

## **Hornsea Project Four**

G1.22 Statement of Common Ground between Hornsea Project Four and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology, Derogation and Compensation

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### **Revision History**

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### Glossary

Term	Definition	
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for one or more Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP).	
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind	The term covers all elements of the project (i.e. both the offshore and	
Farm	onshore). Hornsea Four infrastructure will include offshore generating stations (wind turbines), electrical export cables to landfall, and connection to the electricity transmission network. Hereafter referred to as Hornsea Four.	
Orsted Hornsea Project Four Ltd	The Applicant for the proposed Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm Development Consent Order (DCO).	

### **Acronyms**

A	Definition	
Acronym	Definition	
AEol	Adverse Effect on Integrity	
CRM	Collision Risk Modelling	
DMLs	Deemed Marine Licences	
DCO	Development Consent Order	
ECC	Export Cable Corridor	
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	
EP	Evidence Plan	
ES	Environmental Statement	
FFC	Flamborough and Filey Coast	
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment	
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current	
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current	
LAT	Lowest Astronomical Tide	
LSE	Likely Significant Effect	
MDS	Maximum Design Scenario	
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs	
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs	
MMO	Marine Management Organisation	
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project	
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report	
PINS	The Planning Inspectorate	
PVA	Population Viability Analysis	
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment	
RR	Relevant Representation	
SNCB	Statutory Nature Conservation Body	



Acronym	Definition
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SPA	Special Protection Area



#### 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 Reason for this document

- 1.1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared between Orsted Hornsea Project Four Limited ('the Applicant') and The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (the RSPB) to set out the areas of agreement and disagreement between the two parties in relation to the proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Hornsea Project Four offshore wind farm (hereafter referred to as 'Hornsea Four').
- 1.1.1.2 This SoCG covers offshore ornithology matters and derogation and compensation matters.
- 1.1.1.3 The need for a SoCG between the Applicant and the RSPB is set out within the Rule 6 letter that was issued by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.1.1.4 Following detailed discussions undertaken through the Evidence Plan (EP) Process, the Applicant and the RSPB have sought to progress a SoCG. It is the intention that this document will provide PINS and the Examining Authority (ExA) with a clear overview of the level of common and uncommon ground between both parties at Deadline 1 of the Hornsea Four DCO Examination. This document will facilitate further discussions between the Applicant and the RSPB; the SoCG will be updated as discussions progress during the Hornsea Four DCO examination.

#### 1.2 Approach to SoCG

- 1.2.1.1 The Applicant took the decision at an early stage to adopt a proportionate approach to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Hornsea Four which is detailed and integrated throughout the DCO application. This SoCG seeks to set out the agreements reached with the RSPB on the proportionate approach to EIA in addition to other matters such as (but not limited to) the adequacy of baseline data collection, the assessment methodology and conclusions reached (Section 3.7).
- 1.2.1.2 The structure of this SoCG is as follows:
  - Section 1: Introduction;
  - Section 2: Consultation;
  - Section 3: Agreement Logs; and
  - **Section 4:** Summary.

 $<sup>^1\,</sup>https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010098/EN010098-000901-Hornsea%204%20Rule%206%20letter.pdf$ 



#### 1.3 Application elements of interest to the RSPB

1.3.1.1 The elements of Hornsea Four which may affect the interests of the RSPB are Work Numbers 1 to 10, covering offshore works. These are detailed in Part 1 (Authorised Development) of Schedule 1 (Authorised Project) of the draft DCO (C1.1: Draft DCO including DMLs).

#### 1.4 Overview of Hornsea Four

- 1.4.1.1 Hornsea Four is an offshore wind farm which will be located approximately 69 km offshore the East Riding of Yorkshire in the Southern North Sea and will be the fourth project to be developed in the former Hornsea Zone. Hornsea Four will include both offshore and onshore infrastructure and consists of:
  - Hornsea Four array area: This is where the offshore wind generating station will be located which will include the turbines, array cables, offshore accommodation platforms and a range of offshore substations as well as offshore interconnector cables and export cables;
  - Hornsea Four offshore export cable corridor: This is where the permanent offshore electrical infrastructure (offshore export cables, as well as the High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) booster station (if required), will be located;
  - Hornsea Four intertidal area: This is the area between Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)
    and Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) through which all of the offshore export cables will
    be installed;
  - **Hornsea Four onshore export cable corridor:** This is where the permanent onshore electrical cable infrastructure will be located; and
  - Hornsea Four onshore substation including energy balancing infrastructure: This is where the permanent onshore electrical substation infrastructure (onshore High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter/HVAC substation, energy balancing infrastructure and connections to the National Grid) will be located.



#### 2 Consultation

### 2.1 Summary of consultation with the RSPB

2.1.1.1 **Table 1** below summarises the consultation that the Applicant has undertaken with the RSPB relevant to offshore and ornithology during the pre-application phase.

Table 1: Summary of pre-application consultation with the RSPB, in relation to offshore and intertidal ornithology and derogation and compensation.

Date	Form of	Statutory/Non	Summary
	consultation	Statutory	
Offshore and Intertida	l Ornithology		
13/09/2018	Meeting	Non Statutory	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
			Technical Panel Meeting 1
			Initial meeting to discuss the approach to
			the scoping report, the methods and
			scope of data collection and surveys,
			scope of EIA including assessment
			methodology, and preliminary discussion
			of key issues or areas of concern.
			Introduction to the project; introduction to
			the Technical Panel, the EEP process and
			the proportionate approach to EIA; and
			discussion on key position papers.
15/10/2018	Consultation	Statutory	Hornsea Four Scoping Report
17/12/2018	Meeting	Non Statutory	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
			Technical Panel Meeting 2
			Project updates; review of scoping
			responses and the Habitats Regulations
			Assessment (HRA) screening report; and
			discussion of next steps in relation to
			seeking agreement with stakeholders on
			the data to be included in the PEIR and ES.
07/02/2019	Meeting	Non Statutory	Developable Area Approach (DAA) 1
			Presentation / discussion on Hornsea
			Four's development aspirations and
			discussion on ornithological constraints
			and potential reduction of the Agreement
			for Lease (AfL) area in line with key
			potential consent risks.
10/04/2019	Meeting	Non Statutory	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
			Technical Panel Meeting 3
			Project updates; discussion on the
			proportionate approach to EIA; review of
			responses received through the Scoping



