



NORTH FALLS

*Offshore Wind Farm*

# HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

Annex 4A Outline Kittiwake Compensation  
Implementation and Monitoring Plan

(Tracked)

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## Glossary of Acronyms

AEoI	Adverse effect on integrity
ANS	Artificial Nest Structure
CIMP	Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan
FFC <del>SPA</del>	Flamborough and Filey Coast <del>Special Protection Area</del>
GGOW	Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm
KCSG	Kittiwake Compensation Steering Group
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MRF	Marine Recovery Fund
NFOW	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Ltd
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
RWE	RWE Renewables UK Swindon Limited
SoS	Secretary of State
<del>SPA</del>	<del>Special Protection Area</del>
SSER	SSE Renewables Offshore Windfarm Holdings Limited
<del>UK</del>	<del>United Kingdom</del>

## Glossary of Terminology

The Applicant	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited (NFOW)
The Project Or 'North Falls'	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, including all onshore and offshore infrastructure.

# 1 Revision 1 Updates at Deadline 1

1. This document provides an update to the Outline Kittiwake Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (CIMP) [APP-193]. It has been updated at Deadline 1 to provide content regarding the delivery of the compensatory measures, as requested by the Planning Inspectorate and Natural England.

## 1.2 Introduction

### 1.2.1 Background

- 1.2. The North Falls Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter 'North Falls' or 'the Project') is an extension to the existing Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm (GGOW), located over 40km off the East Anglian coast in England. When operational, North Falls would have the potential to generate renewable power for approximately 400,000 United Kingdom (UK) homes from up to 57 wind turbines.
- 2.3. The Applicant, North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Ltd (NFOW), is a joint venture between SSE Renewables Offshore Windfarm Holdings Limited (SSER) and RWE Renewables UK Swindon Limited (RWE).
- 3.4. With respect to kittiwake from the Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Protection Area (FFC SPA), the Applicant's Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) (Document Reference 7.1 [APP-178]) RIAA concludes that there will be no adverse effect on integrity (AEol) of the kittiwake features of the FFC SPA from North Falls alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.
- 4.5. In the event that the Secretary of State (SoS) concludes an AEol in the Appropriate Assessment, the Applicant has developed compensatory measures that could be applied to fully compensate for the predicted effects, which are detailed in the RIAA (Document Reference 7.1 [APP-178]) ~~Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA)~~.

### 1.2.2 Purpose of document

- 5.6. The Kittiwake CIMP will be produced post-consent and will set out the detailed delivery proposals for the agreed compensatory measure(s); This document provides an outline of the measure(s) which would form the basis of the final Kittiwake CIMP, based on the measures set out in the Appendix 4 Kittiwake Compensation Document (Document Reference: 7.2.4).
- 6.7. As described in the sections below, for the collaborative measure to be implemented the CIMP will include details of the:
  - Scale and location;
  - Design;
  - Delivery programme;
  - Permits and licenses;
  - Arrangements for monitoring, maintenance and adaptive management;

- Reporting requirements;
- Implementation and delivery programme; and
- How the Kittiwake CIMP can be approved.

~~7.8.~~ The purpose of this document is to set out the outline of the Kittiwake CIMP, which will in due course be developed in consultation with stakeholders through the Kittiwake Compensation Steering Group (KCSG) and later submitted to the SoS for approval.

### **1.32.3 Consultation**

9. Pre-consent consultation is described in the Compensatory Measures Overview [Document Reference 7.2.1, Rev 1] and the Habitats Regulations Assessment Compensation Consultation [APP-185].

~~8.10.~~ This section will provide a summary of the consultation that has taken place through within the KCSG during the creation of the Kittiwake CIMP (including, any relevant consultation undertaken prior to formal inception of the KCSG), which will include:

- Key decisions;
- Agreements; and
- Outstanding issues that remain under discussion.

~~9.11.~~ Where any of these outstanding issues occur, information on proposed steps toward resolution will be provided. Additionally, details of proposed future engagements will also be detailed, including the sharing of and further action on monitoring outcomes.

~~10.12.~~ Matters of discussion for inclusion within the KCSG, and therefore the group's purpose, will be regarding:

- Project / study Compensatory measure design;
- Monitoring;
- Adaptive management options; and
- Associated triggers.

~~11.13.~~ The specific focus of the KCSG will be to oversee the delivery of the compensation measures for NFOW North Falls.

