



# Hornsea Project Four

## Outline Gannet Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan: Artificial Nesting Structure

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## Revision Summary

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## Revision Change Log

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## Acronyms

| Term  | Definition   |
|-------|--|
| DCO   | Development Consent Order                              |
| FFC   | Flamborough and Filey Coast                            |
| GCIMP | Gannet Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan |
| GCP   | Gannet Compensation Plan                               |
| OOEG  | Offshore Ornithology Engagement Group                  |
| SPA   | Special Protection Area                                |

## 1 Introduction

1.1.1.1 This document sets out the outline for the Artificial Nesting Gannet Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (GCIMP) that will be developed by the Applicant, in consultation with the proposed Offshore Ornithology Engagement Group (OOEG), should consent for Hornsea Four be granted and compensation for northern gannet *Morus bassanus* (gannet) be required. The GCIMP will be developed in accordance with the Gannet Compensation Plan (GCP) which provides a detailed account of the strategy supporting the potential compensation and resilience measures for gannet. The GCIMP will be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

1.1.1.2 The following sections of this document set out the proposed content of the GCIMP. The GCIMP will be structured as follows:

- **Section 2:** Background
- **Section 3:** Consultation
- **Section 4:** Offshore artificial nesting structure
  - **Section 4.1:** Scale and location of compensation
  - **Section 4.2:** Design of artificial nesting structure
  - **Section 4.3:** Routine management
  - **Section 4.4:** Delivery Mechanism
  - **Section 4.5:** Commercial Agreements
  - **Section 4.6:** Monitoring and adaptive management
  - **Section 4.7:** Reporting
  - **Section 4.8:** Programme for implementation and delivery
  - **Section 4.9:** Discharge of consent condition
- **Section 5:** Onshore artificial nesting structure
  - **Section 5.1:** Scale and location of compensation
  - **Section 5.2:** Design of artificial nesting structure
  - **Section 5.3:** Routine management
  - **Section 5.4:** Delivery Mechanism
  - **Section 5.5:** Monitoring and adaptive management
  - **Section 5.6:** Reporting
  - **Section 5.7:** Programme for implementation and delivery
  - **Section 5.8:** Discharge of consent condition
- **Section 6:** Fish Habitat Enhancement
  - **Section 6.1:** Scale and location of resilience measure
  - **Section 6.2:** Design of seagrass habitat restoration programme
  - **Section 6.3:** Delivery mechanism
  - **Section 6.4:** Monitoring and adaptive management
  - **Section 6.5:** Reporting
  - **Section 6.6:** Programme for implementation and delivery
  - **Section 6.7:** Discharge of consent condition

## 2 Background

- 2.1.1.1 This section will provide context to GCIMP, confirming the reason for its need, its aims and objectives, and the latest project status.

## 3 Consultation

- 3.1.1.1 This section will summarise all relevant consultation that has taken place through the OOEG in the development of the GCIMP. It will capture any key decisions, agreements, and where relevant any outstanding issues under discussion (with clarity as to the steps necessary to resolve any such matters). Ongoing engagement, for example to provide updates on monitoring, (post-discharge of the GCIMP) will be outlined here.

## 4 Offshore artificial nesting structure

### 4.1 Scale and location of compensation

- 4.1.1.1 This section will identify the scale of compensation proposed to be provided and how this relates to the consent decision made by the Secretary of State. This section will then also detail the specific location(s) at which the compensation will be delivered and how the necessary seabed rights and/or property rights in those locations have been/ will be secured. The evidence base included in support of the GCP will help inform these aspects. The results of any monitoring of existing gannet colonies carried out pre-construction will also be detailed here as this may influence the location(s).
- 4.1.1.2 If the Applicant has elected to pay a contribution to the Marine Recovery Fund ("MRF") or equivalent fund then this section shall include the sum of the contribution as agreed between the Applicant and Defra in consultation with the OOEG. If the contribution is in substitution for the offshore artificial nesting structure compensation measure then the relevant sections in this KCIMP will not be completed as they will no longer be required. For the avoidance of doubt, the Applicant's obligations to deliver compensation measures shall either be discharged through the delivery of strategic compensation through the contribution to the MRF, or through the delivery of compensation measures as currently set out, within the KCIMP.
- 4.1.1.3 Alternatively, if the contribution to the MRF is an adaptive management measure then the relevant [Section Error! Reference source not found.](#) shall include details as to the trigger for payment of the contribution.

