

# Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm Joint Position Statement with North Norfolk District Council Noise Sensitive Receptors

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*Photo: Ormonde Offshore Wind Farm*

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## 1 Introduction

1. Following Issue Specific Hearing 3 on Onshore Effects including the draft Development Consent Order held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020, an action was identified by the Examining Authority for the Applicant to work with North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) to agree the process for and locations of site-specific noise sensitive receptors. It was agreed by both parties that this would be best presented in a joint position statement and this document has been produced to fulfil this requirement.
2. The Applicant provided a copy of the information presented in Section 2 and 3 to North Norfolk District Council on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and submitted a Position Statement on Noise Sensitive Receptors at Deadline 5.
3. North Norfolk District Council's response to this information is reflected in Section 4 within this joint position statement and the Applicant's position in Section 5 has been updated to reflect this response.

## 2 Definition of Noise Sensitive Receptors

4. Sensitive receptors, in the context of noise are typically residential premises but can also include schools, places of worship, recreational areas and noise sensitive commercial premises.
5. Definitions of noise receptors are presented within the Environment Statement (ES) Chapter 25 Noise and Vibration [APP-238], with ES Table 25.26 presenting the definitions used relating to the sensitivity of the receptors.
6. NNDC has provided the following definition relating specifically to noise sensitive receptors:

*"In terms of the list of locations that are considered sensitive receptors when determining construction hours, a number are related to tourism: footpaths and other walking routes; cycling routes including rural roads; bird watching areas; areas used for recreation/amenity; dog walking routes; holiday lets; shops and cafés; visitor attractions and public amenity space/play areas. Both temporary and permanent residential dwellings and gardens, as well as workplaces, schools and public buildings will also be sensitive receptor locations."*

7. The ES definition table was provided for review and comment to NNDC during consultation, throughout Expert Topic Group meetings and as part of the Evidence Plan Process.
8. The ES chapter Table 25.26 detailed examples of each different type of receptor, corresponding definitions, commentary of and examples of each classification for

use in the noise assessment. The detail was not exhaustive and was considered indicative of typical sensitive receptors.

9. It is acknowledged that the NNDC statement identifies a number of additional receptor types which were not specifically included in the ES table. The definition and categorisation of sensitive receptors have been amended in Table 1 below to include these receptors and it is proposed that Table 1 is included in an updated version of the Outline Code of Construction Practice (OCoCP), once agreed with NNDC.
10. Furthermore, some categories of receptors i.e. permanent residential dwellings, hospitals or schools are regarded as a static receptor and are therefore defined as a different sensitivity to transient receptors i.e. users of Public Rights of Way (PRoW).
11. It is important when identifying noise receptors that the sensitivity and tolerance of the effect is considered, and these parameters differ according to definition and classification.
12. These definitions would form the basis of any future assessment and identification of noise sensitivity as part of the detailed design and construction stages. As set out above, the Applicant proposes to include Table 1 in the OCoCP to define noise sensitive receptors to be considered during construction.

**Table 1 Definitions of the different sensitivity levels for noise**

Sensitivity	Definitions
High	Noise Receptors have been categorised as high sensitivity where noise may be detrimental to vulnerable receptors. Such receptors include certain hospital wards (e.g. operating theatres or high dependency units) or care homes at night.
Medium	Noise Receptors have been categorised as medium sensitivity where noise may cause disturbance and a level of protection is required but a level of tolerance is expected. Such subgroups include residential accommodation, private gardens, hospital wards, care homes, schools, universities, research facilities, national parks (during the day); and temporary holiday accommodation (including holiday lets) at all times.
Low	Noise Receptors have been categorised as low sensitivity where noise may cause short duration effects in a recreational setting although particularly high noise levels may cause a moderate effect. Such subgroups include offices, shops (including cafes), outdoor amenity areas during the day (including recreation, public amenity space/play areas), long distance footpaths (including PRoW, dog walking routes, bird watching areas and other walking routes), visitor attractions, doctor's surgeries and sports facilities.

Negligible	Noise Receptors have been categorised as negligible sensitivity where noise is not expected to be detrimental. Such subgroups include warehouses, light industry, car parks, cycling routes (including rural roads), and agricultural land.
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### 3 Identification of Noise Sensitive Receptors

13. The ES Chapter 25 [APP-238] has identified the potential need for enhanced mitigation at a number of residential receptor locations during specific construction activities in order to ensure that any identified residual impacts remain non-significant. These locations are identified in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (OCoCP) Section 9.1.2 [REP1-018] along with the proposed enhanced mitigation measures and illustrated on ES Figure 25.2 [APP-470].

