

National Infrastructure Planning **Temple Quay House** 2 The Square Bristol, BS1 6PN

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Norfolk Boreas Limited

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010087

Date: 27 February 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) - Rule 17

Application by Norfolk Boreas Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm

## **Request for further information**

## **HRA Matrices**

The ExA has compared the qualifying features listed in the screening and integrity matrices [REP1-012 and REP1-014] against Natural England conservation objectives/Standard Data Form and Ramsar Information Sheets. We have identified a number of discrepancies for Broadland SPA and Ramsar site, Breydon Water SPA and Ramsar site and North Norfolk Coast SPA and Ramsar site. For example:

- Breydon Water SPA
  - The Applicant's matrices identify a number of species under the heading of 'SPA features' which do not appear on the Standard Data Form for the SPA, but are understood to be features of the Ramsar site.
  - The Applicant's matrices identify dunlin as a qualifying feature of the Breydon Water SPA; however this is not a qualifying feature listed on the Standard Data Form for the SPA, nor listed on the Ramsar Information sheet.
- Broadland SPA and Ramsar site
  - The Applicant's matrices relating to collision mortality identifies white-0 fronted goose, pink-footed goose and cormorant as qualifying features of the Broadland SPA; these are not listed on Natural England's conservation objectives for the site.
  - Hen harrier is listed as a qualifying feature on Natural England's conservation objectives for the site but is not included in the Applicant's matrices.



- The Applicant's matrices identify an assemblage under the heading of SPA features; however no assemblage is featured on Natural England's conservation objectives.
- Greylag goose is listed in the Applicant's matrices under the heading of 'Ramsar features' however does not appear on the Ramsar Information Sheet.
- North Norfolk Coast SPA and Ramsar site
  - The Applicant's matrix identifies golden plover, ruff, Mediterranean gull, roseate tern and hen harrier as qualifying features of the SPA; however these species are not listed on Natural England's conservation objectives for the SPA, nor do they form part of the SPA assemblage.

The list above is not exhaustive.

The Applicant is requested to perform a thorough check of the qualifying features listed in their matrices against the Standard Data Form and/or Natural England conservation objectives and the Ramsar Information Sheets for these sites and to make relevant amendments to the matrices or justify the inclusion/exclusion of species that do not accord with the published lists. The revised matrices should be submitted at **Deadline 6, Thursday 5 March 2020**.

## **Conservation objectives**

The Applicant is requested to submit conservation objectives for the Outer Thames Estuary SPA, Broadland SPA, Breydon Water SPA and North Norfolk Coast SPA. If these have already been submitted into the Examination, the Applicant is requested to direct the ExA to their location.

Yours faithfully

Frances Fernandes

Frances Fernandes Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors

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