### 4.2 Design of artificial nesting structure

- 4.2.1.1 This section will identify the design for each structure provided within the compensation package, including the high-level structural design and the gannet ecological design considerations which have been integrated to ensure the compensation measure has the maximum potential for success (including alterations to the topside of repurposed structure). The evidence base provided in support of the GCP ([B2.7.1 Compensation Measures for FFC SPA: Offshore Artificial Nesting: Ecological Evidence \(APP-187\)](#) and [B2.7.4 Compensation Measures for FFC SPA: Onshore Artificial Nesting: Ecological Evidence \(APP-190\)](#)) and engagement with the OOEG will be important in informing the specific design aspects of the structure.

### 4.3 Routine management

4.3.1.1 This section will describe the management responsibilities for the structure, including anticipated routine maintenance.

#### **4.4 Delivery mechanism**

4.4.1.1 This section will confirm the nature and status of all consents, land or seabed access agreements, and any other relevant approvals that are necessary to secure the implementation of the compensation measures and include a programme of delivery of any outstanding consents.

#### **4.5 Commercial agreements**

4.5.1.1 If a decision is made to repurpose an existing offshore platform that is due to be decommissioned, then this will provide a high-level summary of the agreement with the relevant oil and gas operator.

#### **4.6 Monitoring and adaptive management**

4.6.1.1 This section will identify the monitoring and adaptive management principles and processes that have been agreed with the OOEG, including the scenarios under which adaptive management measures are required. It will be developed in line with the evidence base that has been provided in support of the GCP. Following discharge of the GCIMP, the OOEG will be engaged in relation to implementing adaptive management if required as outlined in the Consultation section above. Specific topics of discussion for inclusion within the OOEG, and therefore the purpose of the group, will be regarding site selection, project/study design, monitoring, adaptive management options and associated triggers. The focus of the OOEG will be specifically to deliver the compensation for Hornsea Four and therefore other topics beyond this will be out of scope.

#### **4.7 Reporting**

4.7.1.1 This section will set out the reporting requirements associated with the monitoring and adaptive management. In doing so, it will confirm the necessary objectives and timescales for the reporting.

#### **4.8 Programme for implementation and delivery**

4.8.1.1 This section will confirm the programme for the implementation and long-term delivery of the compensation.

#### **4.9 Discharge of consent condition**

4.9.1.1 This section will confirm how, based on the content of this report, the Secretary of State can discharge the condition relating to the delivery of the compensation required for the gannet feature of the Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Protection Area (FFC SPA).

## **5 Onshore artificial nesting structure**

### **5.1 Scale and location of compensation**

5.1.1.1 This section will identify the scale of compensation proposed to be provided and how this relates to the consent decision made by the Secretary of State. This section will then also detail (and map) the specific location at which the compensation will be delivered and how the necessary land rights to those locations have been/will be secured. The evidence base

included in support of the GCP will help inform these aspects. The results of any monitoring of existing gannet colonies carried out pre-construction will also be detailed here as this may influence the location.

- 5.1.1.2 If the Applicant has elected to pay a contribution to the Marine Recovery Fund ("MRF") or equivalent fund then this section shall include the sum of the contribution as agreed between the Applicant and Defra in consultation with the OOEG. If the contribution is in substitution for the onshore artificial nesting structure compensation measure then the relevant sections in this KCIMP will not be completed as they will no longer be required. For the avoidance of doubt, the Applicant's obligations to deliver compensation measures shall either be discharged through the delivery of strategic compensation through the contribution to the MRF, or through the delivery of compensation measures as currently set out, within the KCIMP.
- 5.1.1.3 Alternatively, if the contribution to the MRF is an adaptive management measure then the relevant [Section 5.5](#) shall include details as to the trigger for payment of the contribution.

## **5.2 Design of artificial nesting structure**

- 5.2.1.1 This section will identify the design for each structure proposed to be provided, including the high-level structural design and the gannet ecological design considerations which have been integrated to ensure the compensation measure has the maximum potential for success. The evidence base provided in support of the GCP ([B2.7.1 Compensation measures for FFC SPA: Offshore Artificial Nesting: Ecological Evidence \(APP-187\)](#) and [B2.7.4 Compensation measures for FFC SPA: Onshore Artificial Nesting: Ecological Evidence \(APP-190\)](#)) and engagement with the OOEG will be important in informing the specific design aspects of the structure.

## **5.3 Routine management**

- 5.3.1.1 This section will describe the management responsibilities for the structure, including anticipated routine maintenance.

