

# Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Projects

Appendix 9.1.1 - Details of Other Consents and Licences

August 2022 Document Reference: 9.1.1 APFP Regulation: 5(2)(q)







Title:	Title:				
DCO Application	Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Projects DCO Application Planning Statement Appendix 9.1.1: Other Consents and Licences				
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Date:	Classification				
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Prepared by:					
Royal HaskoningDHV					
Approved by:		Date:			
Sarah Chandler, E	quinor	August 2022			



Doc. No. C282-RH-Z-GA-00016 9.1.1

Rev. no. 1

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## **Glossary of Acronyms**

BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
DCO	Development Consent Order
EA	Environment Agency
EPS	European Protected Species
MCA	Martine and Coastguard Agency
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
OfGEM	Office of Gas and Electricity Markets

Classification: Open Status: Final



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## **Glossary of Terms**

Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (DEP)	The Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension onshore and offshore sites including all onshore and offshore infrastructure.
DEP wind farm site	The offshore area of DEP within which wind turbines, infield cables and offshore substation platform/s will be located and the adjacent Offshore Temporary Works Area. This is also the collective term for the DEP North and South array areas.
European site	Sites designated for nature conservation under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. This includes candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, and is defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (SEP)	The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension onshore and offshore sites including all onshore and offshore infrastructure.
SEP wind farm site	The offshore area of SEP within which wind turbines, infield cables and offshore substation platform/s will be located and the adjacent Offshore Temporary Works Area.
The Applicant	Equinor New Energy Limited

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## APPENDIX 9.1.1: PLANNING STATEMENT APPENDIX: DETAILS OF OTHER CONSENTS AND LICENSES

## 1.1 Introduction

1. This Appendix provides details of the additional offshore and onshore consents and licences that may be required for the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (SEP) and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (DEP) beyond the consents permitted under the Development Consent Order (DCO) (and deemed Marine Licences). The other consents and licences that may be required under different legislation are detailed in **Table 1** and **Table 2**.

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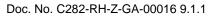
Classification: Open Status: Draft



Rev. no. 1

Table 1: Offshore Consents and Licenses Required Under Other Legislation

Nature of Consent	Legislation	Consenting Authority	Anticipated Application Date	Content of Consent/Licence
Offshore Consents				
Appropriate Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment	The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)	Part of DCO process – parallel with DCO	The relevant Secretary of State is the competent authority for the purposes of the Habitats Directive and the 2017 Habitats Regulations. the Applicant has submitted an Information to Support Habitat Regulations Assessment report with the Application.
Coast Station Radio Licence	Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006	Radiocommunications Agency	Post grant of consent	The principal legislation governing the use of radio in the UK is the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006. This Act requires the possession of a licence to install or use wireless telegraphy (radio) apparatus unless the equipment has been exempted from this requirement. Coastal Station Radio licences are designed to allow coast (base) stations on shore to communicate with vessels. The Applicant does not anticipate any issues with obtaining such a licence, as it is a matter of requesting a channel from the Radiocommunications Agency and paying the appropriate fee.
Decommissioning Scheme	Energy Act 2004	BEIS	Post grant of consent	The Secretary of State will require a decommissioning programme to be submitted prior to commencement of authorised development pursuant to section 105(6) of the Energy Act 2004. This is secured by a condition in the deemed marine licences within the DCO (document reference 3.1).
Energy Generation Licence	Electricity Act 1989	Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OfGEM)	To be finalised post grant of consent	The Applicant will apply for a generation licence pursuant to section 6(1)(a) of the Electricity Act 1989 which authorises the Applicant to generate electricity in a specified area for the purposes of giving a supply to any premises in a specified area or enabling a supply to be so given.





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Nature of Consent	Legislation	Consenting Authority	Anticipated Application Date	Content of Consent/Licence
European Protected Species (EPS) Licence	The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	Marine Mammals Organisation MMO	Post grant of consent	It is an offence to deliberately kill, capture or disturb European protected species, and to damage or destroy their breeding sites or resting places. EPS Licences can be obtained to allow persons to carry out activities that would otherwise be prohibited, without committing an offence.  When the design of the wind farm is being finalised, discussions of the final Project details will be undertaken with the MMO. If necessary, clarification will be sought on the requirement for an EPS Licence and, if required, an application for a Licence will be made.
F10 – Notification of Construction Project	Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015	Health and Safety Executive	Post grant of consent	The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 require particulars of the Project to be notified to the Health and Safety Executive in advance of construction. This would be sought by the appointed contractor.
Safety Zones	Energy Act 2004	BEIS	Post grant of consent	Where a safety zone relates to an NSIP, the appropriate decision maker for safety zones is the Secretary of State, who has delegated that function to the BEIS. The safety zone application will therefore be made to BEIS. A Safety Zone Statement is submitted as part of the DCO application (document number 8.2).

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Table 2: Onshore Consents and Licenses Required Under Other Legislation

Nature of Consent	Legislation	Consenting Authority	Anticipated Application Date	Content of Consent/Licence
Onshore Consents				
Building Regulation approval (if necessary)	Building Regulations 2010	Local Authorities	Post grant of consent	Operational buildings may require Building Regulations approval if they are manned and therefore not covered by the exemption set out in the Building Regulations 2010, Regulation 9 and Schedule 2 'Exempt Buildings and Work' – "Part CLASSa" – 'Buildings not frequented by people'. This would be sought by the contractor.
Crown Authority Consent	Section 135 of the Planning Act 2008	Crown Estate Commissioners, the Forestry Commission, Department of Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs Department for Transport, Ministry of Defence	Post grant of consent	Consent to acquire interests other than the Crown in Crown land.
Environmental Permit for water discharge or waste operations / registration of exempt waste operations and water discharges (as necessary)	Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016	EA	Post grant of consent, if required	The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, which came into force on 1 January 2017, consolidate the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 and subsequent amendments. They require most waste management activities and discharges to surface or groundwater to have a permit. However, there are some exceptions to this, being activities that do not need a permit but the exemptions generally require to be registered with the Environment Agency.
Land Drainage Consent (for structures in ordinary watercourses/ permanent culverts)	Water Resources Act 1991	Internal drainage board/ local authority	Part of the DCO process	Land Drainage Consent may be required pursuant to the Land Drainage Act 1991 from the Internal Drainage Board/ local authority for the crossing of drainage ditches along the cable route

