

Offshore Coordination project

Consultation feedback form

We launched our consultation on **30 September 2020** and it closes on the **28 October 2020**.

Please use this form to send in your written feedback. If you would like to provide feedback via this route. We are also working with stakeholders to receive verbal feedback. Please contact us if you would prefer to provide feedback verbally.

We would like to publish responses to our consultation following its closure. Please can you confirm whether you would like us to treat your response confidentially by selecting one of the options below: (delete those that do not apply)

- **Non-confidential – you can publish the full response**

Throughout the consultation document we have asked some questions on our three reports that we would like your feedback on to shape our final documentation. These are below and do not need answering if you do not have views. If you would like to provide any other feedback, please feel free to do so.

Holistic Approach to Offshore Transmission Planning Report

Q1. Do you agree with our assessment of the key technology and system risk barriers coming from the Holistic Approach to Offshore Transmission Planning Report?

Q2. Do you have any proposals on how to most effectively bring the technology to market for when needed?

Q3. Do you have any additional evidence to inform the assessment we have made?

Q4. Do you have any further feedback on the report?

Cost-benefit Analysis Report

Q1. Do you agree with our assessment of the costs and benefits?

Q2. Do you have any other evidence to support or challenge the assessment made?

Q3. What do you see as the potential impact on the environment of these proposals, particularly the reduction in the number of assets and landing points?

A strategic plan to deliver wind infrastructure off the UK coast which will result in a reduced number of assets and landing points will benefit the environment significantly due to rationalised infrastructure resulting in less cabling, power stations etc etc being needed to connect the schemes to the mainland.

Q4. Do you have any further evidence on the potential social and community impacts of these proposals? We would particularly welcome responses from local authorities on this question.

Q5. Where do you see value for further work to build on and test these findings? Either from the proposed list or beyond?

Offshore Connections Review Report

Q1. Do you think that if the areas we are highlighting were improved, that the ability to coordinate projects would be significantly increased?

Q2. Do you think we have missed anything in our offshore connections review that would add value and increase coordination?

Do you have any other feedback, if so please add below. Many thanks for taking the time to provide written feedback. When we publish our final documentation, we will let you know what we have done with the feedback and how it has shaped our work.

The CLA represents around 30,000 rural businesses that own or occupy rural land and buildings in England and Wales, and collectively our members own and manage over 10 million acres throughout these regions.

The CLA welcomes the UK Government's target to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and we recognise the critical role renewable energy technologies, including offshore wind farms, will play in achieving this, whilst ensuring a green and resilient economic recovery. Our members support this focus and continuously find innovative ways to diversify and drive advancement in this sector.

The Government's target to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, together with their recent pledges around green energy and the commitment to increase offshore wind capacity from 10GW to 40GW by 2030 illustrates the appetite for increased renewable energy capacity and offshore is seen as a key way of achieving this. An integrated UK-wide strategy for offshore wind is therefore essential to ensure the increase in offshore wind capacity is approached in a sensible, strategic manner and not on a piecemeal basis.

Numerous offshore wind farms are proposed off the UK coast and at present, each scheme will be connected to the mainland by their own set of infrastructure. The repeated installation of large-scale infrastructure to support nationally significant infrastructure projects on an individual basis will cause disturbance, both in the short and long-term, to the rural landscape throughout the UK and local communities who reside there.

The solution to this problem is for the installation of an offshore ring mains, into which all offshore wind farms can connect – the principle of an offshore coordination project. This would result in the rationalisation of all infrastructure needed to connect offshore wind farm schemes to the mainland, thus limiting the associated adverse impact on the countryside and those who live and work in it.

The CLA are aware that Norfolk MPs, George Freeman, Jerome Mayhew & Duncan Baker all support the UK's ambitions to create a strategic plan to deliver wind infrastructure off the UK coastline. As the first step in that process, the CLA welcomes this consultation and the UK

governments desire to pursue strategic planning to deliver wind infrastructure off the UK coast further.