



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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To:

RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East)
Limited and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South
(West) Limited,
The Crown Estate,
The Ministry of Defence,
Ørsted Interested Parties,
Projco Interested Parties,
Natural England,
NatureScot,
Defra,
Marine Management Organisation,
National Grid Electricity Transmissions,
National Gas Transmission plc,
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited,
Albanwise Synergy Ltd,
Ashley Nigel Foster,
Bishop Burton College,
Clifford Noel Warkup, Graham Clifford Warkup, Martin
Geoffrey Warkup and Neil Anthony Warkup,
East Riding of Yorkshire Council,
East Yorkshire Concrete Products Ltd,
Environment Agency,
F D Bird & Sons Ltd,
INEOS Manufacturing (Hull) Ltd,
James Heppell Mewburn,
Mark Faulkingham,
Mark Wilson Mewburn,
Matthew Yeo, Moira Yeo and Stuart Yeo,
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd,
Oliver White,
Oliver White, Pamela White and The Executor Of The
Estate Of The Late Andrew White,
P C Foster & Son,
Richard Hendrik Los, John Michael Mudryk and Ian Peter
Robson,
Riplingham Estates Ltd,
Robert Charles Elvidge,
Robin Ravis,
Stephen Holtby,
North Poplar Farm Limited,

Our Ref: EN010125

Wilfred Michael Houghton and the Executor of the Estate
of the Late Jean Catherine Frank
York Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd

6 November 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure)
Rules 2010**

Application by RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Ltd and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Ltd (“the Applicants”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms (“the Proposed Development”)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 11 July 2025, the Examining Authority (“ExA”) submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 10 October 2025. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application.
2. Since receiving the ExA’s Report and Recommendation, the Secretary of State received multiple post examination documents from the Applicants, National Grid Electricity Transmissions (“NGET”), National Gas Transmission plc (“NGT”) and the Marine Management Organisation (“MMO”).
3. There are issues on which the Secretary of State requests **the Applicants, the Crown Estate, Ministry of Defence, Ørsted Interested Parties (“IPs”), Projco IPs, MMO, Natural England (“NE”), NatureScot, DEFRA, NGET, NGT, Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (“NRI”), Albanwise Synergy Ltd, Ashley Nigel Foster, Bishop Burton College, Clifford Noel Warkup and Graham Clifford Warkup and Martin Geoffrey Warkup and Neil Anthony Warkup, East Riding Of Yorkshire Council, East Yorkshire Concrete Products Ltd, Environment Agency, F D Bird & Sons Ltd, INEOS Manufacturing (Hull) Ltd, James Heppell Mewburn, Mark Faulkingham, Mark Wilson Mewburn, Matthew Yeo and Moira Yeo and Stuart Yeo, Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd, Oliver White, Oliver White and Pamela White and The Executor Of The Estate Of The Late Andrew White, P C Foster & Son, Richard Hendrik Los and John Michael Mudryk and Ian Peter Robson, Riplingham Estates Ltd, Robert Charles Elvidge, Robin Rivis, Stephen Holtby, North Poplar Farm Limited, Wilfred Michael Houghton and the Executor of the Estate of the Late Jean Catherine Frank and the York Diocesan Board Of Finance Ltd** to provide updates or information as appropriate.

Consultation on post examination documents

4. The Secretary of State invites **all Interested Parties** to comment on the post examination documents, which have been published on the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms Project Page of the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010125/documents?stage-decision=Other%20Documents&stage-decision=Post-examination%20submissions&date-from-day=04&date-from-month=11&date-from-year=2025&date-to-day=04&date-to-month=11&date-to-year=2025&itemsPerPage=25>

Crown Consent

5. The Secretary of State notes the consent remains outstanding in relation to Crown Land that the ExA referred to in Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 [EV3-006]¹. In addition, at Issue Specific Hearing 6 [EV11-010], the ExA requested that the Applicants provide submissions regarding section 135 (of the Planning Act of 2008) in relation to Crown Consent².
6. **The Applicants and the Crown Estate** are requested to provide an update confirming whether or not the Applicant has obtained Crown Consent under s135(1) of the Planning Act 2008 for the acquisition of crown land. If consent has not been obtained, the reasons for this should be clearly set out, and a clear timeline detailing when Crown Consent is expected to be obtained by should be included.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Offshore and intertidal ornithology

