



## **Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm**

# Appendix 22.11

**Consultation Responses** 

**Environmental Statement** 



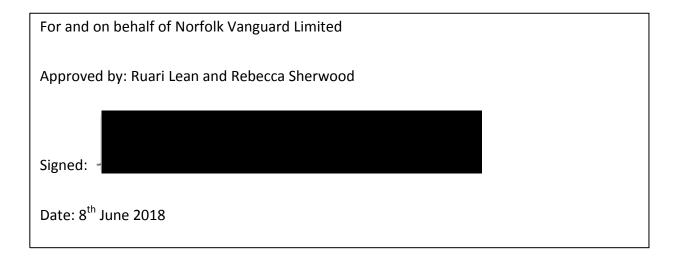




## **Environmental Impact Assessment** Environmental Statement

Document Reference: PB4476-005-02211

June 2018



For and on behalf of Royal HaskoningDHV

Drafted by: Gordon Campbell

Approved by: Jon Allen

Signed:

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018

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| Date     | Issue<br>No. | Remarks / Reason for Issue                      | Author | Checked | Approved |
|----------|--------------|---|--------|---------|----------|
| 01/05/18 | 01D          | First draft for Norfolk Vanguard Limited review | GC     | ST      | JA       |
| 25/05/18 | 01F          | Final for ES submission                         | GC     | ST      | JA       |





#### **Tables**

Table 22.1 Consultation Responses

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### **22 APPENDIX 22.11**

**Table 22.1** Consultation Responses

| Table 22.1 Consultation Responses |  |   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Consultee                         | Document<br>/ Date<br>received         | Comment   | Response / where addressed in the ES  |  |
| Secretary of State                | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | The Secretary of State notes and welcomes the surveys proposed in Table 3.9 of the Scoping Report and advises that their scope and methodology be agreed with relevant stakeholders.  | No action required.   |  |
| Secretary of State                | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | The Scoping Report has identified the need to consider indirect impacts on statutory and non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation through cable routing; however, direct impacts should also be considered if the onshore cable corridor does not avoid such sites.   | Direct impacts, where appropriate, are considered within section 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.   |  |
| Secretary of State                | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | The ES should identify the locations where there would be loss of important habitats for example, hedgerow and/or ancient woodland.   | Loss of habitat is<br>assessed in sections<br>22.7 and 22.8 of<br>Chapter 22 Onshore<br>Ecology.  |  |
| Secretary of State                | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | The ES should set out the measures for reinstating habitats which are removed during construction.  | Reinstatement is set out in sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.   |  |
| Secretary of State                | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | In accordance with EN-1, the Applicant should demonstrate the efforts made to ensure that activities will be confined to the minimum areas required for the works.  | Noted. Activities will be confined to the minimum areas required for the works.   |  |
| Secretary of State                | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | The Applicant should ensure that all mitigation measures proposed within the ES are secured and with this in mind the Secretary of State welcomes the proposal for a project specific Ecological Management Plan. A draft of the plan should be provided with the DCO application. Consideration should also be made to any potential overlapping objectives of ecological and landscaping mitigation measures that may be proposed and secured through management plans. | A draft Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (OLEMS) (document reference 8.7) will form part of the documents which are submitted with the final DCO application. |  |
| Secretary of State                | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | In terms of potential disturbance to protected species, the assessment should take account of impacts on noise, vibration and air quality (including dust); cross reference should be made to these specialist reports.   | Where this assessment<br>draws on other<br>chapters, they have<br>been referred to within<br>sections 22.7 and 22.8<br>of Chapter 22 Onshore<br>Ecology. Other                    |  |





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|                                   |  |   | chapters referred to in<br>Chapter 22 Onshore<br>Ecology are<br>summarised in section<br>22.1 of Chapter 22<br>Onshore Ecology.   |
| Secretary of State                | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | The ES should include a thorough assessment of the impact of the proposals on habitats and/or species listed as 'Habitats and Species of Principal Importance' within the England Biodiversity List.  | Habitats and Species of<br>Principal Importance<br>are considered within<br>sections 22.7 and 22.8<br>of Chapter 22 Onshore<br>Ecology.   |
| Secretary of State                | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | Although the potential for the spread of non-<br>native invasive species has been identified at<br>paragraph 967 of the Scoping Report, Table 3.8<br>does not identify this effect. The ES should<br>include a detailed assessment of non-native<br>invasive species present in water bodies<br>and/or sensitive receptors along the cable<br>route, together with a management plan to<br>prevent the spread of these species (and any<br>disease they carry) to uninfected receptors. | Invasive species are considered within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.  |
| Secretary of State                | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | The ES should set out in full the potential risk to EPS [European Protected Species] and confirm if any EPS licences will be required.  | EPS are considered within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.   |
| Hindolveston Parish<br>Council    | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | It is requested that due care is taken to protect woodland (especially ancient woodland), meadows and areas that are habitats for wildlife, plants, insects even if these sites to not have special designations. For instance, this would include Roadside Nature Reserves [RNR] (managed by Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT)) e.g. at Brays Lane in Hindolveston and similar near Guestwick leading to Wood Dalling.  | Woodland is considered within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. Due to the refinement of the onshore cable route, these RNRs are now located outside of the study area and therefore will not be impacted by the project. |
| Forestry<br>Commission<br>England | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | Having looked at the Scoping Report it does provide maps of ancient woodland in the onshore search area including those designated as SSSIs. We would hope that these will be avoided by careful routing. The Forestry Commission would normally refer developers to the technical information set out in Natural England and Forestry Commission's Standing  | Ancient woodland is considered in line with Standing Advice within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.  |





