



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES

2010

East Anglia ONE North Offshore Wind Farm

Appendix C8 to the Natural England Deadline 7 Submission

Natural England's Comments to the Ecology Survey Results [REP6-035]

For:

The construction and operation of East Anglia ONE North Offshore Wind Farm, a 800MW wind farm which could consist of up to 67 turbines, generators and associated infrastructure, located 36km from Lowestoft and 42km from Southwold.

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010077

4th March 2021



Natural England's Natural England's Comments to the Ecology Survey Results [REP6-035]

This document is applicable to both the East Anglia ONE North (EA1N) and East Anglia TWO (EA2) applications, and therefore is endorsed with the yellow and blue icon used to identify materially identical documentation in accordance with the Examining Authority's (ExA) procedural decisions on document management of 23rd December 2019. Whilst for completeness of the record this document has been submitted to both Examinations, if it is read for one project submission there is no need to read it again for the other project.

Introduction

This document provides Natural England's response in relation to the Ecology Survey Results [REP6-035].

Summary

1. At this time Natural England believes it would be inappropriate to provide further scientific advice based on this survey alone due to survey limitations.
2. Whilst Natural England notes the Applicants want to be helpful in providing the necessary evidence, unfortunately the survey hasn't followed standard best practice in relation to the timing and ground conditions. Many vegetation species are only evident in spring or summer and these are really important in identifying the habitat type and its quality. To have the degree of confidence required in habitat surveys at this time of year we would expect a botanist with FISC 5/6 would undertake the survey.
3. In addition, for undertaking surveys at the appropriate time of year and appropriate level, we advise that a National Vegetation Classification survey might be required to prove or disprove the quality of the habitats.
4. Whilst the Applicant believes that the February 2021 survey supports their characterisation surveys, there remains uncertainty and significant time has elapsed since the surveys undertaken to support the environmental statement. Therefore, it may be of help to the Applicant to consult the following as there may be existing evidence to support their surveys:
 - a) Local Record Centre to check for species records.
 - b) the Vice-county BSBI recorder - they will have likely visited the area as part of the current Atlas project where they recording all plants on a tetrad basis (and they will have visited at a good



time of year within the last 2-3 years). The data may or may not be submitted to the local record centre, <https://bsbi.org/local-botany>. The <https://bsbi.org/maps> can be accessed by anyone to obtain a plant site list.