



Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Projects

The Applicant's Comments on National Trust's submission
in lieu of attendance at Issue Specific Hearing 7

Revision A

Deadline 7

July 2023

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1 The Applicant's Comments on National Trust's Written Submission in lieu of Attendance at Issue Specific Hearing 7

1. This document provides the Applicant's comments on National Trust Written Submission in lieu of attendance at Issue Specific Hearing 7 [AS-067].

Table 1 The Applicant's Comments on National Trust's Written Submission in lieu of Attendance at Issue Specific Hearing 7

ID	National Trust Comment	Applicant Response
Agenda item 9: The extent, suitability and security of Habitats Regulation Assessment compensation for offshore ornithology.		
1	Thank you for the invitation from the Examining Authority (ExA) to speak at Issue Specific Hearing 7. We note that the National Trust are listed as an Interested Party that the ExA would like to hear from at the Hearing. Unfortunately, we are unable to attend the hearing, however, we have reviewed the agenda and would like to offer our comments in writing on the agenda items we consider to be of relevance to the National Trust. We are of course happy to address any further points in writing as part of the subsequent issue of the Examiner's Written Questions and/or at Deadline 7 and 8.	Noted. The Applicant has provided responses to these points below.
9. i. Update from Applicant on the compensation measure at Blakeney and expected progress before the close of the examination.		
2	This is a matter for the Applicant.	
9. ii. Position from Natural England and National Trust on suitability and effectiveness of the proposed compensation measure.		
3	Predator impact on Sandwich Terns at Blakeney Point is an ongoing issue. It is challenging and complicated, as highlighted in the Applicants response to the Examining Authority's Third Written Questions (REPS-049, Q3.14.1.6). Normal site management measures have not successfully identified or resolved the problem.	The Applicant has submitted at Deadline 7 the Appendix 2 Sandwich Tern Compensation Document (Revision B) [document reference 5.5.2] which describes compensation proposals for North Norfolk Coast SPA (Blakeney Point) Predator Management.
4	The National Trust is supportive of the Applicant's approach so far to an outcome focussed research project concerning predation at Blakeney Point. We understand that the Applicant is preparing a draft framework for compensation, and we will continue an open dialogue with the Applicant and other stakeholders on this matter. However, at the present time the framework is not advanced enough to enable the Trust to comment on suitability and effectiveness. The National Trust will provide further responses and update our position at Deadlines 7 & 8.	The Applicant shared a draft of the proposals with National Trust, Natural England and RSPB on 23 June 2023 and held a meeting with these parties on 30 June 2023 to further discuss and agree on required updates to the draft proposal. The Applicant subsequently received written comments from National Trust, Natural England and RSPB and has sought to address these within Appendix 2 Sandwich Tern Compensation Document (Revision B) [document reference 5.5.2] at Deadline 7.
5	The Trust understands that the proposal would be secondary compensation (primary compensation would be at Loch Ryan). In order to be effective, it must be ensured that the primary compensation is appropriate and	The Applicant notes that the North Norfolk Coast SPA (Blakeney Point) Predator Management <i>or</i> Improved Breeding Success at SPA Sites other than North Norfolk Coast SPA – Farne Islands SPA compensation proposals could be delivered alongside the Nesting Habitat Improvements

ID	National Trust Comment	Applicant Response
	<p>deliverable. Also, that any secondary compensation at Blakeney Point is secured by a Requirement and/or legal agreement as appropriate.</p>	<p>and Restoration of Lost Breeding Range at Scar Point, Loch Ryan proposal in order to deliver on SEP and DEP's compensation requirements.</p> <p>The Applicant has updated Schedule 17 of the Draft DCO (Revision J) [document reference 3.1] to secure the requirement to deliver the North Norfolk Coast SPA (Blakeney Point) Predator Management compensation proposal within which the Applicant's proposals at Loch Ryan are also secured.</p> <p>An update on the Applicant's Loch Ryan proposals is provided in the HRA Derogation and Compensatory Measures Update Note (Revision C) [REP6-009].</p>
<p>9. iii. Views from Natural England and National Trust on the risks (if any) of the compensatory measure.</p>		
6	<p>At the present time there is insufficient information available to enable the Trust to comment on the risks of the compensatory measure. The National Trust will provide further responses and update our position at Deadlines 7 & 8.</p>	<p>Noted. See response at ID 3 and 4 above.</p>
<p>9. iv. Final thoughts on whether the Applicant's overall proposed package of compensatory measures is suitable and robust, and meets the requirements of the HRA process.</p>		
7	<p>This is a matter for Natural England and we defer to their advice.</p>	<p>No response required.</p>