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|                       |  | Advice on Ancient Woodland.  |   |
| Environment<br>Agency | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | The EIA should include a detailed assessment of invasive non-native species present in water bodies and/or sensitive receptors along the cable route, together with a management plan to prevent the spread of these species (and any disease they carry) to uninfected receptors. For example, the cable route is shown to pass through different parts of the River Wensum where American signal crayfish and crayfish plague are presentWe would expect that within the EIA the cable route would be assessed for the presence of invasive species and associated diseases detailing how spread will be prevented   | Invasive species are considered within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology and any required mitigation measures for the management of invasive species are captured in the OLEMS.  |
| Natural England       | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | The cable route has potential to directly affect both the hydrological processes and habitats present within the River Wensum SAC. There are many springs and seepages along the length of the river which would not be detectable during a desk study, and if missed has the potential to damage the river system, resulting in changes to the direction and speed of flow of the river. Furthermore, there are floodplain meadows that form an integral part of the SAC that may be directly damaged by setting up the start of the underground cable within the wrong location. We therefore recommend that prior to any decisions on location a hydro-ecologist is employed to survey the area, to check for seepages/springs and to review where to place the cable to avoid damaging the habitats associated with the SAC. We would welcome placement of the cable as far away from the river as feasible, to protect the habitats and wildlife present in close proximity to the river.  There is potential for the works to spread invasive species between the rivers and other features. For example, it would be possible to contaminate the sites selected for crayfish relocations around North Norfolk, by re introducing crayfish plague to these sites. Other species in this area that could be transmitted to other locations include the Chinese Mitten Crab and Killer Shrimpit is very important that an invasive species | A geo-hydromorphological survey has been undertaken and its findings are reported in Chapter 20 Water Resources and Flood Risk.  A botanical survey of the floodplain has been undertaken in July 2017 and an invertebrate survey for the Desmoulin's whorl snail has been undertaken in July 2017. Findings are summarised in section 22.6 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. Invasive species are considered within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology and any required mitigation measures for the management of invasive species are captured in the OLEMS (document reference 8.7).  An outline CoCP (OCoCP) (document |





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|                 |  | protocol is included in the Environmental Statement. There is also potential to pollute the river during construction or maintenance and therefore we expect the Environmental Statement explain how it is intended to avoid these issues and to include an Environmental Construction Management Plan (CEMP) to protect the river from pollution during works. A qualifying species of the Wensum SAC is Desmoulin's whorl snail. This species is likely to be present throughout the area surrounding the Wensum, being particularly prevalent in locally designated greenspace nearby such as Lenwade and Witchingham Common. A survey should therefore be carried out along the route, which should take place mid to late summer. | reference 8.1) forms part of the documents which are submitted with the final DCO application. The final CoCP (DCO requirement 20) will include details of measures to protect the river from pollution during works. |
| Natural England | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | Further sites that will need consideration along the route are Cawston and Marsham Heaths, Foxley Wood, Honeypot Wood and Beetley and Hoe Meadows SSSIs, all of which are designated as representative of rare habitats.   | These sites are considered within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.   |
| Natural England | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | We recommend that the Environmental Statement should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of special interest within all designated sites that have potential to be affected by the cable route and should identify such mitigation measures as may be required in order to avoid, minimise or reduce any significant impacts.  Natural England advises that the Environmental Statement should consider any impacts upon local wildlife or geological sites and avoid these sites where possible, or mitigate for any impacts.   | Designated and local sites are considered within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.  |
| Natural England | Scoping<br>Opinion<br>November<br>2016 | We recommend that the Environmental Statement should assess the impact of all phases of the proposal on protected species.  We recommend a thorough assessment of the impact of the proposals on habitats and/or species listed as 'Habitats and Species of Principal Importance'.   | Protected species and<br>Habitats and Species of<br>Principal Importance<br>are considered within<br>sections 22.7 and 22.8<br>of Chapter 22 Onshore<br>Ecology.  |
| Natural England | January<br>2017<br>ETG<br>Minutes      | Effort to collect information for botanical species in sensitive habitats should be undertaken during the summer survey window (the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey was  | A botanical survey was<br>undertaken in July 2017<br>in sensitive habitat<br>surrounding the River  |





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|                           |                                    | undertaken outside this window).   | Wensum SAC.   |
| Natural England           | January<br>2017<br>ETG<br>Minutes  | A geohydromorphological survey should be undertaken for the River Wensum.  | A geo-<br>hydromorphological<br>survey has been<br>undertaken for the<br>River Wensum and is<br>reported in Chapter 20<br>Water Resources and<br>Flood Risk.                                    |
| Norfolk County<br>Council | January<br>2017<br>ETG<br>Minutes  | Requested that those designated sites immediately outside of the survey area be considered within the assessment, e.g. Booton Common and Pigney's Wood (not yet designated).       | These sites and others within 1km of the survey area have been considered within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.  |
| Norfolk County<br>Council | January<br>2017<br>ETG<br>Minutes  | Barbastelle radio-tracking data from Norwich<br>Northern Distributer Road and the Norfolk<br>'Living Map' data to be included, where<br>available.                                 | Norfolk 'Living Map'<br>data is detailed in<br>section 22.6 of Chapter<br>22 Onshore Ecology.   |
| Norfolk County<br>Council | March<br>2017<br>Email<br>response | Happy that the Phase 2 surveys can be undertaken as proposed and should provide appropriate evidence to inform the ecological baseline.  | Noted.  |
| Natural England           | April 2017<br>Email<br>response    | No comment to make on the [proposed] Phase 2 survey methodology, and are satisfied with the methodology as set out in the Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey report.                  | Noted.  |
| Environment<br>Agency     | April 2017<br>Email<br>response    | Details of the waterbodies in Norfolk known to<br>support white clawed crayfish. These are:<br>Rivers Stiffkey, Glaven and Weybourne Beck.   | White-clawed crayfish<br>Austropotamobius<br>pallipes have been<br>considered within<br>sections 22.7 and 22.8<br>of Chapter 22 Onshore<br>Ecology.   |
| Norfolk County<br>Council | July 2017<br>ETG<br>Minutes        | Bat survey methodology as presented in the Interim Survey Report [Document Reference: PB4476-004-0224] needs to be revised to provide clarity on the data collection methods used. | Bat Survey Methodology Update produced and issued to ETG on 20/09/2017. No further comments from ETG. Methodology therefore considered acceptable. Final methodology used presented in Appendix |





