



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

All Interested Parties  
Natural England

Date: 18 May 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

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

**Application for Development Consent (“the Application”) by Ørsted Hornsea Project Four Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Ørsted Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm (“Hornsea Project 4”)**

1. On 5 April 2023, the Secretary of State issued a request to the Applicant for further information regarding any effect of protective provisions, including reductions to turbine numbers or the array area, on previously assessed impacts. On 27 April 2023, the Secretary of State issued a request to the Applicant and Harbour Energy for information related to protective provisions for the benefit of Harbour Energy.
2. The Secretary of State invites **all Interested Parties** to comment on the information provided in response to the Secretary of State’s requests of 5 April 2023 and 27 April 2023, and to provide any final comments on any of the additional environmental information supplied to date.
3. In particular, the Secretary of State invites **Natural England** to comment on the information provided by the Applicant in response to the Secretary of State’s request of 5 April 2023, as detailed in paragraph 1 above. **Natural England** are asked to comment on the updated assessments of impacts on the ornithology features of the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA in the protective provisions

scenarios provided, and whether this would alter any previous advice from Natural England in relation to adverse effect on the integrity of any of these features.

4. **Natural England** are also asked to comment on the Applicants proposal to remove Gravity Base Structures from the project design envelope and the monitoring and adaptive management commitments, including the proposed changes to the Outline Marine Monitoring Plan.
5. **Comments should be submitted to:**  
[HornseaProjectFour@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:HornseaProjectFour@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) by **23.59** on the **16 June 2023**.
6. Responses will be published on the Hornsea Project Four project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after **16 June 2023**:  
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/hornsea-project-four-offshore-wind-farm/>
7. 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 faithfully,

Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero