



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES

2010

Sheringham Shoal Extension and Dudgeon Extension Offshore Wind Farms

**Appendix I2 to the Natural England Deadline 2 Submission**

**Natural England's Advice on the Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP1-024],  
Landscape Management Plan [REP-026] and Ecological Management Plan [REP-028]**

For:

The construction and operation of the Sheringham Shoal Extension and Dudgeon Extension Offshore Wind Farms located approximately 16km and 27km respectively from the Norfolk Coast in the Southern North Sea.

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010109

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7<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## **Natural England's Advice on the Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP1-024], Landscape Management Plan [REP-026] and Ecological Management Plan [REP-028]**

### **1) Summary**

1. In producing this response, Natural England has reviewed the following documents:
  - [REP1-024] 9.17 Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision B) (Tracked)
  - [REP1-026] 9.18.1 Outline Landscape Management Plan (Revision B) (Tracked)
  - [REP1-028] 9.19.3 Outline Ecological Management Plan (Revision B) (Tracked)
2. Natural England welcomes the submission of the above-mentioned documents by the Applicant at Deadline 1. However, we advise that further information needs to be provided at the time of consent before we can advise that all of our concerns have been addressed. as set out in our detailed comments in Table 1, Table 2 and Table 3 below.
3. Please note that the document Bats – Alderford Common SSSI and Swannington Ugate Common SSSI Technical Note [REP1-063] as submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 1 has yet (at the point of submission for Deadline 2) to be reviewed. Natural England will assess this document and provide a response at Deadline 3. To ensure a consistent approach, comments relating to Bats within the three above mentioned documents will also be provided at Deadline 3. The absence of any comments on bat species and associated habitats within this response at Deadline 2 should not therefore be considered as agreement at this stage.
4. We continue to advise that Natural England is included as a statutory consultee on plans which relate to nature conservation. This commitment should be outlined within each document as conditioned within the DCO.

Natural England would also like to reiterate our advice that the Applicant combines the Outline Landscape Management Plan and the Outline Ecological Management Plan into a joint Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (OLEMS). This request is based upon our experience with other Offshore Wind Farm NSIPs and has been successfully undertaken by East Anglia ONE North (EA1N) and East Anglia TWO (EA2). Given the nature of these documents, there is a need to cross reference between documents, particularly in discharging DCO requirements post consent, the complexity of which will be reduced significantly when they are presented as a combined document. Natural England is in continued discussion with the Applicant over this matter.

## 2) Detailed Comments - Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision B) (Tracked) [REP1-024]

Table 1 NE Comments to 9.17 Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision B) (Tracked) [REP1-024]

Applicant's Doc Ref			Natural England Response – D2 March 2023			
Section	Page	Para / Table	Point	NE Advice	Risk	
<b>[REP1-024] 9.17 Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision B) (Tracked)</b>						
8	41	153	1	Natural England welcomes the intention by the Applicant to implement an invasive non-native species (INNS). Management Plan to as part of the CoCP. We advise that any condition relating to the named plan should specify that the plan will be agreed by the relevant LPA/s in consultation with the Environment Agency and Natural England prior to construction as stated.		
3.3.1	23	68	2	The outline Code of Construction Practice (OCoCP) refers to the Outline Landscape Management Plan (OLMP) and Outline Ecological Management Plan (OEMP) with regards to woodland and hedgerow protection, buffer zones and hedgerow mitigation. However, we advise that full details of potential mitigation measures should be included in an outline plan at the consenting phase to have confidence that impacts as be successfully mitigated. . We welcome the Applicant's commitment to undertaking an arboricultural survey and assessment prior to commencement of construction works. We believe that this has been adequately secured. Natural England advises that all tree, woodland and ancient woodland mitigations measures should be included in an OLEM during the consenting phases.		

