

Date: 30 May 2025  
Our ref: Case: 27843 Consultation: 501989  
Your ref: EN010119



National Infrastructure Planning  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business  
Park Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Project**

The following constitutes Natural England's formal statutory response for Examination Deadline 5.

**1. Natural England's Deadline 5 Submissions**

Natural England has reviewed the documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadlines 3 and 4. An update of Natural England's position regarding documents relevant to our remit is provided in Annex 1, including anticipated timing of responses. Natural England is also submitting the following detailed responses, signposted from Annex 1:

- EN010119 501989 North Falls Appendix B5 – Natural England's Marine Processes Advice on the Applicant's Deadline 4 Documents – Deadline 5.pdf
- EN010119 501989 North Falls Appendix C5 – Natural England's Benthic Ecology Advice on the Applicant's Deadline 4 Documents – Deadline 5.pdf
- EN010119 501989 North Falls Appendix E5 – Natural England's Marine Mammal Advice on the Applicant's Deadline 3 Documents – Deadline 5.pdf
- EN010119 501989 North Falls Appendix F5 – Natural England's Offshore Ornithology Advice on the Applicant's Deadline 3 Documents – Deadline 5.pdf
- EN010119 501989 North Falls Appendix H5 - NE comments on 7.2.2.2 HRA Annex 2B LBBG Compensation Effects on Designated Sites (Rev 0) [REP4-010] - DL5.pdf
- EN010119 501989 North Falls Appendix K5 – Natural England's Risk and Issues Log.xls
- EN010119 501989 North Falls Appendix M5 – Natural England's Response to ExQ2 [PD-

**2. 9.48 Applicant's Written Summary of Oral Submissions made at the Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) (Rev 0) [REP4-034]**

Natural England has reviewed the Applicant's Written Summary of Oral Submissions made at ISH2 [REP4-034]. With regards to Agenda Item 3.5.3, Natural England wishes to offer the following clarification on the summary that *"the differences between Natural England's conclusions in Appendix I2 and the conclusions in the Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment only relate to the level of the effect on visual receptors not in relation to whether an effect is significant from an EIA perspective"*.

Natural England confirms that our advice on impacts (as detailed in Appendix I2 [REP1-071]), as well as in the advice we make in [REP4-066] in relation to the further relevant information in [REP2-024 and REP3-044]) are made in terms of significance from an EIA perspective, and we continue to consider that impacts to the Suffolk and Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape (SECHNL) and Suffolk Heritage Coast (SHC) are underestimated (in EIA terms) in the Applicant's assessment.

For any queries relating to the content of this letter please contact me using the details provided below.

Yours faithfully,

██████████  
Sussex and Kent Area Team

E-mail: ██████████@naturalengland.org.uk

Telephone: ██████████

## Annex 1: Natural England's Response to the Applicant's Documents Submitted at Deadlines 3 and 4 Relevant to our Remit

| PINS Document Reference | Document Name   | Natural England's Response/Position Summary                             |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Deadline 3</b>       |   |   |
| REP3-007                | 5.12 Tree Preservation Order and Hedgerow Plan (Rev 1)  | Natural England has no comments to make on this document.               |
| REP3-014                | 7.7 Draft Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (Rev 1) (Tracked)   | Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix E5. |
| REP3-018                | 7.13 Outline Code of Construction Practice (Rev 2) (Tracked)  | Natural England has no comments to make on this document.               |
| REP3-020                | 7.14 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (Rev 2) (Tracked)   | Natural England has no comments to make on this document.               |
| REP3-031                | 9.45 Addendum to ES Chapter 33 Climate Change (Rev 0)   | Natural England has no comments to make on this document.               |
| REP3-036                | 9.50 Applicant's Response to Actions List for ISH1 and ISH2 (Rev 0)   | Natural England has no comments to make on this document.               |
| REP3-038                | 9.27 Applicant's comments on other Deadline 2 Submissions and Applicant's responses on comments to Relevant Representations (Rev 0) | Natural England has no comments to make on this document.               |
| REP3-039                | 9.28 Applicant's Comments on Other Deadline Submissions (Rev 0)   | Natural England has no comments to make on this document.               |
| REP3-040                | 9.29 Updated Information for Offshore Ornithology Cumulative Effects Assessment (Rev 0)   | Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix F5. |
| REP3-041                | 9.30 Indicative planting cross-sections at the onshore substation (Rev 0)   | Natural England has no comments to make on this document.               |
| REP3-042                | 9.31 Cumulative Effects Assessment Summary  | Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix F5. |
| REP3-046                | 9.35 Further Information Regarding Marine Mammals Disturbance due   | Natural England's response to this document is                          |

