



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE)
RULES 2010

EAST ANGLIA THREE

The construction and operation of East Anglia Three Wind Farm, a 1,200 MW with up to 172 turbines wind farm located approximately 69km off the coast at Lowestoft covering an area of approximately 305km².

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010056

**NATURAL ENGLAND'S RESPONSE TO THE RULE 17 LETTER
FOR DEADLINE 6**

Dated 8TH November 2016

Number of Turbines in East Anglia ONE when built

As the proposal to reduce the number of turbines to be constructed under the EA1 DCO to 102 has not been legally secured, the ExA must consider this application on the basis that up to 150 turbines can be constructed under the EA1 DCO. Please can NE and RSPB give their views on the basis of 150 turbines being used for assessment purposes?

Are there any implications for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) conclusions?

Natural England submitted comments on the updated Collision Risk Model at Deadline 5 in the document titled: '*Natural England's comments to the Examining Authority regarding the Updated Collision Risk Model submitted by East Anglia THREE Limited at Deadline 5*'. In the document above, Natural England supported the reduction in the EA1 turbines and reduced cumulative impacts. However, while we welcomed the reduced number of EA1 turbines (and reduced cumulative impacts), our initial advice for the EA 3 project, based upon 150 EA1 turbines on cumulative impacts is unchanged.

To re-iterate, Natural England's position on EIA and HRA in-combination impacts (as stated in our Written Summary at Deadline 4) was as follows:

Natural England advises that it was previously agreed with the Applicant that there is no Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEoI) and no significant effect (EIA) for the project alone. However, it is not possible to rule out significant effects when considered cumulatively, but NE considers that the EA3 contribution to the cumulative total is so small that it will not materially alter the overall cumulative mortality figure and any assessment of significance in EIA terms.

While we welcome the proposal to reduce the number of EA1 turbines, a scenario where 150 EA1 turbines are constructed does not change the advice given above.

RULE 17 Letter Question**Natural England's Submission****Draught Height**

It is noted that the most recent Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) between the Applicant and RSPB and the Applicant and NE were provided at Deadline 2 [REP2-049 and REP2-053]. These included a number of outstanding items in relation to offshore ornithology in particular. Given the length of time since their submission, and changes in the design, modelling and assessment during the course of the Examination, please could the Applicant update the SoCGs with these parties and submit for Deadline 6?

The Applicant has confirmed with Natural England that the SoCGs for ornithology and marine mammals will be updated and submitted for Deadline 7. We will work with the Applicant on this.

Southern North Sea Possible Special Area of Conservation (pSAC) and Greater Wash potential Special Protection Area (pSPA)

As the Greater Wash pSPA is now out for public consultation, could NE and RSPB confirm their views in relation to any likely significant effects on the pSPA as a result of the EA3 project?

Natural England can confirm that we do not believe there to be any likely significant effects on the Greater Wash pSPA as a result of the EA3 project.