



To:

Our Ref: EN010109

**The Applicant**  
**Broadland District Council**  
**East Suffolk Council**  
**Maritime and Coastguard Agency**  
**Marine Management Organisation**  
**Natural England**  
**NATS**  
**National Gas Transmission**  
**National Grid Electricity PLC**  
**National Highways**  
**National Trust**  
**Norfolk County Council**  
**North Norfolk District Council**  
**Orsted**  
**Oulton Parish Council**  
**Perenco**  
**South Norfolk Council**

Date: 22 November 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

**Application by Equinor New Energy Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (“the Proposed Development”)**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 17 July 2023, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 17 October 2023.
2. There are issues on which the Secretary of State would be grateful if the interested parties (“IPs”) identified in **bold** could provide updates or information as appropriate.

Navigation and Shipping

3. The Secretary of State notes the mitigation proposed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (“MCA”) in the form of an obstacle free zone. **The Applicant**

and **the Maritime and Coastguard Agency** are invited to confirm their positions on such wording either as a condition in the Deemed Marine Licenses and/or a requirement in Schedule 2 of the Development Consent Order (“DCO”). In particular, comments are requested on the Works or infrastructure to which such a condition should apply. Confirmation should also be provided as to whether the coordinates set out below, in particular suggested amendments to the NE and SE corner, are correct:

*No infrastructure [listed in Work No. XX] shall be installed within the area defined by the coordinates as specified below and no part of any wind turbine generator, including its blades, may overfly into the area:*

<i>Point ID of the area</i>	<i>Latitude (D°M.MM')</i>	<i>Longitude (D°M.MM')</i>
<i>A (NW corner)</i>	<i>53° 21.1541' N</i>	<i>1° 10.1853' E</i>
<i>B (SW corner)</i>	<i>53° 19.0449' N</i>	<i>1° 12.3327' E</i>
<i>C (NE corner)</i>	<b>53° 21.1558' N</b>	<b>1° 11.8346' E</b>
<i>D (SE corner)</i>	<b>53° 19.5696' N</b>	<b>1° 13.6102' E</b>

4. **The Applicant** should also provide revised works plans to reflect the condition/requirement set out at paragraph 5 above.

Civil Aviation

5. **The Applicant** and **NATS** are invited to provide an update on the progress of discussions on mitigations to address any impacts of the Proposed Development on Primary Surveillance radar and whether NATS is in a position to withdraw its objection to the Proposed Development.

Crown Estate Consent

6. **The Applicant** is requested to confirm whether consents have been obtained from the relevant Crown Authorities namely the Secretary of State for Defence and the Secretary of State for Transport (or National Highways) for the Crown Land affected by the Proposed Development consistent with the Book of Reference [REP8-014, Part 4].

Compulsory Acquisition

7. The Secretary of State notes the National Trust’s objection to the compulsory acquisition of land held inalienably by the National Trust at Weybourne Woods for the Proposed Development. **The Applicant** and the **National Trust** are invited to provide an update on whether agreement has now been reached in relation to the relevant plots of land and whether the objection from the National Trust has been withdrawn.

Protective Provisions

8. After the close of the Examination National Gas Transmission and National Grid Electricity PLC confirmed that they were withdrawing their objection. **The Applicant, National Gas Transmission and National Grid Electricity Transmission** are asked to confirm whether protective provisions within the DCO

are now agreed and if so to provide any amendments to the draft of the DCO provided by the Applicant at the close of Examination.

9. **The Applicant, National Highways, Orsted** (in relation to Hornsea 3), and **Perenco** are asked to confirm whether they have reached agreement on the respective protected provisions for inclusion in the DCO.
10. Shortly before the close of the examination the Applicant proposed amendments to sub-paragraph 8 of Article 5 of the draft DCO in its representation REP8-054<sup>1</sup>. **National Highways** are invited to confirm whether they have any comments on the **Applicant's** proposed drafting, as set out below:

*“d) the transferee or lessee is National Highways for the purposes of undertaking any works to install ducts under the strategic road network as set out in Work Nos. 12A, 12B or 12C.”*

### Habitats Regulations Assessment

11. **The Applicant** is invited to provide further information in relation to compensation measures identified for Sandwich tern as set out below:
12. The **Applicant** is requested to provide further information on the design principles and details of the inland pool at Loch Ryan, including progress towards acquiring the land. This should include information on the feasibility and effectiveness of the habitats to be created and that they will be sufficiently attractive for nesting Sandwich terns. Information provided should demonstrate a clear and secure route to implementation and long-term management.
13. Further information is requested on the alternative compensation measures required for adaptive management in relation to the site at Blakeney. **The Applicant** is asked to provide information as to how the threat of rat predation could be overcome successfully, particularly given the potential for rats to swim past any land barrier and the quantity of benefits arising from the measure as well as the effectiveness of any potential future measures.
14. **The Applicant** is invited to provide further information in relation to compensation measures identified for guillemot as set out below:
15. The **Applicant** is requested to present further information to demonstrate that the compensatory measures for guillemot in the southwest of England would provide quantifiable and qualitative benefits to the nearest SPAs and the coherence of the National Site Network.
16. Further information is requested on the alternative compensation measures required for adaptive management, specifically, further clarity and detail relating to the Applicants own predator eradication measures and evidence that, if required, Hornsea 4 would collaborate with the Applicant.

