

Date: 21 April 2016
Our ref: 182946
Your ref: EN010053



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

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

T 0208 026 6510

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Giles

Planning Act 2008 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 on the application for the proposed Hornsea Project Two Offshore Windfarm – EN010053

Thank you for your consultation dated 07 April 2016. The following constitutes Natural England's formal statutory response.

Ornithology

The proposals for the Hamford Water potential Special Protection Area (pSPA) for foraging little tern are currently undergoing consultation, with the formal consultation due to close on 21st April 2016. As a matter of Government policy pSPAs are treated as if they are formally classified, therefore the provisions of the Habitats Regulations apply to them. As such, the HRA for Hornsea Project Two should be undertaken using the site's Conservation Objectives, which can be found [here](#).

In the Applicant's HRA Screening Report it was concluded there was no likely significant effect on little tern in relation to the Hamford Water SPA due to the site being 213km away from the Hornsea Project Two site, which is beyond the mean-max foraging range of the species (6km).¹ Additionally, no little terns were recorded in Subzone 2 (+4km buffer) during boat based surveys.²

Therefore, based on the available evidence Natural England advises that the project does not pose a Likely Significant Effect on the Hamford Water pSPA, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

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

Yours sincerely,

Emma Veryan
Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Team
E-mail: emma.veryan@naturalengland.org.uk
Telephone: 0208 026 6510

¹ <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010053/2.%20Post-Submission/Application%20Documents/Reports/12.6.2%20HRA%20Screening%20Report.pdf>

² <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010053/2.%20Post-Submission/Application%20Documents/Environmental%20Statement/7.5.5.1%20Ornithology%20Technical%20Report%20Part%201.pdf>