

28 January 2021

Dear Occupier

Re: Programme of upcoming converter station works for Sofia Offshore Wind Farm and Dogger Bank C Offshore Wind Farm

Work will soon begin on site to prepare for the start of construction of the onshore electrical infrastructure for the Sofia and Dogger Bank C Offshore Wind Farms. This letter is to give you an overview of the coming activity that will take place on the site of the onshore converter stations, adjacent to the Wilton Complex, to the north east of Lazenby. Work to prepare the site for the two onshore converter stations – known as the OCS enabling works - is due to begin in February 2021 in readiness for the start of construction proper in early 2022.

About the offshore wind farms

The two wind farms are sited on Dogger Bank, in the centre of the North Sea, more than 190 kilometres from the North East coast. The power that they produce will be transmitted by offshore cables that arrive on shore at a site between Redcar and Marske-by-the-Sea. Each offshore cable will connect to an onshore buried cable that will run seven kilometres to a new converter station – one converter station for each wind farm project - to be constructed on the site adjacent to the Wilton Complex. Each project will have further buried cables to transport the power two kilometres from the converter stations to the existing substation at Lackenby, where it will feed into the national grid.

Sofia is 100% owned by RWE, and Dogger Bank C is the third phase of the Dogger Bank Wind Farm, a 50/50 joint venture between SSE Renewables and Equinor. Although they are owned by different companies, the developers aim to work jointly wherever feasible and for this reason, the early site preparation onshore works is being led by Sofia on behalf of both projects.

Wilton water pipe diversion works now underway

You may have noticed some activity around the onshore converter station site (*see Map 1*) in late 2020. In October/November, geotechnical investigations and archaeology surveys were carried out as part of the pre-construction requirements for the offshore wind farms.

At the start of December, contractors working for Sembcorp began work to divert potable and raw water pipes around the converter station site as well as confirm the location of other buried services likely to be affected by the construction of the converter stations. This work will continue until March 2021 and will include excavation and pipe laying on the plot of land between the existing mounds near Lazenby and the Wilton South Gate entrance.

It is scheduled to take place during normal working hours on Monday to Friday (7am-7pm) but will also involve some Saturday and/or Sunday work (7am-4pm) principally during the establishment of the site and during the fabrication and installation phases (due from 9 January to early March). All efforts will be made to keep disruption to a minimum. Enquiries about the pipe diversion works can be made to Sembcorp via email gbr-sol.communications@sembcorp.com or telephone 01642 212385.

Vegetation clearance and replanting plans

Some vegetation clearance has been undertaken as part of the water pipe diversion works. In February further vegetation clearance will be required to make way for the creation of a temporary access road to the south east of the site, temporary construction compounds and part of the haul road. Vegetation will be planted/replanted during and after construction. *Please see inserted sheet for maps showing the required vegetation clearance and the proposed revegetation plans.*

Ground works to prepare the site for the start of construction

Following the creation of the access roads in February, further work to prepare the site for construction of both the converter stations will begin in March 2021, concurrent with the completion of the water pipe diversion works. These works will involve the creation of temporary haul roads, extension of the mounds between the site and Lazenby Village and the establishment of on-site welfare facilities.

Sofia's converter station contractor, GE's Grid Solutions, will arrive on-site to start construction of the project's electrical infrastructure in early 2022. Dogger Bank C's converter station contractor will start work later in 2022. Additional project updates will be provided as the work progresses. *Map 1: Onshore converter station construction site, on the following page, gives an overview of how the site will be utilised during construction.*

What are the plans for the mounds between the converter station site and Lazenby Village?

The existing mounds will be extended, and the existing farm track realigned as agreed with the Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC) and as part of the Landscape Scheme, a requirement in the original 2015 permission for the development of the wind farms. The Landscape Scheme was submitted to the RCBC in December 2020.

