



To:

RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East)
Limited and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South
(West) Limited,
Projco IPs,
Orsted IPs,
Defra,
Natural England,
Marine Management Organisation

Our Ref: EN010125

16 January 2026

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. On 7 January 2026 the Secretary of State extended the statutory deadline for determining the application from 10 January 2026 to 30 April 2026.
2. Following an information request issued on 6 November 2025, the Secretary of State received responses from various parties¹.
3. There are issues on which the Secretary of State requests **the Applicants, Projco IPs (“Interested Parties”), Orsted IPs, Defra, Natural England (“NE”), Marine Management Organisation (“MMO”)** to provide updates or information as appropriate.

¹ <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010125/documents?stage-decision=Secretary%20of%20State%20Consultation%201&itemsPerPage=25>

Wake effects

4. The Secretary of State notes the positions of the Applicants and Interested Parties (“IPs”), in particular Projco IPs and Ørsted IPs, in relation to wake effects, including their commitment to continue to work towards an agreement.
5. The **Applicant, Projco IPs, and Ørsted IPs** are requested to provide an update on engagement between the parties, including any specific statements or agreements that may be under discussion.
6. The Secretary of State notes the specific paragraphs on wake effects in NPS EN-3 2025 (designated on 6 January 2026) as an important and relevant consideration for this application.
7. Therefore, in providing this update, the parties should have regard to NPS EN-3 2025, which states at paragraphs 2.8.232-2.8.233 that applicants are expected to demonstrate that they have made reasonable endeavours to mitigate the impact of wake effects and that there is no expectation that such effects can be wholly removed between developments, nor that inter-project compensation arrangements are a necessary means of mitigation within the planning process.
8. The update should set out how discussions are being progressed in light of this policy context, including any areas of agreement that may have been reached, any matters that remain under consideration, and the anticipated next steps and indicative timescales for the continuation or conclusion of discussions.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

9. On 19th December 2025 the Secretary of State received a further response from the Applicant, outlining that they had met with Defra in regard to using the Marine Recovery Fund (“MRF”) for ornithological compensation in relation to predator eradication schemes on the Isles of Scilly, and that this route may be available within Q1 of 2026 following the legislation coming into force in December 2025. Noting this, the Secretary of State invites **Defra** to provide a final update on when ornithological measures delivered via the MRF will become available within the coming months.
10. Natural England commented during the examination [REP2-065] that the Favourable Condition Status for Annex I Sandbanks was likely to be published later in 2025. **Natural England** are requested to indicate when this is now likely to be published.
11. The **Applicants** are invited to provide an update with any further Letters of Comfort from landowners in relation to the sites selected to provide compensatory habitat for breeding guillemot and (without prejudice) razorbill.

DCO – cable protection

12. The Secretary of State notes that the ExA proposed amendments [PD-028] to the DCO provisions in respect of cable protection in the event that any area of cable protection exceeds 5 per cent of navigable depth. The Secretary of State notes that the Applicants, the MMO and Natural England commented on those amendments and, in the case of MMO, proposed further additions to the drafting. The **Applicants**, **MMO** and **Natural England** are invited to provide any further, final views on the following drafting *in italics* in condition 15(1)(c) of Schedules 10 and 11, condition 13(1)(c) of Schedules 12 and 13, and condition 11(1)(c) of Schedules 14 and 14A:

(c) a construction method statement (in accordance with the cable statement), including details of—

(i) cable burial, specification, installation and monitoring to include—

(cc) the technical specification of cables below MHWS;

(cc) a detailed cable laying plan for the authorised scheme, incorporating a detailed burial risk assessment encompassing the identification of any cable protection that exceeds 5 percent of navigable depth referenced to Chart Datum;

(cc) in the event that any area of cable protection exceeding 5 percent of navigable depth is identified, details of any steps (to be determined following consultation with the MCA and Trinity House *and the MMO in consultation with the statutory nature conservation body*) to be taken to ensure existing and future safe navigation is not compromised, *including updated nearshore sediment transport modelling and comparison and demonstration against the environmental statement if within the 10m depth contour and/* or similar such assessment to ascertain suitable burial depths and cable laying techniques, including cable protection; and

DCO – herring spawning season

13. The Secretary of State notes that, in the Applicants' and the MMO's Post-Examination Joint Statement on the Without Prejudice Herring Noise Restriction submission of October 2025, updated wording in respect of a 38km seaward boundary for piling during the herring spawning season was included on a without prejudice basis. The statement added:

“If the Secretary of State is minded to impose a seasonal restriction on piling on the proposed construction of the Projects, then the above condition wording would need to be included in Deemed Marine Licences 1-4 (Schedules 10-13) presented in the Draft DCO (Revision 12) [REP9-003]. The wording would not apply to Deemed Marine Licences 5 or 6 as it covers the Projects’ inter-project cabling which requires no piling.”

14. However, the Secretary of State notes that the track change DCO (revision 13) presented by the Applicants in December 2025 included the updated wording in respect of the 38km seaward boundary to DMLS 1 and 2 only (i.e. to Conditions 30 of Schedules 10 and 11 to the DCO). No changes are made to Condition 27 of Schedules 12 and 13 which are DMLs 3 and 4 respectively.
15. The **Applicants** and the **MMO** are asked to clarify whether any changes are required to DMLs 3 and 4 (Schedules 12 and 13) in respect of the 38km seaward boundary, should the Secretary of State be minded to include such a condition.

Land rights

16. The Secretary of State notes the responses from the Applicants and Interested Parties in relation to outstanding agreements for land acquisitions. The Secretary of State further notes the responses from the Applicants, NGT, and NGET with respect to outstanding agreement of Protective Provisions.
17. The **Applicants** are requested to provide a further update on all outstanding land acquisition negotiations, including agreement of Protective Provisions with NGT and with NGET.

DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE

18. The deadline for response is **23:59 on 30 January 2026**.
19. Responses should be submitted **by email only** to DoggerBankSouth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.
20. 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 30 January 2026**:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010125>
21. 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.
22. 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