

Date: 01/04/2016  
Our ref: 182367  
Your ref: EN010053



Giles Scott  
Dept. Energy and Climate Change  
3 Whitehall Place  
London  
SW1A 2AW

Inverdee House, Baxter Street,  
Aberdeen, AB11 9QA, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0) 1224 266550  
Fax: +44 (0) 1224 896170  
[jncc.gov.uk](http://jncc.gov.uk)

Foss House,  
Kings Pool,  
1-2 Peasholme  
Green, York,  
YO1 7PX

T 02080266510

**VIA EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Giles Scott,

**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 on the application for the proposed Hornsea Two offshore wind farm – EN010053**

Thank you for your request for advice dated 29/03/2016. Please consider this letter as a formal joint response from Natural England (NE) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

The Southern North Sea pSAC for harbour porpoise is currently undergoing consultation, with the formal consultation due to close on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016. Advice on the management of activities within proposed site is currently being developed by the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies, including NE and JNCC. Preliminary advice has been shared and discussed at meetings with Government, Regulatory and Industry stakeholders. However, this is very much work in progress and will continue to be more widely consulted upon in the coming weeks. As such, at the present time, NE and JNCC's advice is that the HRA for the Hornsea 2 Application should be undertaken using the draft Conservation Objectives provided in the pSAC consultation documents.

With regards to the draft Conservation Objective 2: There is no significant disturbance of the species, NE and JNCC's advice is that that the HRA should take into consideration the planned installation of all wind farms within the site as well as other activities with the potential to disturb porpoise, such as geophysical surveys. This is of particular relevance given the scale and number of activities planned to occur within the site in the forthcoming years and how this will result in cumulative effects on the harbour porpoise pSAC. NE and JNCC recommend that the assessment that DECC Oil and Gas are undertaking for their sector is used as a reference. NE and JNCC advisors would be available to meet with DECC colleagues to discuss possible approaches to the assessment at the earliest convenient date.

For any queries relating to the content of this letter please contact us using the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

**Emma Veryan**  
Marine Lead Adviser  
Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire  
E-mail: [emma.veryan@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:emma.veryan@naturalengland.org.uk)  
Telephone: 0208 0266510

**Sonia Mendes**  
Senior Marine Mammal Advisor  
Tel.: 01224 266558  
E-mail: [sonia.mendes@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:sonia.mendes@jncc.gov.uk)