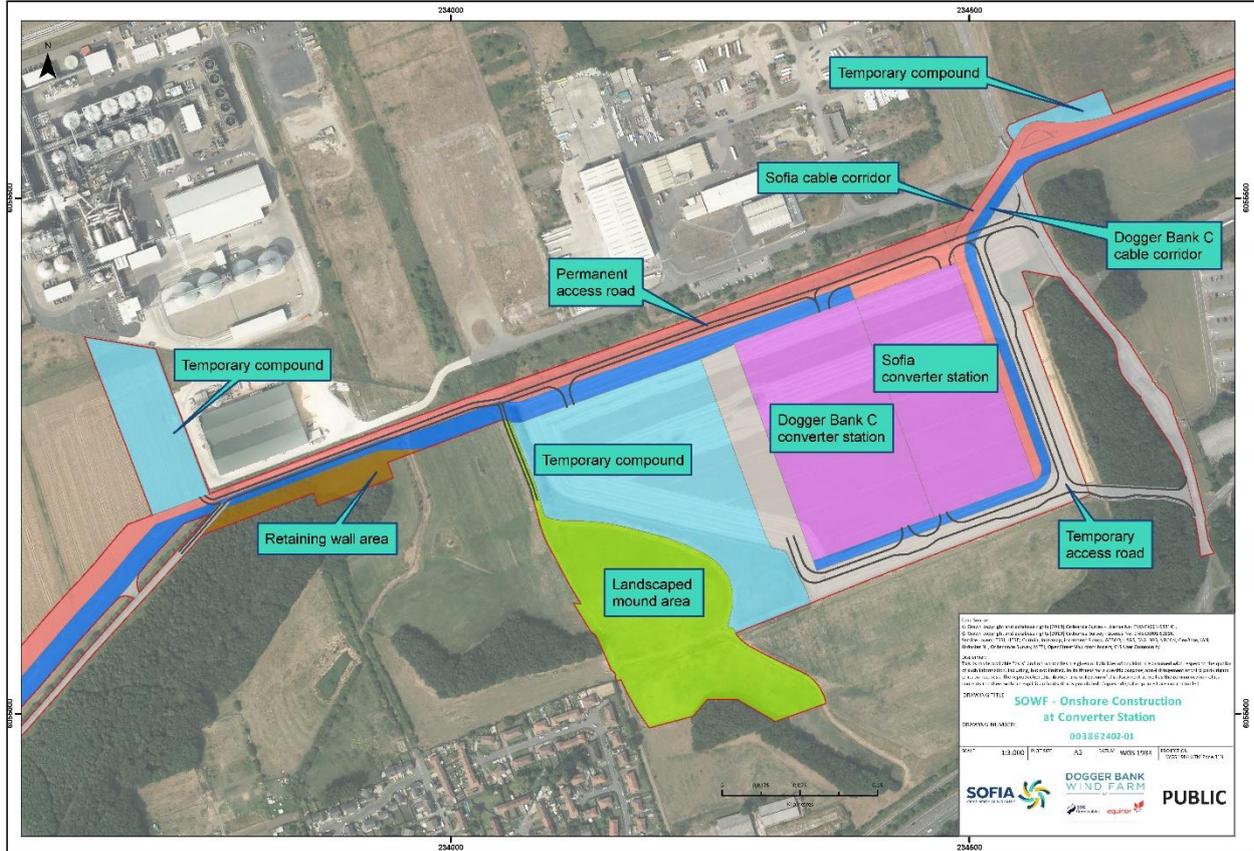
The extension of the mounds will take place in stages over the duration of the construction of the converter stations. The realignment of the mounds is designed to reduce the visibility between Lazenby and the Wilton Complex, therefore providing additional screening of the converter stations. The Landscape Scheme also includes the proposal to plant native trees on the mounds to further increase screening and encourage biodiversity.

How long will the work take?

Our work on the site of the converter stations will effectively start in February 2021, with different phases of construction activity due to continue until early in 2025. A high-level programme is below to give you an overview of the phases and when they will take place.

Work Phase – Onshore converter stations	Start	End
Site clearance prior to the onshore converter station enabling works.	early 2021	mid 2021
Formation of the mounds – reprofiling and increasing the height to screen the converter stations site.	early 2021	end 2024
Enabling works to prepare for the construction of the onshore converter stations.	early 2021	end 2021
Construction of the onshore converter stations.	early 2022	early 2025

Map 1: Onshore converter station construction site



Where can more details be found?

