

Date: 15 July 2025  
Our ref: Case: 27843 Consultation: 501997  
Your ref: EN010119



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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**North Falls Offshore Wind Farm**

The following constitutes Natural England's formal statutory response for Examination Deadline 7.

**1. Natural England's Deadline 7 Submissions**

Natural England has reviewed the documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 6. 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 501997 North Falls Appendix B7 – Natural England's Marine Processes Advice on the Applicant's Deadline 6 Documents – Deadline 7.pdf
- EN010119 501997 North Falls Appendix C7 – Natural England's Benthic Ecology Advice on the Applicant's Deadline 6 Documents – Deadline 7.pdf
- EN010119 501997 North Falls Appendix E7 – Natural England's Marine Mammal Advice on the Applicant's Deadline 6 Documents – Deadline 7.pdf
- EN010119 501997 North Falls Appendix I7 – NE's comments on 9.89 Applicant's Response to ExA's Rule 17 National Landscapes - DL7.pdf
- EN010119 501997 North Falls Appendix K7 - Natural England's Risk and Issues Log - Deadline 7.xls
- EN010119 501997 North Falls Appendix L7 – NE's comments on 7.10 Offshore In-Principle Monitoring Plan - Migratory Bats – DL7.pdf

- EN010119 501997 North Falls Appendix M7 – Natural England’s Response to ExQ3 – Deadline 7.pdf

## **2. Natural England’s Response to Q26 in the Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) [PD-020]**

In RIES Q26, the Examining Authority has asked Natural England and the Applicant to confirm whether they have reached agreement that Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEOI) on Margate and Long Sands Special Area of Conservation (MLS SAC) can be excluded. Natural England’s advice is that if either (a) the Applicant can update their modelling to demonstrate that any changes to physical processes due to the placement of cable protection adjacent to MLS SAC will not be discernible within the SAC, or (b) the WCS cable protection placement adjacent to MLS SAC is appropriately secured as modelled by the Applicant in [REP6-054], i.e. one 400m section of cable protection at a distance of 150m from the SAC (i.e. the buffer), then we would be content to agree no AEOI on MLS SAC. The latter would need to be secured through condition in the deemed marine licence (dML). If the Applicant can either provide (a) or agree to (b) then this will sufficiently address our concerns regarding the lack of clarity on the WCS cable protection layout adjacent to MLS SAC and potential changes to sediment transport processes and seabed morphology, and associated changes in the extent, distribution or composition of benthic communities within the MLS SAC, due to the presence of this cable protection.

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

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted]

Sussex and Kent Area Team

[Redacted]@naturalengland.org.uk

[Redacted]

# Annex 1: Natural England's Response to the Applicant's Documents Submitted at Deadline 6 Relevant to our Remit

PINS Document Reference	Document Name	Natural England's Response/Position Summary
<b>Deadline 6</b>		
REP6-001	9.85 Applicant's Cover Letter	Natural England has no comments to make on this document.
REP6-003	1.3 Guide to the Application (Tracked)	Natural England has no comments to make on this document.
REP6-004	5.8 Offshore Order Limits and Boundary Conditions Plan (Rev 2)	Natural England has no comments to make on this document.
REP6-006	6.1 Draft DCO (Rev 7) (Tracked)	Natural England has provided an update in our Risks and Issues Log in relation to this document.
REP6-008	7.2 Habitats Regulations Derogations Provision of Evidence (Rev 1) (Tracked)	Natural England has provided an update in our Risks and Issues Log in relation to this document.
REP6-010	7.2.1 Appendix 1 Compensatory Measures Overview (Rev 2) (Tracked)	Natural England has provided an update in our Risks and Issues Log in relation to this document.
REP6-012	7.2.2 Appendix 2 Lesser Black-Backed Gull Compensation Document (Rev 2) (Tracked)	Natural England has provided an update in our Risks and Issues Log in relation to this document.
REP6-014	7.2.2.1 Annex 2A Outline Lesser black backed gull Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (Rev 2) (Tracked)	Natural England's response to the onshore aspects of this document has been provided in our Risk and Issues Log. However, Natural England understands that the Applicant intends to submit a substantially updated CIMP document at Deadline 7. therefore, we defer our full review until we have reviewed the updated Deadline 7 document.
REP6-016	7.2.3 Appendix 3 Red Throated Diver Compensation Document (Rev 2) (Tracked)	Natural England has provided an update in our Risks and Issues Log in relation to this document.
REP6-018	7.2.3.1 Annex 3A Outline Red Throated Diver Compensation Implementation and Management Plan (Rev 2) (Tracked)	Natural England has provided an update in our Risks and Issues Log in relation to this document.