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|  |                                      |  | 22.4.  |
| Norfolk County<br>Council  | July 2017<br>ETG<br>Minutes          | Dragonfly survey undertaken too late to survey for adults. If the project needs to confirm Norfolk hawker presence / likely absence, then a larval survey is required.   | Updates to the project design following PEIR means that those areas identified as providing suitable habitats for Norfolk hawker dragonfly are no longer affected by the project and therefore there is no requirement for any further surveys to be undertaken.                 |
| Norfolk County<br>Council /<br>Environment<br>Agency / Norfolk<br>Wildlife Trust | July 2017<br>ETG<br>Minutes          | Agree within [sic] conclusions of HRA onshore screening.   | Noted.   |
| Norfolk Wildlife<br>Trust  | July 2017<br>ETG<br>Minutes          | Although Hornsea Project Three passes much closer to Booton Common SSSI, potential cumulative impacts are to be considered.  | Potential cumulative impacts upon Norfolk Valley Fens SAC are considered in the Report to inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) (document reference 5.3) and cumulative impacts upon Booton Common SSSI considered within section 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. |
| Breckland Council  | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | It is noted that an Outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan will be produced to accompany the Environmental Statement when the application is submitted. That will be crucial to understanding the mitigation and improvement measures that are required and further assessment will be carried out by a specialist ecologist on behalf of the council during the consultation period for that. | Noted.   |
| Environment<br>Agency  | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Overall this is a thorough onshore Ecology report for the proposed Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm Project (Chapter 22). It is acknowledged that some elements of the ecological survey data are not yet available, and that the details of the Outline  | Protection of habitats<br>and avoidance of<br>designated sites are set<br>out in sections 22.7 and<br>22.8 of Chapter 22<br>Onshore Ecology.   |





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|                       |                                      | Landscape Environmental Management Strategy [OLEMS] are not included. This operation will directly affect approximately 600ha of land, we would like to remind the applicant of their duty to protect and where possible to enhance the priority habitats and species likely to be impacted by this project in line with the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. We advise consultation with Natural England and Norfolk Wildlife Trust regarding impacts to designated sites. We would expect this project to aim towards no net loss of designated sites. Permanent loss is unacceptable.  |  |
| Environment<br>Agency | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | 22.7.3.4.3 Impact 4. Woodland trees and scrub: Point 282. We support the use of trenchless crossing techniques (HDD) for any area of mixed deciduous woodland. We would encourage the applicant to consider the potential for creating woodland corridors to increase habitat continuity and create net overall habitat gain. Woodland provides multiple benefits including an essential role in reducing flooding in upper catchments and reducing soil erosion and sediment flow into watercourses.   | Noted.   |
| Environment<br>Agency | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | 22.7.3.5.1 Impact 5. Hedgerows - Point 292. The Onshore Cable corridor (ONC) work stands to result in the loss of approximately 6.3 km of hedgerow, which is a viable area of UKHPI and Norfolk BAP habitat. Hedgerows are essential in reducing soil erosion, reducing sediment runoff and removal, even temporarily, will have adverse effects on nearby waterbodies. The proposal includes a replanting element, however we would expect a further survey to differentiate between species rich hedgerow (ancient hedgerow) and species poor hedgerow. Where ancient hedgerow is identified, we would support the use of HDD techniques. Further information on surveying hedgerows can be found through The Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Natural England. | Hedgerows have been surveyed to this level of detail during the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey. This information is presented in Appendix 22.1. |
| Environment<br>Agency | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Impact 8 Water courses and ponds. 22.7.3.8.3  Point 314. Temporary loss of approximately 40 ponds. Section (22.7.3.13.4 – 388) – states that there will be permanent loss of up to 22 potential breeding ponds for Great  | The project will ensure no net loss of pond habitats. The number of ponds affected during construction has                                       |





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|                       |                                      | Crested Newt (GCN). Within the EIA, this loss is classified as Major – High Magnitude, High importance, and Worse major impact. This loss of UKBAP priority habitat is unacceptable. Standing waterbodies are considered freshwater habitats under the WFD so as such the prevalence of the feature in the area does not lessen WFD obligations. We also note that at 22.7.3.13.4 Impact 13 the presence/absence of GCN has not yet been established and that detailed mitigation strategy will be required. Further consideration for preserving these important features is required. We recommend the consideration of HDD for these features. The project should aim to ensure that there is no overall loss in the number of ponds. | been reduced (originally 40 and now five ponds) through project design iterations. Impacts and proposed mitigation upon these ponds are set out in 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.  |
| Environment<br>Agency | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | 22.7.3.10.1 Impact 11 Water Vole: Extensive surveys carried out by a qualified ecologist at the optimal time of year will be required at all potential crossing sites These surveys will need to include IDB drains, field drains (where habitat is suitable), and all watercourses. A Water Vole mitigation plan for each area of suitable habitat will be required once the results of surveys are complete. We are fully in support of the use of HDD techniques where water voles are present.   | Water vole surveys were undertaken in 2017 and these survey results are provided in Appendix 22.3. Impacts on water voles and the required mitigation measures is set out in sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.                                 |
| Environment<br>Agency | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Control measures for non-native and invasive species should be in place.   | Mitigation measures to prevent the spread of invasive species is set out in sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.  |
| Environment<br>Agency | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Fish species - no assessment on bullhead, brown trout, brook lamprey (Annex II)  | Data on these species has been provided by the Environment Agency and is included in section 22.6 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. Impacts on these species and any required mitigation measures is set out in sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. |





