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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Kate

Thanet Extension Offshore Windfarm – Natural England Update following Deadline 3 in Respect of the HRA.

As highlighted in the covering email, following Deadline 3, Natural England wish to update the Examining Authority (ExA) and subsequently the applicant, on our position and subsequent wording in respect of Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEoI) for the Outer Thames Estuary SPA and the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA. This is specifically in response to the ExA's Action Point 9 from ISH3 but also updates our wording within the Ornithology statement of common ground (SoCG). Please see below for the amended wording.

Outer Thames Estuary SPA

Natural England advises that Thanet Extension will not have an adverse effect on the integrity on the red-throated diver population of the Outer Thames Estuary SPA when considered **alone**. However, Natural England considers that it is not possible to rule out an adverse effect on integrity when the project is considered **in combination** with consented and operational offshore windfarm projects (OWF) projects.

Prior to the submission of Thanet Extension, Natural England had already advised that it was not possible to rule out an adverse effect on integrity on the SPA from operational and consented projects due to displacement effects. Thanet Extension lies 8 km from the SPA. Displacement effects on red-throated diver from post-construction monitoring appear to vary between projects, but have been reported up to and beyond this distance, and there is therefore potential for the proposal to exert additional displacement pressure on the SPA. This in-combination contribution is in all likelihood very small in the context of impacts from other OWF projects which lie within, rather than some distance beyond, the SPA.

Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA

Natural England advises that Thanet Extension will not have an adverse effect on the integrity on the kittiwake population of the Flamborough & Filey Coast SPA when considered **alone**. However, Natural

England considers that it is not possible to rule out an adverse effect on integrity when the project is considered **in combination** with proposed, consented and operational OWF projects.

Prior to the submission of Thanet Extension, Natural England had already advised (at East Anglia 3) that it was not possible to rule out an adverse effect on integrity on the SPA from operational and consented projects due to the level of annual collision mortality predicted for kittiwake. Thanet Extension is some distance beyond the likely foraging range of kittiwake from the SPA during the breeding season, though there is the potential for Flamborough kittiwakes to be impacted by the proposal during the non-breeding season, when they disperse more widely. There is therefore the potential for the proposal to make a contribution to the overall collision mortality total. This contribution is likely to be small in the context of an in-combination total arising from a number of operational, consented or proposed projects, several of which are larger and/or closer to the SPA, including projects within the likely foraging range during the breeding season.

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

Yours sincerely,

Will Hutchinson

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