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Nature of Consent	Legislation	Consenting Authority	Anticipated Application Date	Content of Consent/Licence
Flood Defence Consent (for structures in, under or over a main river/ permanent culverts)	Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016	EA	Part of the DCO process	Flood Defence Consent may be required pursuant to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 and land drainage byelaws from the Environment Agency for river and main stream crossings.
EPS Licence	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	Natural England	Post grant of consent and/or as part of the DCO process	It is an offence to deliberately kill, capture or disturb European protected species, and to damage or destroy their breeding sites or resting places. EPS Licences can be obtained to allow persons to carry out activities that would otherwise be prohibited, without committing an offence.  A letter of no-impediment has been provided by Natural England to state that they see no impediment to issuing a licence in the future (Annex1).  EPS Licences will be determined based on the final design and findings from pre-construction surveys in consultation with Natural England.
Licence for work affecting badgers	Section 10 of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992	Natural England	Post grant of consent	Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which makes it illegal to kill, injure or take badgers or to interfere with a badger sett.  Any identified setts along the Project's cable route will be surveyed in a pre-construction walkover survey in order to assess their status and current use. The pre-construction walkover survey will also allow any newly excavated setts to be identified.  Licences allowing works to proceed close to active badger setts, as works that would cause disturbance as defined by Natural England, will be acquired where necessary.
Notice of Street Works	Traffic Management Act 2004	Highways Authority	Post grant of consent	Permit schemes under the Traffic Management Act 2004 provide that the Applicant would need to book time on the highway through a permit.

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Nature of Consent	Legislation	Consenting Authority	Anticipated Application Date	Content of Consent/Licence
Permit for transport of abnormal loads (if necessary)	Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (General) Order 2003/Road Traffic Act 1988	Department for Transport, Highways Agency, Local Highway Authority or the police and bridge owners (if any) as appropriate	Post grant of consent	The Construction and Use Regulations are the primary legislation for the construction and maximum dimensions for all vehicles.  The Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Type) General Order permits the use of vehicles and/or loads, which cannot comply with the maximum permitted weight, either gross or axle weight, for the class of vehicle being used for transporting a load. It also contains the regulations for loads, which exceed the maximum width permitted by the Construction and Use Regulations, agricultural vehicles and many other miscellaneous vehicles. The legislation is in the most part permissive in that (with some exceptions) providing the haulier complies with the requirements of notification procedures, an abnormal load can be moved without the need for any permit or authorisation.
Temporary Road Traffic Orders (if construction phase requires closure of any public highway)	Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984	Highways Authority	Post grant of consent	The Applicant has the power under the DCO to temporarily stop up, alter or divert any street for the purposes of carrying the authorised project, subject to certain restrictions and limitations. However Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTRO) can be sought where construction requires closure of any public highway, which includes those outside the Order limits. Therefore if construction requires closure of any public highway not included in the proposed DCO, additional TTROs will be discussed with the highway authority after the DCO is granted and before works commence.
Water Abstraction Licence (if required)	Water Resources Act 1991	EA	Post grant of consent	A Water Abstraction Licence may be required pursuant to the Water Resources Act 1991 from the EA for if required by the contractor the abstraction of water for the construction works.
Section 16 Wildlife and Countryside Act Licence	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Secretary of State	Post grant of consent	A licence may be required if construction activities are to interfere with designated species.



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other consents and licenses

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## **ANNEX 1: LETTER OF NO IMPEDIMENT - BADGER**

Classification: Open Status: Final



Date: 31 July 2022

Our ref: 2022-61768-SPM-NSIP

(NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE

PROJECT)



Miss Sarah Chandler Equinor New Energy Ltd Project Management and Control

Sent by e-mail only

Dear Miss Chandler.

DRAFT MITIGATION LICENCE APPLICATION STATUS: INITIAL APPLICATION

**LEGISLATION: THE CONSERVATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES REGULATIONS 2010** 

(as amended)/THE PROTECTION OF BADGERS ACT 1992 (as amended

**NSIP:** EQUINOR.

**SPECIES:** BADGER – MELES MELES

Thank you for your draft badger species management licence application in association with the above NSIP site, received in this office on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022. As stated in our published guidance, once Natural England is content that the draft licence application is of the required standard, we will issue a 'letter of no impediment'. This is designed to provide the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State with confidence that the competent licensing authority sees no impediment to issuing a licence in future, based on information assessed to date in respect of these proposals.

#### **Assessment**

Following our assessment of the draft application documents, I can now confirm that, on the basis of the information and proposals provided, Natural England sees no impediment to a licence being issued, should the DCO be granted.

However, please note the following issues have been identified within the current draft of the method statement that will need to be addressed before the licence application is formally submitted. Please do ensure that the Method Statement is revised to include these changes prior to formal submission. For clarity these include:

### Application Form

- Ensure you use the latest version of the application form.
- Make mention of the associated bat licence application 2022-61399-EPS-AD1 connected to this NSIP.
- Complete the Ecologist details within Part 2 as fully as possible.
- Part 11b should also include recent, relevant examples of similar licences undertaken, as provided by email to Helen Woolley on 19/07/2022 at 16:50 by Julian Brown.
- Where more than one badger licence is required, detail this within the Application Form and supporting Method Statement.
- The application will require the land-owner's permission to apply for the licence, prior to the licence application being submission for consideration.