As part of the project consent conditions, detailed work plans need to be submitted to, and approved by RCBC. We will send regular project updates via letters and project newsletters, however the full details will be available in the work plans published in the planning portal of the Council website – www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/.

While there will be numerous plans and documents on the Council website, at this stage we would like to draw your attention to the following that may be of particular interest:

1. **Phasing Plan:** This document describes in detail the onshore works both at the converter station site and along the cable corridor, and a phasing plan that expands on the detail given in the table above.
2. **Landscape Scheme:** This document includes details of the proposed landscaping such as vegetation and fencing and the site layout.
3. **Detailed Design - Onshore converter station enabling works:** This document details plans for the enabling works, to prepare the site for construction of both converter stations.

Local information event

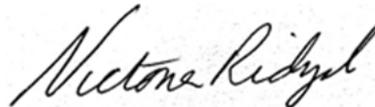
For the duration of the works, we will continue to provide information to people living or working near the works. In addition, we plan to hold an information event in Lazenby to give interested people the chance to learn more about the programme and ask questions of the project teams. The date and format of the event will depend on the Covid-19 situation. When it is safe to do so, we aim to hold socially-distanced, timed sessions at the Village Hall. To register your interest in attending please email comms_sofia@rwe.com.

In the meantime more information about the wind farms can be found on the project websites: www.sofiawindfarm.com and <https://doggerbank.com/>. Any specific queries can be directed to the contact emails or telephone numbers below.

Yours faithfully,
on behalf of both projects



Kim Gauld-Clark
Senior Consents Manager
Sofia Offshore Wind Farm
RWE Renewables



Victoria Ridyard
Consents Manager
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For more information and to contact us:

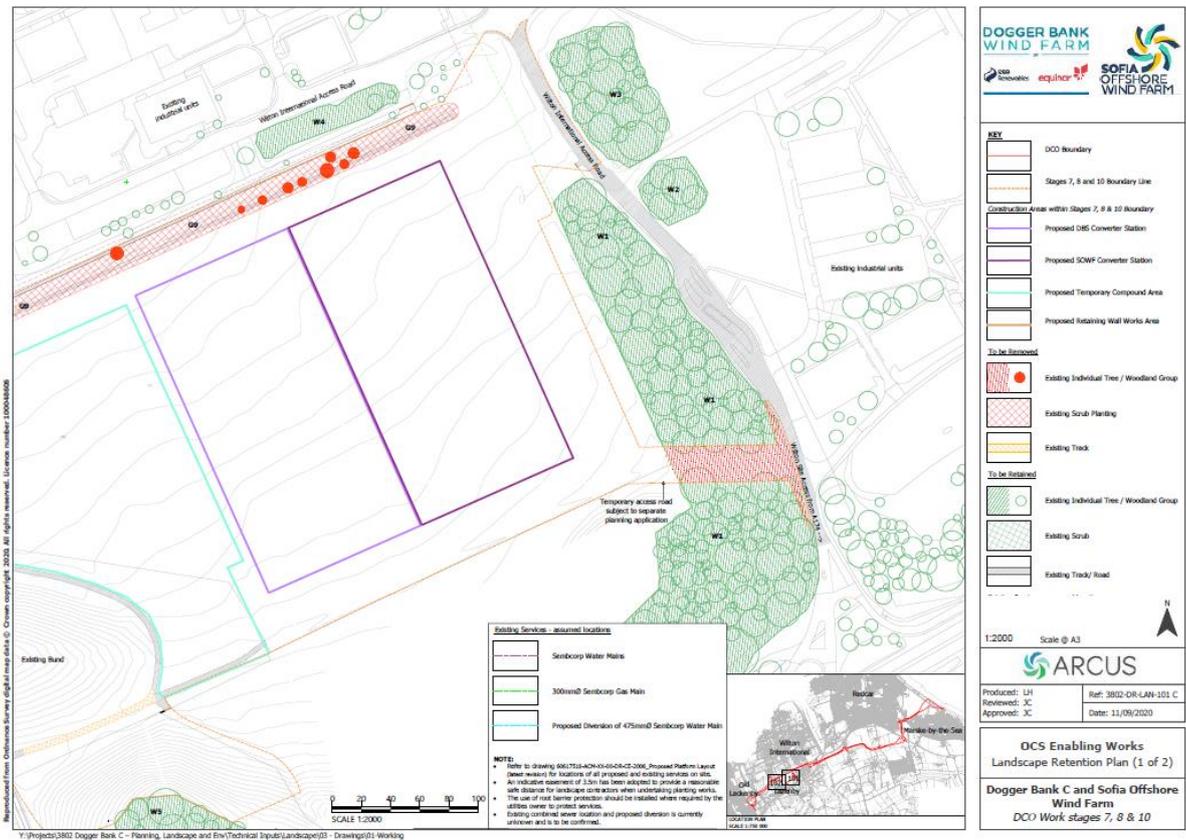
Sofia Offshore Wind Farm
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Dogger Bank Wind Farm
Email: info@doggerbank.com
Phone: 07385 368783 (Office hours)

