

From: [REDACTED]
To: DBTeessideAB
Subject: EN010051 - Sofia offshore wind farm NMC 2020
Date: 26 June 2020 11:52:16
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find Natural England's formal response to the NMC application by Sofia offshore wind farm attached to this email.

Please come back to me if you have any questions or queries.

Many thanks,
Josh

Josh Parker | Marine Lead Adviser
Natural England | Northumbria Area Team
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www.gov.uk/natural-england

During the current coronavirus situation, Natural England staff are working remotely to provide our services and support our customers and stakeholders. All offices and our Mail Hub are closed, so please send any documents by email or contact us by phone or email to let us know how we can help you. See the latest news on the coronavirus at <http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> and Natural England's regularly updated operational update at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operational-update-covid-19>.

Stay alert, protect the NHS, save lives.



We now offer free and chargeable advice to land owners and managers planning works on Sites of Special Scientific Interest through [SSSI Advice Service](#).

To help Developers consider the environment Natural England offers two chargeable services:

- the [Discretionary Advice Service \(DAS\)](#) which can provide advice on planning/licensing proposals;
- the [Pre-submission Screening Service \(PSS\)](#) for European Protected Species mitigation licence application

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Date: 26 June 2020
Our ref: 317179
Your ref: EN010051



National Infrastructure
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Lancaster House
Hampshire Court
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE47YH

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir / Madam,

Application for Non-Material Changes for Sofia Offshore Wind Farm

The Planning Inspectorate has consulted online on 13 May 2020 regarding the application by Sofia Offshore Wind Farm to make a Non-Material Change (NMC) to the Dogger Bank Teesside A&B Development Consent Order (DCO), affecting Sofia Offshore Wind Farm only.

The following constitutes Natural England's formal statutory response.

Increase in hammer energy

Natural England agrees that the increase in hammer energy for monopile installation from 3,000 kJ to 4,000 kJ does not exceed the parameters assessed within the Environmental Statement. Natural England are of a view that the increase in hammer energy will not have an adverse impact upon designated sites or protected species.

This advice is in accordance with the 2018 Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between Natural England and Sofia Offshore Wind Farm Limited (SOWFL). Please note that this SoCG also agreed that mitigation for noise propagation may be required as part of the Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP), which may include noise reduction measures.

Mitigation zone during construction

We note that the application discusses a 500m standard mitigation zone. It is the view of Natural England that the mitigation zone should be the size of the largest Permanent Threshold Shift (PTS) zone, and that mitigation is required to protect marine mammals within the full area of this zone. This should be reflected in the MMMP.

SELCum and pin pile installation

Natural England also notes the SELcum assessment for Permanent Threshold Shift (PTS) within the application. Whilst the harbour porpoise maximum PTS impact range is 250m for monopiles, this extends to over 6km for pin piles (see Table 3.1 of Appendix B). If the applicant decides to use pin piles, Natural England advises that the 6km radius should be used within the MMMP.

Laying of cables between wind turbines and the offshore converter platform

Natural England notes that the environmental impacts of laying cables between the wind turbines and the offshore converter platform was assessed within the original 2014 Environment Statement. Therefore, this activity has already been assessed and will not result in any additional adverse effects to the environment or protected sites.

For any queries relating to the content of this letter please get back in contact with Natural England.

Yours sincerely,

Josh Parker

Marine Lead Adviser
Northumbria Area Team
Natural England