



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES
2010

NORTH FALLS OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Appendix B3 to Natural England's Deadline 3 Submission
Natural England's Marine Physical Processes 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 B3 Natural England's Marine Processes Advice on the Applicant's Deadline 1 Documents

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

- [REP1-007] 2.1 Schedule of Mitigation (Revision 1) (Tracked)
- [REP1-059] 9.17 Export Cable Crossing Zone Plan

Table 1: Natural England's advice on: Marine Physical Processes

Document reviewed	Update made	Issue resolved? Yes/No/Progressed
[REP1-059]	We welcome the new export cable crossing zone plan which identifies the locations of the potential crossings with NeuConnect, Five Estuaries and Sea Link [REP1-059]. However, it is unclear whether the pink dashed line to the west of the North Falls Export Cable Route is the eastern boundary of Margate and Long Sands Special Area of Conservation (MLS SAC). It would be helpful if this could be clarified in order to help understand potential indirect effects to SAC supporting processes due to the presence of cable protection/crossings along the adjacent cable route,	Progressed.

1. Major/Complex comments

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

- [REP1-007] 2.1 Schedule of Mitigation (Revision 1) (Tracked)

1.1. Detailed comments

Table 1: Natural England's Advice On: Marine Processes

Table 1.

Document reviewed: [REP1-007] 2.1 Schedule of Mitigation (Revision 1) (Tracked)			
NE Ref	Section	Key Concern and/or Update	Natural England's Advice to Resolve Issue
1	Table 2.1/2.1.3	The Applicant has stated that cables and cable protection will be sited 150m or more from the Margate and Long Sands Special Area of Conservation (MLS SAC). Natural England welcomes this commitment to mitigate morphological and sediment transport effects. However, currently there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that this separation distance will be sufficient to avoid impacts to sediment transport processes operating within/near MLS SAC.	Natural England advises that further information is needed to demonstrate that this separation distance is sufficient to avoid impacts to sediment transport processes within MLS SAC due to the presence of cable protection over the lifetime of the Project.
2	Table 2.1/2.1.7 & Table 2.3/2.3.8	The removal of Gravity Base foundations from the project design envelope is welcomed, as is the minimum separation distance of 50m between turbine foundations and KKE MCZ. However, currently there is insufficient information to demonstrate that changes to wave, hydrodynamic and sediment transport regimes at Kentish Knock East Marine Conservation Zone (KKE MCZ) will not be affected by the presence of the array.	Natural England advises further information is needed to demonstrate that changes to wave, hydrodynamic and sediment transport regimes at KKE MCZ will not be affected by the presence of the array.
3	Tables 2.1 & 2.3	There is no mention of scour, decommissioning, and cable protection types (including within the nearshore) in the Schedule of Mitigation for marine physical processes or benthic ecology.	We advise that the Applicant should capture any mitigation measures proposed for reducing potential impacts due to scour, decommissioning, and different types of cable protection (including within the nearshore).