



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES
2010

NORTH FALLS OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Appendix H3.1 to Natural England's Deadline 3 Submission
Natural England's Protected Species Advice on the Applicant's Deadline 1 Documents

For:

The construction and operation of North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, located approximately 40 km from the East Anglia Coast in the Southern North Sea.

Planning Inspectorate Reference EN010119

18 March 2025

Appendix H3 Natural England's Protected Species Advice on the Applicant's Deadline 1 Documents

In formulating these comments, the following documents have been considered:

- [REP1-036] 7.13 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (Revision 1) (Tracked)

Table 1: Natural England's advice on: Protected Species

Document reviewed	Update made	Issue resolved? Yes/No/Progressed
[REP1-036] Section 2.2.3.2 <i>Bats</i> <i>pg 22</i>	Bat hibernation surveys have now been proposed to take place preconstruction in line with best practice guidelines.	Resolved.

- Detailed comments

Table 2: Natural England's Advice On: Protected Species

Document reviewed: [REP1-036] 7.13 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (Revision 1) (Tracked)			
NE Ref	Section	Key Concern and/or Update	Natural England's Advice to Resolve Issue
1	[REP1-036] 2.2.3.7 – Hazel Dormice (Page 28) Section 79	If dormice presence is confirmed within habitat due to be removed <i>OR</i> within connected habitat networks, a Natural England licence must be sought prior to the commencement of works.	Natural England advises that the wording is amended within the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy OLEMS to take into consideration dormice presence in <i>connected</i> habitat to the hedgerows to be removed.
2	[REP1-036] 2.2.3.7 – Hazel Dormice (Page 28) Section 80	Where possible, impacted habitat should be replaced on a like for like basis.	Natural England advises that the wording is amended in the OLEMS to ensure commitments are secured to replaced habitats on a like for like basis.
3	[REP1-036] 2.2.3.7 – Hazel Dormice (Page 28) Section 82	While Natural England may licence clearance of Dormouse habitat to ground level within the hibernation season, this is considered a higher risk activity that requires additional justification. Evidence must be provided that the clearance works cannot be completed during the typical licence period (Two stage November-March & May or Single stage Active season May or mid-September-October). If works cannot be completed in the recommended period, then evidence must be provided that a thorough ground search of the area can be carried out prior to vegetation removal to ensure that no hibernation nests are impacted.	Natural England advises that any update to the OLEMS ensures that there if required mitigation measures as we have set out can be adopted by the project in order to secure a licence.