THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010

NORTH FALLS OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Appendix B6 to the Natural England Deadline 6 Submission

Natural England's Marine Processes and Benthic Ecology Advice on the Applicant's Deadline 5 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

24 June 2025

Appendix B6 Natural England's Marine Processes and Benthic Ecology Advice on the Applicant's Deadline 5 Documents

1. Minor comments

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

- [REP5-027] 7.15 Outline Horizontal Directional Drill Method Statement and Contingency Plan (Rev 2) (Tracked)

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

Document reviewed	Update made	Issue resolved?
[REP5-027]	The Outline Horizontal Directional Drill Method Statement and Contingency Plan [REP5-026] has been updated in line with Natural England's advice. Natural England is content with the updates that have been made to the Plan (including walkovers, bentonite breakout management, and access to Holland Haven Marshes SSSI).	Yes
[REP5-027] Section 4.2.5/Para 116	Minor comment. *"Any breakouts will be investigated to ensure the most appropriate method of clean up is selected. This will be based upon the location of the breakout and the quantity of material released. 'Manual clean-up' refers to clean-up by hand, where an individual operative or operatives use handheld tools (e.g. a* ***space*** *and wheelbarrow or bucket) to remove the material."* We would suggest that the word in bold above is a typo and should perhaps read 'spade'?	N/A

2. Detailed comments

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

- [REP5-007] 2.6 Schedule of Mitigation (Rev 2) (Tracked)
- [REP5-043] 9.52 Outline Sediment Disposal Plan (Rev 1) (Tracked)
- [REP5-045] 9.53 Cable Specification and Installation Plan (Rev 1) (Tracked)
- [REP5-055] 9.69 Applicant's Response to Natural England's Deadline 4 Submissions (Rev 0)

2. Detailed comments

Table 2: Natural England's Advice On: Marine Physical Processes and Benthic Ecology

Document reviewed: [REP5-045] 9.53 Cable Specification and Installation Plan (Rev 1) (Tracked)			
NE Ref	**Section**	**Key Concern and/or Update**	**Natural England's Advice to Resolve Issue**
1	3.1	Natural England notes that UXO Clearance has been removed from the Seabed Preparation section in the CSIP. Although it is stated that "UXO will be dealt with in line with the requirements of the outline Navigation Installation Plan...," it is unclear why it is no longer included in the CSIP. (Minor point: it is also stated that it [UXO clearance] "*will be carried out in line with the protocol as stated in Section 4.3*." We assume that Section 4.3 is in Outline Navigation Installation Plan [REP5-029], but we advise that this should be clarified.)	Natural England queries why UXO clearance is no longer considered in the CSIP and whether key benthic mitigation measures can still be implemented, as was previously included. We also advise that clarification is needed regarding the location of the Section 4.3 discussed here.
2	3.2/paras 15 & 16	Natural England notes that the Applicant states that relocated boulders are placed as close to the original position as possible, but outside the area affected by the cable installation tools. It is also stated that boulders from both outside and inside the Deep Water Routes will not be relocated within the Deep Water Routes. However, it is not stated where these Deep Water Route boulders will be placed.	We advise that the Applicant should identify where the Deep Water Route boulders may be relocated.
3	4.3/para 39	Natural England notes that the following text has been deleted: "*Additionally, in the intertidal any cable remedial protection methods will be buried*.," has been deleted. The reason for this being removed is unclear. Furthermore, as	We would welcome clarification on the implications of the deleted text. We also seek further information on the WCS parameters and location for cable protection in nearshore shallow water. We also advise that the WCS nearshore cable protection parameters and

		advised previously [REP5-104], we are concerned that cable remedial protection could be placed in the nearshore out to 1600m seaward of MHWS. However, the WCS parameters and location for this cable protection with regards to potential impacts to nearshore sediment transport processes is unclear.	location should be considered in the context of the recent hydrodynamic model results.