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| Natural England | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Whilst it is recognised that the requirement to produce an ES is through the EIA regulations consideration of the habitat regulations should not be excluded from each of the chapters. For example when considering a designated site it is not appropriate to use the EIA matrices which are for wider environmental receptors rather than a protected feature. The conservation objectives for the site should be used to determine significance for protected sites. At the end of the chapter NE expects a set of conclusions for EIA Regulations identify any sensitive receptors which may require further consideration in pre- and post-construction monitoring and conclusions in relation to any Likely Significant Effect (LSE) for protected features that will be taken forwards into the RIAA. A table determining significance is in-sufficient as need to determine what outcome will be for the projects. NB: if there are residuals concerns that may/may not be significant these will require further consideration including monitoring. | The report to inform the HRA (document reference 5.3) provides a detailed consideration of the potential Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on the protected features (habitats and/or species) of European sites. The conclusions of the HRA Report are referenced within sections 22.7 and 22.8 Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.  |
| Natural England | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | In terms of the HRA, Natural England agrees that the River Wensum SAC, Great Paston Barn SAC and the Norfolk Valley Fens SAC are scoped in for further assessment. We are satisfied with the criteria for screening out Broadland SPA/Ramsar site. However, The Broads SAC needs to be included in the scoping exercise as this site appears to have been omitted from considerations.   | Additional screening has been undertaken for The Broads SAC and is reported within the report to Inform the HRA (document reference 5.3) and within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. The Broads SAC was omitted from the previous HRA Screening Report as the 5km buffer used to screen in sites was defined primarily to capture bird and bat qualifying species travelling up to 5km from the site to forage etc, neither of which are qualifying features of The Broads SAC. This was not explained adequately within the HRA |





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|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
|                 |                                      |  | Screening Report.   |
| Natural England | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | We note that survey data has not been provided for onshore ecological receptors and we are thus unable to provide detailed comments about the adequacy of the surveys and assess impacts at this stage. It is likely that a key impact may arise from changes to the hydrology of wetland sites, either directly or indirectly, during construction and operation. In addition to international features of River Wensum SAC and Norfolk Valley Fens SAC, the impacts on their component SSSI features should also be assessed in detail. It is likely that there will be an impact on bat species using Great Paston Barn SAC. Mitigation needs to be provided for impacts on foraging areas and commuting routes in advance of construction works taking place. There is unlikely to be an effect on the purposes of designation of the protected landscapes of the Broads National Park and Norfolk Coast AONB. | Mitigation for potential impacts upon these sites is reported within the HRA Report and within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.  |
| Natural England | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | We welcome further discussions in relation to a wider strategic approach to GCN mitigation in line with Natural England's latest change in licensing advice as per discussions in July.  | A meeting was held on 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2018 to discuss these opportunities. The option for using off-site mitigation for great crested newts has been retained by the project so that it can be potentially used during post-consent mitigation. A Draft Great Crested Newt Mitigation Licence has been submitted to Natural England containing details of these proposals. |
| Natural England | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | The information contained in this section [Chapter 22 of the PEIR] is too general and non-specific to be able to make any detailed comments regarding the hydrological and ecological impacts of the proposal. There are no details of the surveys undertaken or the results so it is not possible to comment on their adequacy or otherwise.  | At the time of issue of<br>the PEIR, not all results<br>from the species-<br>specific surveys<br>undertaken during<br>2017 were available. In<br>these instances, the<br>information presented  |





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|                 |                                      | Impacts will need addressing with regard to the specific details of the nature, location and timing of the works and the mitigation. Without these, general statements around impact level are of limited value and it is not possible to comment on their validity.  | in the PEIR used the findings from the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey only. All species-specific surveys are now completed and therefore their findings have been used to inform this EcIA. Full baseline, impact assessment and proposed mitigation is presented sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. |
| Natural England | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | An area of particular concern is the hydrological impact of the construction affecting ground and surface water flows. This will need to be assessed according to the specific hydrological regime at individual locations where there is habitat linked to and dependant on the water regime. Small scale local disruptions can significantly affect important habitats and communities such as seepages and springs. Sites where the cable is adjacent to the River Wensum before crossing and running along the Penny Spot Beck, Dillington, and other locations with a wetland habitat component, will need detailed investigation. | These possible effects are considered within Chapter 19 Ground Conditions and Contamination. A summary of the potential impacts is provided in the HRA Report (with respect to the River Wensum) and within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.  |
| Natural England | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | There is a requirement for a HDD methodology statement in order for adequate assessment of impacts.   | Detailed methodologies for trenchless techniques are provided in Chapter 5 Project Description.  |
| Natural England | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Bat emergence/re-entry and activity surveys need completing before we can make a detailed comment.  | Results from the bat emergence / re-entry surveys are provided in Appendix 22.5 and the impacts are considered within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.  |
| Natural England | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Mitigation needs to be designed to account for impacts on bats, e.g. linear features need to be reinstated; hedges should be double-planted with grassland strips on both sides so there is always a leeward side to forage. Trees should   | Mitigation measures proposed for bats with respect to hedgerows are presented within sections 22.7 and 22.8  |





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|                           |                                      | be planted where possible as well as native shrubs.  | of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology and captured within the OLEMS (document reference 8.7).   |
| Natural England           | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Works will interrupt core bat foraging areas as well as commuting routes; mitigation should be in place for these. In order to be effective, the mitigation should be in place before the disruption works are carried out. Working on sensitive sections e.g. severing commuting routes, should ideally be carried out in winter, when the bats are dormant, so the bats can adapt to the change before the pupping season is underway.   | Mitigation measures proposed for bats with respect to hedgerows are presented within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology and captured within the OLEMS (document reference 8.7). |
| Norfolk County<br>Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Ecologists from the Natural Environment Team at the County Council have attended a number of Ecology Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings and have had the opportunity to comment on methodology and approaches for establishing and assessing the ecological situation. Officers consider the approach is acceptable. The results of many of the ecology field surveys are not presented in the PEIR and it is understood that the County Council will not see the survey results until the Environmental Statement is produced.   | Survey results are represented in section 22.6 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology and detailed in full in Appendices 22.1-22.9. These results were also presented in the January ETG meeting.          |
| Norfolk County<br>Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | The County Council notes that an Outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan will be produced alongside the Environmental Statement at submission, and agree that this is the most appropriate way to address mitigation in relation to ecology.  | Noted.  |
| Norfolk County<br>Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | County Wildlife Site (CWS) The County Council notes the reference in the PEIR to CWSs potentially impacted by the onshore cable (Chapter 22: Section 22.7.3.2.3, p. 70). CWSs all have a unique reference number and it would be particularly helpful if the reference codes are used to identify sites. There may be some confusion as to why the sites are designated; of the sites that are mentioned in Paragraph 260, Paston Way and Knapton Cutting CWS (CWS No. 1175) is not designated for its wet woodland as stated, neither is the Marriott's Way (CWS No. 2176) designated as a 'green woodland corridor'. | Baseline information in section 22.6 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology has been updated in light of these comments.   |