## **5.4 Delivery mechanism**

- 5.4.1.1 This section will confirm the nature and status of all consents, land access agreements, and any other relevant approvals that were necessary to secure the implementation of the compensation measures and include a programme for delivery of any outstanding consents.

## **5.5 Monitoring and adaptive management**

- 5.5.1.1 This section will identify the monitoring and adaptive management principles and processes that have been agreed with the OOEG, including the scenarios under which adaptive management measures are required. It will be developed in line with the evidence base that has been provided in support of the GCP. Following discharge of the GCIMP, the OOEG will be engaged in relation to implementing adaptive management if required as outlined in the Consultation section above. Specific topics of discussion for inclusion within the OOEG, and therefore the purpose of the group, will be regarding site selection, project/ study design, monitoring, adaptive management options and associated triggers. The focus of the OOEG will be specifically to deliver the compensation for Hornsea Four and therefore other topics beyond this will be out of scope.



## **5.6 Reporting**

5.6.1.1 This section will set out the reporting requirements associated with the monitoring and adaptive management. In doing so, it will confirm the necessary objectives and timescales for the reporting.

## **5.7 Programme for implementation and delivery**

5.7.1.1 This section will confirm the programme for the implementation and long-term delivery of the compensation.

## **5.8 Discharge of consent condition**

5.8.1.1 This section will confirm how, based on the content of this report, the Secretary of State can discharge the condition relating to the delivery of the compensation required for the gannet feature of the FFC SPA.

## **6 Fish habitat enhancement**

### **6.1 Scale and location of resilience measure**

6.1.1.1 This section will identify the scale of the resilience measure proposed to be provided and how this relates to the consent decision made by the Secretary of State. This section will also detail the specific location(s) at which the compensation will be delivered, and those forage fish species that will be of relevance to the measure. The evidence base included in support of the GCP will help inform these aspects. The results of any monitoring of prey fish species carried out pre-implementation of seagrass restoration, such as fish nursery assessment and Stable Isotope Analysis in order to explore connectivity of seagrass to offshore seabird foraging areas, will also be detailed here.

### **6.2 Design of seagrass habitat restoration programme**

6.2.1.1 This section will identify the design of the seagrass restoration programme(s) proposed to be provided as part of the suite of compensation measures. The evidence base provided in support of the GCP ([B2.7.1 Compensation measures for FFC SPA: Offshore Artificial Nesting: Ecological Evidence \(APP-187\)](#); [B2.7.4 Compensation measures for FFC SPA: Onshore Artificial Nesting: Ecological Evidence \(APP-190\)](#); and [B2.8.5 Compensation measures for FFC SPA: Fish Habitat Enhancement: Ecological Evidence \(APP-198\)](#)) The OOEG will be informed of the site selection process and will be consulted on throughout the delivery programme.

### **6.3 Delivery mechanism**

6.3.1.1 This section will confirm the nature and status of any consents, land access agreements, and any other relevant approvals that were necessary to secure the implementation of the resilience measure and include a programme for delivery of any outstanding approvals. Noting locations for the seagrass restoration resilience measure will be informed through implementation studies and research surveys in order to maximise successful delivery of measures.

### **6.4 Monitoring and adaptive management**

6.4.1.1 This section will identify the monitoring and adaptive management principles and processes that have been discussed with the OOEG, including the scenarios under which adaptive

management measures are required. It will be developed in line with evidence base that has been provided in support of GCP. Following discharge of the GCIMP, the OOEG will be engaged in relation to implementing adaptive management as outlined in the Consultation section above. Specific topics of discussion for inclusion within the OOEG, and therefore the purpose of the group, will be regarding delivery, monitoring and adaptive management options and associated triggers. The focus of the OOEG will be specifically to deliver the resilience measure for Hornsea Four and therefore other topics beyond this will be out of scope.

## **6.5 Reporting**

6.5.1.1 This section will set out the reporting requirements associated with the monitoring and adaptive management. In doing so, it will confirm the necessary objectives and timescales for the reporting.

## **6.6 Programme for implementation and delivery**

6.6.1.1 This section will confirm the programme for the implementation and long-term delivery of resilience measure and any ongoing monitoring or management in relation to seagrass restoration.

## **6.7 Discharge of consent condition**

6.7.1.1 This section will signpost how, based on the content of this report, the Secretary of State can approve this document with reference to the relevant paragraphs in the DCO.