

Date: 26 October 2023
Our ref: 10571/10572 454620
Your ref: EA1N/EA2 LBBIMP



Planning Inspectorate
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

East Anglia ONE North (EA1N) & East Anglia TWO (EA2) Lesser Black-Backed Gull Implementation and Monitoring Plan (LBBIMP)

Thank you for your consultation dated 06 October 2023. The following constitutes Natural England's formal statutory response.

In providing this response, Natural England has reviewed the following document(s):

- Lesser Black-Backed Gull Implementation and Monitoring Plan (EA1N-GEN-ENV-PLN-IBR-000003/EA2-GEN-ENV-PLN-IBR-000004, Rev. 2, July 2023)
- Lesser Black-Backed Gull Steering Group Agreement Log (EA1N-GEN-ENV-PLN-IBR-000004/EA2-GEN-ENV-PLN-IBR-000003, Rev. 2, July 2023)

Natural England's Advice

Following the steering group meetings with Vattenfall's Norfolk Projects in 2022, it was agreed that those matters agreed upon for Norfolk Boreas and Norfolk Vanguard are also applicable to the East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO projects. Therefore, following our advice for the Norfolk Boreas and Norfolk Vanguard LBBIMP (ref. 413395, November 2022), we largely agree to the contents of the EA1N and EA2 LBBIMP, and agree that the EA1N and EA2 Lesser Black-Backed Gull Steering Group Agreement Log is an accurate reflection of our position on all matters for which we wish to engage on.

However, we note that the Applicant has not taken into account our previous advice (ref. DAS/10571 & 10572, June 2023) provided via our Discretionary Advice Service prior to formal consultation. Natural England recommended having a single Plan for bycatch rather than a 'stand-alone LBBIMP' covering the bycatch, given the bycatch research project is mentioned in the HRA and DCO/dML for both lesser black-backed gull and red throated diver. Having two LBBIMPs, and potentially two bycatch plans (for a single programme of work), has the potential to cause confusion as well as duplication of effort for EA1N/EA2 and for stakeholders. The Applicant will instead be "*developing an updated Plan of Work and a second LBBIMP in respect of ornithological by-catch research project as set out in Appendix 7 of the Offshore Ornithology Without Prejudice Compensation Measures (thereafter referred to as 'by-catch LBBIMP')*." Our previous recommendation on producing a single Plan still stands.

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

Yours sincerely,

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