



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place  
London  
SW1A 2AW

Telephone : +44 (0) 300 068 5770  
e-mail: [giles.scott@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:giles.scott@decc.gsi.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.decc.gov.uk](http://www.decc.gov.uk)

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JNCC and NE  
(via email)

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010053

Date: 29 March 2016

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning  
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) –**

**Application by SMart Wind Limited for an Order Granting Development  
Consent for the Hornsea Offshore Wind Farm (Zone 4) – Project Two**

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM NATURAL ENGLAND AND THE JOINT NATURE  
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (JNCC) ON THE APPLICATION FOR THE  
PROPOSED HORNSEA PROJECT TWO OFFSHORE WIND FARM- EN010053**

Following the completion of the examination on 16 December 2015, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on 16 March 2016. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application.

In considering the Report, the Secretary of State notes that since the close of the examination of Hornsea Project Two Offshore Wind Farm, Government has launched a consultation into a possible Special Area of Conservation (pSAC) for Harbour Porpoise: the Southern North Sea pSAC (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/SACconsultation>).

The purpose of this letter is to request joint advice from Natural England and JNCC on the latest conservation advice for the Southern North Sea pSAC to allow the Secretary of State to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment of the potential effects of the Project, both alone and in-combination with other plans and projects, on the Harbour Porpoise feature of this site.

**The deadline for a response is 1 April 2016.**

The response should be submitted by email to [Hornsea2@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Hornsea2@pins.gsi.gov.uk) Please send any hard copy response to Hornsea Two Offshore Wind Farm Project Team, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, c/o the Planning Inspectorate, Eagle Wing 3/18, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN. If you will have difficulty in submitting a response by the consultation deadline, please inform the Project Team.

Your response will be published on the Hornsea Two Offshore Wind Farm project page of the Planning Portal website as soon as possible after 1 April 2016.

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision whether or not to grant development consent for the Hornsea Two Offshore Wind Farm project, and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully

***Giles Scott***

Giles Scott  
Head of National Infrastructure Consents