

Date: 02 November 2020
Our ref: Case: 10572 Consultation: 330917
Your ref: EN010078



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir/Madam

East Anglia TWO (EA2) Offshore Wind Farm

The following constitutes Natural England's formal statutory response for Examination Deadline 1.

Written and Relevant Representations

In the interests of issue resolution Natural England combined our Relevant Representation and Written Representations which were submitted on 27 January 2020 [RR-59]. Therefore, for Deadline 1: we have updated our advice where appropriate based on the Applicant's comments on our Relevant/Written representations [AS-036]; provided our comments on draft documents shared by the Applicant prior to submission; provided additional advice on specific matters; and responded to the first round of Examining Authorities questions.

The document Natural England are submitting at Deadline 1 are as set out in the following thematic appendices:

- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix A1b – NE Comments to Applicant Comments on NE RR [AS-036] Offshore Ornithology
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix A2 – NE Advice on LBBG Apportioning Alde Ore
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix A3 – NE Comments to Appendix 4 Ornithology Precaution Note [AS-041]
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix A4 – NE's Recommended Approach to Assessing Effects on Red-Throated Diver
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix A5 – NE Advice to BEIS On SPA Review of Consents

- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix A6 – Norfolk Boreas Submission [REP-064]
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix A7 - Norfolk Boreas Submission [REP-065]
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix A8 - Norfolk Boreas Submission [REP-066]
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix B1b – NE Comments to Applicant Comments on NE RR [AS-036] Marine Mammals
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix C1b – NE Comments to Applicant Comments on NE RR [AS-036] Terrestrial Ecology
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix C2 –Comments to Outline SPA Crossing Method Statement
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix C3 – NE Comments on Draft Outline Landfall Construction Method Statement
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix D1b – NE Comments to Applicant Comments on NE RR [AS-036] LVIA
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix E1b – NE Comments to Applicant Comments on NE RR [AS-036] SLVIA
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix E2 – NE Comments on Appendix 7:Offshore Windfarm Visibility and Visual Impact Threshold Distances (2012) Journal Article
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix F1b – NE Comments to Applicant Comments on NE RR [AS-036] All Other Matters
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix F2b – NE Comments to Appendix 5 Outer Thames Estuary Cabling Note [AS-042]
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix F4– NE Comments to Appendix 6:East Anglia TWO Disposal Site Locations (Windfarm Site) [AS-043]AS
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix G1b – NE Comments to Applicant Comments on NE RR [AS-036] DCO DML
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix I1b Natural England Risks and Issues Log
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix J1 – NE Review of RR from Other Parties
- EN010078 330917 EA2 Appendix K1 – NE Response to ExA Written Questions

NB: Going forwards we are content to continue with electronic correspondence

Site visit locations and attendance

Natural England’s advice provided on the Rule 6 letter dated 13 August 2020 in relation to location of site visits and attendance remains unchanged. Therefore we have no further comment at this time.

Issue Specific Hearings

Natural England notes the Examination timetable [Rule 8] has included a series of Issue Specific Hearings (ISH). As previous set out in our Rule 6 response letter Natural England considers this to be a written process. The decision on attendance at any subsequent ISH will be based on the outstanding issues, hearing agendas/objectives and ensuring best value. However, Natural England will continue to engage with the Applicant and other interested parties throughout the Examination to ensure issues are progressed and wherever possible resolved. For example we are currently engaging with the Applicant and other interested parties in a series of workshops with the intention to address some of the outstanding issues.

For all hearings we request that an agenda with times, themes and areas of discussions is provided by the Planning inspectorate at least 7 days before. Based on our experience from other NSIPs it would be helpful to Natural England and our specialists if the ISH agendas could be focused on specific questions from the ExA. This will enable us to appropriately prepare for the hearing; give due consideration to any issues both internally and externally with the Applicant beforehand; and provide robust evidence-based advice to the ExA. This will reduce the need for further discussion and advice post ISHs, prior to the next Deadline.

Our non-attendance at hearings should not be construed as a lack of concern on outstanding issues, or a lack of willingness to engage. As detailed above we are committed to proactively engaging with parties on this project and to gaining the best possible outcome.

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

Yours sincerely

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