

Thanet Extension Offshore Wind Farm
Development Consent Order: EN010084
Deadline 6: 28th May 2019



Comments on the Structural Exclusion Zone (SEZ)

Friday 24th May 2019

Sent by email only to: ThanetExtension@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Planning Inspectorate Examining Authority,

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Structural Exclusion Zone (SEZ) Material Change made to the Thanet Extension Offshore Wind Farm application.

As a result of the SEZ, the same proposed number of turbines will now be installed into a smaller area within the offshore array boundary, if consent is granted, with no turbines to be installed in the North West corner/side of the boundary area. It is our understanding that this was done primarily to reduce the shipping and navigation concerns associated with the proposed Thanet Extension Offshore Wind Farm application.

The Applicant (Vattenfall) has stated that this change in design will also bring environmental benefits; however, no official assessments appear to have been made regarding this. We believe that detailed assessments should be carried out on the potential environmental implications (positive and negative), to the benthic environment and environmental receptors.

We are concerned there does not appear to have been an adequate consideration of the potential environmental impacts of the SEZ, for instance on marine mammals or benthic ecology. The applicant has assessed the implications of the SEZ on other receptors and has provided documents on these, including the potential Seascape, Landscape and Visual impacts; Commercial Fisheries impacts; and Historic Environment impacts, which were 'screened in' to assessments. There are no new biodiversity documents produced as part of this material change and we would like further information and justification as to why receptors such as marine mammals, benthic subtidal ecology, fish and shellfish ecology were 'screened out', and how this decision was made.

We believe it is an oversight that detailed assessment documents have not been produced examining the environmental impacts of this change in the application.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Alice Morley
Marine Conservation Officer, Kent Wildlife Trust



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