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The Wildlife Trust reference: 20022896.

BY EMAIL

26 February 2020

Dear Frances

The Wildlife Trusts response to Written Questions for Norfolk Boreas: deadline 5

Please find a response from The Wildlife Trusts (TWT) on the recent written questions on the Norfolk Boreas project.

Q2.2.0.1 The Applicant The Wildlife Trusts Post-consent engagement: Update on discussions referred to in [REP3-029] and [REP4-011] relating to the development of a MoU for post-consent engagement.

TWT is working positively with the applicant on the development of a MoU which covers post-consent engagement. We have agreed that the MoU will also be referred to in the Southern North Sea Site Integrity Plan. We aim to have the MoU signed off before the end of examination and would be happy to update you in due course.

Securing mitigation for UXO clearance

TWT would also like to raise the following with the Examination Panel:

As outlined in TWT's Written Representation:

*"TWT holds the position that to ensure site integrity for the Southern North Sea SAC and Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) of European Protected Species (EPS), **UXO clearance should be secured within the draft DCO alongside any mitigation required.** East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two have secured a mitigation for UXO clearance within the draft DCO¹. This has now set a precedent and best practice must be followed."*

We have agreed with the applicant that this issue will be discussed at a strategic level with Vattenfall, as it is recognised that this is an issue for not only Norfolk Boreas, but for all offshore wind farms developers seeking Development Consent Orders (DCO).

¹ East Anglia One North draft DCO <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010077/EN010077-000975-3.1%20EA1N%20Draft%20Development%20Consent%20Order.pdf> e.g. schedule 13 Condition 16

The Wildlife Trusts

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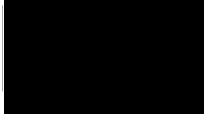
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TWT continues to hold the position that UXO clearance and mitigation must be secured in the DCO. We would like to raise with the Planning Inspectorate that TWT have highlighted this issue for other offshore wind farm DCO applications², and we have seen no discussion at examination or progress at a strategic level. In order to ensure no adverse effect from UXO clearance in-combination with other activities on the Southern North Sea SAC, this issue must be resolved. We appreciate the regulation of this activity is complex, and we would like to work with regulators, SNCBs and developers to find a pragmatic solution.

Thank you for taking our comments into consideration. We are happy to provide more details if required.

Yours sincerely



Joan Edwards
Director, Public Affairs and Marine Conservation
The Wildlife Trusts

² TWT submission deadline 8 for Norfolk Vanguard <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010079/EN010079-003014-DL8%20-%20The%20Wildlife%20Trusts%20-%20Deadline%20Submission.pdf>