| <b>PINS Document Reference</b> | <b>Document Name</b>  | <b>Natural England's Response/Position Summary</b>  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
|                                | to Vessel Presence (Rev 0)  | provided in Appendix E5.  |
| REP3-048                       | 9.37 Environmental Statement Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology Supplemental Information - Technical Note (Rev 0) | Natural England has no comments to make on this document.   |
| <b>Deadline 4</b>              |   |   |
| REP4-001                       | 9.38 Applicant's Cover Letter   | Natural England has no comments to make on this document.   |
| REP4-003                       | 1.3 Guide to the Application (Rev 7) (Tracked)  | Natural England has no comments to make on this document.   |
| REP4-005                       | 6.1 Draft Development Consent Order (Rev 5) (Tracked)   | Natural England has provided an update to this document in our Risk and Issues Log (Appendix K5) and in our response to the ExQ2 (Appendix M5). |
| REP4-007                       | 7.14 Outline Ecological Management Strategy (Rev 3) (Tracked)   | Natural England has provided an update to this document in our Risks and Issues log (Appendix K5).  |
| REP4-010                       | 7.2.2.2 HRA Annex 2B Lesser Black-backed Gull Compensation Effects on Designated Sites (Rev 0)            | Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix H5.   |
| REP4-012                       | 7.24 Outline Navigation and Installation Plan (Rev 1) (Tracked)   | Natural England has no comments to make on this document.   |
| REP4-014                       | 7.26 Site Characterisation Report (Rev 1) (Tracked)   | Natural England has no comments to make on this document.   |
| REP4-016                       | 7.27 Cable Statement (Rev 1) (Tracked)  | Natural England has no comments to make on this document.   |
| REP4-017                       | 7.30 Schedule of Changes to the draft DCO   | Natural England has provided an update to this document in our Risk and Issues Log (Appendix K5) and in our response to the ExQ2 (Appendix M5). |
| REP4-023                       | 9.30 Indicative Planting Cross-Sections at the Onshore Substation (Rev 1)                                 | Natural England has provided an update to this document in our Risks and Issues log (Appendix K5).  |
| REP4-026                       | 9.41 Applicant's Written Summary of Oral Submissions made at ISH1   | Natural England has no comments to make on this   |

| <b>PINS Document Reference</b> | <b>Document Name</b>  | <b>Natural England's Response/Position Summary</b>  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
|                                | (Rev 0)   | document.   |
| REP4-027                       | 9.42 Applicant's Response to DL3 Submissions and Deferred Responses from DL2 (Rev 0)  | Natural England has no comments to make on this document.   |
| REP4-028                       | 9.43 Applicant's Response to Natural England's DL3 Submissions (Rev 0)  | With regards to the red throated diver Appendix to [REP4-028], please refer to Appendix M5, our response to ExQ2. |
| REP4-029                       | 9.44 Cumulative visualisations at the onshore substation, including the Norwich to Tilbury Pylons wirelines Part 1 of 2 (Rev 0) | Natural England has provided an update in our Risks and Issues log in relation to this document.                  |
| REP4-030                       | 9.44 Cumulative visualisations at the onshore substation, including the Norwich to Tilbury Pylons wirelines Part 2 of 2 (Rev 0) | Natural England has provided an update in our Risks and Issues log in relation to this document.                  |
| REP4-034                       | 9.48 Applicant's Written Summary of Oral Submissions made at the Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) (Rev 0)                        | Natural England's response on this document has been provided in Section 2 of this Cover Letter.                  |
| REP4-038                       | 9.52 Outline Sediment Disposal Management Plan (Rev 0)  | Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendices B5 and C5.                                  |
| REP4-039                       | 9.53 Outline Cable Specification and Installation Plan (Rev 0)  | Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendices B5 and C5.                                  |
| REP4-040                       | 9.54 Hydrodynamic and Dispersion Modelling Report (Rev 0)   | Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendices B5 and C5.                                  |
| REP4-041                       | 9.55 Supporting Information on Offshore Additional Mitigation (Rev 0)   | Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendices B5 and C5.                                  |
| REP4-042                       | 9.56 Hydrodynamic and Sediment Dispersion Modelling Results Interpretation (Rev 0)  | Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendices B5 and C5.                                  |
| REP4-043                       | 9.57 Deep Water Route Cable Installation Areas (Future Dredging Depths) Plan (Rev 0)  | Natural England has no comments to make on this document.   |
| REP4-045                       | 9.59 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Viewpoints and the Dedham Vale National Landscape Plan (Rev 0)                      | Natural England has provided an update in our Risks and Issues log in relation to this document.                  |
| REP4-047                       | 9.61 Onshore Substation Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint  | Natural England has provided an update in our Risks   |

| PINS<br>Document<br>Reference | Document Name   | Natural England's Response/Position Summary  |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
|                               | Locations with Dedham Vale National Landscape (Rev 0) | and Issues log in relation to this document. |