



The Planning Act 2008

Application by North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Ltd for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm

East Suffolk Council's response to The Examining Authority's written questions and requests for information (ExQ2)

Issued on: 13th May 2025

Deadline 5: 30th May 2025

Application: EN010119

East Suffolk Council: 20050773

Questions for East Suffolk Council	East Suffolk Council Response
<p>10. Ecology/Biodiversity/BNG/HRA</p> <p>Q10.0.19</p> <p>The applicant / East Suffolk Council</p> <p><i>‘Lesser Black Backed Gull (LBBG) – Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (CIMP)</i></p> <p><i>(ii) The applicant/East Suffolk Council. Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (September 2020) Policy SCLP10.1 is referred to in the East Suffolk Council’s LIR (Appendix B) [REP1-064] – what has been done/evidenced to address the local policy requirements triggered? Or address any other local best practice issue arising from that?’</i></p>	<p>ESC has considered the requirements contained within Policy SCLP10.1 ‘Biodiversity and Geodiversity’¹ of the adopted Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (September 2020). Consideration has been given to the proposed Lesser Black-backed Gull habitat compensation measures due to be provided for the North Falls project, if Orford Ness is selected as the preferred location for such measures.</p> <p>ESC has been monitoring the Applicant’s submission materials for this examination, and in light of the Applicant’s claim to have other viable options elsewhere, there remains a high probability that the proposed habitat compensation measures for Lesser Black-backed Gulls will be delivered at Orford Ness via a separate planning application, under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 regime, separate to the DCO (if consented). This presents a risk that the compensation measures may not be successful, deliverable or acceptable in planning terms, depending on what is being proposed and the planning balance. Until a full and detailed assessment has been undertaken as part of that process (including cumulative assessment with other similar habitat compensation provision at that location), it is not possible to speculate on the success of such an application.</p> <p>A key consideration will be the potential impacts introduced by the compensation measures on the Alde-Ore Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) in reference to the standalone planning application, rather than giving wider consideration to the Offshore Wind Farm project covered by the DCO (if consented). The planning application would be assessed on its own merits in compliance with the adopted Local Development Plan. ESC would consult Natural England as part of any planning application regarding the acceptability of compensation measures on the designated site.</p> <p>We also wish to highlight to the Examining Authority that since the start of the examination process, the Applicant has been proactively engaging with ESC regarding the possibility of compensation measures being provided at Orford Ness. We encouraged the Applicant to consider the planning considerations and supporting narrative already assessed as part of the previous compensation measures delivered at Orford Ness by Norfolk Vanguard Ltd and Norfolk Boreas Ltd (collectively known as the Norfolk Projects) for predator-proof fencing (DC/22/3447/FUL and DC/22/3483/EIA). This presents the Applicant with a valuable opportunity to take on</p>

¹ <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Planning-Policy-and-Local-Plans/Suffolk-Coastal-Local-Plan/Adopted-Suffolk-Coastal-Local-Plan/East-Suffolk-Council-Suffolk-Coastal-Local-Plan.pdf>

	<p>board the lessons learned by previous Applicants for similar measures at this location. It is strongly recommended that monitoring efforts are co-ordinated, both with other development projects and the relevant local landowners (particularly National Trust and the RSPB). This will not only result in a better understanding of the LBBG population of the whole SPA but would also allow sharing of best management practices for the selected compensation site.</p>
--	--