Date	Form of	Statutory/Non	Summary
	consultation	Statutory	
			Opinion and Habitats Regulations
			Assessment (HRA) Screening Report
			consultation; discussion on next steps in
			relation to seeking agreement with key
			stakeholders on the data sources for
			baseline characterisation; and discussion
			on the next steps to agree appropriate
			methods for estimating potential impacts
			for the PEIR and ES.
11/06/2019	Meeting	Non Statutory	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
	, , ,		Technical Panel Meeting 4
			Project updates; discussion of the scope of
			the PEIR and ES chapters; further
			discussion relating to agreement of
			baseline data. assessment methodology
			and the Impacts Register for Collision Risk
			Modelling (CRM) and displacement
			analysis; and summary of key areas of
			agreement and disagreement between
			the Applicant and Technical Panel
		_	members.
13/08/2019	Consultation	Statutory	Hornsea Four PEIR
			Published for statutory Section 42
			consultation.
23/09/2019	Consultation	Statutory	The RSPB response to PEIR
	response		Providing comments on the PEIR.
29/10/2019	Meeting	Non Statutory	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
			Technical Panel Meeting 5
			Project updates and updates to the
			project programme; review of Section 42
			responses; next steps to agree the key
			species and assessment methods for the
			assessment of displacement and
			disturbance; discussion on sCRM Shiny
			App and 'worse case' scenarios and
			discussion on Population Viability Analysis
			(PVA) tools.
12/11/2019	Meeting	Non Statutory	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
12, 11, 2017	riceting	rion statatory	Technical Panel Meeting 6
			Review of impact assessment
			methodology including values used to
			define value, sensitivity and importance,
			and the use of a matrix approach to
			determine significance; approach to the



Date	Form of	Statutory/Non	Summary
Date	consultation	Statutory	Summary
	Consultation	Statutory	
			cumulative assessment including key data sources for displacement analysis, CRM
			and CEA tables; and discussion on barrier
			effects and approach to the lighting
			impact assessment.
26/11/2019	Meeting	Non Statutory	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
			Technical Panel Meeting 7
			Discussion on designated sites screened in
			for assessment, and defining the
			designated features and assemblages of
			those sites screened in for assessment;
			and updates on species-specific work
			undertaken to inform the EIA.
27/02/2020	Meeting	Non Statutory	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
			Technical Panel Meeting 8
			Project updates; discussions over
			additional camera analysis, CRM,
			cumulative effects assessment and
			species densities; and updates to foraging
			ranges based on the Woodward et al
			(2019) paper.
21/04/2020	Meeting	Non Statutory	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
21/04/2020	riceting	rionstatutory	Technical Panel Meeting 9
			Project updates and programme;
			additional camera analysis; species-
			specific data to inform populations and
			densities; and data sources for intertidal
00/0//0000			ornithology.
09/06/2020	Meeting	Non Statutory	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
			Technical Panel Meeting 10
			Project updates, programme and
			derogation update; CRM and PVA
			assessments; and productivity , Mortality
			Rates and Seabird Populations.
15/07/2020	Meeting	Non Statutory	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
			Technical Panel Meeting 11
			Presentation of revised offshore
			ornithology data, following changes to
			the Hornsea Four Order Limits;
			presentation of results from CRM and PVA
			workstreams; discussion on other ongoing
			offshore wind farm examinations;
			apportionment methodology for the
			Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment



Date	Form of	Statutory/Non	Summary
	consultation	Statutory	
			(RIAA); additional camera analysis; and
			HRA screening update.
23/11/2020	Meeting	Non Statutory	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
			Technical Panel Meeting 13
			Review of Baseline and MRSea ES
			deliverables; discussion on the cumulative
			and in-combination totals for other
			offshore wind farms; and presentation of
			updated PVA modelling results.
04/03/2021	Meeting	Non Statutory	Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
			Technical Panel Meeting 14
			Project updates including the reduction in
			the developable area and the change to
			the project programme; discussion on the
			auk habituation and displacement report
			and associated feedback; discussion on
			guillemot conclusions on AEoI; and
			discussion on potential mitigation options.
			NOTE: the RSPB were absent but were
			sent the invite with material attached.
Derogation and Compe	ensation		
24/06/2020	Online Hornsea	Non Statutory	Hornsea Four Workshop #1: Long list
	Three and Four		To introduce intention to produce 'without
	Compensation		prejudice' derogation case. The applicant
	Workshop		discussed and obtained feedback on the
			draft long-list of potential compensation
			measures presented. The applicant shared
			their approach to identifying
			compensation options and long-term
			implementation. Presenting details of
			Hornsea Four's programme, including a
			delay to the DCO submission date to
			account for other project delays.
11/08/2020	Online Hornsea	Non Statutory	Hornsea Four Workshop #1.1: Onshore
	Three and Four	_	nesting and prey availability
	Compensation		Presentation and discussion of work
	Workshop		completed to date on feasible
	·		compensation measures, namely artificial
		1	
			nest provision and prey availability
			research; this was predominately on
			research; this was predominately on
			research; this was predominately on options for Hornsea Three but informed



