



Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Teena Oulaghan
Safeguarding Officer
Ministry of Defence
Safeguarding Department
Kingston Road
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands B75 7RL
United Kingdom

Your Reference: EN01084

Telephone [MOD]: +44 (0)121 311 3847

Facsimile [MOD]: +44 (0)121 311 2218

Our Reference: DIO10038701

E-mail: Teena.oulaghan100@mod.gov.uk

Mr Daniel Bates
Vattenfall Wind Power LTD,
First Floor,
1 Tudor Street,
London,
EC4Y 0AH

15th February 2019

Dear Mr Bates,

**The Thanet Extension Offshore Wind Farm
Planning Act 2008 - Development Consent Order Application**

I write in response to your e-mail enquiry of 4 January 2019 concerning the examination of the above application seeking clarification of the position of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in relation to this application in respect of maritime navigation and the identification of war graves.

You have identified that the Examining Authority (ExA) has sought confirmation on whether the MOD wishes to enter into a Statement of Common Ground (SOCG) with Vattenfall on matters relating to 'military shipping'. You have also sought clarification of the MOD safeguarding position on this application in relation to 'military shipping'.

I can confirm that the proposed development will not directly affect national defence requirements or interests including defence maritime navigation. However, as a sea user, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) recognises that the proposed development may affect the ability of all shipping (including Naval and government vessels) to safely transfer a pilot aboard in order to access the Thames Estuary. In this respect, the MOD defers to the relevant statutory consultee(s) responsible for maintaining maritime navigational standards and requirements to make relevant representations on this application on the need to take this into consideration. Accordingly, the MOD does not consider it necessary for military shipping to be accounted for separately from generic shipping navigation and therefore there is no need for the MOD to engage with the applicant to produce a statement of common ground on this issue. The safeguarding position of the MOD to this application with respect to defence maritime navigational interests is represented in our response letter of 11 September 2018 and remains as stated.

With respect to the identification of known war graves and the reporting of any new discoveries, Vattenfall have been asked by the ExA to confirm whether the approach used when identifying war graves is deemed appropriate by the MOD.

The MOD has reviewed Vattenfall's approach to implementing the requirements of the 1986 legislation and is content with the methodology outlined. It is recommended that any further findings of military vessels, regardless of age, are referred to the MOD using the e-mail address detailed below:

NAVYSEC-3RDSECTORMAILBOX@mod.gov.uk.

I hope this adequately explains our position on the matter. If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Miss Teena Oulaghan
Safeguarding Officer