crossing:** it is necessary to widen the scoping boundary to allow more flexibility for designing the crossing of the Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas buried cable route and increase flexibility in relation to a block of woodland part designated as a CWS.

**Area 4 South of the River Wensum:** it is necessary to increase the area in the scoping corridor to allow more flexibility to drill under the River Wensum and cross the proposed Hornsea 3 wind farm export cables.

**Area 5 A47 dual carriageway crossing:** it is necessary to increase the scoping boundary as we have identified a number of new constraints since the scoping report was submitted, including (i) potential junction layouts for planned A47 improvements works (Highways England project), (ii) the newly constructed Food Enterprise Park and proposals for future expansion south of the A47 (iii) proposal for a housing development and garden village at Honingham Thorpe (5000 new properties south of the A47). As the exact location and details of these developments are subject to change, the extended scoping boundary to the east and west will allow flexibility for routing options.

As already stated, none of these changes are the result of, or will result in, changes to any of the other key characteristics of the Projects.

### 4 Environmental Impact Assessment

The Scoping Opinion for proposed DEP and SEP (Case Reference: EN010109 (PINS, 2019) has been reviewed by Equinor in detail. Equinor considers that the changes to the scoping boundary outlined in Section **Error! Reference source not found.** do not change the findings set out within the Scoping Report submitted in October 2019 (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2019).

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Accordingly, Equinor will be treating the Scoping Opinion as applying to the extended scoping boundary for the purposes of Regulation 14(3) of the EIA Regulations, which requires that the Environmental Statement for a DCO application must be based on the most recent scoping opinion adopted.

## **5          Publicity**

This document will be posted on the Equinor Projects' website.

This document will be sent to PINS with a request that it is also posted on the PINS Projects' page.

This document will be sent, for information, to those onshore stakeholders who were consulted on the original Scoping Report by PINS, excluding those relevant only to the Bacton tranche of the cable corridor, which is no longer being taken forward by Equinor.

In addition, this expanded scoping area is being publicised separately as part of the wider Planning Act 2008 consultation process being undertaken during 2020 e.g. it is explained in the Statement of Community Consultation.

## Appendix 1





- Legend:
- Proposed Scoping Area Extension
  - Onshore Scoping Area
  - Pond
  - Coastal Path
  - Footpath
  - Bridleway
  - Restricted Byway
  - Regional Cycle Route
  - Listed Building
  - Heritage Coast
  - Scheduled Monument
  - Registered Park and Garden
  - Ancient Woodland
  - County Wildlife Site (CWS)
  - Ramsar
  - Special Protection Area (SPA)
  - Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
  - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
  - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
  - Historic Landfill Site
  - Source protection zone I
  - National Trust Ownership
  - Environment Agency Main River
  - Flood Zone 3
  - Flood Zone 2
  - Sheringham Shoal Underground Cable
  - Dudgeon Underground Cable
  - Hornsea Project Three Red Line Boundary

S1	P01	13/05/2020	Suitable for Information	AZ	MW	AP
SUI	REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRW	CHK	APR

Title:  
Scoping Boundary - Proposed Extension Areas  
W03: Weybourne Crossing

Figure:	Drawing No:	Work In Progress
Co-ordinate system: British National Grid	Page Size: A3	Scale: 1:20,000
Project: Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extensions	Report:	n/a





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- Legend:
- Proposed Scoping Area Extension
  - Onshore Scoping Area
  - Pond
  - Footpath
  - Bridleway
  - Listed Building
  - County Wildlife Site (CWS)
  - Historic Landfill Site
  - National Trust Ownership
  - Environment Agency Main River
  - Flood Zone 3
  - Flood Zone 2
  - Sheringham Shoal Underground Cable
  - National Grid High Pressure Gas Pipeline

S1	P01	13/05/2020	Suitable for Information	AZ	MW	AP
SUI	REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRW	CHK	APR

Title:  
Scoping Boundary - Proposed Extension Areas  
W05: River Bure Crossing

Figure:	Drawing No:	Work In Progress
Co-ordinate system: British National Grid	Page Size: A3	Scale: 1:10,000
Project: Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extensions	Report: n/a	







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- Legend:
- Proposed Scoping Area Extension
  - Onshore Scoping Area
  - Pond
  - Listed Building
  - Registered Park and Garden
  - Ancient Woodland
  - County Wildlife Site (CWS)
  - National Trust Ownership
  - Flood Zone 3
  - Flood Zone 2
  - Sheringham Shoal Underground Cable
  - Norfolk Boreas Red Line Boundary
  - Hornsea Project Three Red Line Boundary

S1	P01	13/05/2020	Suitable for Information	AZ	MW	AP
SUI	REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRW	CHK	APR

Title:  
Scoping Boundary - Proposed Extension Areas  
W07: Norfolk Boreas Crossing

Figure:	Drawing No:	Work In Progress
Co-ordinate system: British National Grid	Page Size: A3	Scale: 1:10,000
Project: Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extensions	Report:	n/a







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- Legend:
- Proposed Scoping Area Extension
  - Onshore Scoping Area
  - Pond
  - Footpath
  - Bridleway
  - Restricted Byway
  - National Cycle Route
  - Listed Building
  - Scheduled Monument
  - Ancient Woodland
  - County Wildlife Site (CWS)
  - Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
  - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
  - Environment Agency Main River
  - Flood Zone 3
  - Flood Zone 2
  - Hornsea Project Three Red Line Boundary