Date	Form of	Statutory/Non	Summary
	consultation	Statutory	
25/08/2020	Online Workshop Compensation	Non Statutory	Online Compensation Measures Workshop
	Measures		More in-depth discussion of artificial
			nesting as compensation option for
			kittiwake. Agenda was focused primarily
			on Hornsea 3 but informed Hornsea Four's
			case. The applicant presented
			calculations to determine number of nest
			sites required, and also discussed suitable
			locations, securing sites, adaptive
			management and roadmap to delivery of
			the measure.
08/09/2020	Meeting	Non Statutory	The Applicant obtained advice in relation
	Notes: joint		to offshore fisheries management and the
	Hornsea Three		effectiveness of the proposed prey-
	and Four agenda		related compensation. The Applicant
			discussed offshore fisheries management,
			with the position that it is legally
			inappropriate to pursue in the DCO and
			must be Government led. The
			effectiveness of prey-related
			compensation was discussed, with
			stakeholders reiterating their support for
05/11/0000		\	inclusion of prey availability.
25/11/2020	Online Workshop	Non Statutory	Hornsea Four Workshop #1
	Compensation		This meeting provided feedback on the
	Measures		feasibility and preference for the
			measures presented, and introduced workstreams pursued for kittiwake,
			guillemot, razorbill and gannet. The
			Applicant presented on the PVA
			modelling, the use of EC Guidance (2018)
			criteria to identify feasible compensation
			measures and the feasibility and
			preferences for measures.
20/01/2020	Online Workshop	Non Statutory	Hornsea Four Workshop #2
	Compensation	,	This meeting provided The Applicant the
	Measures		opportunity to discuss the proposed
			compensation measures and establish
			whether they are feasible (either alone or
			as part of a suite of measures). The
			Applicant presented on the offshore
			nesting, Guillemot and Razorbill Fisheries
			Bycatch and prey availability and



Date	Form of	Statutory/Non	Summary
	consultation	Statutory	
			seagrass restoration evidence bases and next steps.
			An update on prey available evidence was provides, as well as DMP and British True for Ornithology modelling progress to date.
28/05/2020	Online Workshop Compensation Measures	Non Statutory	Hornsea Four Workshop #3  The Applicant provided an update on the compensation workstreams. The Applicant presented on kittiwake nesting census survey work of oil and gas platforms, as well as prey distribution work. Location and colonisation period of potential new or repurposed offshore nesting structures discussed, in addition to decommissioning of oil and gas structures.  The Applicant presented on the results of bycatch reduction to date. Proposals for bycatch reduction trials were also discussed.
			The Applicant presented on predator eradication results: the shortlisting process and potential of the Channel Islands and Isles of Scilly.
03/08/2020	Online Workshop Compensation Measures	Non Statutory	Hornsea Four Workshop #4  The Applicant provided an update on the progress of Hornsea Four evidence workstreams for compensation measures. Prior to the workshop, the Applicant submitted several compensation plans and requested comments on the. The outline structure of the Roadmaps was presented.
			The Applicant also presented on kittiwake population modelling to identify the population of first-time breeders available to recruit to new colonies and site selection work for offshore nesting structures and early-stage designs.



Date	Form of consultation	Statutory/Non Statutory	Summary
			The Applicant gauged views on the merit of the compensation measures.
			The Applicant presented an update on the bycatch reduction proposals, results of fisheries consultation, the details of proposed pilot study; predator eradication work including proposed locations for inclusion; and seagrass restoration proposals.
			The commitments as part of the HOW03 submission and HOW04 potential extension to the research regarding seabird prey resource were presented.

### 3 Agreement Logs

#### 3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1.1 The following sections of this SoCG set out the level of agreement between the parties for each relevant topic of the application (as identified in paragraph 1.3.1.1).
- 3.1.1.2 **Table 2** presents the list of documents that have informed the level of agreements presented in Section 3.2–3.3.

Table 2: Relevant documents to this SoCG.

Document Title
Offshore Environmental Assessment
A2.5 ES Volume A2 Chapter 5 Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology
A2.5.1 Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology Chapter Schedule of Change
Offshore Annexes
A5.5.1 ES Volume A5 Annex 5.1 Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology Baseline Characterisation Report
A5.5.2 ES Volume A5 Annex 5.2 Offshore Ornithology Displacement Analysis
A5.5.3 ES Volume A5 Annex 5.3 Offshore Ornithology Collision Risk Modelling
A5.5.4 ES Volume A5 Annex 5.4 Offshore Ornithology Population Viability Analysis
A5.5.5 ES Volume A5 Annex 5.5 Offshore Ornithology Migratory Birds Report
A5.5.5.1 Offshore Ornithology Migratory Birds Report Schedule of Change
A5.5.6 ES Volume A5 Annex 5.6 Offshore Ornithology MRSea Report
Compensation Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology Annexes
A4.6.1 ES Volume A4 Annex 6.1 Compensation Project Description.



D Title	
Document Title	anay 6.2 Companyation Location Plans
	nnex 6.2 Compensation Location Plans.
	nnex 6.3 Compensation Impacts Register.
	nnex 6.4 Compensation Commitments Register.
	nnex 6.5 Compensation EIA Annex Part 1.
	nnex 6.5 Compensation EIA Annex Part 2.
	nex 6.5 Compensation EIA Annex Part 3.
	nex 6.5 Compensation EIA Annex Part 4.
A4.6.5 ES Volume A4 An	nex 6.5 Compensation EIA Annex Part 5.
	nex 6.5 Compensation EIA Annex Part 6.
Report to Inform Approp	priate Assessment (RIAA)
B2.2 RP Volume B2 Cha	pter 2 Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
Derogation	
B2.4 RP Volume B2 Cha	pter 4 Summary Statement.
B2.5 RP Volume B2 Cha	pter 5 Without Prejudice Derogation Case.
B2.6 RP Volume B2 Cha	pter 6 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Overview.
B2.6.1 RP Volume B2 Ar	nnex 6.1 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Compensation Criteria.
B2.6.2 RP Volume B2 Ar	nnex 6.2 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Prey Resource Evidence.
B2.7 RP Volume B2 Cha	pter 7 FFC SPA Gannet and Kittiwake Compensation Plan.
B2.7.1 RP Volume B2 Ar	nnex 7. 1 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Offshore Artificial Nesting Ecological
Evidence.	
B2.7.2 RP Volume B2 Ar	nnex 7.2 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Offshore Artificial Nesting Roadmap.
B2.7.3 RP Volume B2 Ar	nnex 7.3 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Onshore Artificial Nesting Ecological
Evidence.	
B2.7.4 RP Volume B2 Ar	nnex 7.4 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Onshore Artificial Nesting Roadmap.
B2.7.5 RP Volume B2 Ar	nnex 7.5 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Artificial Nesting Site Selection and Design.
B2.7.6 RP Volume B2 Ar	nnex 7.6 Outline Gannet and Kittiwake Implementation and Monitoring Plan.
	pter 8 FFC SPA Gannet Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Plan.
	nnex 8.1 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Bycatch Reduction Ecological Evidence.
	nnex 8.2 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Bycatch Reduction Roadmap.
	nnex 8.3 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Predator Eradication Ecological Evidence.
	nnex 8.4 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Predator Eradication Roadmap.
	nnex 8.5 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Fish Habitat Enhancement Ecological
Evidence	ind. 3.5 Companied in reason content to an Artist Habitat Enhancement Ecotogical
	nnex 8.6 Compensation measures for FFC SPA Fish Habitat Enhancement Roadmap
	nnex 8.7 Outline Gannet Guillemot and Razorbill Implementation and Monitoring Plan
	·
	pter 9 Record of Consultation apter 10 Without Prejudice Derogation Funding Statement
Pre Examination Docum	
G1.5 Kittiwake AEol Cor	iclusion Position Paper