- Development Consent Order must be in place prior to submission.
- It is acknowledged within the draft application that updated surveys would be undertaken ensuring that data is no more than 12 months prior to construction works commencing.

## Method Statement – Impacts

Within the full licence application, clarity will be needed regarding the number of setts to be supported by the licence. Within this application, Sett closure of BA0001a is to be permanently closed using standard one-way gating approach. However, given the distanced approach to hand tool use nearer the sett and mechanical works at a further distance (radiating out from the sett), it is presently unclear if this will result in inclusion of other setts for elements such as disturbance. More detail will be needed on this within the full licence application.

In addition, whilst the distanced approach to hand tools and mechanical works (mentioned above) is being proposed, more detail will be required to demonstrate and justify why this approach is appropriate. It may be in some areas that adjustments are needed, given natural or man-made barriers, changes in soil type or gradient. This in turn may have a bearing on setts included within a licensable solution, in addition to BA0001a.

Table 3 would benefit from inclusion of sett distances (in metres) from the impacts area.

## Additional considerations:

Once the DCO is in place, disused setts within the impact area, may be closed sensitively without a licence at any time of the year. This would be recommended to be undertaken prior to, or at the same time as the closure of BA0001a. Disused setts will become more important to the badger clan(s) once closure of the active sett(s) commences. We would be recommending to avoid repeatedly excluding the same clan of badgers from multiple setts across the site.

Sett usage and classification can change overtime. This is particularly important in relation to a main sett. Where a sett a main sett is to be lost to the development, there will be the expectation that an artificial sett is created in a suitable location, 6 months prior to the closure of the active main sett.

## **Next Steps**

Should the DCO be granted then the species management licence application must be formally submitted to Natural England. At this stage any modifications to the timings of the proposed works, e.g. due to ecological requirements of the species concerned, must be made and agreed with Natural England before a licence is granted.

If other minor changes to the application are subsequently necessary, e.g. amendments to the work schedule/s then these should be outlined in a covering letter and must be reflected in the formal submission of the licence application. These changes must be agreed by Natural England before a licence can be granted. If changes are made to proposals or timings which do not enable us to meet reach a 'satisfied' decision, we will issue correspondence outlining why the proposals are not acceptable and what further information is required. These issues will need to be addressed before any licence can be granted.

Full details of Natural England's licensing process with regards to NSIPs can be found at the following link:

As stated in the above guidance note, I should also be grateful if an open dialogue can be maintained with yourselves regarding the progression of the DCO application so that, should the

Order be granted, we will be in a position to assess the final submission of the application in a timely fashion and avoid any unnecessary delay in issuing the licence.

I hope the above has been helpful. However, should you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Woolley
Natural England Wildlife Licensing Service

Annex - Guidance for providing further information or formally submitting the licence application.

Important note: when submitting your formal application please mark all correspondence 'FOR THE ATTENTION OF HELEN WOOLLEY).

## **Submitting Documents.**

Documents must be sent to wildlife@naturalengland.org.uk

## Changes to Documents –Reasoned Statement/Method Statement.

Changes must be identified using one or more of the following methods:

- underline new text/strikeout deleted text;
- use different font colour;
- block-coloured text, or all the above.

### **Method Statement**

When submitting a revised Method Statement please send us one copy on CD, or by e-mail if less than 5MB in size, or alternatively three paper copies. The method statement should be submitted in its entirety including all figures, appendices, supporting documents. Sections of this document form part of the licence; please do not send the amended sections in isolation.



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Rev. no. 1

## **ANNEX 2: LETTER OF NO IMPEDIMENT - BAT**

Classification: Open Status: Final www.equinor.com

Date: 14 July 2022

Our ref: 2022-61399-EPS-AD1

(NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE

PROJECT)



Sarah Chandler, Development and Consents Manager, Equinor New Energy Ltd Sent by e-mail only

Dear Sarah Chandler,

**DRAFT MITIGATION LICENCE APPLICATION STATUS:** INITIAL DRAFT APPLICATION **LEGISLATION:** THE CONSERVATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES REGULATIONS 2010 (as amended)/ THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1992 (as amended)

NSIP: Equinor SEP & DEP DCO Boundary.

SPECIES: Common Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus pipistrellus) and Soprano pipistrelle (Pipistrellus

pygmaeus)

Thank you for your subsequent draft bat mitigation licence application in association with the above NSIP site, received in this office on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022. As stated in our published guidance, once Natural England is content that the draft licence application is of the required standard, we will issue a 'letter of no impediment'. This is designed to provide the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State with confidence that the competent licensing authority sees no impediment to issuing a licence in future, based on information assessed to date in respect of these proposals.

## **Assessment**

Following our assessment of the resubmitted draft application documents, I can now confirm that, on the basis of the information and proposals provided, Natural England sees no impediment to a licence being issued, should the DCO be granted.

However, please note the following issues have been identified within the current draft of the method statement that will need to be addressed before the licence application is formally submitted. Our wildlife adviser, Charles Stamp, discussed this matter with Susannah Dickinson via e-mail correspondence on the 13/07/2022 where it was confirmed that the necessary amendments would be made. Please do ensure that the Method Statement is revised to include these changes prior to formal submission. For clarity these include:

- Top-up surveys will be carried out the bat activity season prior to the works commencing, these will follow the BCT Best Practice Guidelines, and if applicable, the Thermal Imaging: Bat Survey Guidelines.
- If thermal imaging is used as a survey method, we will require the following information be provided;
  - o Make
  - Model
  - Thermal/detector resolution

- o Len(es) used
- Aid or Method?
- Field of View
- With consideration of how long it will be until works commence, we recommend that all other trees with moderate or higher bat roosting potential that are to be felled also be subject to top-up surveys as above.

