



National Infrastructure Planning
The Planning Inspectorate
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The Wildlife Trusts references: 20024817 & 20024818

BY EMAIL

24 June 2021

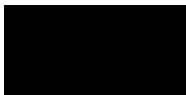
Dear East Anglia ONE North Case Team & East Anglia TWO Case Team,

The Wildlife Trusts response to the Rule 17 request for further information

This is The Wildlife Trusts (TWT) response to the Examining Authority for East Anglia One North (EA1N) and East Anglia Two's (EA2) Rule 17 request for further information. This letter applies to both the EA1N and EA2 wind farm projects.

Our comments on question R17QF.1 directed to TWT is provided in Appendix A.

Yours faithfully



Dr Lissa Batey
Head of Marine Conservation
The Wildlife Trusts

Appendix A

No.	Directed to	Examining Authority question	TWT Comment
R17QF.1	The Applicants, Natural England, Marine Management Organisation and The Wildlife Trusts	<p>R17QF.1: Southern North Sea (SNS) Special Area of Conservation (SAC): Impact-effect pathways The Applicant's assessment [APP-043 and APP-046] in relation to the harbour porpoise feature of the SNS SAC excluded Adverse Effect on Integrity for impact-effect pathways relating to disturbance from vessels, collision risk changes to prey resource, changes to water quality and barrier effects.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, is it agreed with Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation and The Wildlife Trusts that the only potential impact-effect pathway relates to disturbance from underwater noise?</p>	<p>TWT broadly agrees with this statement. Our primary concern for the harbour porpoise feature of the SNS SAC is the potential for adverse impacts from underwater noise in-combination with other noisy activities in the region.</p> <p>This is because there is currently no regulatory mechanism in place to manage underwater noise impacts on the SNS SAC from multiple SIPs. TWT is hopeful that this mechanism will be in place by the time construction commences on this project, through the efforts of the Underwater Noise Strategic Advisory Group, and we will continue to work closely with all stakeholders on this. However in the interim, the planning inspectorate may want to consider putting alternative measures in place for this project.</p> <p>It is possible that the impacts mentioned will work to exacerbate the negative impacts from underwater noise disturbance, but each impact is unlikely to cause adverse effect on the SNS SAC in isolation.</p>