## **23 Provision of Artificial Nesting Structure**

### **3.1 Implementation and Delivery Roadmap**

14. The steps that would be followed by the Applicant to implement and deliver the Kittiwake compensation measure post consent (if required) are as follows:

- Consultation will be undertaken with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Natural England, Gateshead Council, the RSPB and the Tyne Kittiwake Partnership. These parties will be invited to form a KCSG;

- Secure the allocation of artificial nests at least three full kittiwake breeding seasons prior to the operation of any turbine;
- The detailed delivery proposals for the compensatory measure will be set out in the Kittiwake CIMP. This will be produced post-consent and be based on this outline version.
- Consultation on the CIMP with the KCSG prior to submission to the Secretary of State for approval.
- Undertake inspections and maintenance (Section 3.6);
- The compensatory measures will be monitored (Section 3.7) and the results provided to KCSG to allow for discussion and feedback and to inform any requirement for adaptive management;
- The Artificial Nest Structure (ANS) will remain in place and be maintained for the operational lifetime of the Project if they are colonised.
- Should the ANS be unsuccessful, adaptive management measures and monitoring (Section 3.7) would be adopted. Consultation will be undertaken with the KCSG to help determine the most appropriate course of action

### **2.43.2 Scale and Location**

15. This section will detail the scale **and location** of compensation and how this conforms with the consent decision made by the SoS. This section will also ~~detail~~**confirm the specific location** **North Falls' allocation of nests at the ANS** where compensation will be delivered, the suitability of the site for the delivery of the compensation measure, and how the required land rights at the location ~~has~~**ve** been secured.
- ~~12. The base of evidence included in aid of the measures detailed in Appendix 4 Kittiwake Compensation Document (Document Reference: 7.2.4)~~
16. It is the Applicant's position that between seven<sup>1</sup> and ten<sup>2</sup> breeding pairs are required to produce sufficient fledglings per year that survive to breeding age to compensate for the predicted annual collision mortality for breeding adult kittiwakes from the Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Protection Area (FFC SPA).
17. The Kittiwakery is located in the H. Nichol storage yard, South Shore Road, Gateshead (see Figure 6.1 of the Kittiwake Compensation Document [APP-192]).
18. [The Applicant will submit an update to the Kittiwake Compensation Document [APP-192], showing the base of evidence for the proposed scale and location, including the approach to calculating the scale of compensation at Deadline 2].

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<sup>1</sup> Rounded from 6.6 and based on mean mortality (0.76); 3:1 ratio and East region productivity rate (0.819)

<sup>2</sup> Rounded from 9.4 and based on 95% upper confidence limit (2.72); 1:1 ratio and National average productivity rate (0.69)

### **2.23.3 Design of Artificial Nest Structure**

19. This section will ~~confirm detail~~ the design of the Gateshead ~~Artificial Nest Structure (ANS)~~ Kittiwakery, including details of the nest configuration, the structural design and the ecological design considerations specific to kittiwake to allow for the best chance of success for the given measure. ~~An important part of measure design will include the evidence provided in support of the measures that is set out in Appendix 4 Kittiwake Compensation Document (Document Reference: 7.2.4).~~
20. The Kittiwakery was designed, built and installed by FLI Structures in partnership with Shoney Wind for RWE.
21. The tower has four faces, oriented NNW 340°; ENE 70°; SSE 160° and WSW 250°. Each face has a theoretical nest capacity of approximately 60-80 breeding pairs (i.e. 240-320 nests in total).
22. Each of the nest boxes on each face are nominally 47 cm tall and 25 cm deep. The NNW and SSE faces have 20 linear ledges each (i.e. 40 linear ledges in total), nominally 100 cm long. The ENE face has large nest boxes, with 20 large boxes on this face, nominally 90 cm long. The WSW face have small nest boxes, with 40 small boxes on this face, nominally 45 cm long.
- 13-23. Artificial nests were added into the ANS in April and May 2023. The nests were made using a mixture of bladder wrack, sea lettuce, clayey-mud, and timothy hay. These were collected from Jarrow slake tributary, an area which the urban kittiwakes already breeding in this area collect nesting material to build their own nests.

### **3.4 Delivery programme**

24. The Kittiwakery was installed in February 2023.
25. The Applicant would adopt responsibility for its share of the Kittiwakery at least three breeding seasons (March to August; Furness, 2015) prior to operation.
26. The Kittiwakery was constructed on land at H Nichol and Sons, South Shore Road, Gateshead in 2023. The 60 - year time frame exceeds the expected 30-year operational life of North Falls and will therefore adequately provide compensation for the lifetime of the project.

### **3.5 Permits and Licenses**

27. The Applicant will secure an agreement with the current owners, RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Limited and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Limited.
28. No further permits and licenses are expected to be required.

### **2.33.6 Routine Maintenance and Management**

29. This section will detail any routine maintenance and management requirements and responsibilities for the ANS.



14.30. Regular structural and certification inspections will be completed. These inspections will ensure that the structure is safe. The Applicant will have responsibility for, or fund, its share of the required maintenance works.

### 3.7 Monitoring and Adaptive Management

15.31. This section will detail the monitoring and adaptive management principles and processes that have been agreed between the Applicant and the KCSG, including under what scenarios adaptive management measures will be required. These measures will be developed in accordance with the evidence provided in Appendix 4 Kittiwake Compensation Document (Document Reference: 7.2.4). Following the approval of the Kittiwake CIMP, the KCSG will be engaged in the context of implementing monitoring and adaptive management in an ongoing programme.