3.1.1.3 In order to easily identify whether a matter is 'agreed', 'not agreed' or an 'ongoing point of discussion', the colour coding system set out in **Table 3** below is used within the 'position' column of the following sections of this document.

Table 3: Position Status Key.

Position Status	Position Colour Coding
Agreed	Agreed
The matter is considered to be agreed between the parties	
Not Agreed – no material impact	Not Agreed – no material impact
The matter is not agreed between the parties, however the outcome of the	
approach taken by either the Applicant or the RSPB is not considered to	
result in a material impact to the assessment conclusions.	
Not Agreed	Not Agreed
The matter is not agreed between the parties and the outcome of the	
approach taken by either the Applicant or the RSPB is considered to result in	
a materially different impact to the assessment conclusions.	
Ongoing point of discussion	Ongoing point of discussion
The matter is neither 'agreed' nor 'not agreed' and is a matter where further	
discussion is required between the parties (e.g where documents are yet to	
be shared with the RSPB).	



### 3.2 Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; and Derogation and Compensation

Table 4: Agreement Log — Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; and Derogation and Compensation.

ID	Topic	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
		Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology		
Environmental	Impact Assessment			
The RSPB-	Baseline	Sufficient survey data (24 months of site-specific aerial digital	The RSPB are in agreement that 24	Agreed
ORN-OFF-01	Environment	survey data) has been collected to define the baseline inform	months of survey data is sufficient for	Evidence Plan (EP)
		the assessment.	baseline characterisation.	Log: OFF-ORN-1.8
		The reliance on aerial digital survey data from two cameras	The RSPB agree that there was no	Agreed
		(approximately 10% coverage of the survey area) is a	material difference between the	EP Log: OFF-ORN-
		sufficient survey dataset that is appropriate to inform the	baseline results of the 2 vs 4 camera	1.5 and 1.19
		assessment.	analysis and are therefore content	
			with the use of 10% coverage for	
			baseline characterisation.	
		The aerial digital video survey methodology implemented for	The RSPB is content that this is a	Agreed
		the offshore ornithological surveys is appropriate for	robust method if used correctly and	EP Log: OFF-ORN-
		characterising the baseline.	transparently.	1.8
		The methods and techniques used to analyse offshore	There are a number of concerns with	Ongoing point of
		ornithological data are appropriate for characterising bird	how the Applicant has applied the	discussion
		distributions and estimating populations, attribution and	methods and a lack of clarity as to	
		apportionment of unidentified birds, correction of availability	how data has been treated or	
		bias and consideration of biological seasons.	consideration of model performance.	
		Through consultation with the RSPB prior to the PEIR and	The RSPB agree that the 'benchmark'	Agreed
		following their Section 42 responses a method was	assessment method is appropriate for	EP Log: OFF-ORN-
		developed and agreed to estimate red-throated diver	calculating red-throated diver density	1.11 and 2.25
		densities within the Hornsea Four Export Cable Corridor. This	within the ECC.	
		included a 'benchmark' approach being applied to seabird		
		densities from the predicted density maps and the underlying		
		dataset of the SeaMaST project (Seabird Mapping and		
		Sensitivity Tool) described in Bradbury et al. (2014) as the		
		most appropriate dataset for this.		



ID	Topic	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
		The migratory seabird and non-seabird population estimates detailed in Appendix C of Volume A5, Annex 5.5: Offshore Ornithology Migratory Birds Report is appropriate to inform the assessment.	The RSPB agree with the assessment of migratory seabird and non-seabirds.	Agreed
	Assessment Methodology (General)	The list of offshore ornithology receptors and the potential impacts on them assessed are appropriate for all phases of development.	The RSPB agree with the receptors identified for impact assessment. However, the RSPB has outstanding issues with the baseline data and manner in which impacts have been assessed.	Ongoing point of discussion
		The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of Hornsea Four.	While the overarching issues of baseline data and population modelling mean that the assessment is inadequate, and therefore insufficient for a robust assessment and proper understanding of the likely impacts of the scheme.	Ongoing point of discussion
		The maximum design scenarios (MDS) for impacts on offshore and intertidal receptors is clearly defined and are representative of the likely Worst Case Scenarios (WCS) and appropriate to be used in the assessment.	The RSPB agree that the MDS is clearly defined.	Ongoing point of discussion
	Assessment Methodology (Construction Impacts)	The methods of assessing disturbance and displacement during construction activities within the array area and 2 km buffer (being treated as half the predicted values of the operational and maintenance phase) is appropriate for the purposes of assessing the risks of displacement of gannet, guillemot, razorbill and puffin in relation to Hornsea Four.	The RSPB has outstanding issues with manner in which displacement impacts have been considered, for example, the analysis only considers auks recorded on the water and not those in flight. While some issues have been addressed in A.5.5.2 Volume A5, Annex 5.2: Offshore Ornithology Displacement Analysis,	Ongoing point of discussion



