

Norfolk Boreas Case Team Planning Inspectorate NorfolkBoreas@planninginspectorate.gov.uk (Email only)

MMO Reference: DCO/2017/00002

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010087

Identification Number: 20022925

24 June 2021

Dear Gareth Leigh,

Planning Act 2008, Norfolk Boreas Limited, Proposed Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm Order

Marine Licensing

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MMO comments on the request for information by the Secretary of State's (SoS) letter date 28 April 2021

On 11 June 2019, the Marine Management Organisation (the "MMO") received notice under section 56 of the Planning Act 2008 (the "PA 2008") that the Planning Inspectorate ("PINS") had accepted an application made by Norfolk Boreas Limited (the "Applicant") for determination of a development consent order for the construction, maintenance and operation of the proposed Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm (the "DCO Application") (MMO ref: DCO/2017/00002; PINS ref: EN010087).

The Applicant seeks authorisation for the construction, operation and maintenance of the DCO Application, comprising of up to 158 wind turbine generators together with associated onshore and offshore infrastructure and all associated development.

The MMO received a letter from the SoS dated 28 April 2021 that requested further information on a number of issues. The MMO has provided comments on the additional environmental information requested below.

Alde-Ore Estuary Special Protection Area

The MMO generally defers to Natural England on matters of ornithological compensation, however the MMO has been party to the discussions between the Applicant and Natural England. In addition to this the MMO has reviewed Schedule 19 and provided comments to the Applicant.

Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Protection Area

The MMO generally defers to Natural England on matters of ornithological compensation, however the MMO has been party to the discussions between the Applicant and Natural England. In addition to this the MMO has reviewed Schedule 19 and provided comments to the Applicant.

Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton (HHW) Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

The MMO generally defers to Natural England on matters of compensation, however as the HHW SAC is below mean high water springs, the MMO has been included in the discussions between the Applicant and Natural England. In addition to this the MMO has reviewed Schedule 19 and provided comments to the Applicant.

Schedule 19 and Timescales





The MMO believes that there needs to be a timescale for the consultation period within each part of Schedule 19 and that each part of the Schedule should include a requirement for consultation with the MMO. The MMO believes that a timescale is required to ensure that the length of the consultation period is clear to consultees.

The MMO notes this detail was not within The Hornsea Three Offshore Wind Farm Order 2020, however the MMO would highlight that it was not consulted on the final Schedule 14 wording of this order.

The MMO understands the Applicant does not believe that it is necessary or appropriate to include a timescale in Schedule 19 as timescales are not specified elsewhere in the Schedule.

The MMO considers that, notwithstanding the Applicant's position, the compensation measures are a key aspect of the DCO. Therefore, the inclusion of consultation timescales will aid clarity and assist the SoS when determining the security of such measures.

General Comments on Compensation Schedules

If the SoS believes there is a requirement for licenced activities to be part of the compensation package then this should be included in a new DML not as part of the Schedule. If this approach is taken the MMO would request to be consulted on the proposed wording of the DML.

This written representation is submitted without prejudice to any future representation the MMO may make about the DCO Application. This representation is also submitted without prejudice to any decision the MMO may make on any associated application for consent, permission, approval or any other type of authorisation submitted to the MMO either for the works in the marine area or for any other authorisation relevant to the proposed development.

Yours Sincerely

Rebecca Reed Marine Licensing Case Officer

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