## **Next Steps**

Should the DCO be granted then the mitigation licence application must be formally submitted to Natural England. At this stage any modifications to the timings of the proposed works, e.g. due to ecological requirements of the species concerned, must be made and agreed with Natural England before a licence is granted. Please note that there will be no charge for the formal licence application determination, should the DCO be granted, or the granting of any licence.

If other minor changes to the application are subsequently necessary, e.g. amendments to the work schedule/s then these should be outlined in a covering letter and must be reflected in the formal submission of the licence application. These changes must be agreed by Natural England before a licence can be granted. If changes are made to proposals or timings which do not enable us to meet reach a 'satisfied' decision, we will issue correspondence outlining why the proposals are not acceptable and what further information is required. These issues will need to be addressed before any licence can be granted.

Full details of Natural England's licensing process with regards to NSIP's can be found at the following link:

As stated in the above guidance note, I should also be grateful if an open dialogue can be maintained with yourselves regarding the progression of the DCO application so that, should the Order be granted, we will be in a position to assess the final submission of the application in a timely fashion and avoid any unnecessary delay in issuing the licence.

I hope the above has been helpful. However, should you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Charles Stamp

# Annex - Guidance for providing further information or formally submitting the licence application.

Important note: when submitting your formal application please mark all correspondence 'FOR THE ATTENTION OF (Charles Stamp).

## **Submitting Documents.**

Documents must be sent to the Customer Services Wildlife Licensing (postal and email address at the top of this letter).

## Changes to Documents -Reasoned Statement/Method Statement.

Changes must be identified using one or more of the following methods:

- underline new text/strikeout deleted text;
- use different font colour:
- block-coloured text, or all the above.

## **Method Statement**

When submitting a revised Method Statement please send us one copy on CD, or by e-mail if less than 5MB in size, or alternatively three paper copies. The method statement should be submitted in its entirety including all figures, appendices, supporting documents. Sections of this document form part of the licence; please do not send the amended sections in isolation.

## **Customer Feedback – EPS Mitigation Licensing**

To help us improve our service please complete the following questionnaire and return to:

Customer Services, Natural England, First Floor, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6EB.

Fax: 0845 6013438 or email to wildlife@naturalengland.org.uk



Natural England Reference Numbe	r (optional):	Please tick to		Consultan		at/Licopoco)	
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If 1 please specify who you initially co	ntacted in rela	ition to your is:	sue/enquir	y?			
2. Please tell us how aware you we not permit in relation to your enqui	•	you contacte	ed us) of	wildlife leg	islation	and what it	does/does
	ery Limited A	wareness (2)	Partia	ally Aware (	(3)	Fully A	ware (4)
		]			•	[	
3. How would you rate the service p	provided by N	latural Englar	nd?				
			Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Not
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Ease of completion of application							
Advice provided by telephone (if appli	cable)						
Our web site (if applicable)							
Clarity and usefulness of published gu	uidance						
Helpfulness and politeness of staff							
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Speed of process							
Overall service							
If 1 or 2 to any of the above please sp	ecify why:						
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# ANNEX 3: LETTER OF NO IMPEDIMENT – GREAT CRESTED NEWT (DISTRICT LEVEL LICENCE)

Classification: Open Status: Final www.equinor.com

From: SM-NE-GCN District Level Licensing

To: Cc:

Subject:

GCN DLL - DLL-ENQ-NOSU-00088 - Countersigned IACPC Issued

**Date:** 15 August 2022 16:04:00

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

image004.png

DLL-ENQ-NOSU-00088 Provisional IACPC Equinor signed.pdf

Dear Sarah Chandler

## **CONSERVATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES REGULATIONS 2017 (AS AMENDED)**

#### GREAT CRESTED NEWT DISTRICT LEVEL LICENSING

Site: Development Consent Order boundary, Linear route from North Norfolk coast (north-west of Weybourne) to land north of Hickling Lane, south of Norwich.

Reference: DLL-ENQ-NOSU-00088

Please find attached the Impact Assessment & Conservation Payment Certificate now accepted and counter-signed by Natural England. For formal purposes, the date of the Certificate is 24/05/2022 as given in section 8.

The Impact Assessment & Conservation Payment Certificate may now be presented to the local planning authority in support of your application for planning permission (if required) on the site detailed in the Certificate.

Once you have obtained this planning permission (or other relevant permission) you may make a <u>formal application</u> (step 4) to Natural England for a licence under regulation 55 of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017. You can make this application on the basis of Outline planning only. At this point an invoice will be raised for the remaining amount payable as set out on the attached Impact Assessment & Conservation Payment Certificate. Once payment is received we will proceed to assess the licence application. Unless and until you have obtained a licence from Natural England you will not be able to implement the planning permission without breaching regulation 43 of the 2017 Regulations. If you have not yet provided Natural England with a Purchase Order number or reference for the amount specified in the Impact Assessment & Conservation Payment Certificate, please could you do so at application stage.

Please also ensure that the Enquiry Fee of £570 + VAT invoiced for at the Impact Assessment & Conservation Payment Certificate Issue stage has been paid prior to submitting your licence application. Should details within this Certificate no longer be accurate, or you no longer wish to make use of District Licensing, please email Natural England to inform us. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

	?	

Kind regards,

### **Emma Glayzer**

Natural England - District Level Licensing Team

## gcndll@naturalengland.org.uk www.gov.uk/natural-england



This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within the Natural England systems, we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Natural England systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

### The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017



## Great Crested Newt District Level Licensing Impact Assessment & Conservation Payment Certificate

T. 020 8026 1089
E. gcndll@naturalengland.org.uk

The appropriate authority shall not grant a licence under Regulation 55(9)(b) unless they are satisfied that actions authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

This Certificate is <u>provisional</u> once all information required in sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 has been inserted by Natural England and it has been issued to the Applicant. A <u>provisional</u> Certificate shall be given the date inserted by Natural England in section 4. A Certificate remains <u>provisional</u> until:

- It has been signed and dated by the Applicant in section 6; and
- Natural England's administration fee and (if applicable) the 1st Stage Conservation Payment has/have been paid; and
- It has been signed and dated on behalf of Natural England in section 8.