ID	Topic	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
			REP2-002, there remain outstanding	
			concerns with the baseline data	
			While major methodological	Ongoing point of
			concerns remain, progress towards	discussion
			resolving a number of issues was	
			made during the pre-application	
			discussions for this project.	
		The methods of assessing disturbance and displacement	The RSPB agree that the 'benchmark'	Agreed
		during construction activities within the ECC (associated with	assessment method and approach to	EP Log: OFF-ORN-
		export cable laying), within an area out to 2 km from cable	ECC construction phase assessment.	1.11, 2.12 and
		laying vessel, is appropriate for the purposes of assessing the		2.25
		risks of displacement of red-throated diver in relation to		
		Hornsea Four.		
	Assessment	The methods of assessing disturbance and displacement	The RSPB agree with the focus of	Agreed
	Methodology	during the operation and maintenance phase for gannet of	gannet displacement being based on	
	(Operation	between 60-80% is appropriate for the purposes of assessing	60-80% displacement rate, in	
	Impacts)	the risks in relation to Hornsea Four.	conjunction with full matrices being	
			presented alongside.	
		The methods of assessing displacement consequent	The RSPB continue to have significant	Not Agreed –
		mortality during the operation and maintenance phase for	concerns relating to the project's	material impact
		gannet of up to 1% is appropriate for the purposes of	displacement impacts including their	
		assessing the risks in relation to Hornsea Four.	assessment.	
		The methods of assessing disturbance and displacement	The RSPB continue to have significant	Not Agreed –
		during the operation and maintenance phase for auk species	concerns relating to the project's	material impact
		(guillemot, razorbill and puffin) of 50% is appropriate for the	displacement impacts including their	
		purposes of assessing the risks in relation to Hornsea Four.	assessment.	
		The methods of assessing displacement consequent	The RSPB continue to have significant	Not Agreed –
		mortality during the operation and maintenance phase for	concerns relating to the project's	material impact
		auk species (guillemot, razorbill and puffin) of up to 1% is	displacement impacts including their	
		appropriate for the purposes of assessing the risks in relation	assessment.	
		to Hornsea Four.		



ID	Торіс	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
		The methods of assessing collision risk for key seabirds	The RSPB do not agree with the use	Not Agreed –
		including gannet, kittiwake, great black-backed gull, lesser	of a 98.9% avoidance rate for gannet	
		black-backed gulls and herring gull are appropriate and have	collision risk assessment.	
		been applied accurately.		
		The methods of assessing collision risk on migratory seabirds	The RSPB agree with the assessment	Agreed
		and non-seabirds are appropriate and have been applied	of migratory seabird and non-	
		accurately.	seabirds.	
		The methods of assessing indirect effects are appropriate	TBC	Ongoing point of
		and have been applied accurately.		discussion
		The methods of assessing barrier effects are appropriate and	TBC	Ongoing point of
		have been applied accurately.		discussion
	Assessment	The plans and projects considered within the cumulative	The RSPB agree with the projects	Agreed.
	Methodology	assessment are appropriate.	included within the cumulative	
	(Cumulative		assessments.	
	Impacts)	The abundance (displacement) values for all other plans and	We continue to have significant	Not Agreed
		projects considered within the cumulative displacement	concerns relating to the project's in-	
		assessment are appropriate for gannet and auk species	combination and cumulative collision	
		(razorbill, guillemot and puffin).	risk and displacement impacts	
			including their assessment.	
		The collision mortality values for all other plans and projects	We continue to have significant	Not Agreed
		considered within the cumulative collision risk assessment	concerns relating to the project's in-	
		are appropriate for gannet, kittiwake, great black-backed	combination and cumulative collision	
		gull, lesser black-backed gull and herring gull.	risk and displacement impacts	
			including their assessment.	
	Outcomes of the	The conclusions of the assessment of impacts for	While the overarching issues of	Not Agreed
	EIA	construction, operation and decommissioning phases are	baseline data and population	
		appropriate and agreed that no impacts of greater than	modelling mean that the assessment	
		minor adverse significance are predicted.	is inadequate, and therefore	
			insufficient for a robust assessment	
			and proper understanding of the	
			likely impacts of the scheme	



ID	Topic	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
		The conclusions of the assessment of impacts for operation	TBC	Ongoing point of
		and maintenance phases are appropriate and agreed that no		discussion
		impacts of greater than minor adverse significance are		
		predicted.		
		The conclusions of the assessment of cumulative	TBC	Ongoing point of
		construction and decommissioning impacts appropriate and		discussion
		agreed that no impacts of greater than minor adverse		
		significance are predicted.		
		The conclusions of the assessment of cumulative operation	TBC	Ongoing point of
		and maintenance impacts appropriate and agreed that no		discussion
		impacts of greater than minor adverse significance are		
		predicted.		
		Given the impacts of the project, the proposed Commitments	TBC	Ongoing point of
		outlined in Volume A4, Annex 5.2: Commitments Register		discussion
		are appropriate.		
Report to I	nform Appropriate Ass		I	
	Screening	The RIAA has identified all relevant features of the	The RSPB agree that all relevant	Agreed.
		designated sites that may be sensitive to changes as a result	features of designated sites where a	
		of the proposed activities.	LSE may occur have been identified.	
	Assessment	The apportioning approach is appropriate.	The RSPB has outstanding issues with	Ongoing point of
	Methodology		the manner in which apportioning of	discussion
			predicted mortalities to relevant	
			SPAs has been carried out.	
		The breeding seasons as defined in the RIAA are appropriate	The RSPB has outstanding issues with	Ongoing point of
		for the assessment.	manner in which the bio-seasons have	discussion
			been defined, for example the	
			kittiwake breeding season is defined	
			as May to July, when evidence from	
			colony monitoring shows birds are	
			present April to September.	



