



11th March 2022

Gareth Leigh
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Dear Mr Leigh

**East Anglia ONE North Limited (the “Applicant”)
The Proposed East Anglia ONE North Offshore Windfarm Order
Application Ref. EN010077**

East Anglia ONE North Clarifications in relation to matters arising in relation to red-throated diver in the Outer Thames Estuary Special Protection Area

We refer to the Secretary of State’s letter dated 20th December 2021 and confirm that we have continued to have dialogue with Natural England regarding compensation matters in relation to red-throated diver (“RTD”) in the Outer Thames Estuary Special Protection Area (“OTE SPA”). As a result and as part of that continued consultation, we would like to provide clarifications on two matters:

1. In our submission dated 31st January 2022, we provided an updated version of the Offshore Ornithology Without Prejudice Compensation Measures, which contains details regarding RTD monitoring at paragraph 298. In order to provide greater clarity we are providing more detail regarding the proposed specification and purpose of the RTD monitoring. We can confirm that this monitoring would include a programme of aerial digital surveys within the OTE SPA over two wintering periods to collect details on wintering RTD abundance and distribution. The surveys would provide a population census and a distribution map per survey. The key survey details are as follows:
 - a. Area of survey: The area of the survey will encompass the OTE SPA and an additional marine area of up to 10km beyond the OTE SPA boundary.
 - b. Survey frequency: Given the variability shown in the 2013 and 2018 surveys there would be three surveys per wintering period (1st November to 31st March) during pre-construction of the East Anglia ONE North offshore windfarm or the East Anglia TWO offshore windfarm (whichever is the first to commence construction) and repeated again during the operational phase of the East Anglia ONE North offshore windfarm or the East Anglia TWO offshore (whichever is the later to enter operation), resulting in six surveys spread over two wintering periods.

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- c. Survey method: To collect robust data to undertake transparent academic analysis, digital aerial surveys will be used with a 15% coverage.
- d. Analysis: The survey results will be used to create a new OTE SPA RTD displacement effect model which also considers environmental and anthropogenic covariates, including operational windfarms.

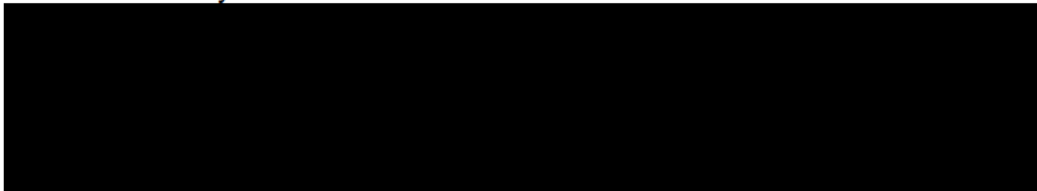
This commitment is also being made in relation to the proposed East Anglia TWO offshore windfarm order.

We recognise that undertaking a monitoring and assessment exercise is the first step to strengthening conservation outcomes. We therefore propose to include in the plan for the work of the red-throated diver compensation steering group as set out in Part 6 of Schedule 18 of the draft Development Consent Order to support the creation of, as well as convene and host, a partnership with relevant authorities and user representation. The aim of the partnership will be to improve understanding of disturbance and displacement effects on RTD within the OTE SPA, and to identify and implement opportunities to reduce these effects. The Crown Estate and Defra have expressed their support for the formation of the partnership, and Natural England has agreed to join.

- 2. By way of further clarification we would also note that during the Examination, Natural England and the Applicant discussed the core winter months which is the time period in which the vessel movement restrictions within the Outer Thames Estuary SPA would apply. In their submission dated 31st January 2022 (paragraph 9 of *Appendix 4: Natural England's Comments on the Applicant's Response to the Outer Thames Estuary SPA in Relation to Red-Throated Diver Displacement from Vessel Movements*), Natural England advised, that based upon further research and consideration of the matter, they have come to the view that the core winter months should be extended out to 31st March. In light of this submission, the Applicant has amended its legal arrangements with East Anglia ONE Limited and East Anglia THREE Limited to extend out the vessel rerouting until 31st March.

We would be grateful if you could kindly acknowledge safe receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully



Brian McGrellis, Senior Project Manager
East Anglia ONE North Limited