At which point this Certificate shall be complete and effective and shall be given the date on which it is signed by Natural England in section 8.

A <u>provisional</u> Certificate that determines that a 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Conservation Payment is required will lapse after 6 weeks from the date given in section 4. Lapse date: 23/05/2022

A <u>provisional</u> Certificate that determines that a 1<sup>ct</sup> Stage Conservation Payment is not required will lapse after 3 months from the date given in section 4. Lapse date:

#### 1. Application Details

Name of Applicant: (and company number where relevant) "the Applicant"	Sarah Chandler Equinor New Energy Ltd.
Site name / address: "the Site"	Development Consent Order boundary Linear route from North Norfolk coast (north-west of Weybourne) to land north of Hickling Lane, south of Norwich.
Grid reference for site: 10 figure reference from the centre of the site	TG 10843 43755 to TG 21905 01981
District Level Great Crested Newt Licensing Enquiry number:	DLL-ENQ-NOSU-00088
Date District Level Great Crested Newt Licensing Enquiry Form received:	08/12/2021

2. Impact assessment		
Has the impact assessment been conducted?	Yes 🗸 No 🗌	
If no, please explain why not i.e. re-submission due to FIR, scheme has not changed	NA	
Total number of ponds Within proposed site boundary	0	
Total number of ponds within 250m buffer around the proposed site boundary	179	
Expected total number of ponds lost All ponds within the red line boundary are considered lost. Impacts on ponds outside of the red line boundary, up to 250m from the proposed site, are considered proportionally.	4.9	
3. Compensation		
Has the required level of compensation been calculated?	Yes 🚺 No 📗	
If no, please explain why not: Re-submission due to FIR, scheme has not changed	NA .	
Has the Applicant supplied survey information?	Yes No No	
If not, which risk zone does the development lie in: Green / Amber / Red	NA	
Pond compensation ratio: Dependent upon the risk zone, the availability of survey information, or whether all impacts are temporary	GCN Present x4, Not Surveyed x2, Absent x1 Temporary Impacts x0.25	
Number of compensation ponds required: Expected total number of ponds lost x pond compensation ratio	6.11	
Time-lag multiplier of 1.1 required? Time lag multiplier applied for the interval between pond creation and / or restoration and the date on which the Enquiry is made to Natural England	Yes, ponds allocated have been in place for less than one year therefore multiplier applied	
Total number of compensation ponds required with time-lag multiplier: If yes, please detail the cost summary for each pond	6.11 x 1.1 = 6.721	
Is a 1st Stage Conservation Payment required?	Yes ✓ No	

#### 4. Administration Fee and Conservation Payment

number of compensation ponds required is 3 or more than 3

4.1 Natural England charges a non-refundable Administration Fee of £570 + VAT for the production of a <u>provisional</u> Impact Assessment and Conservation Payment Certificate. An invoice for this fee will be issued at the point of production of the <u>provisional</u> Impact Assessment and Conservation Payment Certificate, payable within 28 days of issue.

- 4.2 Applicants must also make a Conservation Payment to Natural England, to allow Natural England to pay for the creation and maintenance of sufficient new great crested newt habitat to compensate for the impacts of the Applicant's proposals for 25 years.
- 4.3 If the total number of compensation ponds required is 3 or more the Conservation Payment shall be split into two staged payments: a 1st Stage Conservation Payment and a 2nd Stage Conservation Payment.
- 4.4 An Applicant who is not required to make staged payments will be issued with a VAT-inclusive invoice for the Conservation Payment once it has applied to Natural England for a GCN District Level Licence. That invoice will be payable within 28 days of issue and refundable only in the circumstances set out at clauses 5.8, 5.9 and 5.10, below.
- 4.5 An Applicant who is required to make a 1st Stage Conservation Payment will be issued with a VAT-inclusive invoice for that payment once it has signed the provisional Impact Assessment and Conservation Payment Certificate at section 6, below, and returned it to Natural England. That invoice will be payable within 28 days of issue and refundable only in the circumstances set out at clauses 5.8, 5.9 and 5.10 below. When an Applicant is required to make a 1st Stage Payment Natural England will not complete the Impact Assessment and Conservation Payment Certificate by signing and dating it at section 8 until that payment has been made.
- 4.6 An Applicant who has made a 1st Stage Conservation Payment will be issued with a VAT-inclusive invoice for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage Conservation Payment once it has applied to Natural England for a GCN District Level Licence. That invoice will be payable within 28 days of issue and refundable only in the circumstances set out at clauses 5.8, 5.9 and 5.10, below.
- 4.7 Except for householder home improvement projects or where planning permission has been received following a householder planning application a further non-refundable fee of £690 will be charged at the point of issue of any subsequent licence under reg. 55 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, payable within 28 days of issue.

Has the Conservation Payment for the required amount of compensation been calculated in accordance with standard procedure?

If no, please provide details:

	res 🔽	No	
NB. Temporary	Impacts		

Ma

V-- /

#### Basis of calculation of Conservation Payment:

6.721 compensatory ponds required at £ 15,850.00 each = £ 106,527.85 plus VAT = total £ 127,833.42

See 4.2 to 4.6, above

If a 1st Stage Conservation Payment is required, the Conservation Payment shall be split as follows:

plus VAT = total £ 33,873.84 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Conservation Payment: £28,228.20

See 4.5, above

2<sup>nd</sup> Stage Conservation Payment:

£78,299.65 plus VAT = total £ 93,959.58

See 4.6, above

Plus:

Administration fee for Impact Assessment £570 plus VAT = total £684

and Conservation Payment Certificate

Fee payable on the issue of a licence

£690 (no VAT)

See 4.1, above

Date:

11/04/2022

See 4.7, above

See clause 5.11, below

A breakdown of the Conservation Payment per pond is given at Annex 2.