ID	Topic	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
	PVA	The PVA has been undertaken in an appropriate manner.	Despite advice from both Natural	Ongoing point of
			England and the RSPB the Applicant	discussion
			has only presented outputs for the	
			Counterfactual of Population Growth	
			(CFOPG), the RSPB consider that the	
			Counterfactual of Population Size	
			(CFOPS) also needs to be presented	
			and assessed.	
		The PVA has been undertaken in an appropriate manner and	The RSPB have run PVA scenarios	Ongoing point of
		the approach is robust providing sound results and analysis.	using the same methods (the Natural	discussion
			England PVA tool) and parameters,	
			as provided by the Applicant, and	
			found inconsistencies in the model	
			outputs reported by the Applicant.	
			These inconsistencies are indicative of	
			the impacts not having been	
			adequately assessed.	
	Outcomes of the			
	RIAA	Conclusion of no AEoI at any sites is appropriate, either alone	There remain outstanding issues with	Ongoing point of
		or in-combination as a result of the proposed activities	the density modelling applied to the	discussion
		(except at Flamborough and Filey Coast (FFC) Special	digital aerial survey data. As this	
		Protection Area (SPA)).	modelling is fundamental to the	
			whole assessment, it is impossible to	
			reach any conclusions with regard to	
			significance of impacts without	
			reassurance that it has been done	
			correctly. As such all the conclusions	
			on AEOI can only be considered	
			tentative.	
		Conclusion of no AEoI at FFC SPA is appropriate in relation to	There remain outstanding issues with	Ongoing point of
		Hornsea Four alone, for any relevant features (including	the density modelling applied to the	discussion
			digital aerial survey data. As this	



ID	Topic	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
		designated features of gannet, kittiwake, guillemot,	modelling is fundamental to the	
		razorbill), as a result of the proposed activities.	whole assessment, it is impossible to	
			reach any conclusions with regard to	
			significance of impacts without	
			reassurance that it has been done	
			correctly. As such all the conclusions	
			on AEOI can only be considered	
			tentative.	
		Conclusion of no AEoI at FFC SPA is appropriate in relation to	There remain outstanding issues with	Ongoing point of
		Hornsea Four alone, for any relevant features (including	the density modelling applied to the	discussion
		named species within the designated seabird assemblage of	digital aerial survey data As this	
		herring gull and puffin and the seabird assemblage itself), as	modelling is fundamental to the	
		a result of the proposed activities.	whole assessment, it is impossible to	
			reach any conclusions with regard to	
			significance of impacts without	
			reassurance that it has been done	
			correctly. As such all the conclusions	
			on AEOI can only be considered	
			tentative.	
		There is potential for an AEoI on kittiwake at the FFC SPA	The RSPB agrees with the Applicant	Agreed
		from Hornsea Four in-combination with other projects.	that there is potential for an AEoI on	
			kittiwake at the FFC SPA from	
			Hornsea Four in-combination with	
			other projects. Furthermore, the RSPB	
			notes that, notwithstanding the	
			concerns with various outstanding	
			issues regarding density and	
			population modelling (see below), the	
			RSPB considers that the in-	
			combination impacts on kittiwakes	
			from the FFC SPA have reached the	



ID	Topic	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
			point where an AEol cannot be	
			avoided	
		Conclusion of no AEoI at FFC SPA is appropriate in relation to	There remain outstanding issues with	Ongoing point of
		Hornsea Four in-combination with other projects, for the	the density modelling applied to the	discussion
		designated features of gannet, kittiwake, guillemot, razorbill	digital aerial survey data As this	
		, as a result of the proposed activities.	modelling is fundamental to the	
			whole assessment, it is impossible to	
			reach any conclusions with regard to	
			significance of impacts without	
			reassurance that it has been done	
			correctly. As such all the conclusions	
			on AEOI can only be considered	
			tentative.	
		Conclusion of an AEoI at FFC SPA is appropriate in relation to	There remain outstanding issues with	Ongoing point of
		from Hornsea Four in-combination with other projects, for the	the density modelling applied to the	discussion
		designated feature of kittiwake, as a result of the proposed	digital aerial survey data As this	
		activities.	modelling is fundamental to the	
			whole assessment, it is impossible to	
			reach any conclusions with regard to	
			significance of impacts without	
			reassurance that it has been done	
			correctly. As such all the conclusions	
			on AEOI can only be considered	
			tentative.	
		Conclusion of no AEoI at FFC SPA is appropriate in relation to	There remain outstanding issues with	Ongoing point of
		from Hornsea Four in-combination with other projects, for	the density modelling applied to the	discussion
		named species within the designated seabird assemblage of	digital aerial survey data As this	
		herring gull and puffin and the seabird assemblage itself, as a	modelling is fundamental to the	
		result of the proposed activities.	whole assessment, it is impossible to	
			reach any conclusions with regard to	
			significance of impacts without	
			reassurance that it has been done	



ID	Topic	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
			correctly. As such all the conclusions	
			on AEOI can only be considered	
			tentative.	
Draft DCC	O and Deemed Marine L	icences		
		The wording of the following requirements and conditions	TBC	Ongoing point of
		pertaining to offshore and intertidal ornithology are		discussion
		appropriate and adequate:		
		<ul> <li>Part 2 - Condition 13(1)(d)(v) of DCO Schedules 11 and 12</li> </ul>		
		with reference to a Vessel Management Plan;		
		• Part 3 - DCO Requirement 2(2)(c) and DCO Schedule 11,		
		Part 2 - Condition 1(2)(c) with reference to the lowest		
		point of the rotating blade (42.43m Lowest Astronomical		
		Tide (LAT));		
		• Part 2 - Condition 13(1)(k) of DCO Schedule 11 with		
		reference to an Ornithological Monitoring Plan.		
		Derogation and Compensation Measure	es	
	Derogation	There is potential for an AEoI on kittiwake at the FFC SPA	The RSPB considers that an adverse	Ongoing point of
		from Hornsea Four in-combination with other projects.	effect on the integrity (AEOI) on the	discussion
		Therefore, a derogation case has been provided including	following qualifying features of the	
		compensation.	Flamborough and Filey Coast Special	
			Protection Area (SPA) cannot be ruled	
			out.:	
			- Kittiwake	
			- Gannet	
			- Guillemot	
			- Razorbill	
			Therefore, a derogation case must be	
			provided, including detailed	
			compensation measures for each	
			qualifying feature listed above.	



