



The Planning Act 2008

*Application by Equinor New Energy Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project*

East Suffolk Council's response to The Examining Authority's third written questions and requests for information (WQ3)

Issued on Friday 26 May 2023

Deadline 5: Tuesday 13 June 2023

Application: EN010109

East Suffolk Council: 20032925

Q3.14. Habitats Regulation Assessment

Q3.14.1 Effect of the Proposed Development on its own and In-combination with Other Plans and Projects

Questions for East Suffolk Council

East Suffolk Council Response

**Q3.14.1.7**

**Kittiwake Tower**

The 'Review of 2022 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak on relevant UK seabird colonies' is purported [REP4-042] to have resulted in the death of 965 kittiwakes. It is recognised that HPAI is difficult to contain and prevent transmission. Nonetheless, the ExA are concerned regarding the HPAI and the efficacy of the proposed kittiwake tower as a compensatory measure.

- a) Would the clustering of nests together, as would be the case in the provision of a kittiwake tower, potentially increase the risk of infection compared to an

- a) East Suffolk Council (ESC) defers to Natural England (NE) and other expert consultees.
- b) ESC defers to NE and other expert consultees.
- c) ESC does not have any data regarding whether the artificial nesting structures in Lowestoft have been subject to higher, lower or similar levels of mortality in response to this question. We therefore defer to NE and other expert consultees.
- d) ESC defers to NE and other expert consultees.

open-air nesting environment?

- b) If the answer to a) is yes, are the predicted rates of breeding success likely to be overestimated, thus affecting the reliability of the measure delivering the necessary compensation?
  
- c) Is there any data regarding the artificial structures in Lowestoft to suggest whether or not the kittiwake accommodation there has been subject to higher, lower or similar levels of mortality?
  
- d) When the kittiwake tower designs get submitted at Deadline 5, set out how the design takes into account the health and well-being of the species.