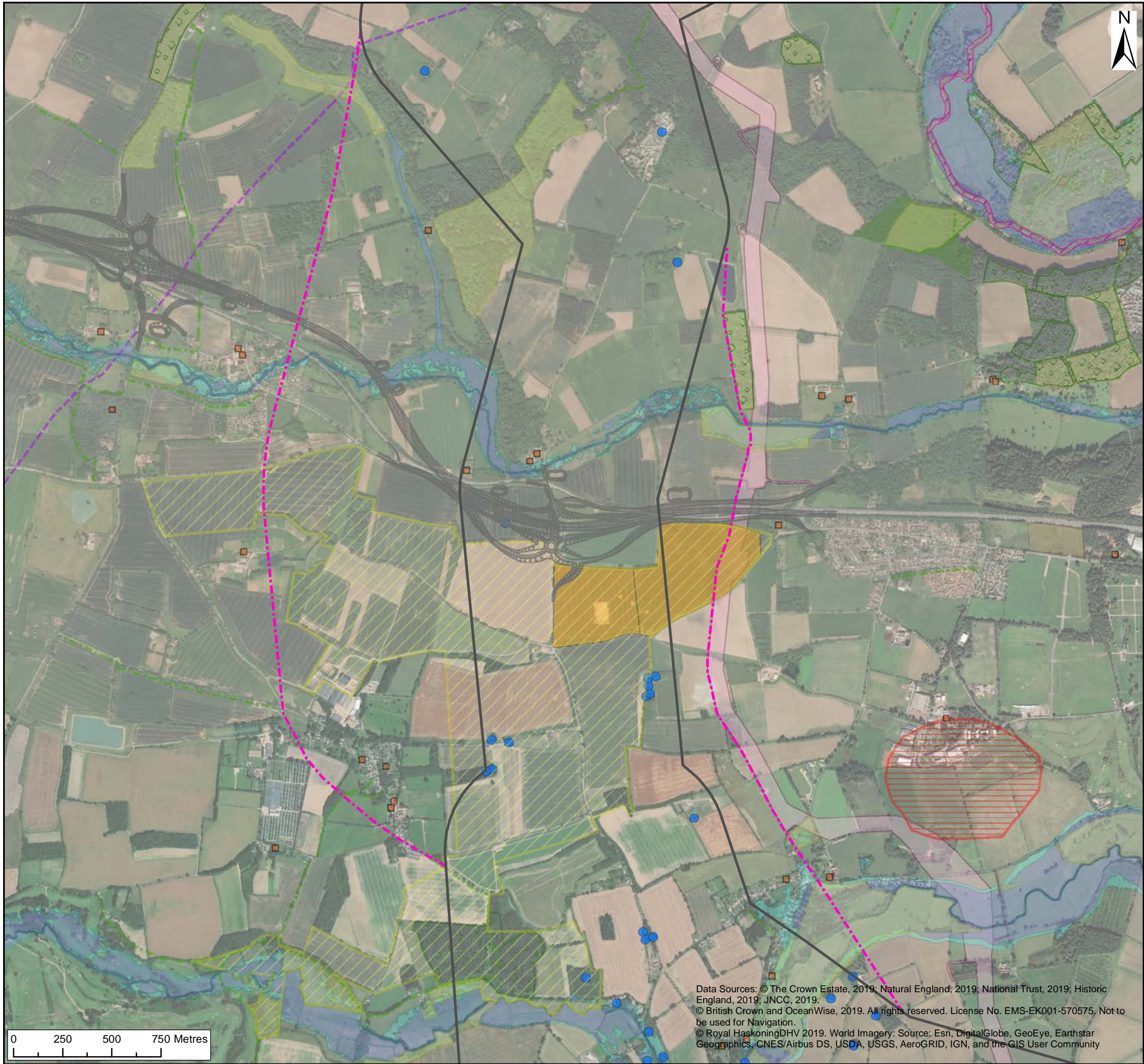
S1	P01	13/05/2020	Suitable for Information	AZ	MW	AP
SUI	REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRW	CHK	APR

Title:  
Scoping Boundary - Proposed Extension Areas  
W08: River Wensum

Figure:	Drawing No:	Work In Progress
Co-ordinate system: British National Grid	Page Size: A3	Scale: 1:10,000
Project: Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extensions	Report:	n/a







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- Legend:
- Proposed Scoping Area Extension
  - Onshore Scoping Area
  - Pond
  - Bridleway
  - Restricted Byway
  - Listed Building
  - Ancient Woodland
  - County Wildlife Site (CWS)
  - Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
  - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
  - Authorised Landfill Site
  - Source protection zone I
  - Environment Agency Main River
  - Flood Zone 3
  - Flood Zone 2
  - Hornsea Project Three Red Line Boundary
  - A47 Works Scheme
  - Proposed Housing Development
  - Food Enterprise Park Land Registry Boundary
  - National Grid High Pressure Gas Pipeline

S1	P01	13/05/2020	Suitable for Information	AZ	MW	AP
SUI	REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRW	CHK	APR

Title:  
Scoping Boundary - Proposed Extension Areas  
C02: A47 Road Crossing

Figure: Drawing No: *Work In Progress*

Co-ordinate system: British National Grid Page Size: A3 Scale: 1:20,000

Project: Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extensions Report: n/a

