

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Ornithology Compensation Strategy

Document 7.7

Date: March 2024

Document Reference: 7.7

Pursuant to APFP Regulation: 5(2)(g)

Rev: 1.0

Company:	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind	Asset:	Whole Asset			
Project:	Whole Wind Farm	Sub Project/Package:	Whole Asset			
Document Title or Description:	Document 7.7 Ornithology Compensation Strategy					
Internal Document Number:	PP1-ODOW-DEV-CS-STR-0003	3 rd Party Doc No (If applicable):	N/A			
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Rev No.	Date	Status / Reason for Issue	Author	Checked by	Reviewed by	Approved by
V1.0	March 2024	DCO Application	GoBe	ODOW	Shepherd and Wedderburn	ODOW

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Acronyms & Definitions

Abbreviations / Acronyms

Abbreviation / Acronym	Description
AEoI	Adverse Effect on Integrity
ANS	Artificial Nesting Structure
DCO	Development Consent Order
FFC	Flamborough and Filey Coast
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IMP	Implementation and Monitoring Plan
ORCP	Offshore Reactive Compensation Platform
RIAA	Report to Information Appropriate Assessment
SoS	Secretary of State
SPA	Special Protection Area

Terminology

Term	Definition
Array area	The area offshore within which the generating station (including wind turbine generators (WTG) and inter array cables), offshore accommodation platforms, offshore transformer substations and associated cabling will be positioned.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	A process which helps determine likely significant effects and (where appropriate) assesses adverse impacts on the integrity of European conservation sites and Ramsar sites. The process consists of up to four stages of assessment: screening, appropriate assessment, assessment of alternative solutions and assessment of imperative reasons of over-riding public interest (IROPI) and compensatory measures.
The Applicant	GT R4 Ltd. The Applicant making the application for a DCO. The Applicant is GT R4 Limited (a joint venture between Corio Generation, Tota Energies and Gulf Energy Development (GULF)), trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind. The Project is being developed by Corio Generation (a wholly owned Green Investment Group portfolio company), TotalEnergies and GULF.
The Project	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, an offshore wind generating station together with associated onshore and offshore infrastructure.

Reference Documentation

Document Number	Title
6.1.3	Project Description
7.1	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
7.5	Derogation Case
7.7.1.1	Kittiwake Compensation Plan Annex 2 Implementation and Monitoring Plan
7.7.2.1	Guillemot Compensation Plan Annex 2 Implementation and Monitoring Plan
7.7.3.1	Razorbill Compensation Plan Annex 2 Implementation and Monitoring Plan
7.7.6	Additional Measures for Guillemot and Razorbill Evidence Base and Roadmap
7.8	The Crown Estate Kittiwake Strategic Compensation Plan

1 Overview

1. GT R4 Limited (trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind) hereafter referred to as the 'Applicant', is proposing to develop the Project. The Project will include both offshore and onshore infrastructure including an offshore generating station (windfarm) approximately 54km offshore of the Lincolnshire coast, export cables to landfall, Offshore Reactive Compensation Platforms (ORCPs), onshore cables, connection to the electricity transmission network, ancillary and associated development and areas for the delivery of up to two Artificial Nesting Structures (ANS) and the creation and recreation of a biogenic reef (if these compensation measures are deemed to be required by the Secretary of State) (see Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description (document reference 6.1.3) for full details).
2. The Report to Inform an Appropriate Assessment (RIAA), submitted as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application, has considered the potential for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project to result in any adverse effects on the integrity (AEoI) of the National Site Network sites. Following completion of the RIAA, the Applicant has been unable to exclude the potential for an AEoI to the kittiwake feature of the Flamborough and Filey Coast (FFC) Special Protection Area (SPA) from impacts of the Project in-combination with other plans, projects and activities. In addition, whilst the Applicant is confident that an AEoI can be excluded alone and in-combination for the guillemot and razorbill features of the FFC SPA, Natural England have advised that they are unlikely to be able to conclude no AEoI for these features of the FFC SPA for the Project in-combination with other plans, projects and activities.
3. Therefore, to prepare for the potential that the Secretary of State (SoS) in their Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) concludes that an AEoI at FFC SPA cannot be excluded for one or more of these features, the Applicant has provided a derogation case for kittiwake and without prejudice derogation cases in respect of the guillemot and razorbill features (document reference 7.5) and has developed compensation measures in case required, including the evidence base and roadmap for their implementation, as outlined below.
4. As part of the Round 4 Offshore Wind Leasing Process, The Crown Estate developed a Round 4 Plan Level HRA¹. This concluded that it was not possible to conclude no AEoI for the kittiwake population at the Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Protection Area (FFC SPA) at the plan level. The Project was one of three developments which was concluded to contribute towards the potential for an AEoI, and as such is required to contribute towards kittiwake compensation through The Crown Estate Kittiwake Strategic Compensation Plan (KSCP) (document reference 7.8), as well as securing separate project-alone proposals.

¹ <https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/our-business/marine/round-4-plan-level-habitats-regulations-assessment>

2 Ornithology Compensation Strategy

5. The Ornithology Compensation Strategy comprises the following three plans:
 - Kittiwake Compensation Plan (document 7.7.1);
 - Guillemot Compensation Plan (document 7.7.2); and
 - Razorbill Compensation Plan (document 7.7.3).
6. Each of these plans provides relevant information on the scale of the impact predicted from the Project to the feature of the FFC SPA, the development of the potential compensatory measures, a summary of the options considered and whether they have been taken forward, consideration of the effects of external factors (e.g. highly pathogenic avian influenza), and a discussion of potential strategic mechanisms through which the compensation could be delivered (if considered appropriate).
7. These compensation plans are supported by detailed evidence base and roadmaps reports for each of the three measures developed:
 - Offshore Artificial Nesting Structures Evidence Base and Roadmap (document 7.7.4);
 - Predator Control Evidence Base and Roadmap (document 7.7.5); and
 - Additional Measures for Guillemot and Razorbill Evidence Base and Roadmap (document 7.7.6).
8. These evidence base and roadmap reports set out the ecological evidence base for each measure and how it could deliver the necessary quantum of compensation and the roadmap for the delivery of the compensation, including any lead-in time required for the establishment of the measure, and monitoring and adaptive management which may be needed.
9. Finally, for each of the identified species, an Outline Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (IMP) has been provided which sets out the information which would be contained within the species-specific IMP post-consent, in the event that compensation is required for one or more of these species as part of the DCO:
 - Kittiwake Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan Annex 2 Implementation and Monitoring Plan (document reference 7.7.1.1);
 - Guillemot Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan Annex 2 Implementation and Monitoring Plan (document reference 7.7.2.1); and
 - Razorbill Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan Annex 2 Implementation and Monitoring Plan (document reference 7.7.3.1).
10. The Applicant is confident that, based on the information provided within the identified documents listed above, in the event that the Secretary of State determines potential for AEoI and considers that compensation is required, the Project has provided sufficient information to demonstrate that compensation measures are available, securable and deliverable.