UK Government

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(By e-mail only: [redacted])

12 November 2026

Dear Dr Westwood,

PLANNING ACT 2008

NORFOLK VANGUARD OFFSHORE WIND FARM ORDER 2022 (as amended)

APPROVAL OF REQUIREMENT 34 – NATS CROMER PRIMARY SURVEILLANCE RADAR – DEFINED IN PART 3 OF SCHEDULE 1 TO THE ORDER

1. The Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm Order 2022 (as amended) ("the Order") contains a number of requirements and conditions that the undertaker must comply with before the authorised development as defined in the Order can commence.

2. Norfolk Vanguard East Limited ("NVEL") and Norfolk Vanguard West Limited are joint undertakers of the Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm Order 2022. NVEL ("the Applicant") made a request to the Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero ("the Secretary of State") on 21 September 2026 for the discharge Requirement 34 – Cromer Primary Surveillance Radar – in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Order ("the Discharge Request").

3. The Discharge Request included a cover letter and the following enclosures: the Primary Radar Mitigation Scheme, PRMS ANNEX 1 – Mitigation Measures; PRMS ANNEX 2 – Turbine Co-ordinates and, PRMS ANNEX 3 – Site Plan.

Requirement 34 – Cromer Primary Surveillance Radar

4. Requirement 34 in Schedule 1 of the Order states that:

"34.—(1) No erection of any wind turbine generator forming part of the authorised development may commence until the Secretary of State having consulted with NATS has confirmed satisfaction in writing that appropriate mitigation will be implemented and maintained for the lifetime of the authorised development and that arrangements have been put in place with NATS to ensure that the approved mitigation is implemented and in operation prior to erection of the wind turbine generators.
(2) The undertaker must thereafter comply with all other obligations contained within the approved mitigation for the lifetime of the authorised development.
(3) For the purposes of this requirement—

"appropriate mitigation" means measures to prevent or remove any adverse effects which the operation of the authorised development will have on NATs' ability to provide safe and efficient air traffic (surveillance and control) services/operations during the lifetime of the authorised development in respect of which all necessary stakeholder consultation has been completed by NATS and all necessary approvals and regulatory consents have been obtained;

"approved mitigation" means the detailed Primary Surveillance Radar Mitigation Scheme setting out the appropriate mitigation approved by the Secretary of State and confirmed in writing in accordance with paragraph (1);

"NATS" means NATS (En-Route) Plc or any successor body; and

"lifetime of the authorised development" means the period ending when the wind turbine generators are finally decommissioned and removed."

Discharge Request and Consultation

5. The Secretary of State considered the information provided by the Applicant in its Discharge Request and in accordance with Requirement 34, issued a consultation letter on 20 October 2026 to NATS inviting further comments.

6. A letter from NATS in response to the Secretary of State's consultation letter was received on 30 October 2026. NATS confirmed that the radar mitigation agreed with Norfolk Vanguard East Limited under a legal agreement has been implemented to its satisfaction. NATS further stated that it was satisfied that the turbines can be erected for the purposes of the condition (Requirement 34) subject to on-going compliance with the Primary Radar Mitigation Scheme. NATS requested that written confirmation is given that turbines can be erected in accordance with the condition.

7. The Secretary of State's consultation letter and the letter from NATS are attached as **Annex B** and **C** of this letter.

Consideration of the Discharge Request by the Secretary of State

8. To discharge Requirement 34 and thus permit the Undertaker to commence the erection of any wind turbine generator, the Secretary of State (after consulting NATS) must be satisfied of two matters:

    i. that appropriate mitigation (as defined in Requirement 34 (3)) will be implemented and maintained for the required period (as defined); and
    ii. that arrangements have been put in place with NATS to ensure that the approved mitigation is implemented and operational prior to the erection of the wind turbine generators.

9. In paragraph 4 of the Primary Radar Mitigation Scheme the developer accepts that without appropriate technical mitigation measures, the Vanguard East Offshore Wind Farm Project ("the Development") will cause an unacceptable impact on the primary radar of NATS located at Cromer and associated air traffic control operations.

10. Paragraph 6 of the Primary Radar Mitigation Scheme states that no wind turbines forming part of the authorised Development will be erected until the relevant Planning Authority (the Secretary of State), following consultation with NATS, has provided written confirmation that the following has occurred:

    i. the technical mitigation measures described in Annex 1 ("Mitigation Measures") of the Scheme have been fully installed and integrated into NATS' infrastructure and validated by NATS; and,
    ii. arrangements have been entered into with NATS for the on-going maintenance, management, renewal update and decommissioning of the Mitigation Measures throughout life of the wind farm at the Developer's expense and until such time as the wind turbine generators have been permanently dismantled. Such arrangements shall effectively bind future operators and owners of the Development and include reasonable security for the performance of the developer's obligations.

11. In the cover letter provided as part of the Discharge Request, the Applicant stated that it had entered into a Mitigation and Services Contract with NATS for the delivery of a Primary Radar Mitigation Scheme for the Cromer Primary Surveillance Radar.

12. Paragraph 7 of the Primary Radar Mitigation Scheme states that following the discharge of each of the requirements at paragraph 6 of the scheme and

at least four weeks prior to the first blades being fitted to any turbine, the Developer shall provide the Planning Authority (and copied to NATS - contact details below) with a schedule of intended dates for blades to be fitted to each turbine and for each turbine to be first operated. The paragraph further states that if any of the dates will be materially different from those set out in the submitted schedule, then notice of the revised date(s) shall as soon as reasonably practicable be provided to the Planning Authority in writing by the Developer (copied to NATS).

13. Paragraph 8 of the Primary Radar Mitigation Scheme states turbines shall not be sited outside of the design zone set out at Annex 2 – Turbine Co-ordinates (provided as attachment to the scheme) without the prior consent of the Secretary of State (following consultation with NATS).

Discharge of Requirement 34, Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Order

14. Having considered the terms of the agreed Primary Radar Mitigation Scheme, the Secretary of State is satisfied that appropriate mitigation will be implemented and maintained for the required period and that arrangements between the Undertaker and NATS are in place to ensure implementation and operation of the appropriate mitigation prior to the erection of the wind turbine generators.

15. The Secretary of State therefore approves the Discharge Request in accordance with paragraph (1) of Requirement 34 in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Order.

16. While Requirement 34(1) has been discharged, the Secretary of State notes that paragraph (2) of the Requirement provides that the obligations contained within the approved mitigation (i.e. the Primary Radar Mitigation Scheme) must be complied with for the "lifetime of the authorised development" (as defined, see paragraph 5 above).

17. The Secretary of State hereby provides the confirmation required by Requirement 34, paragraph (1).

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

John Wheadon
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery & Innovation
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Annexes:

Annex A – Applicant Discharge Request Letter for the Vanguard East Offshore Wind Farm Project including the Primary Radar Mitigation Scheme, PRMS ANNEX 1 – Mitigation Measures, PRMS ANNEX 2 – Turbine Co-ordinates and, PRMS ANNEX 3 – Site Plan.

Annex B – Secretary of State Consultation Letter to NATS 20 October 2026 – Vanguard East Offshore Wind Farm Project

Annex C – Consultation Response Letter from NATS Safeguarding Team 30 October 2026 – Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm Order 2022