32. The success of the compensatory measures will be monitored through observation of numbers and breeding success. Monitoring the effectiveness of ANS for kittiwakes is considered to be straightforward as kittiwake nests are easy to count, and it is easy to see large chicks in nests during the latter part of the breeding season.

33. The standard method of monitoring productivity of kittiwakes is to count numbers of large chicks in the nests once during mid-July, before chicks start to fly but when chicks are nearly ready to fly so can be expected to survive to fledging. This monitoring approach would be equally applicable to ANS and the Kittiwakery has been designed to allow internal access for monitoring. Average productivity in excess of 0.8 chicks per nest on the ANS would represent a net benefit to the regional kittiwake population.

34. Monitoring will be in place until the success of the compensation has been sufficiently demonstrated but potentially throughout the operational life-span of North Falls. The Tyne kittiwake colonies are already monitored annually by a local monitoring group and therefore consideration would be given to providing a contribution to this programme in order to deliver monitoring of the North Falls compensation. Consideration will also be given to colour-ringing of chicks, as requested by Natural England in their RR-243 (comment P25).

35. The monitoring programme would identify if the ANS was not functioning as required (whether as a result of location or due to damage, wear and tear etc.) and therefore requiring adaptive management. In the event that a nesting location was no longer providing, or able to provide, its expected contribution to the compensation requirement, the need for adaptive management would be assessed and agreed with the KCSG and implemented accordingly. Adaptive management could include:

- Methods to attract kittiwake to the ANS e.g. through placement of decoy kittiwake and/or a sound system to play vocalisations;
- Selection of an alternative compensatory measure e.g. contribution to a strategic measure (Section 4).

36. The Kittiwake CIMP will set out the detailed monitoring plan and adaptive management measures in accordance with this outline CIMP.

—The KCSG will be consulted regarding any adaptive management measures.

~~16.37.~~

## **2.43.8 Reporting**

~~17.38.~~ This section will set out the necessary reporting points in connection with the monitoring and adaptive management. This will therefore set out the objectives and timescales for the reporting.

## **~~2.53.9 Implementation and Delivery Programme Governance~~**

~~39.~~ The Applicant will establish the KCSG post consent. It is envisaged that stakeholders invited to the group will be Natural England, the local planning authority, owners and/or managers of the sites and collaboration partners.

~~40.~~ This group will oversee the finalisation of the CIMP which will build on the information in this outline CIMP and set out the steps to be taken to put the measure(s) in place. The CIMP will then be submitted to the SoS for sign-off.

~~41.~~ Following ratification of the CIMP the project will begin the steps as outlined and provide updates and reporting to the KCSG as agreed. As a minimum, this is likely to comprise an annual meeting following the breeding season at which the results of the monitoring will be presented and discussed and the next steps agreed.

~~18.~~ This section will lay out the programme for the application and long-term delivery of the compensation. It will confirm the purpose and stage of all consents, land access agreements, and any other relevant approvals that are necessary to enable the enactment of the compensation measures and will detail how any outstanding consents will be delivered.

## **2.6.03.9.1 Approval of the Kittiwake CIMP**

~~19.42.~~ This section will detail how the SoS can approve the Kittiwake CIMP, to which the delivery of all agreed compensatory measures must be compliant.

## **34 Strategic Compensation**

~~43.~~ In accordance with DESNZ (2025), a contribution to the Marine Recovery Fund (MRF) could be made in substitution for the project-led or collaborative measures, once the MRF is operational.

~~44.~~ Alternatively, the Applicant could consider collaborating with other offshore wind farms, such as that being developed in relation to The Crown Estate Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 Kittiwake Strategic Compensation Plan.

~~20.45.~~ If a viable strategic compensation mechanism were to become available within the required timescales for North Falls and is the option preferred by the Applicant, this section will confirm how a contribution will be made to a Strategic Compensation Fund, wholly or partly, replacing the Applicant's initial proposal of the collaborative ANS measure or as part of adaptive management.

## **45** Summary

**46.** This section will provide a summary of the delivery proposals detailed above for the agreed compensatory measures for kittiwake.

## **6 References**

DESNZ (2025). Guidance Strategic compensation measures for offshore wind activities: Marine Recovery Fund interim guidance Published 29 January 2025. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-compensation-measures-for-offshore-wind-activities-marine-recovery-fund-interim-guidance/strategic-compensation-measures-for-offshore-wind-activities-marine-recovery-fund-interim-guidance#use-of-offshore-artificial-nesting-structures-and-for-kittiwake-ahead-of-the-mrf>

Furness, R.W., 2015. Non-breeding season populations of seabirds in UK waters: Population sizes for Biologically Defined Minimum Populations Scales (BDMPS). Natural England Commissions Reports, Number 164.



## HARNESSING THE POWER OF NORTH SEA WIND

*North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited*

*A joint venture company owned equally by SSE Renewables and RWE.*

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