ID	Topic	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
		The RIAA concludes no AEoI for all other species and all	The RSPB disagree with this and view	Ongoing point of
		other sites and therefore, the derogation case is presented	all conclusions on AEoI as tentative.	discussion
		'without prejudice'.		
	Compensation	Compensation measures have been presented in the DCO	The Applicant has failed to put	Ongoing point of
	Measures	submission 'without prejudice' for gannet, guillemot and	forward detailed, proven and	discussion
		razorbill. Compensation measures are presented for	location specific compensation	
		kittiwake due to the conclusion of an AEOI in combination	measures for any impacted species.	
		with other plans and projects. The DCO submission includes	Neither have any been secured. It is	
		the ecological evidence reports for all measures which	therefore not possible at this stage	
		demonstrate the ecological efficacy of all the measures. The	for the RSPB to assess any of the	
		compensation plans and roadmaps demonstrate how the	compensation measures properly and	
		suite of compensation measures will be effective, viable and	provide advice to the Examining	
		can be secured and delivered to ensure the coherence of the	Authority on whether each has a	
		UK national site network is maintained.	reasonable guarantee of success in	
			meeting specific, agreed	
			compensation objectives.	
	Compensation	Annex 1.37 – Non Statutory Targeted Compensation	A full-scale feasibility study is	Ongoing point of
	Measures –	Measures Consultation Responses (pages 25-30)	essential to understand whether the	discussion
	Predator	Further updates on the feasibility study progress and securing	chosen locations are suitable from a	
	eradication	MOUs will be submitted to the Examination. The Applicant's	technical perspective and whether	
		B2.8.4 Compensation measures for FFC SPA: Predator	that eradication will benefit the sea	
		Eradication: Roadmap presents letters of comfort from the	seabird species.	
		Alderney Wildlife Trust and the States of Guernsey in support		
		of a predator eradication as compensation for Hornsea Four.	None of this work has been	
		States of Alderney and States of Guernsey are the landowners	submitted. Therefore, it is not	
		of the islands/islets where the rat eradication would be	possible to properly evaluate the	
		undertaken and permission has already been granted to	Applicant's proposals at this stage	
		Alderney Wildlife Trust to undertake predator eradication.	and we are concerned that they do	
			not demonstrate a good	
			understanding of the requirements to	
			achieve successful Invasive Non-	
			Native Species (INNS) eradication.	



ID	Topic	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
		The Applicant has employed international eradication and	Such a study must include detailed	Ongoing point of
		island restoration experts to undertake a detailed feasibility	biosecurity and emergency response	discussion
		study (as described within B2.8.4 Compensation measures for	plans, based on a proper	
		FFC SPA: Predator Eradication: Roadmap) of Herm, The	understanding of the risk of reinvasion	
		Humps, Jethou, Sark and the surrounding islands and islets.	by the target INNS.	
		The eradication feasibility assessment with include consideration of:  • Technical feasibility;		
		<ul> <li>Sustainability;</li> </ul>		
		<ul> <li>Social acceptability;</li> </ul>		
		<ul> <li>Political and legal acceptability;</li> </ul>		
		<ul> <li>Environmental acceptability;</li> </ul>		
		Capacity; and		
		Affordability.		
		This will include biosecurity.		
		The Applicant recognises the need for community and local	Securing the support of affected	Ongoing point of
		stakeholder support for predator eradication.	human communities is a prerequisite.	discussion
		Predator control was suggested by the applicant for some of	The RSPB welcomes the removal of	Ongoing point of
		the shortlisted islands being considered for island eradication	"predator control" as a possible	discussion
		and or control as a compensation measure. Islands where	compensation measure	
		control was being considered was in relation to small islands		
		and islets along the south Devon coast and certain locations	We do not consider a "control"	
		within the Isle of Scilly archipelago.	approach acceptable in conservation	
			and compensation terms unless there	
		Due to a lack of information available in support of delivering	is overwhelming benefit (for the	
		compensation for guillemot and razorbill (via predator	seabird species) to be had, which has	
		control/ eradication) on the south coast of Devon and within	not been shown for any of the four	
		the Isles of Scilly, the Applicant is no longer pursuing either	areas identified.	
		location. Potential sites within the Channel Islands are being		



ID	Topic	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
		considered further on a full eradication and biosecurity	Control operations may hinder a	
		measures basis.	future eradication attempt at a site.	
		The islands focused upon are being considered on a full	Many of the islets hinted at in the list	
		eradication and biosecurity measures basis.	of possible locations would be at high	
			risk of reinvasion given their proximity	
			to potential sources of INNS, thereby	
			rendering them unfeasible from an	
			island eradication point of view.	
		Since the submission of the DCO documents, it has been	The RSPB welcomes the removal of	Ongoing point of
		publicly announced that Rathlin Island has secured funding.	Rathlin Island as a possible location	discussion
		Therefore, Rathlin Island will no longer be considered as part	for island restoration. The RSPB had	
		of the shortlist by the Applicant. The Applicant is undertaking	informed the Applicant in early	
		feasibility studies on islands in the Bailiwick of Guernsey only.	September 2021 that Rathlin Island	
			was the site of a fully funded island	
			restoration partnership project	
			The RSPB awaits publication of the	
			feasibility studies of islands in the	
			Bailiwick of Guernsey at Deadline 5 in	
			order to enable detailed scrutiny of	
			the Applicant's predator eradication	
			proposals. This should be	
			accompanied by any associated	
			implementation plans (see REP2-089	
			and REP2-093).	
		Table 15 of the HRA Compensation Measures Part 1	The Applicant has failed to include	Ongoing point of
		document sets out the screening based upon Predator	grey seal in the screening for the Isles	discussion
		Eradication in the Isles of Scilly AoS. The Applicant	of Scilly Complex SAC. This raises	
		acknowledges the non-deliberate omission of grey seal	concerns on the Applicant's HRA	
		(feature of Isles of Scilly Complex SAC) from the HRA of	exercise.	
		compensation measures. The B2.2.2 RP Volume B2 Annex		



