

Sent electronically via: outerdowsingoffshorewind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

3rd February 2025

Dear Examining Authority,

Q2 HOE 1.4 - Hedgerow related amendments to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO):

- While this amendment provides clarity; stronger commitments to hedgerow restoration, connectivity, and post-construction monitoring should be included.
- The Applicant should outline specific timeframes for hedgerow reinstatement and ensure long-term compliance with biodiversity objectives.

Q2 HOE 1.7 - Onshore cable routing and grid infrastructure:

- Additional assurances on habitat protection and soil management for peatland/wetland restoration are needed, with more detail on how soil disturbance and sedimentation will be managed.
- Commitments to long-term monitoring and habitat connectivity for Water Vole, breeding birds and Great Crested Newt.
- Specific plans for creating compensatory habitat and adaptive management triggers for mitigation failures.

Q2 HOE 1.9 - Monitoring, aftercare and compliance audits:

- The Applicant should specify long-term governance for habitat maintenance and monitoring beyond five years.
- Clearer triggers for adaptive management should be established if habitats underperform.
- Clarity required on audit frequency and duration beyond the initial five years; stakeholder engagement in long-term biodiversity monitoring; and biodiversity performance thresholds and reporting mechanisms.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Conservation Officer

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