Guillemot [and razorbill] compensatory habitat

7. It is noted that NE [REP8-054] have raised concerns that a project-led delivery location for guillemot [and razorbill] compensation cannot be considered to be sufficiently in scope or secured at this time. After the close of examination, the Applicants' latest Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan (Revision 7) indicates that the only project-led site, Middle Mouse, is considered unlikely to provide the required level of compensation due to a lack of confirmed predator presence, and that it will not be progressed further. It is understood that three other possible sites are being considered, two of which are in the Outer Hebrides (Pabaigh, Bearasaigh Islands) and one in Shetland (Out Skerries), as outlined in the Applicants' Compensation Site Secondary Shortlist Refinement Report. However, surveys to confirm the presence of predators had not been completed

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010125/EN010125-001048-code.html>

² <https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN010125-001740-ISH6%20Code%20Part%204.HTML>

for Bearasaigh Islands at the time the post-examination documents were submitted.

8. The **Applicants** are requested to provide an update on the progress towards selecting one or more project-led locations for predator eradication as part of their guillemot (and razorbill) compensation plan. This includes details of the results of the predator surveys that were anticipated to be undertaken at the Bearasaigh islands in October 2025 and how their results have influenced the location(s) chosen to be progressed, and progress on landowner agreements.
9. The **Applicants** are requested to provide a refined assessment of the options available at those locations to inform a quantification of the potential of one or more of the locations to deliver a sufficient compensation for guillemot, and razorbill.
10. The **Applicants** are requested to outline a detailed timetable for when their pre-eradication studies for the selected location(s) will be completed. The Applicants are requested to update Figure 4-1 of the Outline Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan and Plate 6-1 of the Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan (Revision 7) accordingly.
11. **NE** and **NatureScot** are invited to comment on the Compensation Site Secondary Shortlist Refinement Report and Guillemot [and Razorbill] Compensation Plan (Revision 7).
12. **Defra** is invited to provide an update on any progress that has been made by the Isles of Scilly Task and Finish Group on the collaborative approach to Guillemot and Razorbill compensation in the Isles of Scilly, particularly in relation to the quantification of the compensation that is due to be created.

Artificial Nesting Sites (ANS)

13. It is noted that the Applicants have been in discussions with other offshore wind projects about potentially sharing space on their onshore ANS at Gateshead. The **Applicants** are requested to confirm how many of the 240 spaces at the onshore ANS are being considered by other projects (i.e. what would remain exclusively for use by the Proposed Project), and what progress has been made towards expanding this site to accommodate 480 pairs.
14. It is understood that the Marine Licence relating to the offshore ANS (MLA/2025/00344) is progressing, with the consultation due to end on 11 November 2025. The update provided on the ANS by the Applicants in the Outline Kittiwake Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (Revision 3) is noted. The **Applicants** are invited to confirm that the design presented for the ANS incorporates suitable nesting locations for guillemot [and razorbill], should this be required as part of adaptive management for the species, and to update the Outline Guillemot and Razorbill Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (Revision 3), if required, to confirm this.
15. **NE** is invited to comment on the updated spatial modelling of baseline seabird data for Dogger Bank South submitted post-examination, particularly, whether any of

their previous concerns in relation to the approach and presentation of the material remain outstanding.

16. **NE** are invited to comment on the Applicants' application of Rhoades *et al.* (2025) in their Position Statement on Kittiwake Compensation Calculations.
17. The Secretary of State notes that within the In-Principle Monitoring Plan ("IPMP"), the Applicants sets out that they will seek to avoid duplication of ornithological monitoring where Dogger Bank A, B and C offshore windfarms and Sofia projects are also undertaking monitoring. Noting that NE has raised concern over the lack of connectivity monitoring between the Project and the Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Protection Area, the Secretary of State requests the **Applicants** to clarify which monitoring aim the Applicants are looking to adopt a strategic approach to, and whether connectivity monitoring to alleviate uncertainty on apportioning displacement and collision impacts from the Project could be undertaken with this approach. Any evidence of agreements with other parties that may have been obtained in relation to strategic monitoring should also be provided to the Secretary of State.