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| Norfolk County<br>Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Where CWS will be crossed by the cable corridor, the County Council would request that very strong consideration is given to using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), particularly at Wendling Carr CWS 1013, which is associated with Wendling Beck. Paragraph 314 (p. 78) indicates that only one of the two crossings of Wendling Beck will be using trenchless techniques but it is unclear as to whether this will be at the CWS.  | Following this comment, the project design has been revised and now trenchless techniques are proposed to be used at all identified CWS (a haul road is retained within one CWS at Wendling Carr).  |
| Norfolk County<br>Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | The cable route runs parallel to the Marriott's Way CWS at several points and bisects it twice. Potential impacts on this site may therefore be cumulative. Cables for the DONG/Orsted 'Hornsea 3' offshore windfarm scheme also bisect the Marriott's Way in two places and so cumulative impacts may be more significant than implied, notably east of Reepham.   | Consideration of cumulative effects are presented within section 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.  |
| Norfolk County<br>Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Protected Species and Habitats At the Onshore Ecology Expert Topic Group meetings, various issues with surveys for bats have been raised. The Norfolk Vanguard Ecological Surveys Interim Report (June 2017) concludes "For bat surveys there is a more significant issue. If continuing with the present methodology, gaining sufficient access is a significant constraint for spatial and temporal coverage of the study area" (paragraph 8.9). At this stage, the County Council retains reservations regarding the ability of the bat survey results to allow a robust and lawful decision to be reached.                          | Since this PEIR response, the Bat Activity Survey Report has been circulated for comment. Comments received are detailed later in this consultation table. Full details of the impacts on commuting / foraging bats is presented within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. |
| Norfolk County<br>Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | The Paston Great Barn Special Area of Conservation (SAC, a European site) is designated for its barbastelle bat breeding colony, and at this stage it is unclear as to whether the locations where bat surveys were undertaken were appropriate to assess the impacts on this feature of the SAC. The County Council welcomes that the project sought data from the Norfolk Barbastelle Study Group, particularly with regard to radio-tracking information. Where statements are made to specific ecological information (e.g. to barbastelle bat territorial ranges), they should be supported by a suitable peer-reviewed reference. | Since this PEIR response, the location of the bat surveys has been discussed at the project ETG meetings (see below). Full details of the impacts on commuting / foraging bats of the Paston Great Barn Colony is presented within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.      |





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| Norfolk County<br>Council         | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | The County Council notes that the PEIR refers to surveys for the Norfolk Hawker dragonfly (e.g. paragraph 182 and subsequently). As County Council officers have previously mentioned at the ETG meetings, surveys for adult dragonflies will not provide confirmation of breeding. Criteria for establishing proof of breeding have been defined by the British Dragonfly Society.   | As a result of evolution of the project design, areas of suitable habitat for Norfolk hawker dragonfly will no longer be affected by the project. No further surveys are proposed post-consent.   |
| Norfolk County<br>Council         | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Loss of Ponds In Chapter 22: section 22.7.3.8.3 (Paragraph 314) it states "The cable route works will result in a temporary loss of approximately 40 ponds (approximately 0.4ha) during the cable ducting element of the construction phase (approximately two years) and for a further 16 weeks during the three year cable pull element of the construction phase." The County Council is unclear what the 'temporary loss' means in this context.  | The potential impacts on ponds during construction is presented and the term 'temporary loss' explained within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. Due to route refinements, only 5 ponds are now directly affected.  |
| North Norfolk<br>District Council | PEIR response November 2017          | The District Council welcomes the commitment by Vattenfall to undertake trenchless crossing points (HDD) at roads, railways and sensitive habitats. However, it is suggested that additional HDD points will be required to miss further sensitive habitats and areas where significant/important hedgerows and hedgerow trees will otherwise need to be removed. For example:  · West of The Street, Ridlington (TG 34631 30520) — an area of former grazing pasture and a large ditch network (currently unsurveyed)  · Paston Way cutting (County Wildlife Site) (TG 28631 31559) which links with Pigneys Wood Local Nature Reserve (also option to HDD under B1145 North Walsham Bypass and burial ground) — Paston Way is a former railway cutting which would require a deep excavated trench to get to the required levels beneath the cutting, plus contaminated land issues | Following refinement of the onshore project area, Paston Way Cutting CWS is now proposed to be crossed using trenchless techniques. Undesignated habitat at Ridlington Street is proposed to be crossed using trenching. Impacts upon the habitats and potential species at the habitat by Ridlington Street are presented within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. |
| North Norfolk<br>District Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Due to the lack of horizontal directional drilling (HDD) there would appear to be the need to remove a significant number of hedgerows, and hedgerows with mature trees.  | Identification of important hedgerows is provided in in section 22.6 of Chapter 22  |





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|                                   |                                      | The majority of the 310 hedgerows identified were species-rich intact hedgerows with trees (89 in total). The PEIR does not highlight which of the hedgerows surveyed are important hedgerows under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. Furthermore, there are many more boundary features that have not been able to be surveyed due to lack of access, some of which are important landscape features e.g. north of Lyngate (TG 27603 31809). The District Council recommends that further work needs to be undertaken by Vattenfall to identify those hedgerows/field boundaries that would benefit from trenchless techniques to ensure that these important ecological and landscape features can be retained. This is critical as compensatory planting will not be able to include replacement trees over the buried cable routes. | Onshore Ecology.   |
| North Norfolk<br>District Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | West of The Street, Ridlington (TG 34631 30520) – This area does not appear to have been surveyed in the field as part of the Water Vole, Breeding Birds or Extended Phase 1 survey, yet appears to be existing or former grazing pasture with possible reasonable habitat (semi-improved) and has an extensive ditch network and defined historical field pattern.  | Access was not available to survey these areas at this time due to lack of access permission. Surveys will be required for these habitats prior to any work commencing.  |
| North Norfolk<br>District Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Ancient Woodland – there does not appear to be any mention of Ancient Woodland within the habitat or designated sites section of Appendix 22.1 (Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report), although there are Ancient Woodland sites (or replanted AW sites) adjacent or near to the cable corridor. Have impacts on these designated sites been scoped out of the report?   | Ancient woodlands have been considered within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. All ancient woodlands have been avoided during the refinement of the onshore project area either through route refinement or through use of trenchless techniques. |
| North Norfolk<br>District Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | The trees along the driveway to Banningham Hall (TG 21592 30236) do not appear to have been identified on the Phase 1 Map. Have these been surveyed for bat roost potential as they are currently in the cable route corridor?   | The Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (Appendix 22.1) has covered this area. No trees were assessed as providing suitable habitat to support   |