<b>PINS Document Reference</b>	<b>Document Name</b>	<b>Natural England's Response/Position Summary</b>
REP6-020	7.2.4 Appendix 4 Kittiwake Compensation Document (Rev 2) (Tracked)	Natural England has provided an update in our Risks and Issues Log in relation to this document.
REP6-022	7.2.4.1 Annex 4A Outline Kittiwake Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (Rev 2) (Tracked)	Natural England has provided an update in our Risks and Issues Log in relation to this document.
REP6-024	7.2.5 Appendix 5 Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Document (Tracked)	Natural England has provided an update in our Risks and Issues log in relation to this document.
REP6-026	7.2.5.1 Annex 5A Outline Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (Rev 2) (Tracked)	Natural England has provided an update in our Risks and Issues Log in relation to this document.
REP6-028	7.6 Outline Project Environmental Management Plan (Rev 2)(Tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix C7.
REP6-030	7.7 Draft Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (Rev 3) (Tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix E7.
REP6-032	7.10 Offshore In-Principle Monitoring Plan (Rev 1) (Tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendices B7, C7, E7, and L7.
REP6-034	7.13 Outline Code of Construction Practice (Rev 4) (Tracked)	Natural England has no comments to make on this document.
REP6-036	7.14 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (OLEMS (Rev 5) (Tracked)	Natural England has no comments to make on this document however we reserve the right to provide comment at the next deadline.
REP6-038	7.20 Outline Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan (Rev 2) (Tracked)	Natural England has no comments to make on this document.
REP6-040	7.24 Outline Navigation and Installation Plan (rev 3) (Tracked)	Natural England has no comments to make on this document.
REP6-041	7.3 Schedule of Changes to the draft DCO (Rev 6)	Natural England has provided an update in our Risks and Issues Log in relation to this document.
REP6-042	8.4 Land Rights Tracker (Rev 4)	Natural England has no comments to make on this document.

<b>PINS Document Reference</b>	<b>Document Name</b>	<b>Natural England's Response/Position Summary</b>
REP6-044	9.10 National Policy Statements Accordance Table (Rev 1) (Tracked)	Natural England has no comments to make on this document.
REP6-048	9.31 Cumulative Effects Assessment Summary (Rev 1) (Tracked)	Natural England has no comments to make on this document.
REP6-050	9.52 Outline Sediment Disposal Management Plan (Rev 2) (Tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendices B7 and C7.
REP6-052	9.53 Outline Cable Specification and Installation Plan (Rev 2) (Tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendices B7 and C7.
REP6-054	9.54 Hydrodynamic and Dispersion Modelling Report (Rev 1) (Tracked)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendices B7 and C7.
REP6-055	9.57 Deep Water Route Cable Installation Areas (Future Dredging Depths) Plan (Rev 1)	Natural England has no comments to make on this document.
REP6-058	9.73 Without prejudice HRA DCO Schedules (Rev1) (Tracked)	Natural England has no comments to make on this document.
REP6-059	9.86 Applicant's Response to Natural England's Deadline 5 submissions (Rev 0)	Natural England has provided an update in our Risks and Issues Log in relation to this document.
REP6-060	9.87 Applicant's Response to Deadline 5 Submissions (Rev 0) (Clean)	Natural England has provided an update in our Risks and Issues log in relation to this document.
REP6-061	9.88 Applicant's Comments on Responses to ExQ2 (Rev 0)	Natural England has no comments to make on this document.
REP6-062	9.89 Applicant's Response to ExA's Request for further information (Rule 17) - National Landscapes (Rev 0) (Clean)	Natural England's response to this document is provided in Appendix I7.
REP6-063	9.90 Applicant's Response to ExA's Request for further information (Rule 17) - Galloper (Rev 0) (Clean)	Natural England has no comments to make on this document.
REP6-069	9.96 Without prejudice DCO Requirement – Galloper (RR) (Rev 0) (Clean)	Natural England has no comments to make on this document.