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<sup>1</sup> REP8-054, Deadline 8 Submission - 22.4 The Applicant's Comments on National Highways  
Deadline 7 Submission: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010109/EN010109-002140-22.4%20The%20Applicant's%20Comments%20on%20National%20Highways%20Deadline%207%20Submission.pdf>

## Offshore In-Principle Monitoring Plan

17. During the Examination there was discussion as to the condition wording for the Offshore In-Principle Monitoring Plan and, in particular whether concerns raised in any post-monitoring would be addressed. **The Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and the Applicant** are invited to comment on a possible addition to Condition 20 (of Schedules 10 and 11) and Condition 19 (of Schedules 12 and 13) of the draft Deemed Marine Licences:

*“(7) In the event that the reports provided to the MMO under sub-paragraph (4) identify that there are significant adverse effects post-mitigation, the Applicant shall notify the MMO and the relevant ANCBs of this in writing with a view to agreeing to a course of adaptive management/mitigation to reduce such effects. In the event that this adaptive management/mitigation requires a separate consent, the Applicant shall apply for such consent. Any such agreed or approved adaptive management/mitigation should be implemented in full to a timetable first agreed in writing with the MMO.”*

## Schedule of Mitigation

18. **Natural England** is invited to comment on the final version of the Schedule of Mitigation and Mitigation Route map [REP8-021<sup>2</sup>], which was submitted at the close of Examination.

## Pink-Footed Goose Mitigation Strategy

19. **Natural England** is invited to comment on the without-prejudice draft DCO Requirement provided by the Applicant [REP8-052, ID 5, page 16<sup>3</sup>].

## Traffic and Transport

20. **Norfolk County Council** and **National Highways** are invited to comment on the Applicant's response to the Rule 17 letter [REP8-052, ID 13, page 27<sup>4</sup>], regarding maximum daily vehicle trips and the Applicant's proposed without-prejudice sub-paragraph (5) to Requirement 15.

## Noise and Vibration – Trenchless Crossing Works at Night

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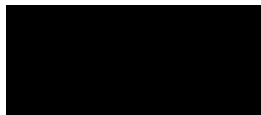
<sup>2</sup> REP8-021, Deadline 8 Submission - 6.5 Schedule of Mitigation and Mitigation Routemap (Revision B) (Clean): [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010109/EN010109-002201-6.5%20Schedule%20of%20Mitigation%20and%20Mitigation%20Routemap%20\(Revision%20B\)%20\(Clean\).pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010109/EN010109-002201-6.5%20Schedule%20of%20Mitigation%20and%20Mitigation%20Routemap%20(Revision%20B)%20(Clean).pdf)

<sup>3</sup> REP8-052, Deadline 8 Submission - 22.2 The Applicant's Response to the Examining Authority's Rule 17 Letter dated 12 July 2023: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010109/EN010109-002185-22.2%20The%20Applicant's%20Response%20to%20the%20Examining%20Authority's%20Rule%2017%20Letter%20dated%2012%20July%202023.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> REP8-052, Deadline 8 Submission - 22.2 The Applicant's Response to the Examining Authority's Rule 17 Letter dated 12 July 2023: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010109/EN010109-002185-22.2%20The%20Applicant's%20Response%20to%20the%20Examining%20Authority's%20Rule%2017%20Letter%20dated%2012%20July%202023.pdf>

21. **Oulton Parish Council, Broadland District Council, East Suffolk Council, Norfolk County Council, North Norfolk District Council and South Norfolk Council** are invited to comment on the Applicant's response to the Rule 17 letter [REP8-052, ID 14, page 31<sup>5</sup>], regarding restricting night time HDD works to emergencies to three locations only as specified by the ExA.
22. Responses to the requested information should be submitted **by email only to: [sadep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:sadep@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) by 23.59 on 20 December 2023.**
23. Responses will be published on the Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after **20 December 2023:**  
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sheringham-and-dudgeon-extension-projects/>
24. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project or any part of the Proposed Development. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the Application.

Yours faithfully,



**John Wheadon**

Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery  
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

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<sup>5</sup> REP8-052, Deadline 8 Submission - 22.2 The Applicant's Response to the Examining Authority's Rule 17 Letter dated 12 July 2023: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010109/EN010109-002185-22.2%20The%20Applicant's%20Response%20to%20the%20Examining%20Authority's%20Rule%2017%20Letter%20dated%2012%20July%202023.pdf>