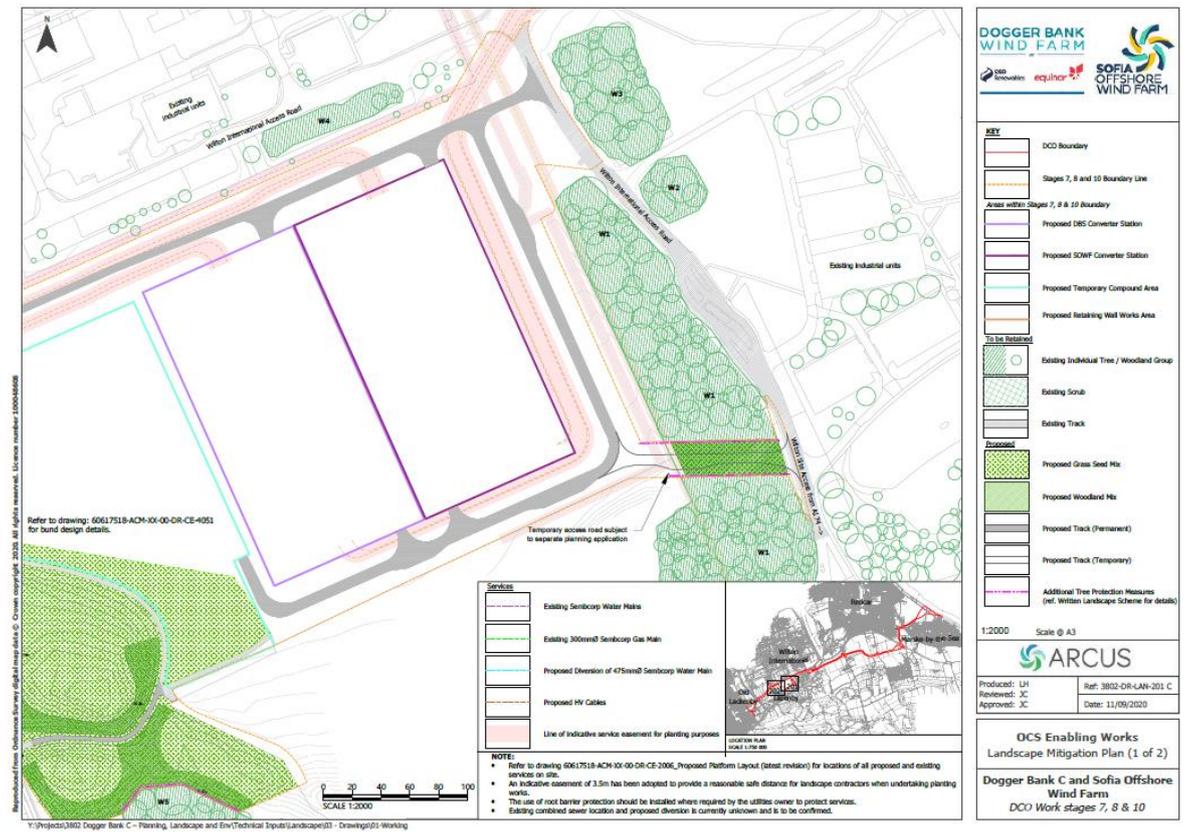
Insert sheet: Plans 1 and 3 show the vegetation removal and Plans 2 and 4 show the proposed replanting. All are taken from the Landscape Scheme, which is available to view or download from the planning portal of the Council website - www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/

