
From: Brown, Emma [mailto:Emma.Brown@naturalengland.org.uk]
Sent: 08 February 2019 17:22
To: Hornsea Project Three
Subject: Hornsea Project Three Deadline 6 Submissions

Good Afternoon,

Please find Natural England's Written Submissions for Deadline 6 of the Hornsea Project Three Offshore Windfarm examination attached.

This includes our written summaries of the Offshore Ecology and DCO Issue Specific Hearings, along with several Annexes which are provided in response to requests made by the Examiner.

Please note Natural England are not providing a response to the Examiners' questions relating to Markham's Triangle MCZ within this submission.

Natural England has reviewed the relevant documents in consultation with JNCC and have prepared a response but we have subsequently received an email from the Applicant offering further clarification. Unfortunately it has not been possible for us to consider this new information in time for today's deadline, but we intend to give this further consideration and provide a response in due course.

Kind regards,

Emma

Emma Brown
Marine Senior Adviser
Yorkshire & Northern Lincolnshire
Natural England

Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT
T: 02080268543 M: [REDACTED]

Please note I currently work Monday - Thursday

<http://www.gov.uk/naturalengland>

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THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010

HORNSEA PROJECT THREE OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010080

NATURAL ENGLAND

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FOR DEADLINE 6

ISH 5 Annex E: Natural England's comments on REP3 – 024 Appendix 15

The Wash and North Norfolk Coast (W&NNC) SAC In-combination Assessment

Dated 07th February 2019

Natural England's comments on REP3 – 024 Appendix 15 - The Wash and North Norfolk Coast (W&NNC) SAC In-combination Assessment

- 1) Revised Assessment: Firstly for audit trial purposes and for the audience of doubt please could the Applicant confirm that the assessment in Section 2.12 of Vol 2, Chapter 2 is no longer the current position and that the revised in-combination assessment provided at REP3-024 for W&NNC SAC is to be used for any further assessment undertaken by the regulators.
- 2) Completeness of Assessment: Natural England has reviewed REP3 – 024 and we still consider this to be an incomplete assessment as MLA/2017/00277/4 in relation to cable protection for Race Bank has not been considered in the assessment.
- 3) Fundamental concerns with the baseline: In relation to the appropriateness of the assessment, Natural England continues to have fundamental concerns in relation to the baseline information which have been used to determine the features (and subfeatures) that may be present along the HP3 cable route. Therefore we do not agree that the assessment is pre-cautionary and consider that there is a degree of uncertainty in relation to the percentage impacts on each feature provided.
- 4) Consideration of Large Shallow Inlet and Bay: The Large Shallow Inlet and Bay interest feature has not be considered and whilst a snapshot from the Magic.defra.gov.uk website has been provided by the Applicant to NE defining a boundary, the current conservation advice packages including conservation objectives do not explicitly define the parameters of the Shallow Inlet and Bay as only being only 'The Wash'. Therefore it is not appropriate to exclude this feature and subfeatures from the assessment.
- 5) Natural England currently considers the impacts from cable protection to be permanent which is not explicit in the document.
- 6) There remains some doubt in relation to the 25% additional cable protection included as replenishment and how that has been incorporated in the in-combination assessment