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|                                   |                                      |  | roosting bats.  |
| North Norfolk<br>District Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Welcome the commitment to reduce the working width of the cable corridor to 54m (HVAC) at un-avoidable hedgerow crossings – however further input is desirable into which hedgerows will need to be removed.   | Norfolk Vanguard Limited has reviewed consultation received and in light of the feedback, has made a decisions in relation to the project design to deploy High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cable technology to the UK's National Grid and this removes the need for a 100m corridor. The hedgerows to be removed will be detailed in section 22.6 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.     |
| North Norfolk<br>District Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Phase 2 Bat Surveys – there appears to be some discrepancies between the classification of the bat features in the table of Annex D of Appendix 22.1 (Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report) and Figure 4 of Appendix 22.1, with features with bat interest labelled as 'moderate' on the maps (figure 4) but as 'low' on the table, e.g. Bat Reference Feature 146, 148 and 235 (for example). It is not clear therefore whether these features have been scoped into the Phase 2 activity surveys for bats. This is particularly important for features around Paston Barn, Edingthorpe and Bacton Woods. Furthermore, it is not clear from the maps provided in Annex A, Figure 4, where the linear features of low, moderate and high suitability for commuting and foraging bats are, and which of these have been included in the Phase 2 activity surveys. | All identified data discrepancies have been checked to ensure that there are no errors in the data presented in the report. Any errata (such as these) have been noted and presented in section 22.6 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. The process for classifying features of suitability to support commuting or foraging bats is set out in section 22.6 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. |
| North Norfolk<br>District Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | There could be significant limitations to the bat activity surveys as a result of the lack of access to identified areas with suitability for commuting and foraging bats and also due to missing out key commuting routes from Paston barn. The bat activity survey report and the survey methodology in the vicinity of Paston Barn, Edingthorpe and Bacton (Witton) Woods should make reference to the existing radio tracking data for the Paston barn colony  | The Norfolk Barbastelle Study Group (NBSG) data has been used alongside the 2017 bat activity data to draw conclusions on the importance of key commuting routes to the Paston Great Barn colony. Details of the  |





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|                                   |                                      | undertaken by the Norfolk Barbastelle Study Group to justify where surveys have or have not been carried out and if not, why not. Further consideration needs to be given to the cable corridor north of Bacton Woods as possible further survey work may need to be carried out. The Paston bat colony are known to commute to and forage in the woods accessing the woods from the north and Edingthorpe. To date there is no information on the impacts of the cable construction on the commuting patterns of the Paston barn bats. | assessment of the impact on commuting / foraging bats of the Paston Great Barn colony is presented in the HRA Report and summarised in sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.              |
| North Norfolk<br>District Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Acknowledge that the cable corridor is currently defined as 200m wide which will be refined to allow the actual 100m wide cable route to be located in such a way to avoid sensitive features such as mature trees and take into account land owner preferences etc. It is not however clarified whether landowner preferences will override the requirement to avoid sensitive ecological features. A balance will be required to take into account the sensitivity of potential features and landowner preferences.                   | Noted.  |
| North Norfolk<br>District Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | General concern that only 50% of the cable route has been surveyed in the field, which could mean that many important ecological features may have been missed  | This is related to landowner access provision. The areas not surveyed prior to submission will be surveyed post-consent. Further information is provided in section 22.5.3 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. |
| North Norfolk<br>District Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Unable to comment on the results of many of the ecological surveys as the results have yet to be inputted into the PIER report.   | All species-specific surveys have now been completed and the results of which are presented in section 22.6 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology and detailed in full in Appendices 22.1-22.9.                   |
| North Norfolk<br>District Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November         | In terms of long term and permanent effects on the landscape, there will be a need to provide appropriate landscape mitigation particularly where open cut trenches affect  | Woodlands have been avoided by the project during the design process. Mitigation for  |





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|                                   | 2017                                 | field boundaries and landscape features such as mature trees. Vattenfall has indicated they will seek to do this but this would need to be set out within the mitigation strategy. Where possible, the District Council would expect Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to be used if routes through sensitive woodlands or landscapes cannot be avoided.   | locations where hedgerow removal is required is presented in sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.   |
| North Norfolk<br>District Council | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | In terms of delivering wider public benefits, there may be opportunities for Vattenfall to fund wider landscape mitigation to repair historical damage to field boundaries resulting from modern agricultural practices and to enhance local landscape character. This would also have the added benefit of helping improve biodiversity. Wider landscape enhancement could also improve the quality of walking and cycling opportunities in the countryside and enhance tourism to the benefit of the wider economy.  | Landscape-scale habitat connection is considered within the landscape proposals in Chapter 29 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.  |
| The Wildlife Trusts               | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | We are pleased to see that the cable routes have been refined so that there are now fewer areas remaining with a choice of routes. In general, our comments on the onshore ecology section of the PEIR are made in relation to designated sites and habitats and not necessarily on impacts on each individual receptor, owing to the fact that much work still needs to be done to further refine routes and assess the best mitigation measures for each area of ecological value. We note with regard to species data that ecological information is at an early stage and that sufficient information may not be currently available to allow a planning decision to be made. We would expect that this information will be presented at the submission stage. | Noted. Some ecological baseline information was not available at time of submitting the PEIR. This has subsequently been discussed with The Wildlife Trusts as part of the Onshore Ecology ETG meetings under the Evidence Plan Process in January 2018 and is included in Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. This information is used to inform appropriate mitigation measures. |
| The Wildlife Trusts               | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | We are concerned that DEFRA Local Wildlife Sites (known as County Wildlife Sites (CWS) in Norfolk) were not included from the outset, (along with nationally designated sites), as sites where impacts are to be avoided, as set out in paragraph 22.7.1.1.1. Although the whole project is a development of national significance, in our view, the exact location of cable routes should be viewed as being of local significance and Local Wildlife Sites should be   | Following this comment, the project design has been revised and now trenchless techniques are proposed to be used at all identified CWS.   |