The Conservation Payment must be made in full before a licence under regulation 55 of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 may authorise activities that would otherwise breach Regulation 43 of those regulations.

#### 5. Further Important Information

- 5.1 It is the duty of the Applicant to inform Natural England if the extent of the land affected by the proposed development is not exactly as shown on the Plan attached as Annex 3 to this Certificate or if it alters at any time after the date of this Certificate. An offence may be committed if incorrect information is submitted to Natural England in the course of the licensing process.
- 5.2 Natural England shall be entitled to terminate this Certificate if information subsequently received causes it to reasonably conclude that the impacts on great created newts, or the required level of compensation, of/for the Applicant's proposals on the Site have been under-stated in this Certificate. Before terminating this Certificate Natural England shall give the Applicant reasonable notice of its intentions and the opportunity to make a written representation against withdrawal.
- This Certificate relates only to the development described in this form and not to any associated or enabling 5.3 development.
- Natural England's assessment of the total number of ponds to be lost at the Site is informed by the 5.4 information provided by the Applicant in its Enquiry Form. However, where an Applicant has not provided up to date survey data Natural England determines the number of ponds to be lost at the Site from its own information. In all cases Natural England retains discretion in assessing the number of ponds to be lost as a result of the Applicant's proposals at the Site and its decision shall be conclusive.
- This Certificate is not a licence granted under reg. 55 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species 5.5 Regulations 2017 (henceforth "the 2017 Regulations") and is not a confirmation or warranty that such a licence will subsequently be granted. Natural England excludes all warranties and representations in so far as the lawpermits.
- 5.6 If Natural England subsequently grants a licence to the Applicant under reg. 55 of the 2017 Regulations any such licence will be subject to the conditions therein set out, which may include (but not be limited to) conditions that activities may not be commenced until the Applicant has paid the Conservation Payment in the amount and manner set out herein and that activities may not be commenced until compensatory works have reached a specified stage of completion.
- 5.7 If Natural England subsequently grants a licence to the Applicant under reg. 55 of the 2017 Regulations Natural England agrees to use and hold Conservation Payment monies payable by and received from the Applicant for the purposes and period of time set out in Annex 2 to this Certificate. Any surpluses properly arising after 25 years from the date of the grant of a licence shall be retained and used by Natural England for the purposes of enhancing the conservation status of great crested newts in England.
- 5.8 If the Applicant's proposals at the Site are refused planning permission or other essential regulatory consent (including a licence to the Applicant under reg. 55 of the 2017 Regulations) any Conservation Payment(s) made by the Applicant to Natural England pursuant to this Certificate will be repaid in full.
- 5.9 If following the receipt of planning permission and/or all other essential regulatory consents but prior to the commencement of any works on the Site that could kill or disturb great crested newts or damage or destroy their habitat the Applicant confirms in writing to Natural England that it no longer wishes to proceed with its proposals on the Site any 1st Stage Conservation Payment already made shall be forfeit and any 2nd Stage Conservation Payment already made will be repaid subject to the deduction of such costs as have reasonably been incurred by Natural England or habitat creation contractors on its behalf prior to the receipt by Natural England of such written confirmation. An Applicant who was not required to make staged payments will be repaid any Conservation Payment already made subject to the deduction of such costs as have reasonably been incurred by Natural England or habitat creation contractors on its behalf prior to the receipt by Natural England of such written confirmation. The Applicant acknowledges that Natural England will spend the Conservation Payment in accordance with the provisions of Annex 2 and appreciates that for the purposes of conserving great crested newts it will be reasonable to spend a high proportion of the Conservation Payment within a short period of receiving it.
- 5.10 If the Applicant only carries out part of the development on the Site and has less impact than that assessed at part 2 of this Certificate it shall be entitled to request Natural England to recalculate the Conservation Payment. Such request shall be in writing and shall contain all the information necessary to allow Natural England to assess the impact of the modified development. If the recalculated Conservation Payment is lower than the Conservation Payment(s) already paid the Applicant shall be entitled to reimbursement of the difference on the following basis; a 1st Stage Payment shall be forfeit; the balance may be repaid from a 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage Payment subject to the deduction of such costs as have reasonably been incurred by Natural England or habitat creation contractors on its behalf prior to the receipt by Natural England of the request to recalculate; an Applicant who was not required to make staged payments will be repaid the difference subject to the deduction of such costs as have reasonably been incurred

by Natural England or habitat creation contractors on its behalf prior to the receipt by Natural England of such written request. The Applicant acknowledges that Natural England will spend the Conservation Payment in accordance with the provisions of Annex 2 and appreciates that for the purposes of conserving great crested newts it will be reasonable to spend a high proportion of the Conservation Payment within a short period of receiving it.

