

Date: 20 December 2023
Our ref: Case: 13015: 461164
Your ref: EN010109



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

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”)

The following constitutes Natural England’s formal statutory response to the Secretary of State’s Request for Information (RFI) dated 22nd November 2023.

Natural England has been invited to comment upon the following:

17. Offshore In-Principle Monitoring Plan

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.”

18. Schedule of Mitigation

Natural England is invited to comment on the final version of the Schedule of Mitigation and Mitigation Route Map [REP8-0212], which was submitted at the close of Examination.

19. Pink-Footed Goose Mitigation Strategy

Natural England is invited to comment on the without-prejudice draft DCO Requirement provided by the Applicant [REP8-052, ID 5, page 163].

Natural England's Advice

Please find Natural England's responses to the Further Information Requests set out in the following appendices:

Appendix 1 - Offshore In-Principle Monitoring Plan
Appendix 2 - Schedule of Mitigation and Route Map
Appendix 3 - Pink-Footed Goose Mitigation Strategy

Further Information Consultations

Natural England wishes to highlight that given the level of input required, particularly to review the Schedule of Mitigation route Map, it would have beneficial to have received advanced notice of the timing for this further information request in order to appropriately allocate resource. With the forthcoming Examination for Rampion 2 and the applications expected for several other offshore wind farm projects early in 2024, it will be less easy to guarantee resource to respond to consultations at short notice moving forward.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact.

Yours sincerely

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