Benthic ecology

18. It is understood that there remains disagreement between NE and the Applicants on the use of a fall pipe to deposit dredged sediment, including within the Dogger Bank SAC, and upstream of the dredged area. Noting the Applicants' concerns over the availability of suitable vessels to deliver the approach and the potential for additional dredging requirements from upstream disposal [REP6-052], and that commitments have been made by Developers on both the Five Estuaries and Outer Dowsing wind farms on the use of a fall pipe for sediment deposition within designated sites, the **Applicants** are requested to update the Commitments register, the Cable Statement, the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment and any other relevant documentation to include these mitigation measures. If this is not possible, the Applicants are invited to provide evidenced, project-specific reasoning why it is unable to commit to the use of a fall pipe/down pipe and upstream deposition. **NE** are invited to comment on what the implications of site integrity are should these measures not be used.
19. Noting the Written Ministerial Statement of 29 January 2025 which commits to designating / extending Marine Protected Areas ("MPAs") to compensate for likely environmental effects of offshore wind developments which include projects that received a seabed lease from The Crown Estate under Leasing Round 4, and in the context of the interim guidance prior to the implementation of the Marine Recovery Fund ("MRF"), **Defra** is invited to advise whether the Proposed Development and its impacts are of a type which could in-principle be compensated by the MPA measure delivered through the MRF. This is the Applicants' preferred approach to compensation for Annex 1 Sandbank habitat, as outlined in their Project Level Dogger Bank Compensation Plan (Revision 5).
20. Noting NE's comment within the final risks and issues log [REP9-031] comment C38, Benthic and Intertidal Ecology), the **Applicants** are asked to advise if an

updated Cable Statement has been produced, which includes commitment to a sandwave levelling, deposition and recovery plan and to submit this to the Secretary of State if the plan has been updated.

Environmental Impact Assessment

21. The Secretary of State notes that the wind turbine sizes that will be used for the Proposed Development (15-26.5 MW) are larger than those that were assessed in the Environmental Statement ("ES") (0.2-6.15 MW), and that no empirical data exists for the larger turbines. Noting Natural England's concern [REP9-030] over the reliability of the underwater noise modelling results due to this evidence gap, the Secretary of State requests **the Applicants** to provide further detail surrounding the precautions and assumptions used within the Underwater Noise Modelling Report to account for the difference in turbine size. In addition and without prejudice to the final decision, the Applicants are requested to update the IPMP to include provision for operational underwater noise modelling in order to validate the predications of the Underwater Noise Modelling Report in line with paragraph 5.8.85 of National Policy Statement EN-3.
22. The Secretary of State is aware that in their post-examination submissions, the Applicants provided an updated back calculation herring statement. **NE** and the **MMO** are invited to provide any comments they may have on this, and to set out whether it resolves previous concerns in relation to the method calculation used and the subsequent seasonal restrictions during the construction phase. The **Applicants** are invited to confirm which version of environmental statement Appendix 10-3 should be certified for the purposes of the Order under article 42 and references in Schedule 19 of the Order, should the Secretary of State consider that appropriate.
23. The Secretary of State is aware that before the end of the examination, the MMO and NE did not have opportunity to comment on the updated Herring Spawning Plan [REP9-020]. The **MMO** and **NE** are invited to comment on the updated plan.

In-Principle Monitoring Plan

24. The **Applicants** are requested to revise all sections of the IPMP [REP8A-023] to require the regular submission of all relevant pre-construction, construction, and post-construction/operational survey and monitoring data to the Marine Data Exchange (The Crown Estate), and relevant Local Environmental Records Centres.
25. The **Applicants** are requested to revise all sections of the IPMP to specify that standalone monitoring plans for each topic will be produced. This includes standalone monitoring plans for marine mammals, sand eel monitoring, benthic monitoring and marine physical processes monitoring.
26. The **Applicants** are requested to revise the IPMP to provide clarity on when remedial action will be implemented in the event that monitoring observations identify issues across any receptor. Consultation with the MMO and the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Body should be undertaken, and details setting out, if required, where more targeted monitoring and/or remedial action would be

carried out by the Applicants to better understand the potential impacts on habitats or species, and/or where appropriate, the effectiveness of remediation.

