



# Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm Limited Triton Knoll Electrical System

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**Appendix 44: Draft Badger  
Licence Application – Letter of  
No Impediment**

**Date: October 2015**

**Appendix 44 of the Applicant’s  
Response to Deadline 1**

Date:03 September 2015  
Our ref: 2015-15287-SPM-NSIP1  
(NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT  
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT)



Ms Kim Gauld-Clark  
RWE

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Wildlife Licensing  
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Dear Ms Gauld-Clark

**DRAFT BADGER LICENCE APPLICATION STATUS: FIRST DRAFT APPLICATION**  
**LEGISLATION: PROTECTION OF BADGERS ACT 1992**  
**NSIP: TRITON KNOLL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM**  
**PROTECTED SPECIES: BADGER (*Meles meles*)**

Thank you for your draft badger development licence application in association with the above Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), which was received in this office on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Natural England agreed to review this draft NSIP application to help ensure the proposals meet protected species licensing requirements. As you will be aware, no final licensing decisions can be made, or any licence issued, unless the development obtains all necessary consents in order to proceed, with any conditions relevant to wildlife discharged. Accordingly we cannot issue a licence unless the Secretary of State grants the Development Consent Order (DCO) in relation to these proposals.

### **Assessment and decision**

We have now completed our assessment of this draft application and can confirm the proposal within the Method Statement to close or interfere with setts within the work area of the electrical connection is acceptable in principle. Please note that the following points must be accounted for in the Application Form and accompanying Method Statement at the formal application stage should the DCO be granted (these reiterate the points included in Caroline Harrison's email to Paul Franklin of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015):

#### **Application Form**

- Our database has two customer numbers for you. C155409 has no previous licence records attached and C133864 has your licences for Science & Conservation attached but your previous address and email. We would suggest that you use the latter number but update your details.
- Section 5: please include the reason why a badger application is being submitted, i.e. Application for Triton Knoll wind farm (NSIP) to install an onshore cable system for the Electrical System from Anderby Creek to a sub-station at Bicker fen. A corridor of 60m is required to install the cables and associated works, approximately 60km in length. The application will be for disturbance to badger setts along the route.
- Section 6: please refer to the six setts that you wish the licence to cover.
- Section 7(e): please specify the number of years that the works are proposed for as we cannot issue an open ended licence.
- Section 9: please refer to each sett that disturbance is proposed for.
- Section 10: please specify any colleagues working on this development.

- Section 11: please refer to the licence numbers of previous applications (2011 and 2015?)

#### **Method Statement**

- Section 3: please ensure grid references are assigned to each sett.
- Section 5.2.2: we recommend that another type of monitoring badger gates is also used i.e plastic tabs on the gates or sticks. Sand is not always an effective option of monitoring, especially if it rains.
- Section 5.3.2: please include reference to ensuring that the artificial sett is being utilised prior to the closure of a sett.

#### **Maps**

- Please provide grid references for the setts.

If there is any aspect of the above that that is not clear to you and you wish to discuss it with the wildlife adviser who assessed the method statement, please contact Caroline Harrison on 03000600730 or by email at [Caroline.Harrison@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Caroline.Harrison@naturalengland.org.uk).

An email identifying issues in advance is helpful as it will enable Caroline to review your queries in the context of the case before discussing them with you. Like all Wildlife Advisers, Caroline does not spend all of her time in the office so there may be a short delay before she can respond to you.

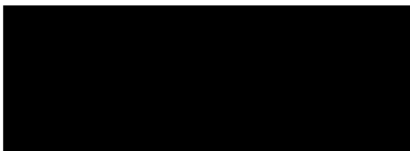
#### **Next steps:**

You can use this letter to demonstrate to the Planning Inspectorate that as long as the issues identified above are addressed prior to formal submission of your badger licence application, that Natural England sees no reason why a licence would not be granted. However, if the issues are not addressed no licence will be granted until these are rectified, which could lead to unnecessary delays.

At the formal licence application stage, any other minor modifications to the Method Statement, e.g. due to timings of the proposed works, results of update surveys, must also be made and agreed before a licence is granted.

I hope that the information detailed within this letter has been helpful. However, should you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Claire Howe  
Senior Adviser – Sustainable Development  
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## **Annex - Guidance for providing further information or formally submitting the licence application.**

**Important note:** when submitting your formal licence application please mark all correspondence '2015-15287-SPM-NSIP1- TRITON KNOLL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM (BADGER) for the attention of Kathryn Murray and John Gordon'.

### **Submitting Documents.**

Documents must be sent to the Customer Services Wildlife Licensing (postal and email address at the top of this letter).

### **Changes to Documents – Reasoned Statement and/or Method Statement.**

Changes must be identified using one or more of the following methods:

- underline new text/strikeout deleted text;
- use different font colour;
- block-coloured text, or all the above.

### **Reasoned Statement (for European Protected Species ONLY)**

#### **Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest or Public Health and Safety and/or No Satisfactory Alternative.**

When submitting a revised Reasoned Statement please send us one copy on CD, or by e-mail if less than 5MB in size, or alternatively one paper copy of the complete, revised document. Please do not send the amended sections in isolation.

### **Method Statement**

#### **Favourable Conservation Status.**

When submitting a revised Method Statement please send us one copy on CD, or by e-mail if less than 5MB in size, or alternatively three paper copies. The method statement should be submitted in its entirety including all figures, appendices, supporting documents. This document forms part of the licence; please do not send the amended sections in isolation. For NSIP schemes if you are sending us a copy by email or on CD, please also send us at least one paper copy of all figures and maps which greatly assists the assessment process.