Plans for vegetation removal and replanting at the site of the converter stations – including temporary access road

Plan 1: East side of converter station site - vegetation to be removed (red)

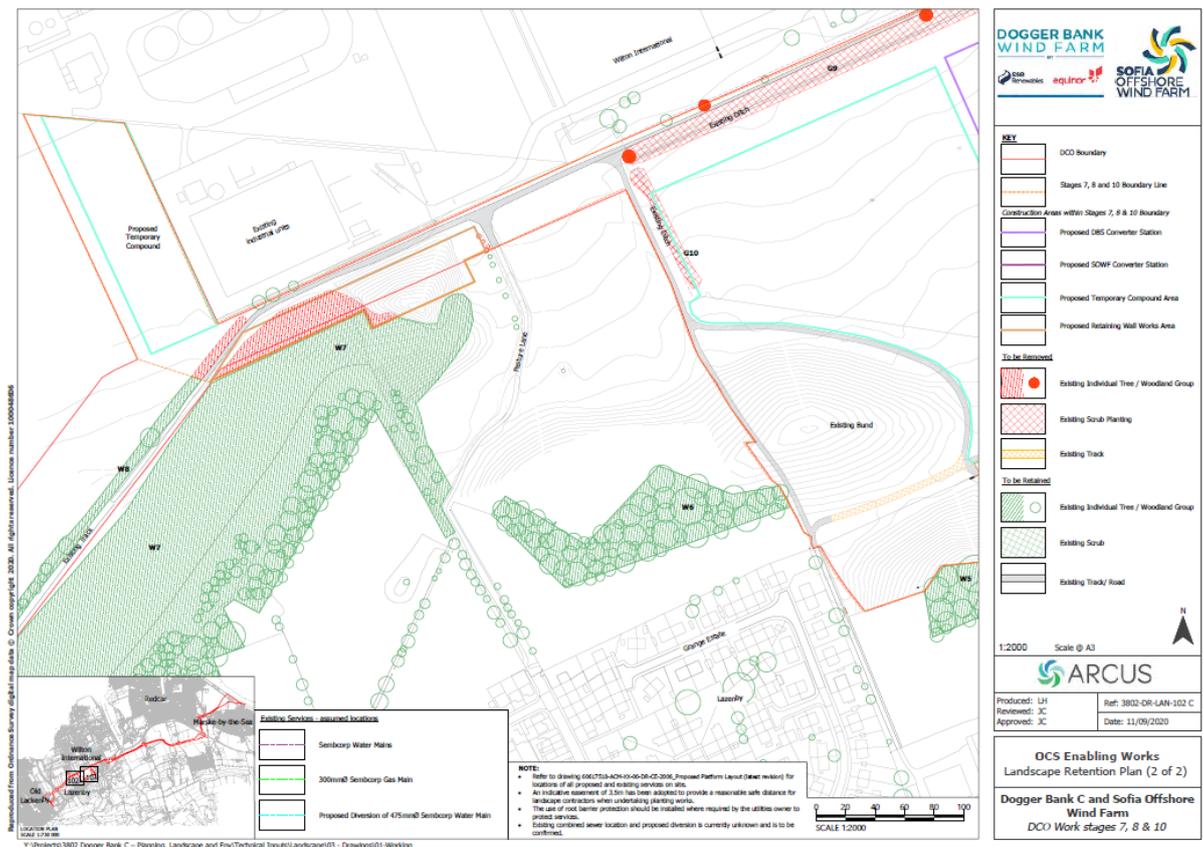


Plan 2: East side of converter station site - vegetation to be planted/replanted (darker green)



Plans for vegetation removal and replanting at the site of the converter stations – including temporary access road

Plan 3: West side of converter station site - vegetation to be removed (red)



Plan 4: West side of converter station site - vegetation to be replanted/planted (darker green)

