



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**  
**RESPONSE TO EXAMINING AUTHORITY'S THIRD ROUND OF**  
**WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR DEADLINE 6**

Dated 17<sup>TH</sup> February 2016

## **Triton Knoll Electrical System - Examining Authority's Third Written Questions**

The following table sets out the Examining Authority (ExA)'s written questions and requests in relation to the Triton Knoll Electrical System (TKES).

**Responses are required by Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016.**

Question number	Question to	Question	Natural England response
<b>DCO</b>	<b>Draft Development Consent Order</b>		
DCO 3.1	All Parties	<p>The ExA have issued their recommended draft Development Consent Order (DCO) in the form of a <i>Schedule of ExA's recommended amendments to the Applicant's draft DCO version F</i>.</p> <p>a) All parties are requested to provide comments and, if relevant, suggestions for amendments to the entirety of the ExA's recommended draft DCO.</p> <p>b) In particular, all parties are requested to provide comments and, if relevant, suggestions for amendments to wording to the ExA's recommended additional wording, including a recommended new Requirement on local employment.</p> <p>c) All parties are also requested to check the <i>Schedule of ExA's recommended amendments to the Applicant's draft DCO version F</i> taken with the Applicant's <i>Revised draft DCO</i> [REP5-035] and inform the ExA if they consider that any matters that they have raised in respect to the draft DCO during the course of the Examination have not been dealt with.</p>	<p>a) Natural England has no suggested amendments to the ExA's recommended draft DCO.</p> <p>b) Natural England has no comment to make on the ExA's recommended additional wording and consider local employment is outside of our remit for comment.</p> <p>c) Natural England considers that all matters in relation to the draft DCO that we have raised during the Examination have been addressed.</p>
DCO 3.2	All Parties	The Applicant's <i>Revised draft DCO</i>	Natural England does not consider this subject

		<p>[REP5-035] included an amended version of the Restrictive Covenant at Schedule 5. This is included unchanged in the ExA's recommended draft DCO at this stage.</p> <p>The ExA requests that all parties including, in particular, affected landowners and tenants provide comments and, if relevant, suggestions for amendments to wording to the draft Restrictive Covenant.</p>	<p>falls under our remit and therefore, we have no comment to make in relation to this matter.</p>
<b>EOf</b>	<b>Environmental Issues: Offshore</b>		
EOf 3.1	<p>The Applicant</p> <p>Natural England</p>	<p>Condition 12 of the draft Deemed Marine Licence [REP5-035] requires pre-construction monitoring and surveys to be undertaken. Condition 13 requires post construction surveys.</p> <p>However the ExA is concerned that neither of these makes adequate provision for reef survey work to be undertaken prior to any maintenance activities; that Condition 13 seeks to determine the effects of construction activity only.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the Statement of Common Ground between the Applicant and Natural England [REP5-044] which</p>	<p>Natural England is content that the required surveys, including reef surveys prior to maintenance works, will be adequately covered in the Operation and Maintenance Plan as secured by condition 7 of the DML and do not need to be secured separately elsewhere.</p>

		<p>states that the Outline Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan [APP-114] (O&amp;M Plan) “is appropriate and reasonable to inform the final O&amp;M plan”, the ExA is concerned that the O&amp;M plan is not particularly detailed in regard to the requirements for cable and reef surveys, and the ExA notes that reef surveys prior to maintenance activities are not secured in the draft Deemed Marine Licence.</p> <p>Comment and explain whether the O&amp;M Plan and the draft DML need to be updated in this respect.</p>	
EOf 3.2	The Applicant Natural England	<p>Does the Statement of Common Ground between the Applicant and Natural England [REP5-044] need to be updated to reflect the most up-to-date draft DCO and draft DML [Revision F REP5-035], as there are references notably at Paragraphs 4.253 and 4.254 to the agreement of the wording and measures as set out in Schedule 9 Part 2 of the dDCO and dDML Version E [REP4-042]?</p>	<p>The Statement of Common Ground between Natural England and the Applicant refers to Revision F of the draft DCO/DML where amendments to relevant DML Conditions were made from Revision E, as noted in paragraph 4.275. Natural England therefore does not believe the SoCG requires further revision.</p>