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|                     |                                      | accorded a similar level of priority as they are given in local authority Local Plans, where policies prioritise avoidance of impacts.   |  |
| The Wildlife Trusts | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | We are concerned that HDD isn't generally proposed for CWS and is only proposed for a small number of watercourses that have a national designation (para 22.7.1.3.2.) This is a particular concern for Wendling Carr (CWS 1013) and Land South of Dillington Carr (CWS 1025), plus the potential CWS at Kerdiston Meadows (paragraph 22.7.3.2.3). Without mitigation damage is assessed at the two CWS. At Wendling Carr, the receptor includes both a watercourse (Wendling Brook) and associated wetland habitat on the CWS. In our view HDD should be the preferred option at this location. For Land to South of Dillington Carr (CWS 1025) consideration should be given to ensuring that the final route follows the southern side of the wider corridor envelope, in order to avoid impacting the CWS. | Following this comment, the project design has been revised and now trenchless techniques are proposed to be used at all CWS.  |
| The Wildlife Trusts | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | The cable route passes very close to Pigney's Wood LNR (and proposed CWS) and crosses the Dilham Canal and associated areas of wetland. No direct or indirect impacts on Pigney's Wood have been identified. Land adjacent to the wood and along the Dilham Canal consists of wetland habitats, which along with the canal are likely to be of CWS value. We are pleased to see that HDD is considered for Dilham Canal and associated habitats in the vicinity of Pigney's Wood and we support this option.   | Noted.   |
| The Wildlife Trusts | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | Mitigation for loss of hedges (22.7.3.5) during construction needs to account of the fact that for some stretches the loss of hedge before replanting will stretch over a number of years. Section 22.7.3.8 states that "The cable route works will result in a temporary loss of approximately 40 ponds (approximately 0.4ha) during the cable ducting element of the construction phase (approximately two years) and for a further 16 weeks during the three year cable pull element of the construction phase. We are uncertain what is meant by temporary loss, as if the cable route crosses a pond it is unlikely to be possible to re-instate the feature. Wording needs to be clarified in  | The potential impacts on ponds during construction is presented and the term 'temporary loss' explained within sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. |





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|                           |                                      | relation to this issue. The impact of any loss of ponds needs to be linked with information from great-crested newt surveys.  |   |
| The Wildlife Trusts       | PEIR<br>response<br>November<br>2017 | HDD is only preferred at a small number of designated watercourses and the PEIR makes the assessment that "Given the extent of these habitats within the wider environment, this effect is anticipated to be of low magnitude." (para 22.7.3.8.3). In our view HDD should be the preferred option at the great majority of watercourses and wetland habitats adjacent to watercourses. This will not only serve to give direct protection to habitats but will mitigate for potential impacts of pollution and silt runoff, whilst also improving biosecurity.  | Impacts to watercourses is set out in Chapter 20 Water Resources and Flood Risk and summarised in sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.                             |
| The Wildlife Trusts       | ETG<br>Minutes<br>January<br>2018    | Measures set out in the final submission should seek to carry out mitigation in a strategic way and plan to enhance connectivity along and adjacent to the cable route. In this context we are pleased to see the intention to include an Outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP) alongside the Environment Statement at submission. We support the proposal to produce the OLEMP which should enable mitigation for all habitats and species to be addressed in a joined up way. The OLEMP should include measures to enhance connectivity of priority habitats including hedges and be in conjunction with enhancement of connectivity for protected and priority species. This should include measures outside of the cable zone. Although we understand that this may present problems of consent from neighbouring landowners, this could be achieved through linking mitigation and enhancement to local conservation projects, such as the pond restoration work of the Norfolk Pond Partnership and other landscape scale initiatives. In our view this option should be explored. | The potential for landscape-scale mitigation is being considered with respect to great crested newt mitigation, as set out in sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. |
| Norfolk Wildlife<br>Trust | ETG<br>Minutes<br>January<br>2018    | Booton Common Reserve Manager does not have a concern regarding the Norfolk Vanguard project.   | Noted.  |
| Environment<br>Agency     | ETG<br>Minutes<br>January            | Environment Agency hold bullhead, brown trout, brook lamprey and crayfish records within the study area and will provide these for  | These records are now presented in section 22.6 of Chapter 22   |





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|                           | 2018  | the project.   | Onshore Ecology.   |
| Norfolk County<br>Council | ETG<br>Minutes<br>January<br>2018                               | Landfall has moved away from the key are of concern for foraging barbastelles of the Paston great barn colony.   | Noted.   |
| Environment<br>Agency     | ETG<br>Minutes<br>January<br>2018                               | Advised that mitigation should be included to use Vircon to kill crayfish plague spores. Advisable to use as a precaution and treat all equipment as if signals infected with plague.  | This mitigation is included in sections 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.   |
| Norfolk County<br>Council | ETG<br>Minutes<br>January<br>2018                               | Approach to identification of important hedgerows is crude. Hard to pick up different spp. on technology. Better to have no. passes vs no. passes in other area and use to calculate relative abundance coefficient.  5km buffer argued very well. Guidelines that sustenance zones for barbastelles are 6km. Agree with 5km but need to justify reasons for not using 6km. Falls into core sustenance zone for southern bat roosts – are colonies related? Careful in terminology when talking about bad weather – bad weather could push bats into other areas ('bad weather areas') so don't dismiss as less important areas.   | Process for identifying important hedgerows for bats has been reviewed in light of this comment. Important hedgerows for bats are presented in section 22.6 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. |
| Norfolk County<br>Council | ETG<br>Minutes<br>January<br>2018                               | Old Hills Wood, near Honing. Study group should have radio tracking data of that roost.  | NBSG data for Old Hills<br>Wood areas is now<br>provided in section<br>22.6 of Chapter 22<br>Onshore Ecology.  |
| Natural England           | Review of<br>baseline<br>ecology<br>reports<br>February<br>2018 | The data presented are clear and sufficiently detailed to have confidence in their accuracy. Natural England note that no surveys were undertaken north of the river, due to a lack of access permission.  However we wish to highlight that this area will need to be surveyed both botanically and hydrologically to fully and accurately assess the impact of the project on the River Wensum SAC. Natural England also wish to highlight that the absence of any evidence of seepages or springs south of the River Wensum does not preclude a direct groundwater influence on the river but suggests the hydrological function in the terrestrial area surveyed is dominated by rainfall and surface and shallow ground | A hydrological assessment of the River Wensum floodplain is provided in Chapter 20 Water Resources and Flood Risk.   |





