

Dear Katherine,

I attach the RSPB's letter in relation to the Hornsea 2 Preliminary Meeting on 16 June.

Kind regards,  
James Dawkins

Casework Officer  
Reserves and Protected Areas Department

**UK Headquarters** The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL  
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[rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk)

**Let's give nature a home**



The RSPB is the country's largest nature conservation charity, inspiring everyone to give nature a home. Together with our partners, we protect threatened birds and wildlife so our towns, coast and countryside will teem with life once again. We play a leading role in BirdLife International, a worldwide partnership of nature conservation organisations.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654

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The Planning Inspectorate  
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Bristol, BS1 6PN

1 June 2015

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

FAO Katherine Chapman

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) Section 89 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 4 and Rule 6**

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

**Preliminary Meeting**

Dear Katherine,

Due to other commitments, the RSPB is currently unable to find appropriate members of staff who are available to represent the RSPB at the preliminary meeting. We are continuing to address this issue in the hope we will be able to attend the meeting. We will let you know immediately if we are able to.

However, if we are unable to do so, we wish to raise one important point about the Examination timetable with the Examiners in advance of the preliminary meeting.

The RSPB raised the issue of alternative solutions with regard to the application of the Habitats Regulations to the Hornsea 2 scheme in the penultimate paragraph of our relevant representation. We intend addressing this issue in our written submissions in the context of the ornithological impacts of the Hornsea 2 scheme as we consider this to be an important matter for the Examination to consider.

We have noted that the principal issues set out in the rule 6 letter refers to “Alternative Scenarios” under the “Socio-economic” heading. We have also noted that the issue specific hearings for Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 September refer separately to “Construction impacts and socio-economic matters” and “ornithology”.

At this stage, we are working on the assumption that “alternative scenarios” will cover “alternative solutions” matters under the Habitats Regulations. However, given the importance of this matter and that it is not clear that this is the intention, we would welcome clarification from the Examiners on this point in order to ensure that all parties are aware that this issue needs to be considered.

**UK Headquarters**

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The RSPB is part of BirdLife International,  
a partnership of conservation organisations  
working to give nature a home around the world.

If our interpretation is incorrect, we would welcome clarification of how and when the Examiners propose to address this issue.

Yours sincerely,



James Dawkins  
Casework Officer