



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Web:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-energy-security-and-net-zero>

To:

Our Ref: EN010098

Ørsted Hornsea Project Four Limited

Date: 5 April 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

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

Application by Ørsted Hornsea Project Four Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm (“Hornsea Project Four”)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 22 August 2022, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 22 November 2022. The statutory deadline for taking a decision on the application for development consent has been extended from 22 February 2023 to 12 July 2023.
2. On 16 December 2022, 9 February 2023, 3 March 2023 and 20 March 2023 the Secretary of State issued requests for information to the Applicant and other parties.
3. The Secretary of State would be grateful if **the Applicant** could provide further information, as set out below.

Impact of protective provisions on modelling

4. The Secretary of State’s letter of 3 March 2023 requested further information from the Applicant in relation to the totality of the impact of various protective provisions on the proposed array layout and the number of turbines. The Applicant responded on 31 March 2023 setting out the different impacts associated with 13 different protective provision scenarios (labelled scenario 1 – 13 on PDF page 6 of the document titled ‘G11.4 Totality of impact of protective provisions on Hornsea Project Four’, as show in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – page 6 of ‘G11.4 Totality of impact of protective provisions on Hornsea Project Four’

Hornsea 4



Scenario	Description	Turbine positions impacted	Area Lost (km2)	% of area lost	Impact on Hornsea Project Four			
					1. Increased wake losses	2. Increased construction complexity	3. Substantial reduction in wind farm capacity	4. Project likely to be unviable
Baseline	Baseline Scenario							
1	BP	53	108.0	29.6	x		x	
2	NEO PPs	4	5.0	1.4	x	x		
3	Bridge PPs	7	9.2	2.5	x			
4	Harbour PPs (Examination)	9	11.7	3.2	x	x		
5	Harbour Dec RFI solution d, ii	26	41.4	11.4	x	x	x	
6	Harbour Dec RFI solution d, i	30	48.6	13.3	x	x	x	
7	Harbour Dec RFI solution b	30	48.6	13.3	x	x	x	
8	Harbour Dec RFI solution a	44	84.3	23.1	x	x	x	
9	NEO + BP + Bridge + Harbour (Examination)	72	133.6	36.6	x	x	x	
10	NEO + BP + Bridge + Harbour (RFI solution d, ii)	86	159.4	43.7	x	x	x	x
11	NEO + BP + Bridge + Harbour (RFI solution d, i)	90	166.6	45.7	x	x	x	x
12	NEO + BP + Bridge + Harbour (RFI solution b)	90	166.6	45.7	x	x	x	x
13	NEO + BP + Bridge + Harbour (RFI solution a)	103	201.5	55.2	x	x	x	x

Table 1: Impact of each set of protective provisions and cumulative impacts

5. The **Applicant** is asked to confirm whether any of the reductions in array area above, or any other changes to the development layout or footprint, would affect the conclusions in its Habitats Regulations Assessment. The **Applicant** is asked to present updated mortality assessments for the gannet, kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill features of the Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Protection Area (“SPA”) if appropriate for each alternative scenario. All assessments should use Natural England’s advised parameters, including the collision risk model interim avoidance rates. The **Applicant** should also confirm the in-combination mortality totals; and present the Population Viability Analysis with the Counter Factual Growth Rate and Counter Factual Population Size figures for each species for these scenarios.
6. The **Applicant** is requested to provide details of the impact which any reductions to turbine numbers or the array area outlined above might have to the potential adverse effects on the Flamborough Front identified by Interested Parties in the Examination. Furthermore, with regards to the proposed monitoring of the effects of the gravity-based structures on the Flamborough Front, the **Applicant** should advise as to whether or not it has considered what the trigger levels for adaptive management might be and identify any adaptive management measures that could be implemented should an adverse impact be detected.
7. Responses to the requested information should be submitted by email only to hornseaprojectfour@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by 23.59 on 18 April 2023.

8. Responses will be published on the Hornsea Project Four project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 18 April 2023:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/hornsea-project-four-offshore-wind-farm/>
9. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Hornsea Project Four or any part of the 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 sincerely,

David Wagstaff

David Wagstaff OBE

Deputy Director, Energy Infrastructure Planning

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero