

Date: 24 March 2022  
Our ref: Case: 14030 Consultation: 387032  
Your ref: EN010095



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

Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business  
Park Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire CW1  
6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Max Wiltshire,

**Boston Alternative Energy Facility (BAEF)**

The following constitutes Natural England's formal statutory response for Examination Deadline 9.

**1. Natural England Deadline 9 Submissions**

Natural England has reviewed the relevant documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 8. We would like to highlight to the Examining Authority that only new documents (version 1) or revised versions of outline documents/plans where amendments have been formally made will be responded to by Natural England at each relevant Deadline. Natural England is submitting the following documents within the following thematic appendices:

- Appendix B7 – NE Comments on Without Prejudice Habitats Regulations Assessment Derogation Case: Compensation Measures [REP8-005]
- Appendix B8 – NE Comments on Outline Ornithology Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan [REP8-012] and Final Waterbird Survey Report Summary of Data [REP8-018]
- Appendix E4 – NE Comments on Public Rights of Way – Outline Design Guide and Stopping Up Plan [REP8-007]
- Appendix F6 – NE Comments on draft DCO [REP8-003] and Schedule of Changes to dDCO [REP8-016]

- Appendix H8 – NE Risk and Issues Log Deadline 9
- Appendix J4 – NE Comments on Report on the Implications of European Sites (RIES) [PD-014]

## **2. Air Quality Resource**

Due to COVID, resources to provide input on air quality issues are currently not available , we hope that this position will change before the end of examination in order to provide further comment.

## **3. 9.86 Without Prejudice ‘In-Principle’ Alternative Locations Case [REP8-015]**

Natural England highlights that this is an alternative energy project of 80MW. However, there is likely to be alternative energy projects that provide a greater megawatt capacity for example the original Round 1 windfarms provide a minimum of 194MW with the largest Round 3 offshore windfarms projects set to provide 2,400MW. However, this has not been fully explored as part of the Derogations case.

## **4. SoCG**

Natural England continues to provide a Risk and Issues Log which summarises the issues raised in its RR/WR and provides an update positions through examination. However, the completion of a final SoCG has become challenging as issues remain unresolved and are unable to be progressed to a point where there is confidence that an AEoI will be satisfactorily addressed and/or as written we are unable to agree the Applicant’s proposed statements. However, we will endeavour to sign a SoCG by Deadline 10. In the meantime, we direct you towards our risk and issues log.

## **5. Risk and Issues Log format**

We noted as we progressed through the examination that the PDF version of our Risk and Issues Log was harder to read. Therefore, we have submitted a protected version of the original excel spreadsheet rather than the PDF so that issues can be read across.

For any queries relating to the content of this letter please contact me using the details provided below.

Yours sincerely

Lydia Tabrizi

Norfolk and Suffolk Area Team

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]