- 5.11 Once signed and dated in section 8, this Certificate shall remain effective for the period of 25 years from the commencement of works on the Site that could kill or disturb great crested newts or damage or destroy their habitat; save that if after two years from the date of this Certificate the Conservation Payment set out at part 4 of this Certificate has not been paid in full Natural England shall be entitled to review and revise the amount of that payment to such sum as at the date of such review is sufficient to pay for the creation and maintenance of sufficient great crested newt habitat to compensate for the impacts of the Applicant's proposals for 25 years. Until signed and dated in section 8 this Certificate is provisional only and if it has been determined that a 1st Stage Conservation Payment is required it will lapse and be of no further effect after 0 weeks from the date given in section 4. If it has been determined that a 1st Stage Conservation Payment is not required this Certificate will lapse and be of no further effect after 3 months from the date given in section 4.
- 5.12 This Certificate may not be relied on by any person other than the Applicant and may not be assigned to any other person without the prior written consent of Natural England. Natural England's consent will be conditional upon any assignee signing a Certificate in like form to this Certificate, or as appropriate to the circumstances, subject to which consent shall not unreasonably be withheld.
- 5.13 Natural England's total liability arising under or in connection with this Certificate, whether in contract, tort (including negligence or breach of statutory duty), misrepresentation, restitution or otherwise shall be limited to the amount of the Conservation Payment paid by the Applicant to Natural England and un-spent as at the date of adjudication of the claim.
- 5.14 The Applicant's total liability arising under or in connection with this Certificate, whether in contract, tort (including negligence or breach of statutory duty), misrepresentation, restitution or otherwise shall be limited to the amount of the Conservation Payment properly calculable on the basis of the actual development to which this Certificate relates.
- 5.15 Neither Natural England nor the Applicant shall be liable to the other for any indirect, special or consequential loss or damage or any loss of profits, turnover, business opportunities or damage to goodwill (whether direct or indirect).
- 5.16 No variation of this Certificate shall be valid unless it is in writing and signed by or on behalf of both parties.
- 5.17 Nothing in this Certificate shall prejudice, conflict with or affect the exercise by Natural England of its statutory functions (including as statutory consultee), purpose, powers, rights, duties, responsibilities or obligations arising or imposed under any legislative provision enactment, bye-law or regulation whatsoever, nor shall it fetter the exercise of any discretion Natural England mayhave.
- 5.18 Natural England may terminate this Certificate immediately on notice in writing where, in Natural England's reasonable opinion, compliance with the obligations in this Certificate is likely to conflict with Natural England's statutory functions (including as statutory consultee), purpose, powers, rights, duties, responsibilities or obligations.
- 5.19 The Applicant acknowledges that Natural England is subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (both as amended) and cannot guarantee confidentiality. The Applicant shall assist and co-operate with Natural England as necessary to comply with these requirements. In responding to a request for information, including information in connection with the subject matter of this Certificate Natural England shall where in its absolute discretion it deems necessary use reasonable endeavours to consult with the Applicant. Notwithstanding this the Applicant acknowledges that Natural England may disclose information without consultation, or following consultation with the Applicant having taken its views into account.
- 5.20 The Applicant shall ensure that all information produced in connection with the subject matter of this Certificate or relating to this Certificate is retained for disclosure and shall provide all necessary assistance as reasonably requested to enable Natural England to respond to a request for information within the time for compliance and shall permit Natural England to inspect such records as requested from time to time.
- 5.21 Nothing in this Certificate is intended to, or shall be deemed to, constitute a partnership or joint venture of any kind between Natural England and the Applicant. No party shall have authority to act as agent for, or to bind, the other party in any way.
- 5.22 The parties do not intend any term of this Certificate to be enforceable by virtue of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 by any person that is not a party to it.

5.23 This Certificate and all disputes or claims arising out of or in connection with the activities of the parties in connection with it shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of England.

### 6. Declarations

This Declaration may only be signed by either:

- A director or senior authorised employee of the corporate Applicant identified at 1 (a), above; or
- The person identified at 1 (b), above, as the individual Applicant; or in either case:
- A person authorised in writing by the Applicant to complete this Enquiry Form and to make this Declaration.
   Any such written authorisation must identify the site and development concerned and be irrevocable.

#### The Applicant declares as follows:

Signed:

- All of the information provided by the Applicant to enable Natural England to produce this Certificate
  is up to date, complete and correct;
- All of the information provided by the Applicant in the District Level Great Crested Newt Licence Enquiry Form dated: 24/11/2021 is up to date, complete and correct;
- The terms and conditions contained within this Certificate are agreed and accepted.

Name and position of signatory:	Sarah Chandler, Development & Consents Manager SEP&DEP			
For electronic applications, please insert an electronic signature above or tick this box to confirm with the declaration:				
I confirm that I (the above) am duly authorised by the App	olicant to sign and submit this document on its behalf:			
Dated:	23 May 2022			
Invoicing – details of where the invoice(s) should be sent for payment				
Email address for invoice:				
Purchase Order Number(s) for Conservation Payment:	4503623921			
Company Name:	Equinor ASA			
Address:	Forusbeen 50 STAVANGER 4035 Norway			
Postcode:				
County:				
Customer contact name	Sarah Chandler			

Any person who in order to obtain a licence under regulation 55 of the 2017 Regulations knowingly or recklessly makes a statement or representation, or furnishes a document or information which is false in a material particular, shall be guilty of an offence and may beliable to criminal prosecution. A person found guilty of such an offence is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine, or to both.

Telephone number:

#### 7. Use of this Certificate

In consideration of the Applicant's obligations arising herein Natural England consents to the use of this Certificate by the Applicant in support of an application for planning permission, or development consent under the Planning Act 2008, for development on the Site. Under District Level Great Crested Newt Licensing Natural England carries out its formal determination for the purposes of Regulation 55 of the 2017 Regulations after the grant of planning permission, or development consent under the Planning Act 2008, for the development in question. Accordingly, as at the date of this Certificate that formal determination has not yet been carried out.

However, in signing this Certificate Natural England has considered the matters it believes to be necessary to satisfy Regulation 55 (9) (b) of the 2017 Regulations ("that the action authorized will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range") and has concluded that payment by the Applicant of the Conservation Payment will suffice to allow the impacts on great crested newts of the Applicant's proposals on the Site to be adequately compensated, and therefore that these proposals will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of great crested newts at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

This Certificate reflects Natural England's views in relation only to great crested newts on and within 250m of the Site

Duly authorized:	
Dated:	24/05/2022

In order for Natural England to grant a licence to the Applicant under reg. 55 of the 2017 Regulations it must be satisfied, inter alia, that the activities so licensed meet the provisions of reg. 55 (2) and 55 (9) (a) and (b). Compensatory works funded by the Conservation Payment set out in this document allow the provisions of reg. 55 (9) (b) to be satisfied ("that the action authorized will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range"), but do not address the issues raised in reg. 55 (2) ("...imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature ...") or 55 (9) (a) ("that there is no satisfactory alternative"). Accordingly, no representation, assurance, condition or warranty is given by Natural England to the effect that activities associated with the development described in this form will go on to be licensed by Natural England.