ID	Topic	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
		2.2 Habitat Regulations Assessment Compensation		
		Measures Part 1 (APP- 179) document will be revisited and		
		updated accordingly, and any potential impacts on grey seal		
		fully assessed.		
	Compensation	The Roadmaps have set out the feasibility studies and	We consider this proposal is best	Ongoing point of
	Measures –	bycatch reduction selection phase for the compensation	described as experimental research	discussion
	bycatch	measures. Preliminary findings from the feasibility studies	and cannot yet be considered as a	
	mitigation trial	appear promising, with an initial reduction in bycatch of auks	compensation measure, primary or	
		identified from the bycatch reduction selection phase and	otherwise.	
		initial findings in the predator eradication being even more	It is not possible to assess the	
		promising than expected at this stage. The significance of the	proposed measures or state whether	
		bycatch reduction will be fully analysed following	there will be any benefits, as the	
		completion of the bycatch reduction selection phase.	detail of the exact bycatch measures	
			(evidence, scale, methods, time,	
			locations etc.) has not yet been	
			provided. Before any measures can	
			be deemed acceptable as bycatch	
			mitigation they must be proven	
			through a robust trial, with all data	
			made available for peer review. Until	
			the data from the feasibility studies is	
			made available for peer review it	
			cannot be properly assessed.	
		Further updates on the bycatch reduction selection phase	The Applicant has provided no	Ongoing point of
		will be submitted to the Examination, the approach has been	detailed proposal to assess.	discussion
		set out in the B2.8.2 Volume B2, Annex 8.2: Compensation	Therefore, at this stage, the RSPB	
		measures for FFC SPA: Bycatch Reduction: Roadmap.	does not consider this is currently a	
			viable compensation proposal.	
			We will review any more detailed	
			information provided by the	
			Applicant and await the detailed	
			outcome of the trial research.	



ID	Topic	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
	Compensation	The search zone for Hornsea Four onshore nesting is wider	The RSPB is concerned with onshore	Ongoing point of
	Measures –	than that of Hornsea Three extending further North to allow	nesting structures, given the number	discussion
	onshore nesting	more flexibility and choice in the search for suitable land and	of offshore wind farm projects	
	platforms	the Applicant has received expressions interest from a	(consented and submitted) already	
		number of landowners.	proposing such measures, with a	
			particular preponderance in Suffolk.	
			This raises concerns in the	
			identification and securing of suitable	
			locations capable of addressing the	
			many uncertainties.	
			The RSPB shares Natural England's	
			concerns in this respect and is "not	
			persuaded that further onshore	
			artificial nesting structures are likely	
			to result in sufficient benefits to	
			produce compensation, given the	
			number and location of such	
			structures already proposed by	
			submitted OWF projects. It has not	
			been demonstrated there is a	
			sufficient pool of nest-limited	
			kittiwake recruits, suitable locations	
			and/or prey availability available to	
			meet and sustain the existing demand	
			for this measure. We therefore	
			recommend that this measure should	
			not be taken forward by the	
			Applicant".	
			There remain significant unknowns at	
			this stage in respect of the proposed	



ID	Topic	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
			artificial nesting structures for	
			kittiwakes that need to be resolved.	
			To date, no detail has been provided	
			on location	
		The evidence presented on the use of artificial nesting	The RSPB considers the concept of	Ongoing point of
		structures by gannet is provided in <b>B2.7.3 Compensation</b>	artificial nesting structures is a wholly	discussion
		measures for FFC SPA: Onshore Artificial Nesting: Ecological	unproven compensation measure for	
		Evidence.	Northern Gannets. The RSPB	
			considers the evidence presented by	
			the Applicant demonstrates clearly	
			that Northern Gannet is dependent	
			on natural nesting habitats. In the	
			absence of substantive and	
			compelling evidence otherwise, we	
			are not persuaded that artificial	
			nesting structures can be considered	
			even theoretically feasible as a	
			compensation measure for this	
			species.	
	Compensation	There is substantial evidence of artificial nesting structures	In our comments on the August 2021	Ongoing point of
	Measures –	being effective and are a viable compensation measure as	consultation, the RSPB agreed that	discussion
	offshore nesting	presented in B2.7.1 Compensation measures for FFC SPA:	artificial nesting structures are a	
	platforms	Offshore Artificial Nesting: Ecological Evidence.	possible compensation measure for	
			kittiwake but with such substantial	
			caveats that we considered they are	
			unproven as a compensation	
			measure. That remains the RSPB's	
			position.	
			It is apparent that a significant	
			amount of further work is still	
			required before detailed proposals	
			can be presented to the examination	



ID	Topic	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
			so that they can be fully scrutinised.	
			At this stage, we consider the	
			measure experimental. No precise	
			location and design has been	
			proposed, so it is not possible to	
			evaluate and advise, or assess	
			whether any site specific constraints	
			could undermine confidence in long-	
			term implementation.	
			In order to address these	
			uncertainties, we continue to	
			recommend that a meta-population	
			analysis is carried out to clarify the	
			dynamics between potential	
			purpose-built artificial nest sites	
			(offshore and, if pursued, onshore) and	
			SPA and other colony populations	
			(see REP2-089).	
	Compensation	The fish habitat enhancement (seagrass restoration) is a	While the RSPB welcomes the work	Ongoing point of
	Measures – fish	resilience measure and will be used to support the full suite	carried out by Hornsea Project Four	discussion
	habitat	of proposed compensation measures for the target seabirds	on this topic, it remains its view that it	
	enhancement	species, kittiwake, guillemot, razorbill and gannet. There is	cannot yet be considered even a	
		substantial evidence of seagrass acting as a nursery for fish	supportive measure. This is due to a	
		species (see B2.8.5 Compensation measures for FFC SPA:	combination of the weak evidence	
		Fish Habitat Enhancement: Ecological Evidence).	base capable of linking this measure	
			with measurable benefits to the	
			target seabird species and the	
			experimental nature of seagrass	
			restoration itself. Like Natural	
			England, we do not consider the	



ID	Topic	Hornsea Four's Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
			measure to be compensation and so	
			have not commented further.	
Other Matters	i			
			TBC	Ongoing point of
				discussion



### 3.3 Other Documents and Plans

Table 5: Agreement Log – Other Documents and Plans.

ID	Hornsea Fours Position	The RSPB's Position	Position Summary
Outline Orni			
	F2.19 Outline Ornithological Monitoring Plan provides	TBC	Ongoing point of
	an appropriate framework to agree monitoring with		discussion
	Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs) and the		
	MMO prior to construction.		



### 4 Summary

- 4.1.1.1 This SoCG has outlined the consultation that has taken place between the Applicant and the RSPB during the pre-application and Examination phase (to date). The agreement logs present the position reached at the point of submission of this SoCG to PINS in relation to offshore and intertidal ornithology.
- 4.1.1.2 This SoCG will be updated as discussions progress and made available to PINS as requested through the DCO examination phase.