



Dogger Bank South Examining Authority
National Infrastructure Planning
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2 The Square
Bristol
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Your ref.	EN01-125
Contact	Thomas Tremlett
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25th November 2024

Dear Ms Dowling,

Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

PINS Reference: EN010125

COVER LETTER FOR SUBMISSION OF OFFSHORE ORNITHOLOGY DOCUMENTS

Please find in Appendix A details of the documents transferred to you via file transfer which finalises the assessment updates requested by Natural England in their Relevant Representations and the Examining Authority's (ExA) request for further information to enable the re-commencement of the Preliminary Meeting. In line with previous email correspondence with the Case team and written correspondence in recent weeks [PDB-001][AS-038], the Applicants' would however also like to re-iterate and emphasise that now the requested documents have been provided, further consultation on the offshore ornithology submissions prior to the start of examination is not in the Applicants' view necessary for the following reasons:

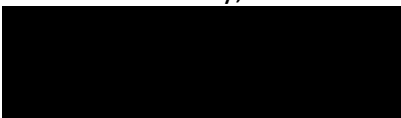
- The DBS DCO Application, and by nature, the sufficient advancement of its compensation proposals, were deemed sufficient to be accepted on July 10th 2024, with updated compensation plans since then showing significant further progress since submission.
- The initial offshore ornithology assessments were comprehensive and robust in-line with relevant guidance and best practice prior to new guidance provided in March 2024 which was too close to the submission of the DCO application to incorporate.
- The Applicants were unaware that Natural England were not considering the Applicants' detailed assessment prior to receipt of the Relevant Representations on the 6th September 2024 despite numerous opportunities for the Applicants to be informed of this.
- Some requested updates were not available to be delivered earlier due to the reliance on the submission of other Offshore Wind Farms' applications to obtain information to inform the Applicants' assessment.

- It is common practice to update assessments in-line with comments received from stakeholders at the Relevant Representation, Written Representation and Written Question stages and this is not ordinarily considered a reason to delay the commencement of examination and by nature of this, delay a decision by the Secretary of State.
- The assessment updates do not change the EIA or HRA conclusions for kittiwake, guillemot or razorbill.
- Notwithstanding, the numbers of affected birds changing the quantum of compensation required, variations of the totals will not affect the nature or suitability of the measures proposed within the compensation plans.

Furthermore, Natural England's confirmed in their Response to the Rule 9 and 17 Letter issued on 29 October 2024 [PDB-011] that the updated offshore ornithology assessments '*should be available for Interested Party (IP) review at the re-start of the Examination*' and that submission of this information in mid-November '*could allow the Examination to re-start promptly*'. The Applicants have now provided this information, with defined tables at the start of the Environmental Statement and RIAA deliverables respectively confirming how these comments have been addressed to allow the ExA to consider this. As Interested Parties have already provided information to the Examining Authority of when they consider the Preliminary Meeting can be re-commenced, the Applicants would highlight that further consultation on the matter un-necessarily delays the promptness with which examination could be restarted and impedes the delivery of a key development in meeting national policy need. Recommencement of the Preliminary Meeting prior to the Festive Period is vital to mitigate the current impact of the delay to examination on project delivery.

The Applicants' are confident that the information provided should be sufficient to enable the recommencement of the Preliminary Meeting and would welcome further discussion with the Examining Authority prior to any decisions that will further delay this process.

Yours sincerely,



Thomas Tremlett
Senior Consents Manager

DBS Offshore Wind Farms

**RWE Renewables UK
Dogger Bank South
(East) Limited**

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Appendix A

Table of Applicants' submission of documents in response to ExA's Rule 9 and 17 letter dated 22nd October [\[PD-005\]](#). Submissions accompanying this letter are in **bold** text.