27. The Secretary of State notes NE's concern in relation to prey availability as an indirect effect from the Proposed Development. Within the IPMP, the monitoring of sand eel is identified. The **Applicants** are requested to update the IPMP to set out how Natural England's advice [REP7-152] directing the Applicants to outputs produced by JNCC (Report 767, 20241) and the PrePARED project which provide recommendations for future work targeting both birds and mammals in relation to prey availability have been incorporated into the IPMP. Further, in line with NE's advice [REP9-039], consideration of the deployment of hydrophones or F-Pods to monitor foraging activity should be pursued. **NE** are invited to provide any further detail on what the post consent expectations are in relation to this matter so it is clear to the MMO what will be required as part of the approval of the monitoring plan post consent.
28. The Secretary of State notes the research paper published by Natural England³ in September 2025 in relation to migratory bat routes and offshore wind farms. Noting commitments made by the Developer on the Five Estuaries Offshore Windfarm project to monitor migratory bats during the operational phase of the Project, the **Applicants** are requested to update the IPMP in line with paragraph 2.8.85 of National Policy Statement EN-3 to include provision for migratory bat monitoring.

Air Defence Radar

29. **The Applicants** and the **Ministry of Defence** are invited to comment on the proposed amendment to Requirement 31 as shown in *italics* below:

(1) No part of any wind turbine generator shall be erected as part of Work No. 1B until the Secretary of State, having consulted with the Ministry of Defence, confirms in writing that appropriate mitigation will be implemented and maintained for the life of the authorised development and that arrangements have been put in place with the Ministry of Defence to ensure that the approved mitigation is implemented, unless it is otherwise agreed it is not necessary.

(2) No wind turbine generator forming part of Work No. 1B is permitted to rotate its rotor blades on its horizontal axis until the Secretary of State, having consulted with the Ministry of Defence, confirms satisfaction in writing that the approved mitigation has been implemented and will be maintained for the life of the DBS West Project Offshore development.

(3) For the purposes of this requirement—

“appropriate mitigation” means measures to prevent or remove any adverse effects which the DBS West Project Offshore works will have

³ [NECR562 Edition 1 Assessing migration of bat species and interactions with offshore wind farms - NECR562](#)

on the air defence radar(s) at Remote Radar Head (RRH) Staxton Wold, and the Ministry of Defence's air surveillance and control operations;

“approved mitigation” means the detailed Radar Mitigation Scheme (RMS) that will set out the appropriate measures and timescales for implementation as agreed with the Ministry of Defence at the time the Secretary of State confirms satisfaction in writing in accordance with sub-paragraph (1); and

“Ministry of Defence” means the Ministry of Defence as represented by Defence Infrastructure Organisation – Safeguarding, St George's House, DIO Head Office, DMS Whittington, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 9PY or any successor body.

(4) The undertaker must thereafter comply with all other obligations contained within the approved mitigation for the life of the DBS West Project Offshore works.

Wake Effects

30. **The Applicants, Ørsted IPs and Projco IPs** are invited to comment on the proposed insertion of a Requirement in relation to Wake Effects, which is shown in *italics* below:

Wake effects plan

(1) Work No. 1A must not be commenced until either—

(a) A wake effects plan relating to that part of the authorised project has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State following consultation with owners of the relevant offshore wind farm(s); or

(b) The undertaker has provided evidence to the Secretary of State that alternative mitigation for wake effects has been agreed with the owners of the relevant offshore wind farm(s); or

(c) A combination of (1)(a) and (1)(b) is provided to and agreed by the Secretary of State to ensure that each of the relevant offshore wind farm(s) is considered.

(2) Work No. 1B must not be commenced until either—

(a) A wake effects plan relating to that part of the authorised project has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State following consultation with each of the owners of the relevant offshore wind farm(s); or

(b) The undertaker has provided evidence to the Secretary of State that alternative mitigation for wake effects has been agreed with the relevant offshore wind farm(s); or

(c) A combination of (2)(a) and (2)(b) is provided to and agreed by the Secretary of State to ensure that each of the relevant offshore wind farm(s) is considered.