Applicant's Doc Ref			Natural England Response – D2 March 2023			
Section	Page	Para / Table	Point	NE Advice	Risk	
<b>[REP1-024] 9.17 Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision B) (Tracked)</b>						
2.5.10, 7, 7.1.2	18, 37, 38	52, 137-141, 142	3	<p>Colton Wood and Smeeth Woods are ancient woodlands 20m and 100m away from a trenchless crossing. As per our Appendix I of our Relevant Representations [RR-063], these sites are sensitive to dust impacts. Additionally, Alderford Common SSSI and small areas of the River Wensum SSSI and SAC would also be sensitive to these same impacts. Natural England advises clarification is needed as to whether these sites will be further impacted. The Zones of Influence (ZoI) for Ancient Woodland should be clearly stated with consideration given to any potential edge effects. We continue to advise this is included within the OLMP, OEMP and referenced in the CoCP.</p> <p>The updated OCoCP states that Chapter 22 Air Quality of the ES (6.1.22) [APP-108] identifies receptors that are potentially sensitive to air and dust emissions. We note the Applicant's commitment to submit a Dust Management Plan to be developed as part of the CoCP. However, an outline plan should be provided at the consenting phase. We advise that the impacts mentioned above are incorporated into it.</p>		
2.1, 3.7	19, 24	59, 62, 73	4	<p>We welcome that details for artificial lighting will be set out in the Artificial Light Emissions Management and Mitigation Plan which will be submitted as part of the CoCP to the local authorities (in consultation with Natural England) for approval prior to construction. We advise that this should include details of lighting with regards to sensitive habitats and species and be provided as an outline plan during the consenting phase to provide the necessary confidence in the mitigation measures.</p> <p>We advise that lighting is kept to a minimum and where continuous hours of operation are required, lighting must be directed away from habitats, particularly linear features.</p>		

Applicant's Doc Ref			Natural England Response – D2 March 2023			
Section	Page	Para / Table	Point	NE Advice	Risk	
<b>[REP1-024] 9.17 Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision B) (Tracked)</b>						
3.8	24	76	5	We welcome the Applicant's commitment to provide an Environmental Emergency / Incident Response plan and would request that a stipulation for all bentonite breakouts within designated sites to be reported to Natural England within 24 hours and before clean-up operations begin is included within the CoCP. However, we advise that full details of potential mitigation measures should be included in an outline plan at the consenting phase to have confidence that impacts as be successfully mitigated.		
46	25	81	6	<p>The OCoCP refers to Chapter 17 Ground Conditions of the ES [APP-103] in relation to sensitive receptors to ground condition impacts. However, as per Appendix I of our Relevant Representations [RR-063], the list of activities with the potential to cause contamination does not include potential impacts caused by horizontal directional drilling (HDD). The potential for bentonite breakout has not been included in the assessment of impacts, particularly given SEP and DEP crosses the River Wensum SAC and SSSI where the sensitivity of surface waters is considered to be high.</p> <p>Although reference to additional impacts relating to surface water quality and ecological habitats being provided in the Water Resources and Flood Risk Chapter 18 [APP-104] and Onshore Ecology and Ornithology Chapter 20 [APP-106]; Natural England continues to advise that consideration is given to the potential for bentonite breakouts during HDD and for the necessary mitigation measures to be identified during the consenting phase.</p>		
6	30	102	7	We welcome the Applicant suggestion for a committed scheme and programme for each watercourse crossing, diversion and reinstatement and would welcome review of outline schemes during the consenting phase.		

Applicant's Doc Ref			Natural England Response – D2 March 2023			
Section	Page	Para / Table	Point	NE Advice	Risk	
<b>[REP1-024] 9.17 Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision B) (Tracked)</b>						
6.1.1	30	104	8	The potential impact of an HDD bentonite breakout was not included in the ES assessment for the Increased Sediment Supply scenario. We advise the potential impact of an HDD bentonite breakout on features of interest and their supporting habitats should be assessed and suitable mitigation provided in an OLEM and CoCP as part of the consenting phase.		
6.1.4	33	114	9	Natural England welcomes the Applicant's commitment to provide a Bentonite Breakout Management. However, we advise that full details of potential mitigation measures should be included in an outline plan at the consenting phase to have confidence that impacts as be successfully mitigated. As with Point 5 above we advise that for all bentonite breakouts within designated sites to be reported to Natural England within 24 hours and before clean-up operations begin. Please also refer to comments provided in our Relevant Representations [RR-063].		
6.1.5	34	119	10	Natural England welcomes the Applicant's commitment to provide a Construction Surface Water Drainage Plan. However, we advise that full details of potential mitigation measures should be included in an outline plan at the consenting phase to have confidence that impacts as be successfully mitigated. We advise that the potential for bentonite breakout where the project crosses the River Wensum SAC and SSSI, where the sensitivity of surface waters are considered to be high, is included in this.		

Applicant's Doc Ref			Natural England Response – D2 March 2023			
Section	Page	Para / Table	Point	NE Advice	Risk	
<b>[REP1-024] 9.17 Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision B) (Tracked)</b>						
6.1.6	35	121	11	As per Appendix I of our Relevant Representations [RR-063], we advise that the restoration of the HDD compound on the flood plain of the River Wensum should be restored in accordance with the River Wensum Restoration Strategy and the River Wensum SAC conservation objectives Supplementary Advice. Where possible, measures should restore appropriate soil/ground moisture conditions so that water levels are continuously at or just above the ground surface throughout the year. We recommend that this stipulation is secured in the CoCP.		
10	46	168	12	We welcome the Control Measures for Public Rights of Way and advise that if the Applicant provide the necessary assurances at the consenting phase through proposed mitigation measures that any diversions of recreational routes will not significantly impact upon protected species or habitats this would allay NE's concerns.		
N/A	N/A	N/A	13	A Schedule of Mitigation measures should be updated as part of the consenting phase to reflect the advice and changes accordingly.		

