



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES
2010

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm

Appendix H4 to the Natural England Deadline 4 Submission

**Natural England's comments on Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP3-021]
and Outline Landscape & Ecological Management Strategy [REP3-028]**

For:

The construction and operation of Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm located
approximately 54 km from the Lincolnshire Coast in the Southern North Sea.

Planning Inspectorate Reference EN010130

3rd February 2025

Appendix H4 - Natural England's Advice on the Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP3-021] and Outline Landscape & Ecological Management Strategy [REP3-028]

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

- [REP3-021] 8.1 Outline Code of Construction Practice V4 (Tracked)
- [REP3-028] 8.10 Outline Landscape & Ecological Management Strategy V4_with Annex A7 (Tracked)

Summary

Natural England welcomes the update to the Outline Landscape & Ecological Management Strategy (OLEMS) V4 and commitments made to provide an artificial light emission management plan within the Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP3-028] as set out below. However, these do not address the outstanding risks and issues, as set out in Appendix J4 at Deadline 4.

- 1) 8.10 Outline Landscape & Ecological Management Strategy V4 with Annex A7 (Tracked) [REP3-028]

Natural England notes that Paragraph 249 states that compliance audits will be undertaken and key stakeholders, including Natural England, will be invited to participate in an external review group. Whilst Natural England welcomes the compliance audits in principle; we advise that any reporting is submitted to the Local Planning Authority, with Natural England consulted by the LPA, as the statutory nature conservation body, through the formal statutory process, where appropriate and is secured within the DCO. We note in relation to protected species licensing separate forms dedicated to documenting compliance will be incorporated into the relevant licensing documents where necessary, which is welcomed.

Natural England welcomes the addition of Biodiversity Awareness Training, Induction Packs and Tool-Box Talks, within Section 3.4.4 of the report. Natural England recommends that local designated sites, their designated features and any functionally linked land are also included within the training described. This is to ensure their importance is fully understood and that actions to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts on them are complied with.

2) 8.1 Outline Code of Construction Practice V4 (Tracked) [REP3-021]

Natural England notes that within Section 5.17, Paragraph 120 [REP3-021] that the Outline Operational Artificial Light Emissions Plan will detail the mitigation measures to be taken to manage emissions from artificial light in accordance with Bats and Lighting in the UK guidance (Bat Conservation Trust, 2018). Natural England advises that when considering lighting impacts, the most recent version of Bats and Lighting: Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night GN08/23 (BCT 2023) should be referenced and included within the outline plan [APP-285] to ensure that mitigation measures are sufficient and committed to, to ensure impacts can and will be minimise to an acceptable level.