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26 April 2023

**Re: EN010109- Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects**

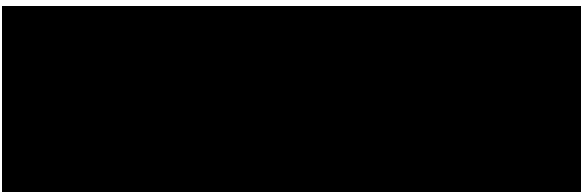
**Response to Second Written Questions and requests for information**

This response is provided by Norfolk Coast Partnership, on behalf of the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Please note, Norfolk Coast AONB is not a statutory planning consultee.

Agents acting on behalf of the Applicant have consulted extensively with the Norfolk Coast Partnership regarding the onshore and offshore aspects of this project. We are pleased to see that they are implementing principles of biodiversity net gain and minimal disruption to landscapes, communities and species where possible. We feel they have evidenced duty of regard to the Norfolk Coast AONB Management Plan 2019-2024. They are aware of potential for serious impact on the AONB and from our perspective, are making acceptable steps to mitigate for this through the design and placement of this scheme.

We accept there will be some impact on three of the Special Qualities which define the AONB, with further detail set out in the following response. However, we do not feel that these undermine the statutory purpose of the AONB which is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area and do not negatively impact its key role in species recovery, landscape restoration and equity of access to nature and culture.

Yours Sincerely



Dr Katy Owen  
Protected Landscapes Manager

**Q2.17.2 Effects on designated and historic landscapes, including Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Ancient Woodland**

<p><b>Q2.17.2.1</b></p>	<p><b>Norfolk Coast Partnership</b></p>	<p><b>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Do you consider that the Proposed Development prejudices the special qualities of the affected AONB and, if so, state which ones and why conflict is considered to arise?</b></p> <p>The proposed development will impact upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Quality 2: Strong and distinctive links between land and sea</li> <li>• Special Quality 3: Diversity and integrity of landscape, seascape, and settlement character</li> <li>• Special Quality 6: Sense of remoteness, tranquillity, and wildness</li> </ul> <p>The proposed offshore development is well outside of the AONB designation boundary and adds to an already significant offshore wind infrastructure in this area. We believe that an extension is far preferable to creation of another site along the coast. We understand the turbines will be larger, but that visual impact will be mitigated as far as possible through appropriate design and lighting schemes to industry standard. The effects of the onshore elements, so far as they affect the AONB, are minimal, given the routing, undergrounding and mitigation of the cable construction activities.</p> <p>On balance, we do not feel that the proposed development will have a significant impact on the Special Qualities, beyond what is already there. Norfolk is a low-lying county at significant risk of the impacts of climate change. The need for renewable sources of energy to safeguard the future of the landscapes and wildlife of the AONB is clear. We do not feel the proposed development will significantly impact general public enjoyment and use of the AONB.</p>
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**Q2.18. Seascape and Visual Effects**

**Q2.18.1 Effects on Designated and Historic Landscapes**

<p><b>Q2.18.1.1</b></p>	<p><b>Norfolk Coast Partnership</b></p>	<p><b>The Existing Baseline and its Effect on the Statutory Purpose of the NCAONB NE states that the existing OWF installations have a compromising effect on the statutory purpose of the NCAONB [RR-063]. Respond, with reasoning.</b></p> <p>The Norfolk Coast AONB Management Plan (NCAONB-MP) 2019-2024 sets out the existing baseline. It provides information on what makes the AONB and defines Special Qualities. This includes the existing offshore wind infrastructure on site.</p> <p>The 2019-24 NCAONB-MP provides an update to the assessment of the Special Qualities since designation. This notes effects on Qualities 2, 3, and 6, but also states that the coastal views and seascapes of the AONB remain distinctive in character. For reference:</p> <p>Quality 2: rated amber, due to existing and consented offshore wind (some grounds for concern)  Quality 3: rated amber, due to development impacting the setting of the AONB.  Quality 6: rated amber (unchanged since designation).</p> <p>Whilst we agree that the proposed development will impact on these three Special Qualities, it will not undermine the overall integrity of the AONB and its statutory purpose. This is a living landscape, continually shaped by human activities. Arguably the</p>
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		impacts of climate change (species loss, sea level rise, storm frequency) will impact the statutory remit of the AONB far more greatly than the proposed development.
<b>Q2.18.1.2</b>	<b>Norfolk Coast Partnership</b>	<p><b>The Extent of Additional Harm to the NCAONB What is your assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on the NCAONB in EIA terms?</b></p> <p>We are not a statutory planning consultee and are unable to comment beyond the information already provided above. We would defer to NNDC / NE on this matter.</p>
<b>Q2.18.1.3</b>	<b>Norfolk Coast Partnership</b>	<p><b>Cumulative Impact Assessment Should a CIA be undertaken in order to inform the EIA to ensure that the impact of SEP and DEP on the statutory purpose of the NCAONB, in the context of the existing OWF, can be made?</b></p> <p>We are not a statutory planning consultee and are unable to comment beyond the information already provided above. We would defer to NNDC / NE on this matter.</p>
<b>Q2.18.1.4</b>	<b>Norfolk Coast Partnership</b>	<p><b>North Norfolk Heritage Coast Clarify your position on the qualities and significance of the Heritage Coast, particularly the stretch within which the Proposed Development would be theoretically and actually visible. Set out where you consider harms would occur and what, if anything, could be done to minimise the harm or improve the visitor experience</b></p> <p>This non-statutory designation and the defined purpose is encompassed within the remit of the Norfolk Coast AONB and its strategic objectives. The design of the offshore structures and type/extent of lighting should be limited to minimise nocturnal impact on the undeveloped coast, as far as is possible within industry regulations for safety.</p>
<b>Q2.18.2 Cumulative Effects</b>		
<b>Q2.18.2.1</b>	<b>Norfolk Coast Partnership</b>	<p><b>Cumulative Effects Are you satisfied with the list of projects included in the assessment of potential cumulative landscape and visual effects? If not, identify those projects that you believe should be included and indicate why you believe that they should be included.</b></p> <p>Yes, we are satisfied with the list of projects included in the assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects.</p>