Document Name	Our Reference / PINS Ref		Date submitted
Applicants' Response to Rule 9 and Rule 17 Letter	10.29	PDB-001	29/10/2024
Response to Natural England's Relevant Representations (Appendix G & H)	10.18	PDB-006	29/10/2024
Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Site Shortlist Refinement Report (Redacted)	10.20	PDB-008	29/10/2024
Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan (Clean) (Revision 2).	6.2.2	PDB-004	29/10/2024
Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan (Tracked) (Revision 2).	6.2.2	PDB-005	29/10/2024
Project Level Artificial Nesting Structure (ANS) Site Selection Report	10.19	PDB-007	29/10/2024
Project-Level Kittiwake Compensation Plan (Clean)(Revision 2)	6.2.1	PDB-002	29/10/2024
Project-Level Kittiwake Compensation Plan (Tracked)(Revision 2)	6.2.1	PDB-003	29/10/2024
Response to Rule 17 Dated 7th November and Cover Letter for additional submissions	10.29	AS-038	08/11/2024
Offshore Ornithology Assessment Cover Letter	10.43		25/11/2024
ES Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology (Clean)	7.12		22/11/2024
ES Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology (Tracked)	7.12		22/11/2024
ES Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology - Figure 12-1	7.12.1		22/11/2024
ES Appendix 12-3a-c Monthly Abundance - All, Sitting, Flying (Revision 2) (clean)	7.12.12.3		22/11/2024
ES Appendix 12-3a-c Monthly Abundance - All, Sitting, Flying (Revision 2) (tracked)	7.12.12.3		22/11/2024
ES Appendix 12-4a-c - Monthly Densities - All, Sitting, Flying (Revision 2) (clean)	7.12.12.4		22/11/2024
ES Appendix 12-4a-c - Monthly Densities - All, Sitting, Flying (Revision 2) (tracked)	7.12.12.4		22/11/2024
ES Appendix 12-5a-c - Seasonal Peak Abundance - All, Sitting, Flying (Revision 2) (clean)	7.12.12.5		22/11/2024

Document Name	Our Reference / PINS Ref	Date submitted
ES Appendix 12-5a-c - Seasonal Peak Abundance - All, Sitting, Flying (Revision 2) (tracked)	7.12.12.5	22/11/2024
ES Appendix 12-6a-c - Seasonal Peak Density - All, Sitting, Flying (Revision 2) (clean)	7.12.12.6	22/11/2024
ES Appendix 12-6a-c - Seasonal Peak Density - All, Sitting, Flying (Revision 2) (tracked)	7.12.12.6	22/11/2024
ES Appendix 12-7a-c - Survey Abundancies - All, Sitting, Flying (Revision 2) (clean)	7.12.12.7	22/11/2024
ES Appendix 12-7a-c - Survey Abundancies - All, Sitting, Flying (Revision 2) (tracked)	7.12.12.7	22/11/2024
ES Appendix 12-8a-c - Survey Densities - All, Sitting, Flying (Revision 2) (clean)	7.12.12.8	22/11/2024
ES Appendix 12-8a-c - Survey Densities - All, Sitting, Flying (Revision 2) (tracked)	7.12.12.8	22/11/2024
Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features - Volume 6 (Revision 03) (Clean)	6.1	25/11/2024
Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment - Part 4 of 4 – Marine Ornithological Features - Volume 6 (Revision 03) (Tracked)	6.1	25/11/2024
Appendix 1 - Project-Level Kittiwake Compensation Plan - Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) - Habitats Regulations Assessment (Revision 03) (Clean)	6.2.1	25/11/2024
Appendix 1 - Project-Level Kittiwake Compensation Plan - Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) - Habitats Regulations Assessment (Revision 03) (Tracked)	6.2.1	25/11/2024
Appendix 2 - Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan - Habitats Regulations Derogation: Provision of Evidence (Revision 03) (Clean)	6.2.2	25/11/2024
Appendix 2 - Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan - Habitats Regulations Derogation: Provision of Evidence (Revision 03) (Tracked)	6.2.2	25/11/2024