

Date: 17 April 2023
Our ref: Case: 13622
Your ref: EN010098



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir/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”)

The following constitutes Natural England’s formal statutory response to the Secretary of State’s Request for Information (RFI) dated 20th March 2023. To inform this response Natural England have reviewed the Applicant’s 8th March response to RFI dated 9th February 2023.

Natural England has been invited to comment upon:

9. With regards to the proposed predator eradication programme, ...Natural England are invited to comment on the further information provided by the Applicant in their response of 8 March 2023.

Natural England welcomes that Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) have been secured with the States of Guernsey and Alderney Wildlife Trust. Natural England have no specific comments to make on the content of these MOUs. Natural England’s concerns with the predator eradication programme remain as given in our 9th March 2023 response to the RFI dated 9th February 2023.

In addition, Natural England wishes to comment on the following requests from DESNZ:

6. With regards to adverse effects on the red-throated diver and common scoter features of the Greater Wash SPA: the Applicant is requested to confirm whether it will include all measures recommended in Natural England’s ‘Best Practice Protocol for Vessels in Red-throated Diver SPAs’ in the Vessel Management Plan.

With respect to Point 6 of the RFI dated 20th March 2023, directed at the Applicant, Natural England have reviewed and are aligned with the proposed commitment due to be submitted by the Applicant. We welcome the Applicant’s commitment to adopting the protocol in full, and as a result confirm to DESNZ that Hornsea Four will not make a contribution to in-combination effects on the Greater Wash SPA.

RFI issued 5th April 2023

Whilst not directed at Natural England, we welcome the extension granted by Secretary of State on this RFI to enable the information sought to be provided. Natural England are constructively engaging with the Applicant, providing technical input to help ensure their response provides the requested information in line with Natural England's advice.

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

Yours faithfully,

Emma John
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