#### 3.1 Locations with potential for enhanced mitigation measures

14. Receptor locations within the NNDC administrative district where the potential for enhanced mitigation has been identified include:
- a) CRR1E and CRR3F during the pre-construction, duct installation and cable pulling works due to their proximity to the cable route, and;
  - b) CRR1, CRR2, CRR3 and CRR5 in the event of any night time working at the associated trenchless crossings.
15. In addition to these specific locations where enhanced mitigation is required, there is the potential for noise to be generated during the construction process to affect noise sensitive receptors and measures will be implemented during construction to minimise any effects.

#### 3.2 Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan

16. A Construction Noise (and vibration) Management Plan (CNMP) will be developed and included in the final CoCP, as required under Requirement 20 (2)(e) of the draft DCO and submitted for approval to the relevant planning authority. The CNMP will detail the design of onshore assets, and will incorporate the Best Available Technique (BAT) and the Best Practicable Means (BPM) to minimise any associated noise impacts; where applicable, enhanced mitigation measures will also be detailed.
17. The CNMP will be developed prior to construction when further details of the construction activities are known, this will ensure that the most appropriate controls and mitigations are identified. The development of the CNMP will include a review of the construction activities and the identification of any potential noise sensitive receptors (as defined in Table 1) which may be affected.



18. Based on the type of construction activity proposed, e.g. establishment of a mobilisation area and the sensitivity of the receptor the CNMP will then detail the appropriate controls which will be in place to minimise any potential effects. The results of the process will be submitted to and reviewed by the relevant planning authority as part of the final CoCP and discharge of DCO Requirement 20 (2).

#### 4 North Norfolk District Council's Position

19. NNDC welcome the principle of including additional noise receptors, the purpose of which is to add items to the definition of refined receptors and it is particularly adding a wider definition of outdoor amenity uses. NNDC notes that Table 1 Definitions of the different sensitivity levels for noise is principally derived from the definitions of noise receptors which are presented within the Environment Statement (ES) Chapter 25 Noise and Vibration [APP-238], with ES Table 25.26 presenting the definitions used relating to the sensitivity of the receptors. However, it is noted that the format of this table included an additional column for definition of the receptor's tolerance of effect and the examples column makes extensive reference to vibration receptors. NNDC consider both of these are important contents of the table and should be included within the version within this document.
20. In terms of further observations, reference is made within ES Table 25.26 to 'places of worship' in the low sensitivity examples row of the table but which have not been included. NNDC consider that cycling routes should be included within the low sensitivity examples row of the table.
21. In terms of the locations set out above at paragraph 14 a) and b), whilst NNDC note these examples, the locations of which are set out in document 6.2.25.2 Environmental Statement - Figure 25.2 Noise Receptor Locations [APP-470], it would be helpful and clearer to all parties if these locations are also described by their address location (e.g. road name and village) and/or add map references.
22. Subject to the revisions/amendments above NNDC would be supportive of this document, which is considered to be helpful in protecting the wider range of sensitive receptors.

#### 5 The Applicant's Position

23. NNDC have suggested the following updates to the information in Section 2 and 3:
  - 1) Table 1 is updated to be consistent with the format of ES Table 25.26 to include an additional column for definition of the receptor's tolerance of effect and the examples column to include reference to vibration receptors;
  - 2) Table 1 is updated to include 'places of worship' as a low sensitivity receptor;

- 3) In Table 1 Cycle routes to be identified as low sensitivity receptors rather than negligible.
  - 4) For the receptor locations identified as potentially requiring enhanced mitigation (in section 3.1) to also be described by their address location (e.g. road name and village) and/or add map references.
24. The Applicant agrees to the amendments suggested by NNDC and will update Section 9 of the OCoCP as follows:
- i. Include Table 1 to provide a definition of noise sensitive receptors (incorporating proposed changes by NNDC);
  - ii. Provide additional detail on the receptor locations requiring enhanced mitigation to include road name and village and a map reference;
  - iii. Include additional text (as per Section 3.2) to confirm that the development of the CNMP will include a review of the construction activities and the identification of any potential noise sensitive receptors (as defined in Table 1) which may be affected and identify any potential control to minimise effects.
25. The Applicant understands that subject to these updates the position on noise sensitive receptors is agreed with NNDC.