#### Annex 1

#### **Privacy Notice**

#### Who collects your data?

8. Natural England

Signed for and on behalf of Natural England

The data controller is Natural England, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, Y01 7PX. You can contact the Natural England Data Protection Manager at: Natural England, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP; <a href="mailto:foi@naturalengland.org.uk">foi@naturalengland.org.uk</a>

The Defra group Data Protection Officer is responsible for checking that Natural England complies with legislation. You can contact them at: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, SW Quarter, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Seacole Block, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF. DefraGroupDataProtectionOfficer@defra.gsi.gov.uk

#### What of my data is being collected and how is it being used? What is the legal basis for the processing?

The data collected by Natural England includes: an Applicant's name and contact details, the name and contact details of any agent appointed by the Applicant, the name and contact details of individual points of contact within the Applicant's organisation and that of the Applicant's agent, customer type, the nature of the Site, the development proposed on the Site, reasons for that development, and bank account information for refunds.

Natural England uses such data to run a great crested newt licensing scheme ("the Scheme") in the area in which the Site is located. Processing is necessary (a) for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller. That task is to conduct the licensing functions delegated by Defra to Natural England under section 78 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and (b) for the performance of the contractual terms set out in this Certificate. The processing by us of personal data relating to wildlife-related or animal welfare offences or related security measures is carried out only under official authority. This information is used in assessing an application as it is a material fact.

#### Who will my data be shared with?

Information provided by or on behalf of the Applicant and any supporting material will be used by Natural England to undertake our licensing functions and to operate the Scheme. This will include assessing an Applicant's proposals in line with the Scheme, producing a Scheme certificate, assessing an Applicant's licence application, issuing a licence if applicable, monitoring compliance with licence conditions and collating licence returns and reports. In carrying out these functions Natural England may discuss your Scheme application with third parties such as contractors commissioned to deliver the necessary habitat compensation. Natural England may for particular licence applications and at specific stages of the licensing process discuss your application with third parties. The details of this sharing are set out here <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wildlife-licensing-privacy-notice">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wildlife-licensing-privacy-notice</a>

Natural England recognises there is significant public interest in wildlife licensing and in those who benefit from receiving a wildlife licence. Therefore, we may make information publicly available. Information released may include, but is not limited to, your name or business name, application and licence details as well as reports and returns. Natural England, however, realises that some licensed activities can be sensitive and we will not release information that could harm people, species or habitats. In some cases, for example, this may mean not releasing the names and addresses of individuals or the location of the licensed activity.

We will respect personal privacy, whilst complying with access to information requests to the extent necessary to enable Natural England to comply with its statutory obligations under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

#### How long will my data be held for?

Your personal data will be kept by us for 7 years beyond the period of effectiveness of this Certificate.

#### If you are relying on my consent to process data, can I withdraw my consent?

No, because the processing is not based on consent.

#### What will happen if I don't provide the data?

Failure to provide this information will mean that we will be unable to assess your application for a Scheme certificate and/or a wildlife licence.

#### Will my data be used for automated decision-making or profiling?

The information you provide is not connected with individual decision making (making a decision solely by automated means without any human involvement) or profiling (automated processing of personal data to evaluate certain things about an individual).

#### Will my data be transferred outside of the EEA?

The data you provide will not be transferred outside the European Economic Area.

#### What are my rights?

A list of your rights under the General Data Protection Regulation, the Data Protection Act 2018, is accessible at:

#### How do I complain?

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the ICO (supervisory authority) at any time. Should you wish to exercise that right full details are available at:

#### Natural England's Personal Information Charter

Details of our Personal Information Charter can be found at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england-personal-information-charter">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england-personal-information-charter</a>

Annex 2

Breakdown of Conservation Payment per compensatory pond required

Habitat delivery (71%)	Compensatory pond creation or restoration*	£3,500 per pond, including cost of obtaining planning permission where necessary	Funds to be spent as soon as possible
	Contingency fund for replacement of compensatory pond	£3,500 per pond initially created	Funds to be pooled spent on the creation of further ponds at Natural England's discretion, within 25 years
	Compensatory pond maintenance	£3,786 per pond initially created	Funds to be pooled spent over 25 years
Habitat monitoring (14%)	Monitoring	£2,461 per pond initially created	Funds to be pooled spent over 25 years, including eDNA and HSI surveys
	Modelling and mapping updates	£175 per pond initially created	Funds to be pooled spent at regular intervals over 25 years
Administration (15%)	Habitat delivery project officer – initial pond creation*	£700 per pond initially created	Funds to be spent as soon as possible
	Habitat delivery project officer – replacement pond creation	£700 per pond initially created	Funds to be pooled spent on the creation of further ponds at Natural England's discretion, within 25 years
	Natural England: management and oversight of scheme at district level; liaison with habitat delivery partners.	£462 per pond initially created	Funds to be pooled spent as appropriate to the delivery of the scheme, within 25 years
	Natural England: procurement, management and oversight of compensatory works at project level; customer liaison.	£566 per pond initially created	Funds to be spent as compensatory works required by this Certificate proceed

#### Plus VAT

<sup>\*</sup> Items marked with an asterisk relate to immediate costs for pond creation and together constitute the 1st Stage Conservation Payment per compensatory pond, in cases where this is payable separately.