



Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Projects

Annex 4A - Outline Guillemot Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (Revision C) (Tracked)

Revision C

Request for Information

December 2023

Document Reference: 5.5.4.1.1

APFP Regulation: 5(2)(g)

Title: Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Projects DCO Application Outline Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (Revision BC) (Tracked)	
PINS document no.: 5.5.4.1	
Document no.: C282-RH-Z-GA-00177	
Date:	Classification
June <u>December</u> 2023	Final
Prepared by:	
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Approved by:	Date:
Felix Cryer, Equinor	June <u>December</u> 2023

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Glossary of Acronyms

AEol	Adverse Effect on Integrity
CIMP	Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan
DCO	Development Consent Order
DEL	Dudgeon Extension Limited
DEP	Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project
DOW	Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm
FFC	Flamborough and Filey Coast
GRC SG	Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Steering Group
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
SEL	Scira Extension Limited
SEP	Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project
SOW	Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm
SPA	Special Protection Area
UK	United Kingdom

Glossary of Terms

Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (DEP)	The Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension onshore and offshore sites including all onshore and offshore infrastructure.
European site	Sites designated for nature conservation under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. This includes candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, potential Special Protection Areas, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites, proposed Ramsar sites and sites compensating for damage to a European site and is defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, although some of the sites listed here are afforded equivalent policy protection under the National Planning Policy Framework (2021) (paragraph 176) and joint Defra/Welsh Government/Natural England/NRW Guidance (February 2021).
Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (SEP)	The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension onshore and offshore sites including all onshore and offshore infrastructure.
The Applicant	Equinor New Energy Limited. As the owners of SEP and DEP, Scira Extension Limited (SEL) and Dudgeon Extension Limited (DEL) are the named undertakers that have the benefit of the Development Consent Order. References in this document to obligations on, or commitments by, 'the Applicant' are given on behalf of SEL and DEL as the undertakers of SEP and DEP.

1 **Revision C Updates December 2023**

1. Reference to razorbill has been removed from this document in light of the SoS's decision on Hornsea Project 4 that an in-combination adverse effect on integrity (AEoI) of the razorbill feature of the Flamborough and Filey Coast (FFC) Special Protection Area (SPA) can be ruled out, and in anticipation that the additional mortality of 1 (based on 50% displacement and 1% mortality) to 4 (70% displacement and 2% mortality) razorbill (upper 95% confidence limit of 3-7) from SEP and DEP (see the **Apportioning and Habitats Regulations Assessment Update Technical Note (Revision D)** [REP8-038]) would not breach the threshold of in-combination adverse effect. As such, the Applicant considers that it is no longer necessary to present 'without prejudice' compensation measures relating to razorbill.

42 **Revision B Updates at Deadline 5**

4.2. An updated assessment on the gannet feature of the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA ~~is~~ ~~was~~ provided in the **Apportioning and HRA Updates Technical Note (Revision D)** (~~[REP7-051 document reference 13.3]~~) which confirms a reduction in the worst-case upper 95% confidence interval value for this species from approximately 10 to approximately 6 compared to that in the **RIAA** [APP-059]. In addition, following its review of the Applicant's **Review of 2022 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak on relevant UK seabird colonies** [REP4-042], Natural England has confirmed that adverse effect on integrity can be ruled out for gannet (meeting held between the Applicant and Natural England on 23rd May 2023). As such, the Applicant considers that it is no longer necessary to present 'without prejudice' compensation measures relating to gannet. This document ~~has~~ ~~was~~ therefore ~~been~~ updated to remove the information relating to gannet compensation and the document re-titled the 'Outline Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan'.

23 **Introduction**

2.13.1 **Background**

2.3. The Sheringham Shoal Extension Project (hereafter SEP) and Dudgeon Extension Project (hereafter DEP) are proposed extensions to the existing Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms (SOW and DOW). When operational, SEP and DEP would have the potential to generate renewable power for around 785,000 United Kingdom (UK) homes from up to 23 wind turbines at SEP and up to 30 wind turbines at DEP.

3.4. Equinor New Energy Limited (the Applicant) is submitting an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) including a **Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA)** [APP-059], which provides the information necessary for the competent authority to undertake an Appropriate Assessment to determine if there is any adverse effect on integrity (AEoI) on the national site network.

~~4.5.~~ The Applicant has reached a conclusion of no AEoI for the guillemot feature of the ~~Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Protection Area (FFC SPA)~~, as evidenced in the RIAA [APP-059] and Apportioning and HRA Updates Technical Note (Revision E) [REP8-038]. ~~With respect to the razorbill feature of the FFC SPA, an updated assessment provided in the Apportioning and HRA Updates Technical Note (Revision C) [document reference 13.3] concludes no AEoI which is unchanged from the RIAA [APP-059].~~ In the event that the Secretary of State is unable to reach the same conclusion, the Applicant has developed compensatory measures that could be applied to provide compensation for the predicted impacts. The compensatory measures are therefore being proposed without prejudice to the Applicant's position that there is no AEoI.

~~5.6.~~ The Applicant has presented a suite of without prejudice documents relating to the potential requirement for compensatory measures, including this FFC SPA Outline Guillemot ~~and Razorbill~~ Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (the outline Guillemot ~~and Razorbill~~ CIMP).

2.23.2 Purpose of Document

~~6.7.~~ Should compensation for guillemot ~~and razorbill~~ be required, the Guillemot ~~and Razorbill~~ CIMP will be produced post-consent, as secured by the DCO, and will set out the detailed delivery proposals for the agreed compensatory measures, based on those set out in the Appendix 4 Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Document (Revision CE) ([document reference 5.5.4]). As described in the sections below, for each of the project-led measures to be implemented this will include details (where relevant) of the:

- Scale and location;
- Design;
- Arrangements for monitoring, maintenance and adaptive management;
- Reporting requirements;
- Implementation and delivery programme; and
- How the Guillemot ~~and Razorbill~~ CIMP can be approved.

~~7.8.~~ The purpose of this document is therefore to set out the outline of the Guillemot ~~and Razorbill~~ CIMP, which will be developed in consultation with stakeholders through the Guillemot ~~and Razorbill~~ Compensation Steering Group (GRCSG) and submitted to the Secretary of State for approval in accordance with the DCO.

~~8.9.~~ It should be noted that, as owners of SEP and DEP, Scira Extension Limited (SEL) and Dudgeon Extension Limited (DEL) are the named undertakers that have the benefit of the DCO. References throughout this document and any supporting annexes to obligations on, or commitments by, 'the Applicant' are given on behalf of SEL and DEL as the undertakers of SEP and DEP.

2.33.3 Consultation

~~9.10.~~ This section will provide a summary of the consultation that has been undertaken through the GRCSG in the development of the Guillemot ~~and Razorbill~~ CIMP, including key decisions, agreements and outstanding issues under discussion. Where the latter exist, information will be provided on the proposed next steps to resolve any such matters. Proposals for future engagement will also be detailed, including how monitoring outcomes will be shared and actioned accordingly.

~~10.11.~~ Specific topics of discussion for inclusion within the GRCSG, and therefore the purpose of the group, will be regarding site selection, project / study design, monitoring, adaptive management options and associated triggers. The focus of the GRCSG will be specifically to deliver the compensation for SEP and DEP.

34 Guillemot ~~and Razorbill~~ – Reduce Bycatch in Fisheries

3.14.1 Scale and Location

~~11.12.~~ This section will identify the scale of compensation to be provided and how this relates to the consent decision made by the Secretary of State. This section will also detail the specific location(s) at which the compensation will be delivered and the suitability of the sites to deliver the compensation measures. The evidence base included in support of the measures set out in **Appendix 4 Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Document (Revision EG)** ([document reference 5.5.4]) will help inform these aspects.

3.24.2 Design of Bycatch Reduction Programme

~~12.13.~~ This section will identify the design of the bycatch reduction programme. The evidence base provided in support of **Appendix 4 Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Document (Revision CE)** ([document reference 5.5.4]) and engagement with the GRCSG will be important in informing the design.

3.34.3 Monitoring and Adaptive Management

~~13.14.~~ This section will identify the monitoring and adaptive management principles and processes that have been agreed with the GRCSG, including the scenarios under which adaptive management measures are required. It will be developed in line with the evidence base that has been provided in support of **Appendix 4 Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Document (Revision CE)** ([document reference 5.5.4]). The GRCSG will be engaged in relation to implementing an ongoing programme of monitoring and adaptive management following approval of the Guillemot ~~and Razorbill~~ CIMP.

3.44.4 Reporting

~~14.15.~~ This section will set out the reporting requirements associated with the monitoring and adaptive management. In doing so, it will confirm the necessary objectives and timescales for the reporting.

~~3.5~~4.5 Implementation and Delivery Programme

~~15.16.~~ This section will confirm the programme for the implementation and long-term delivery of the compensation. It will also confirm the nature and status of all consents and any other relevant approvals that are necessary to secure the implementation of the compensation measures and include a programme for delivery of any outstanding consents.

~~3.6~~4.6 Approval of the Guillemot ~~and Razorbill~~ CIMP

~~16.17.~~ This section will confirm how, based on the content of this report, the Secretary of State can approve the Guillemot ~~and Razorbill~~ CIMP, which must then be complied with in the delivery of the agreed compensatory measures.

45 Collaborative and Strategic Compensation

~~17.18.~~ In the event that a viable opportunity for the collaborative delivery of compensation becomes available within the necessary timescales for SEP and DEP, this section will confirm the nature of the collaborative compensatory measure/s to be delivered wholly or partly in place of the Applicant's proposed project-led measures or as an adaptive management measure.

~~18.19.~~ In the event that a viable strategic compensation funding mechanism becomes available within the necessary timescales for SEP and DEP, this section will confirm the nature of the contribution to be made to a Strategic Compensation Fund wholly or partly in place of the Applicant's proposed project-led measures or as an adaptive management measure.

56 Summary

~~19.20.~~ This section will provide a summary of the detailed delivery proposals for the agreed compensatory measures for guillemot ~~and razorbill~~.