



**Responses to the Examining Authority's Third Round of
Written Questions**

**for the
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**

Submitted for Deadline 7

31st March 2020

Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

In the matter of:

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

Planning Inspectorate Ref: EN010087

Registration Identification Ref: 20022916

Question number	Question addressed to	ExA question	RSPB comments
8. Habitats Regulation Assessment			
8.6 Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA, Alde-Ore Estuary SPA, and Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SAC			
Q3.8.6.2	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Natural England	<p>CRM for gannet and lesser black backed gull (LBBG):</p> <p>1. The RSPB has previously stated that it cannot agree no AEOL of gannet of the FFC SPA and LBBG of Alde-Ore Estuary SPA from collision mortality from Norfolk Boreas alone. Further to the Applicant's revised CRM at Deadline 5 [REP5-059], can the RSPB provide an update on its position in relation to these features and collision impacts from Norfolk Boreas alone. If the RSPB is unable to rule out an AEOL, please can it provide its reasons.</p>	<p>The RSPB has made efforts to review the latest alone and in-combination assessments and consider their implications for the Boreas project. However, all key staff involved with the review process have been dealing with contingency planning to deal with the Covid-19 crisis to ensure that the RSPB's staff and volunteers remain safe and well during this challenging time. This has therefore delayed the completion of our review and ability to respond to the latest assessments by Deadline 7. We will endeavour to respond to the latest assessments as soon as practically possible to provide an update on our position regarding impacts to features of the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA and Alde-Ore Estuary SPA.</p> <p>It should also be noted that moving Deadline 8 to 8th April 2020 means this now falls the day before submissions are due on the Hornsea 3 and Norfolk Vanguard projects. As the same RSPB specialists are reviewing and providing advice for the Norfolk Boreas project, we may also be limited in our ability to meet this revised deadline.</p>