**3) Detailed Comments - 9.18.1 Outline Landscape Management Plan (Revision B) (Tracked) [REP1-026]**

Table 2 Natural England’s Comments to the Outline Landscape Management Plan [REP1-026]

Applicant’s Doc Ref			Natural England Response			
Section	Page	Para/ Table	Point	Comment		Risk
<b>[REP1-026] Deadline 1 Submission - 9.18.1 Outline Landscape Management Plan (Revision B) (Tracked)</b>						
1.1	7	7	14	We welcome the Applicant’s commitment to undertaking an arboricultural survey and assessment prior to commencement of construction works. We believe that this has been adequately secured. Natural England advises that all tree, woodland and ancient woodland mitigations measures should be included in an OLEM during the consenting phases.		
1.3.1	12	30	15	Natural England welcomes the Applicants commitment to use appropriate native and “of local provenance” species which will contribute towards habitat enhancements and promote biodiversity to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain. We believe that this hasn’t been adequately secured. However, we highlight the importance of first following the mitigation hierarchy, with BNG considerations considered additionally.		
1.4.4	16	39	16	The document refers to the 'OEMP [REP1-028]' in terms of ecological enhancements, though details of these ecological enhancements are not provided in the OEMP Revision B [REP1-028]. Natural England advises that an OLEM should include details of enhancements such as (but not exclusively) scattered scrub and shallow scrapes.		



**4) Detailed Comments - 9.19.3 Outline Ecological Management Plan (Revision B) (Tracked) [ REP1-028]**

Table 3 Natural England’s Comments to the Outline Ecological Management Plan [REP1-028]

Applicant’s Doc Ref			Natural England Response			
Section	Page	Para/ Table	Point	Comment	Risk	
<b>[REP1-028] 9.19.3 Outline Ecological Management Plan (Revision B) (Tracked)</b>						
1.2.4	10	15	17	Natural England welcomes the Applicant’s commitment that all ecological works will be carried out under the guidance of the appointed Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW). We advise it is also included within an OLEM that in the event that any protected species is found on site when the ECoW is not present, all works must cease immediately and the ECoW contacted for how to proceed. If this can be agreed and secured it would allay our concerns		
2.2	12	27	18	The potential for bentonite breakout where the project crosses the River Wensum SAC and SSSI, where the sensitivity of surface waters are considered to be high, have not been included in the OEMP. As per Appendix I of our Relevant Representations [RR-063], we advise that the restoration of the HDD compound on the flood plain of the River Wensum should be restored in accordance with the River Wensum Restoration Strategy and the River Wensum SAC conservation objectives Supplementary Advice.		

Applicant's Doc Ref			Natural England Response			
Section	Page	Para/ Table	Point	Comment		Risk
<b>[REP1-028] 9.19.3 Outline Ecological Management Plan (Revision B) (Tracked)</b>						
2.2	12	27	19	Natural England notes that Buffer zones for ancient woodlands (Colton Wood and Smeeth Wood) as also highlighted in our Relevant Representation [RR-063] have not been specified. These sites are sensitive to dust impacts. Natural England advises clarification is needed as to whether these sites will be further impacted. The Zones of Influence (Zol) for Ancient Woodland should be clearly stated with consideration given to any potential edge effects. We advise that buffer zones should reflect the habitat and where assessment shows other impacts are likely to extend beyond this distance, such as the effect of air pollution from development that results in a significant increase in traffic, the proposal may need a larger buffer zone.		
2.2	12	27	20	Within a update of this document or ideally within an OLEM we advise that the arboricultural survey and impact assessment to be carried out prior to construction should inform an updated method statement to detail specific measures for tree protection to include figures. We advise as per our RR/WR [RR-063] that within the update document consideration must be given to tree root protection zones and make reference to the arboricultural assessment and mitigation.		
2.3.4	16	42	21	Natural England welcomes the Applicant's commitment to undertake pre-construction badger checks and that these surveys will be used to identify if any changes to the draft mitigation licence is required. In addition, if the Applicant can also commit to undertaking pre-construction surveys within previously inaccessible areas of the DCO boundary, then our concerns in relation to badger surveys will be addressed. .		

