

Date: 04 March 2021
Our ref: Case: 10572 Consultation: 345057
Your ref: EN010077



National Infrastructure Planning
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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 7.

1. Natural England Deadline 6 Submissions

Natural England has considered the documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 6. We would like to highlight to the Examining Authority that only new documents (version 1) or revised versions of outline documents/plans where amendments have been formally made will be responded to by Natural England at each relevant Deadline. As such, the documents Natural England is submitting at Deadline 7 are as set out in the following thematic appendices:

- EN010078 345057 EA1N Appendix A14b - Natural England's Response to Applicants Response to NE's Legal Submissions Concerning Displacement of RTD in OTE [REP6-020] – Deadline 7.
- EN010078 345057 EA1N Appendix A15b - Natural England's Comments to HRA Derogation Case [REP6-044] and Offshore Ornithology without Prejudice Compensation Measures including Prey Availability [REP6-045, REP6-046] – Deadline 7.
- EN010078 345057 EA1N Appendix A18 - TRACKED version of the Applicant's Displacement of red-throated divers in the OTE SPA [REP6-019] Deadline 7.

- EN010078 345057 EA1N Appendix C8 - Natural England's Comments to the Ecology Survey Results [REP6-035] – Deadline 7.
- EN010078 345057 EA1N Appendix F9 Natural England's All Other Matters Update - Deadline 7.

2. Risk and Issues Log

Natural England will not be submitting an updated Risk and Issues Log into examination at Deadline 7. This is because there have been limited changes in the short time between Deadline 6 and Deadline 7. We will submit an updated log at Deadline 8 to reflect any progress and/or changes in our position that have occurred.

3. Documents Deferred to Deadline 8

Due to the short time scale between Deadline 6 and Deadline 7, Natural England has had to prioritise our review. Therefore, our response on the following documents, submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 6, is deferred to Deadline 8:

- Code of Construction Practice [REP6-004].
- Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy Version 3 [REP6-007].
- Outline SPA Crossing Method Statement [REP6-036].
- Outline Watercourse Crossing Method Statement [REP6-041].
- Onshore Ecology Clarification Note [REP6-025].

4. Deadline 7 Responses and Attendance at Issue Specific Hearings (ISH)

As stated in our Deadline 6 cover letter, Natural England will not be attending the March ISHs in order to prioritise the provision of our statutory written advice and resolution of issues with the Applicant. However, we continue to welcome ongoing engagement with the ExA through a written process, with any questions the ExA wishes to ask us being sent through a Rule 17 letter. Natural England will make best endeavours to provide comprehensive answers to all such questions for Deadline 8.

5. ISH 7 Actions – Updated at Deadline 7

Natural England's update to outstanding ISH7 actions are as follows:

	Action	Party	Deadline	Natural England Updated Response at Deadline 7
7.	<p>Harbour purpose of the Southern North Sea SAC</p> <p>In light of the Applicants' agreement to return the scope of the SIP to the mitigation of in-</p>	NE	D7	Natural England is aware that an updated SIP document will be submitted by

	combination effects only, NE to provide an update on its position in terms of the comment on the project alone effects on the SNS SAC.			the Applicant at Deadline 7. Therefore Natural England will respond to this document at Deadline 8.
9.	<p>In-Principle Site Integrity Plan (IP SIP) Please respond to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you agree that the IP SIP provides an appropriate framework to agree mitigation measures and that the scope of the measures within the IP SIP are appropriate? Are you satisfied that through the IP SIP, the Applicant will use the most appropriate measures for the Project based on best knowledge, evidence and proven available technology at the time of construction? Do you have confidence that the mitigation measures contained in the IP SIP are deliverable? 	NE MMO	D6	Natural England is aware that an updated SIP document will be submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 7. Therefore Natural England will respond to this document at Deadline 8.

6. ISH 8: Seascape Actions – Updated at Deadline 7

Natural England's update to outstanding ISH7 actions are as follows:

	Action	Party	Deadline	NE Response
5.	<p>Visual impact The Applicants to address the suggestion in NPS-EN1 paragraph 5.9.19 that “applicants draw attention . . . to any examples of existing permitted infrastructure . . . with a similar magnitude of sensitive receptors”, in order to frame the ExAs consideration of effects on the AONB, by D6; and NE to respond by D7.</p>	Applicants NE	D6 D7	Natural England will consider any submitted document. However, please note that such an exercise is unlikely to change Natural England's advice submitted at D3 and D5
6.	<p>Reference to Examining Authorities' Site Inspection Notes Interested Parties referring to the ExAs' understanding of seascapes issues may wish to consider the following site inspections notes in the Examinations Libraries that provide factual references to the locations inspected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Anglia ONE North: Site Inspections in the pre-examination stage. 	All informative		As our Deadline 7 response, if NE have any comments on the site inspections notes, we will submit them at Deadline 8.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• East Anglia ONE North: Site Inspections in the Examination stage.• The equivalent notes have also been published in the East Anglia TWO Examination Library but as they are identical to those published in the East Anglia ONE North Examination Library, they do not need to be read twice.			
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For any queries relating to the content of this letter please contact me using the details provided below.

Yours sincerely

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