



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES
2010

NORTH FALLS OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Appendix H4.1 to Natural England's Deadline 4 Submission

**Natural England's LBBG Proposed Compensation Site Advice on the Applicant's
Deadline 1 Documents [REP1-018, REP1-020, and REP1-044]**

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

25 April 2025

Appendix H4.1 Natural England's LBBG Proposed Compensation Sites Advice on the Applicant's Deadline 1 Documents

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

- [REP1-018] 7.2.2 HRA Appendix 2 Lesser Black-backed Gull Compensation Document (Rev 1) (Tracked)
- [REP1-020] 7.2.2.1 HRA Annex 2A Outline LBBG Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (Rev 1) (Tracked)
- [REP1-044] 9.1 Applicant's Response to Relevant Reps from Natural England

Table 1: Natural England's advice on: Lesser Black Backed Gull (LBBG) Proposed Compensation Site(s)

Document reviewed	Update made	Issue resolved? Yes/No/Progressed
[REP1-018] 7.2.2 HRA LBBG Comp (Rev 1)	<p>We note that Shingle Street has been removed as a proposed LBBG compensation site option, whilst Gedgrave Marshes has been added. The Gedgrave Marshes site is adjacent to, but not within, designated sites and is on agricultural land that does not have evidence of previous usage by LBBG for nesting. The area of Gedgrave Marshes that would be fenced (as a compensation site) is currently grassland opposite Havergate Island, where a large LBBG colony exists.</p> <p>The proximity of Gedgrave Marshes to the Alde-Ore Estuary Special Protection Area (AOE SPA), Ramsar and Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the presence of suitable habitats for wintering waterbirds indicates there is potential for functional linkage to designated sites. This is reinforced by Gedgrave Marshes being a High Priority Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) count sector (Alde Estuary Sector 8 Location 33448), highlighting the site's likely usage by SPA waterbirds. Accordingly, we advise that the Applicant will need to carry out an assessment of the potential implications of the proposed measures on waterbird features of the SPA/Ramsar site through the HRA process, and if warranted identify appropriate mitigation measures for the construction and operational phases to minimise effect</p>	New issue.
[REP1-018] 7.2.2 HRA LBBG Comp (Rev 1)/Paragraph 103-4	We note that delivery of the compensation site is to be secured by relevant provision of the DCO and the specific location likely to be agreed after Examination. This implies that baseline characterisation surveys of the compensation site will only be undertaken when the final site is agreed.	Not progressed.

	In line with the advice provided by Natural England to Five Estuaries OWF project, the Applicant will need to commit to pre-construction surveys of the compensation site, in order to address the gaps in the baseline characterisation evidence for this site, and to inform mitigation measures to address any impacts on designated sites (including functionally-linked land if relevant).	
[REP1-020] 7.2.2.1 Outline LBBG CIMP (Rev 1)/Section 3.4.1	The Applicant has confirmed that consideration of field surveys will not be undertaken until a compensation site has been selected. We would advise consideration of site surveys does not guarantee that they will be carried out. Furthermore, the Applicant states (in paragraph 25) that habitat mapping for design will take account of mitigation required for other designated features and will use National Trust and RSPB available data to inform development of final site. We advise, as above, that the Applicant will need to consider robust baseline survey data collection as the site selection progresses.	Not progressed.