



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

1 Victoria
Street
London SW1H
0ET

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E www.beis.gov.uk/contact
www.beis.gov.uk

Norfolk Boreas Limited
All Interested Parties

Our ref EN010087
Your
ref

Date: 24 September 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by Norfolk Boreas Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm and associated offshore and onshore infrastructure (“the Norfolk Boreas project”)

1. Following the publication of his consultation letter on 22 September 2021 (“the consultation letter”), the Secretary of State has received a request for clarification from the Applicant in relation to the information sought in relation to the Alde-Ore Estuary Special Protection Area. The request relates to the final bullet point of the consultation letter, reproduced here for ease of reference:
 - Updated Collision Risk Models (CRM) and Population Viability Analysis (PVA) for lesser black-backed gulls, using Natural England’s latest advised avoidance rates¹; and a comparison with the counterfactual SPA population size after 30 years. In-combination assessments should include all projects up to and including Hornsea Project 3.
2. The Applicant has:
 - (i) Requested whether the request to include all projects up to and including Hornsea Project 3 should exclude Norfolk Vanguard, Norfolk Boreas, East Anglia ONE North, East Anglia TWO, Hornsea Project 4 and the Dudgeon and Sheringham extension projects.
 - (ii) Stated that Hornsea Project 3 has no contribution to the lesser black-backed gull mortality at the Alde-Ore Estuary Special Protection Area and that this has been agreed with Natural England.
3. The Secretary of State’s response is as follows:
 - (i) Please perform the in-combination assessment to include Hornsea Project 3, Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas. For the avoidance of doubt, the in-combination assessment should **not** include East Anglia ONE North, East Anglia Two, Hornsea Project 4, or the Dudgeon and Sheringham extension projects.
 - (ii) Please provide references to documents where this agreement is recorded.

¹ Cook, A (2021) Additional Analysis to Support SNCB Recommendations Regarding Collision Risk Modelling. BTO Research Report 739.

4. **This clarification does not affect the timing of the consultation. Responses are requested by 23.59 on 21 October 2021.** All parties are asked to note that the Secretary of State does not presently intend to conduct further consultations in relation to the Norfolk Boreas project and that his decision will be reached on the basis of the information received by the end of the current consultation.
5. Due to Covid-19, responses on the information requested above should be submitted by email only to: NorfolkBoreas@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
6. Responses will be published on the Norfolk Boreas project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-boreas/> as soon as possible after the deadline.
7. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Norfolk Boreas project. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully,

Gareth Leigh

Gareth Leigh
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning