



N O R T H F A L L S

Offshore Wind Farm

HABITATS REGULATIONS

ASSESSMENT

Annex 2A Outline Lesser Black-backed Gull
Compensation Implementation and
Monitoring Plan

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NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

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Glossary of Acronyms

AEol	Adverse Effect on Integrity
AOE	Alde-Ore Estuary
CIMP	Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan
DCO	Development Consent Order
GGOW	Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm
LA	London Array
NFOW	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
UK	United Kingdom

Glossary of Terminology

The Applicant	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited (NFOW).
The Project Or 'North Falls'	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, including all onshore and offshore infrastructure.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1. The North Falls Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter 'North Falls' or 'the Project') is an extension to the existing Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm (GGOW), located approximately 40km off the East Anglian coast in England. When operational, North Falls would have the potential to generate renewable power for approximately 400,000 UK homes from up to 57 wind turbines.
2. The Applicant, North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Ltd (NFOW), is a joint venture between SSE Renewables Offshore Windfarm Holdings Limited (SSER) and RWE Renewables UK Swindon Limited (RWE), both of which are highly experienced developers.
3. As part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application, the Applicant must provide information to support the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to be completed by the Competent Authority, the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).
4. In reference to lesser black-backed gull from the Alde-Ore Estuary Special Protection Area (AOE SPA), the Applicant's Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) determines that AEoI cannot be ruled out due to predicted lesser black-backed gull mortality from collisions, when considered in combination with other offshore wind farms (OWF). Therefore, a suite of documents is presented by the Applicant as part of their DCO application in relation to the obligation for compensatory measures, in which this document, the outline Lesser Black-backed Gull Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (the outline Lesser Black-backed Gull CIMP) is included.

1.2 Purpose of document

5. The Lesser Black-backed Gull CIMP will be produced post-consent, as conditioned by the Draft DCO (Document Reference: 6.1) and will detail the delivery proposals for agreed compensatory measures, based on the measures set out in ES Appendix 4 Lesser Black-backed Gull Compensation Document (Document Reference: 7.2.2). As described in the sections below, for each of the project-led measures to be implemented the CIMP will details the:
 - Scale and location;
 - Design;
 - Arrangements for monitoring, maintenance and adaptive management;
 - Reporting requirements;
 - Implementation and delivery programme; and
 - How the Lesser Black-backed Gull CIMP can be approved.
6. The purpose of this document is to outline the Lesser Black-backed Gull CIMP, which will in due course be developed in consultation with stakeholders through the Lesser Black-backed gull Compensation Steering Group (LBCSG) and later submitted to the Secretary of State for approval in line with the DCO.

1.3 Consultation

7. This section will provide a summary of the consultation that has taken place within the LBCSG during the creation of the Lesser Black-backed Gull CIMP (including any relevant consultation undertaken prior to formal inception of the LBCSG), which will include:
 - Key decisions;
 - Agreements; and
 - Issues that remain under discussion.
8. Where any of these outstanding issues occur, information on proposed steps toward resolution will be provided. Additionally, details of proposed future engagements will also be detailed, including the sharing of and further action on monitoring outcomes.
9. Matters of discussion for inclusion within the LBCSG, and therefore the group's purpose, will be regarding:
 - Project / study design;
 - Monitoring;
 - Adaptive management options; and
 - Associated triggers.
10. The specific focus of the LBCSG will be to deliver the compensation measures for NFOW.

2 Breeding habitat enhancement

2.1 Scale and Location

11. This section will detail the scale of compensation proposed and how this conforms with the consent decision made by the Secretary of State (SoS). This section will go on to detail the specific location where compensation will be delivered, the suitability of the site for the delivery of the compensation measure, and how the required land rights at this location has been secured. The base of evidence included in aid of the measures detailed in ES Appendix 4 Lesser Black-backed Gull Compensation Document (Document Reference: 7.2.2) will provide information on these aspects.

2.2 Design of Measure

12. This section will detail the design for each element provided as part of the compensation package, including the ecological design considerations specific to lesser black-backed gull to allow for the best chance of success for the given measure. An important part of the design will include the evidence provided in support of the measure that is set out in ES Appendix 4 Lesser Black-backed Gull Compensation Document (Document Reference: 7.2.2).

2.3 Routine Maintenance and Management

13. This section will detail any routine maintenance and management requirements and responsibilities for the compensation measure.

2.4 Monitoring and Adaptive Management

14. This section will detail the monitoring and adaptive management principles and processes that have been developed by the Applicant in consultation with the LBCSG, including under what scenarios adaptive management measures will be required. These measures will be developed in accordance with the evidence provided in support of ES Appendix 4 Lesser Black-backed Gull Compensation Document (Document Reference: 7.2.2). Following the approval of the Lesser Black-backed Gull CIMP, the LBCSG will be engaged in the context of implementing monitoring and adaptive management in an ongoing programme.

2.5 Reporting

15. This section will set out the necessary reporting points in connection with the monitoring and adaptive management. This will therefore set out the objectives and timescales for the reporting.

2.6 Implementation and Delivery Programme

16. This section will lay out the programme for the application and long-term delivery of the compensation. It will confirm the purpose and stage of all consents, land access agreements, and any other relevant approvals that are necessary to enable the enactment of the compensation measures and will detail how any outstanding consents will be delivered.

2.7 Approval of the Lesser Black-backed Gull CIMP

17. This section will detail how the SoS can approve the Lesser Black-backed Gull CIMP, to which the delivery of all agreed compensatory measures must be compliant.

3 Collaborative or Strategic Compensation

18. If a feasible opportunity for the collaborative delivery of compensatory measures arises within the required timescales for North Falls, this section will confirm how the collaborative compensatory measure/s will be delivered.
19. If a viable strategic compensation funding mechanism were to become available within the required timescales for North Falls, this section will confirm how a contribution will be made to a Strategic Compensation Fund, wholly or partly, replacing the Applicant's initial proposal of project-led/collaborative measures or as part of adaptive management.

4 Summary

20. This section will provide a summary of the delivery proposals detailed above for the agreed compensatory measures for lesser black-backed gull.



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RWE

HARNESSING THE POWER OF NORTH SEA WIND

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited

A joint venture company owned equally by SSE Renewables and RWE.

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