(3) Any wake effects plan(s) provided in accordance with paragraphs (1)(a), (1)(c), (2)(a) or (2)(c) must include:

(a) the wake effects from the approved development on the annual energy production of the relevant offshore wind farm(s);

(b) details of reasonable steps that have been taken or are proposed to be taken by the undertaker to minimise wake effects on the relevant offshore wind farm(s) whilst maximising the capacity and energy output of the authorised development within the identified technical, environmental and other constraints of the authorised development;

(c) the timescales for implementation of any wake effect mitigation measures;

(d) any time limits for wake effect mitigation measures; and

(e) details of any necessary monitoring of the wake effect mitigation measures.

(4) The layout plan submitted to the MMO under condition 15(1)(a) of schedule 10 of this Order must be in accordance with any approved wake effects plan submitted in accordance with sub-paragraph (1) above.

(5) The layout plan submitted to the MMO under condition 15(1)(a) of schedule 11 of this Order must be in accordance with any approved wake effects plan submitted in accordance with sub-paragraph (2) above.

(6) Each approved wake effects plan submitted under this requirement must be implemented as approved.

(7) For the purposes of this requirement—"relevant offshore wind farms" means the two offshore wind farms consented under the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck Offshore Wind Farm Order 2015 (SI2015/318) as amended at the date of this Order and known as Dogger Bank A and Dogger Bank B, the offshore wind farm consented under the Dogger Bank Teesside A and B Offshore Wind Farm Order 2015 (SI2015/1592) as amended at the date of this Order and known as Dogger Bank C, the offshore wind farm consented under the Hornsea One Offshore Wind Farm Order 2014 (SI2014/3334) as amended at the date of this Order, the offshore wind farm consented under the Hornsea Two Offshore Wind Farm Order 2016 (SI2016/844) as amended at the date of this Order and the offshore wind farm

*consented under the Hornsea Three Offshore Wind Farm Order 2020
as amended at the date of this Order.*

Land Rights

31. On 24 October 2025 the Applicants filed revised Protective Provisions for NGET. **NGET** are requested to comment on these revised Protective Provisions and confirm whether the updated wording resolves their issues.
32. In the document *10.4 Land Rights Tracker (Revision 9)*, submitted by the Applicants on 14 October 2025, it is stated that negotiations remain ongoing with NGT and NRI with regard to Protective Provisions. **The Applicants, NGT and NRI** are requested to provide an update on whether agreement has been reached on the form of their respective Protective Provisions, and if not, when agreement is expected.
33. In the document *10.4 Land Rights Tracker (Revision 9)*, submitted by the Applicants on 14 October 2025, it is stated that negotiations remain ongoing with various parties on land acquisition. **The Applicants, Albanwise Synergy Ltd, Ashley Nigel Foster, Bishop Burton College, Clifford Noel Warkup and Graham Clifford Warkup and Martin Geoffrey Warkup and Neil Anthony Warkup, East Riding Of Yorkshire Council, East Yorkshire Concrete Products Ltd, Environment Agency, F D Bird & Sons Ltd, INEOS Manufacturing (Hull) Ltd, James Heppell Mewburn, Mark Faulkingham, Mark Wilson Mewburn, Matthew Yeo and Moira Yeo and Stuart Yeo, Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd, Oliver White, Oliver White and Pamela White and The Executor Of The Estate Of The Late Andrew White, P C Foster & Son, Richard Hendrik Los and John Michael Mudryk and Ian Peter Robson, Riplingham Estates Ltd, Robert Charles Elvidge, Robin Rivis, Stephen Holtby, North Poplar Farm Limited, Wilfred Michael Houghton and the Executor of the Estate of the Late Jean Catherine Frank, York Diocesan Board Of Finance Ltd** are requested to provide an update on these negotiations.

DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE

34. The deadline for response is **23:59 on 6 December 2025**.
35. Responses should be submitted **by email only** to DoggerBankSouth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.
36. Responses will be published on the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website **as soon as possible after 6 December 2025**:
<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010125>
37. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Proposed Development or any part of the project.

38. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully,

John Wheadon

John Wheadon

Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery & Innovation

Department of Energy Security & Net Zero