



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURE RULES)
2010

East Anglia THREE

**Natural England's submission to the Examining Authority in preparation for
the second Issue Specific Hearing on Environmental Issues**

24th October 2016

Dear Examining Authority

This document comprises Natural England's submission to the Examining Authority in regard to the second Issue Specific Hearing on Environmental Issues for the East Anglia THREE offshore wind farm which will be heard on 25 October 2016. As Natural England is unable to attend the Hearing, it is hoped that this submission will provide the Examining Authority with Natural England's current position on the relevant items set out in the Hearing's agenda.

If as part of the hearing the examiners have further questions for Natural England that are not covered in this submission; then please email me at Alex.thompson@naturalengland.org.uk and we will answer them for Deadline 6.

Yours Sincerely

Alex Thompson

Marine Lead Advisor – Major Casework
Natural England

Agenda Item	Agenda Description	Natural England's Submission
3. Onshore Ornithology	Skylark mitigation plan; whether there is a need for this to be secured through the DCO.	Natural England does not have any concerns about the current level of mitigation described for skylark and therefore do not feel there is a need for mitigation to be secured in the DCO
3. Onshore Ornithology	Restrictions on winter working in relation to mitigation of any potential impacts on wintering Brent Geese on the Deben Estuary SPA and Ramsar.	Natural England is now in agreement with the Applicant that there is sufficient signposting in the draft DCO to the embedded mitigation measures which must be incorporated into the ecological management plan (including seasonal working restrictions to mitigate potential impacts on wintering Brent Geese). Specifically, Part 3, section 21(3) of the DCO.
4. Offshore Ornithology	Changes to the East Anglia ONE number of turbines and implications for East Anglia THREE collision modelling.	Natural England's position on this issue is unchanged from that stated in the following document submitted at Deadline 5: <i>'Natural England's comments to the Examining Authority regarding the Updated Collision Risk Model submitted by East Anglia THREE Limited at Deadline 5'</i>
4. Offshore Ornithology	Proposed changes in turbine draught height.	As above, Natural England stated its position on the increase in the turbine draught height at Deadline 5. Further to this Natural England is now in agreement with the applicant that the increased draught height is sufficiently secured by the proposed amendments to the design parameters outlined in schedule 10 of the DCO.
5. Marine Mammals	Ground-truthing/monitoring of noise during pile installation.	Natural England is satisfied that ground-truthing of the noise modelling will be undertaken during the construction as noise monitoring is secured under condition 18 of the DML.

Agenda Item	Agenda Description	Natural England's Submission
5. Marine Mammals	Contribution of acoustic data to the Noise Registry.	Natural England would welcome the submission of noise data to the Noise Registry.
6. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	The Southern North Sea pSAC HRA report.	<p>Since the previous Issue Specific Hearing on Environmental matters on 6th September 2016, Natural England has continued to engage in discussions with the Applicant regarding the Southern North Sea pSAC HRA report. The applicant has subsequently updated their HRA and has submitted this to Natural England for comment and further discussion. It is Natural England's understanding that the Applicant intends to submit this updated HRA at Deadline 6 and Natural England will likewise provide a submission regarding the report at Deadline 6.</p> <p>There remains no update on the current status of the Southern North Sea pSAC.</p>
6. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	The draft Site Integrity Plan.	Natural England submitted our comments regarding the Site Integrity Plan at Deadline 4 in Appendix 1 of the document titled: ' <i>Natural England Written Submission for Deadline 4</i> '. We have no further comment to make at this time.