Applicant's Doc Ref			Natural England Response			
Section	Page	Para/ Table	Point	Comment	Risk	
<b>[REP1-028] 9.19.3 Outline Ecological Management Plan (Revision B) (Tracked)</b>						
2.3.6	18	55	22	<p>Natural England welcomes the Applicant's commitment to manage for reptiles prior to construction and the undertaking of a phased approach. We also welcome the Applicant's commitment to undertaking pre-construction reptile surveys to inform an update to the measures which should be included within an OLEM at the consenting phase to ensure that measures can be implemented to avoid killing/injury of reptiles during construction.</p> <p>If additional habitats are found during the walkover survey to be suitable for reptiles, and for where pre-construction reptile surveys find additional populations of reptiles, Natural England advises including a commitment to consult with the relevant planning authority on the need for additional measures to be implemented beyond those set out within the EMP/OLEM. There would also need to be a requirement to update the EMP/OLEM prior to construction to ensure legal protection afforded to reptiles continues to be adhered to.</p>		
2.3.6, Appendix A	18, 36	61, Table 2	23	<p>Natural England notes that reptile translocation will be required for the slow worm population at Hickling Lane. Natural England advises that adjacent habitat in which slow worms will be relocated will need to be able to support the additional population and therefore we seek assurances on how this will be achieved.</p>		

Applicant's Doc Ref			Natural England Response			
Section	Page	Para/ Table	Point	Comment		Risk
<b>[REP1-028] 9.19.3 Outline Ecological Management Plan (Revision B) (Tracked)</b>						
23	23	86	24	<p>Natural England welcomes that details for artificial lighting will be set out in the Artificial Light Emissions Management and Mitigation Plan as stated in the CoCP [REP1-024] and welcomes that all lighting required during the construction phase will be designed in accordance with BCT guidance. We advise that a detailed lighting plan is included in the EMP/OLEM during the consenting phase to ensure impacts upon sensitive habitats and species, particularly in the area around Alderford Common SSSI/Swannington/Weston/Morton on the Hill, Scotchwood Hills areas can be suitably mitigated for.</p> <p>We continue to advise that the Applicant should demonstrate ensure there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the potential Wensum Woods SSSI notification area, or upon the features which support it e.g. Supporting habitats such as bat foraging areas and commuting routes. Please refer to Natural England's comments in our Relevant Representations [RR-063]. We advise this should also include areas where construction activities will continue outside the hours specified in the CoCP (3.1, page 19, para 58-59) [REP1-024] where night-time working is required.</p> <p>Natural England advises lighting should be directed away from linear features such as watercourses and hedgerows important for foraging and commuting. In addition, we advise that for where lighting is required during the operational phase this must also follow BCT guidance and be directed away from important habitats and linear features such as hedgerows and treelines.</p>		
4.3	28	108	25	<p>Natural England welcomes biodiversity net gain (BNG) and advises consultation and agreements with landowners and stakeholders is required to secure mitigation. We remind the Applicant the mitigation hierarchy must be followed with the commitment to BNG additional to this.</p>		

Applicant's Doc Ref			Natural England Response			
Section	Page	Para/ Table	Point	Comment	Risk	
<b>[REP1-028] 9.19.3 Outline Ecological Management Plan (Revision B) (Tracked)</b>						
Appendix A	35	Table 2	26	As per our comments in Appendix I of our Relevant Representation [RR-063], we continue to advise pre-construction bird surveys are committed by the Applicant (and secured) to determine the presence of sand martins at Weybourne Cliffs. If surveys reconfirm the presence of breeding sand martins within the bank which would be impacted by construction, we advise suitable mitigation measures must be followed.		
			27	As per Appendix I of our Relevant Representations [RR-063], sediment increases as a result of bentonite breakout do not appear to have been considered with regards to lamprey species which are present in several watercourses including Swannington Beck where an adverse significant effect may result with increased sediment supply. We advise consideration is included within the EMP/OLEM.		
			28	As per our comments in Appendix I of our Relevant Representations [RR-063], pre-works and post-construction mitigation measures including construction exclusion zones have been proposed in the Invertebrate Survey Report and include "Manipulation of dune communities to create mobile dune systems, with associated bare ground and habitat niches, are encouraged in other areas in the UK through the Dynamic Dunescapes initiative". Natural England advises these measures are incorporated into the OEMP.		
			29	Natural England advises that the OEMP includes a commitment to post-construction surveying/monitoring of designated habitats and species (and their supporting habitats) to determine if updates are required for the second project (if appropriate) and/or restoration measures are required.		