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|                 |  | water and highly influenced by the existing ditch network and this should be reflected within the report.  |   |
| Natural England | Review of<br>baseline<br>ecology<br>reports<br>February<br>2018            | The data presented are clear and sufficiently detailed to have confidence in their accuracy. We note that there were no surveys undertaken north of the river, due to a lack of access permission. Natural England wish to highlight that this area will need to be surveyed to fully and accurately assess the impact of the project on the River Wensum SAC. In addition we note that no individuals were found in the surveys despite suitable habitat being present. However as the species has the capacity to colonise new areas any suitable habitat contributes to the SAC site integrity for this species. This is particularly pertinent in the absence of data from the North side of the River Wensum, which could support populations capable of colonising suitable habitats on the south side. We therefore support the recommendations to survey the north bank of the river and to resurvey all areas if works occur 3 years after the date of these surveys. | The north bank of the river will be surveyed post consent. No works are proposed to take place within the floodplain on the north bank of the river, therefore the risk of impacts in this area are minimal. Further consideration of these impacts is presented in sections 22.7 and 22.8 of this chapter. |
| Natural England | Review of<br>baseline<br>ecology<br>reports<br>February<br>2018            | No further comments Norfolk Hawker dragonfly survey, Reptile presence/absence surveys and Bat emergence/ re-entry surveys.   | Noted.  |
| Natural England | Review of<br>baseline<br>bat activity<br>survey<br>report<br>March<br>2018 | The identification of survey transects which have a moderate or high habitat suitability for bats following field survey is a standard procedureThe survey effort employed per transect is generally in accordance with published guidance, although we note the limitations of a late start date and lack of access to certain locations and other limitation specified in the report. Table 9 summarises the limitations – we query what further steps will be taken to access transects where access for bat surveys has been denied as there are 10 transects where lack of survey is identified as having a significant impact?   | Further steps to address data gaps within the baseline survey data are set out in sections 22.5.3, 22.7 and 22.8 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.   |
| Natural England | Review of baseline   | Where trees will be required to be felled, surveys should be carried out for those trees   | Surveys (i.e. dusk/dawn emergence/re-entry  |





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|                 | bat activity<br>survey<br>report<br>March<br>2018                          | which have a high or moderate suitability based on their potential roost features identified from ground. Further clarification is required to confirm the nature of further tree survey work.   | surveys) have been carried out to determine whether bats are roosting in all suitable trees and structures, where access has been available. The results are presented in section 22.6 of Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology. |
| Natural England | Review of<br>baseline<br>bat activity<br>survey<br>report<br>March<br>2018 | The activity survey results have been evaluated to identify bat commuting routes and foraging areas in accordance with the aims of the survey. The quality of Maps One to Four in the main report showing the overview of transect locations and static detectors was very poor.   | All data shown on the plans within Appendix 22.4 are also represented on Figure 22.8 in Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology.   |
| Natural England | Review of<br>baseline<br>bat activity<br>survey<br>report<br>March<br>2018 | Transects BACT21 and BACT22 are within SSSI Impact Risk Zones for Paston Great Barn SSSI. The assessment of impacts on bats in this area will be used to inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment. Reports on barbastelle activity arising from Paston Great Barn are available to provide further evidence to inform impact assessment. For further information on radio tracking studies, we advise contacting Norfolk Barbastelle Study Group http://www.norfolkbarbastellestudygroup.org/. Natural England is able to supply information on bats pertaining to the site, such as breeding success etc. | NBSG's radiotracking data has been obtained and used to inform the baseline presented in section 22.6 and reported in the HRA Report.   |
| Natural England | Great<br>crested<br>newt<br>mitigation<br>minutes<br>March<br>2018         | NE policies 1 & 2 would work in practice as follows:  Policy 1 – removes the need for traditional 'fencing and trapping' mitigation methods, if additional compensation within the project boundary is used instead. NE would expect additional survey effort over and above traditional methods (i.e. surveys from 250-500m from onshore project area, although the scope and methodology of any other surveys would need to be justified by the applicant and NE noted that conducting additional surveys across this range for a linear development resulted in extensive additional monitoring.        | Noted.  |





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|                 |  | eDNA may be an option, if relevant). If alternative mitigation is proposed, the reasons why this will lead to more favourable conservation status over and above traditional methods must be set out. If there is a risk of killing or injuring, two licence applications will likely be required, one covering killing or injuring and one covering compensatory habitat. |                                      |
|                 |  | Policy 2 – allows compensatory habitat to be created anywhere in the local environment (no definition of 'local' within the policy).  Additional data would be required for mitigation under this policy, e.g. surveys of the areas identified for habitat creation to confirm status of population around the receptor site; disease screening).                          |                                      |
|                 |  | AJ noted that the legal requirements which would underpin mitigation under policies 1 & 2 would be through a s106 or NERC Act agreement.   |                                      |
| Natural England | Great crested newt mitigation minutes March 2018 | Norfolk Vanguard could submit a draft great crested newt mitigation licence both for traditional methods and including an option for offsite mitigation under policies 1 & 2. The draft licence would need to be submitted with a technical note explaining the proposals for alternative mitigation under policies 1 & 2.   | Noted.                               |