

Date: 25 March 2021
Our ref: Case: 10572 Consultation: 346707
Your ref: EN010078



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 8.

1. Natural England Deadline 8 Submissions

Natural England has reviewed the documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 7. 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 8 are as set out in the following thematic appendices:

- EN010078 346707 EA2 Appendix A19 - NE Comments and Conclusions on EIA Scale Impacts Deadline 8
- EN010078 346707 EA2 Appendix A20 - NE Red-Throated Diver Displacement Clarification Note Deadline 8
- EN010078 346707 EA2 Appendix B3b - NE further Comments on MMMP [REP7-029] and SIP [REP7-032] Deadline 8
- EN010078 346707 EA2 Appendix C9 - NE Comments to D6 and D7 Terrestrial Ecology Documents Deadline 8

- EN010078 346707 EA2 Appendix E4 - NE Comments to the Applicant's 'Think Piece' [REP6-049] Deadline 8)
- EN010078 346707 EA2 Appendix F10 - NE Update on All Other Matters Deadline 8
- EN010078 346707 EA2 Appendix G5 - NE Comments on Updated DCO Version 5 Deadline 8
- EN010078 346707 EA2 Appendix I1f – NE Risk and Issues Log Deadline 8
- EN010078 346707 EA2 Appendix K6 - NE Response to Outstanding ISH Actions Deadline 8
- EN010078 346707 EA2 Appendix K7 - NE Response to Rule 17 Letter Deadline 8
- EN010078 346707 EA2 Appendix K8 - NE Comments on Report on the Implication for European Sites (RIES) [PD-033] Deadline 8

2. Natural England's Responses to Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) Actions and Rule 17 Letter

Natural England had outstanding actions from ISH 7 and 8 as well as new actions from ISH 14 and 15. We have collated responses to the actions from both hearings into Appendix K6.

We have also created a separate Appendix K7 for the response to the Rule 17 letter of 17th March 2021.

3. Letters of No Impediment (LONI)

We have previously advised the Applicant to apply for three LONIs (water vole, badger and great-crested newt). The Applicant recently confirmed they will not be applying for a LONI for water vole as none were observed during ecology surveys. Natural England have outstanding issues with the greater crested newt and badger applications, these are highlighted within the LONIs which will be submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 8.

4. Best Practice Protocol for Minimising Disturbance to Red-Throated Diver

Natural England has reviewed the updated document submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 7 [REP7-045, REP7-046]. Natural England are content that previous comments have been addressed and have no further comments to make as we understand an updated version will be submitted into examination at Deadline 8. Natural England will respond to this updated document at Deadline 9.

5. EA1N & EA2 Environmental Statement Appendix 6.2 Relationship of Onshore & Offshore Plans Secured by the DCO

Natural England has reviewed both EA1N and EA2 Environmental Statement Appendix 6.2 Relationship of Onshore and Offshore Plans Secured by the DCO [REP7-023, REP7-024]. We have no comments to make on these documents.

6. Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan (OOMP) [REP7-028]

Natural England considers that deployment of cable and scour protection for up to 5 years post construction should be subject to a new marine licence application. This applies only to areas where no cable or scour protection was deployed during construction. Therefore, we cannot fully agree to the OOMP [REP7-028] plan until this issue is resolved. For further detail on this issue please see our relevant and written representation [RR-059] and Appendix F10 and Appendix G5 at Deadline 8.

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

Yours sincerely

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