

The Planning Inspectorate Ref EN010130 APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER BY THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE (ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO) UNDER SECTION 56 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 OUTER DOWSING OFFSHORE WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER EXAMINATION BY THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE:

RESPONSE TO THE Examining Authority's (ExA's) further written questions and requests for information – ExQ2 ON BEHALF OF :

WOODLANDS FARM (KIRTON) LIMITED and ANDREW PETER DENNIS:

We are providing a response to ExQ2 (Examining Authority's (ExA's) further written questions and requests for information – ExQ2).

Discussions between our client and the applicant have continued. As previously reported, a meeting was held on 14th November 2024 to discuss our concerns. Unfortunately it took longer than expected for the applicant to follow up in writing, as we had requested at that meeting. We now have a response on most, but not all, of the outstanding points, and these are being considered by our clients. We have set out responses to each individual question below:

Q2 LU 1.4: Our particular outstanding concern regarding this matter, and also the treatment restored land, is the approach by the project to dealing with the impact of the scheme on the future, post-restoration cropping rotation in the context of an organic system of farming on grade 1 soils. This relates to the need for the working area and any severed land to return to the rotation of cropping in the adjacent land forming part of the same field, so that the same crop is being grown across the whole field. Our client is growing specialist, high value, organic crops for a high quality market with exacting standards, and the land will need to be restored to the necessary level of fertility and standard of soil structure before these crops can successfully be grown. Unless the crops can be grown to the required level to meet the quality standards they would potentially be unmarketable. We remain concerned that the recovery period for land in an organic system may be longer than envisaged by the applicant. We are currently awaiting a response from the project team on this point.

Q2 LU 1.9: We have no comments to make on this point.

Q2 LU 1.10: Discussions on the Organic Land Protocol have moved forward in a positive way.

When we met with the project team on 14th November, we discussed the examination of the soil and structure at some length. Paragraphs 21-29 of the draft Outline Organic Land Protocol reference a number of methods/measures to assess the soil. We would like reassurance that the full soil profile will be considered.

We understand from the Applicant that the soil testing will be down to a depth of 1.2m, and should the lower topsoil horizon not be found during ALC testing the Soil Clerk of Works will be present during excavations to ensure the horizon is recorded. They have informed us that this commitment is being added the Outline Soil Management Plan at Deadline 4 (Monday 3rd February). This would potentially address our outstanding concern on that point, so we await that with interest.

As referenced above we have some outstanding concerns about the return of the land to the cropping rotation post restoration, and have been promised a response on this point by the applicant.

Jonathan Wood  
Savills (UK) Limited  
3rd February 2025