



THE PLANNING ACT 2008  
THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE)  
RULES 2010

Triton Knoll Electrical System

The construction and operation of Triton Knoll Electrical System to connect the Triton Knoll offshore windfarm turbine array to the National Grid sub-station at Bicker Fen, Lincolnshire.

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020019

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**NATURAL ENGLAND**  
**WRITTEN SUBMISSION FOR DEADLINE 5**

Dated 1<sup>ST</sup> February 2016

## **Contents**

1.	INTRODUCTION	3
2.	SECTION A – WRITTEN SUBMISSION OF THE ORAL ANSWERS PROVIDED TO QUESTIONS AT THE ISSUE SPECIFIC HEARING ON FRIDAY 22 <sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2016	4

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This submission follows the Issue Specific Hearing for the Triton Knoll Electrical System (TKES) which took place at The Storehouse Conference Centre, Skegness on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016 and details the oral responses to questions asked of Natural England during that hearing.
- 1.2 This submission consists of 1 part
  - a) Section A – Written submission of the oral answers provided to questions at the Issue Specific Hearing on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016.

**2. SECTION A – WRITTEN SUBMISSION OF THE ORAL ANSWERS PROVIDED TO QUESTIONS AT THE ISSUE SPECIFIC HEARING ON FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2016.**

**Representing Natural England:** Louise Burton

Agenda 5 d) - Article 2

Natural England confirmed that we are happy with the outline Landscape and Ecological plan in relation to the removal of hedgerows prior to the commencement of works as set out.

Agenda 5 n) - Schedule 1, Part 3

Subsequent to discussions with ELDC, Natural England would like it to be recognised in supporting documents to the DCO, and if considered necessary by the Regulator, on the face of the DCO; that 'cable landfall' activities relating to Works Number 2 and 3 will be lead on by Natural England in consultation with competent authorities, due to required specialist expertise.

This request is in recognition that project teams in each organisation may change post-consent and that 'in consultation with Natural England' is not sufficient in this instance, to highlight the request from the local authority for Natural England to lead on the discussions with the Applicant and other competent authorities, including the Environment Agency and the MMO.

Post the Issue Specific Hearing it was agreed by all parties that there was no need to change the wording in the current drafting of the DCO and DML, and the underlying management plans.

All DCO conditions for the landfall will be discharged by ELDC, but, as with all relevant conditions, the Applicant proposes to undertake detailed consultation with Natural England prior to submitting plans for discharge. At that point ELDC would formally consult Natural England to check that the appropriate actions have been taken. However, Natural England requests that given the complexity and number of documents that Triton Knoll project will need to have signed off prior to construction and cable installation, that we receive the document at least **4 months** prior to construction. We have found on other projects that this is the least amount of time required to consult with relevant parties and address any concerns; thus avoiding unnecessary delays to the project.

Agenda 5 v) – bb) DML condition 13

Natural England stated that we agree in-principle with the Applicants suggested amendment to condition 13, as it addresses our residual concerns in relation to

sediment movement, but this would need to be agreed with the MMO. It is hoped that this can be achieved by Deadline 5.

Since the hearing Natural England has had further discussions with the Applicant to refine the proposed wording for condition 13 and have reached agreement on this matter. The Applicant has subsequently updated the Statement of Common Ground between Natural England and themselves, which we believe will be submitted at Deadline 5.