



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES  
2010

East Anglia TWO Offshore Wind Farm

**Appendix A2 to the Natural England Deadline 1 Submission**

**Further Advice of Lesser Black-Backed Gull (LBBG) Apportioning at Alde-Ore  
Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA)**

For:

The construction and operation of East Anglia Two Offshore Windfarm, a 900MW windfarm which could consist of up to 75 turbines, generators and associated infrastructure, located 37km from Lowestoft and 32km from Southwold.

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010078

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2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020



## **Appendix A2 Natural England's Further Advice on Lesser Black-Backed Gull (LBBG) Apportioning at Alde-Ore Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) in relation to EA1N and EA2 offshore wind farms**

This document is applicable to both the East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO 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.

In our Relevant and Written Representations, Natural England raised the issue of the potential in-combination impacts from EA1N and EA2 on LBBG from the Alde-Ore Estuary SPA from collision. However, Natural England did not make any specific comments in our Representations on the Applicant's apportioning of impacts to LBBG from the Alde-Ore Estuary SPA (as set out in Section 4.5.1 of the Information to support Appropriate Assessment, Document Ref: 5.3). Our advice on this matter is as follows:

Natural England advises that a range of potential breeding season apportioning rates are considered for the project alone to reflect the uncertainty. This is consistent with that provided during the Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas examinations. For Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas the range advised by Natural England was 10%-30%. However given that EA2 and EA1N are located closer to the Alde-Ore colony than the Norfolk projects, we consider that the range of apportioning values needs to reflect the closer proximity of EA1N/EA2 and therefore potentially higher utilisation of the proposed area by LBBG from the SPA. Therefore, we would welcome discussions with the Applicant to identify an appropriate range for breeding season apportioning of predicted collision mortalities to the Alde- Ore Estuary SPA. We suggest that consideration is given to other LBBG breeding colonies also located within foraging range of the EA1N and EA2 sites (including town colonies), their proximity to the OWFs compared to the Alde-Ore and also the sizes of these colonies compared to the Alde-Ore colony (ideally data used on colony sizes should be contemporaneous with the baseline survey data). Consideration should also be given to foraging area segregation of colonies.