



Planning Inspectorate

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All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties
and Other Persons

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010130

Date: 11 February 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010– Rules 8(3) and 9

Application by GT R4 Limited (trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind) for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind project

Notice of variation to the Examination Timetable and Procedural Decision relating to a request for changes to the application as part of the applicant's submission for Deadline 4.

Variation to the Examination Timetable

We write to provide notification that the Examining Authority (ExA) has made a Procedural Decision to vary the Examination Timetable in order to add an additional deadline (deadline 4a) on 26 February 2025 for the receipt of responses to statements made during issue specific hearings held in the week commencing 10 February 2025, and for the receipt of additional evidence to support the applicant's case to be submitted into the examination at the earliest possible opportunity.

The ExA has also made the Procedural Decision to delay the issue of its commentary on the draft Development Consent Order (DCO). This will be issued on Friday 28 February 2025.

The variations described above are set out in red in the timetable in **Annex A**. Also set out in red are the amendments to the information requested by the ExA at each Examination deadline that follows this updated timetable.

Change Request submitted by the applicant at deadline 4 (3 February 2025)

We are also writing to advise you of a Procedural Decision taken by the ExA following the applicant's submission of a formal change request on 03 February 2025 (Deadline 4) [REP4-124]. The ExA's decision on the change request, brief background to, and the ExA's reasoning for, the Procedural Decision is set out below.

Requested Changes

The applicant proposes the following changes to the application, which it notified the ExA of at deadline 2 [REP2-064] and deadline 3 [REP3-050]:

- **Change 1:** Change in the compensation provisions in Part 1 of Schedule 22 of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) to reduce the number of kittiwake breeding seasons which must elapse between installation of the artificial nesting structure(s) (ANS) and operation of the turbines from three breeding seasons to two.
- **Change 2:** Changes to the maximum design parameters of the Offshore Reactive Compensation Platforms (ORCPs) to reduce the maximum height of the ORCPs, including a reduction in the height of the ORCPs to 59.2m above lowest astronomical tide (LAT), with any mast or antenna located on the ORCPs to be a maximum height of 79.2m above LAT.

For Change 1

The applicant has set out its reason and need for this change within [REP4-124], concluding that it has submitted sufficient evidence to justify the reduction in the proposed time between construction of the offshore ANS and operation of any turbine to two full kittiwake breeding seasons.

The applicant has confirmed that this change would not impact on securing any consent or licences for the Project nor would it create any delay in securing such consents or licences. In addition, the applicant confirmed that this change would not involve a change to the Order land and does not involve a request to include additional compulsory acquisition powers. The ExA agrees that the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (the CA Regulations) would not be engaged as a result of this change.

The applicant has also confirmed that it has reviewed the environmental implications of Change 1 to fully understand whether the change affects the conclusions of the ES. As there is no change proposed to either the physical parameters or the location(s) of the ANS, the applicant has concluded that the change would not be expected to result in any new or different likely significant environmental effects.

Prior to notifying the ExA of its intention to make this change, the applicant confirmed that it had consulted with Natural England (NE), the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Trinity House, the Chamber of Shipping, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), NATS En Route Limited, Historic England (HE), and The Crown Estate. Following advice given by the ExA in [PD1-016], the applicant has also consulted with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. The responses to the applicant's consultation are presented in appendix 2 of [REP4-124].

For Change 2

The applicant has set out its reason and need for this change within [REP4-124], noting that it was now able to reduce the maximum design parameters of the Offshore Reactive Compensation Platforms (ORCPs), and the design envelope applying to this aspect of the proposed development.

The applicant has confirmed that this change would not impact on securing any consent or licences for the Project nor would it create any delay in securing such consents or licences. In addition, the applicant confirmed that this change would not involve a change to the Order land and does not involve a request to include additional compulsory acquisition powers. The ExA agrees that the CA Regulations would not be engaged as a result of this change.

The applicant has also confirmed that it has reviewed the environmental implications of Change 2 to fully understand whether the change affects the conclusions of the ES. As the change would result in a reduction to the maximum design parameters which were presented in the ES, the applicant has concluded that the change would not be expected to result in any new or different likely significant environmental effects.

Prior to notifying the ExA of its intention to make this change, the applicant confirmed that it had consulted with Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Trinity House, the Chamber of Shipping, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), NATS En Route Limited, Historic England, and The Crown Estate. The applicant has also voluntarily consulted with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. The responses to the applicant's consultation are presented in appendix 2 of [REP4-124].

The ExA has reviewed the information submitted by the Applicant in its Change Request dated 03 February 2025 [REP4-124] and agrees with the Applicant's conclusion that the proposed change would not result in the Proposed Development being materially different to that originally submitted and that the procedures in regulations 5 to 19 of the CA Regulations do not apply. The ExA is satisfied that the proposed changes can be examined within the timeframe of the current Examination. The ExA therefore accepts the Applicant's proposed changes as set out in this Change Request. The ExA has also accepted into its examination the documents submitted alongside this change request which incorporate the proposed changes into the dDCO.

Notification of further changes

In addition to this change request, the applicant also notified the ExA of its intention to make further changes to its application [REP4-123]. These are described by the applicant as follows:

- The removal of the proposed temporary closure and diversion of a section of PRoW Crof/276/2, replaced with an open managed crossing;
- The removal of the proposed temporary closure and diversion of a section of PRoW Crof/276/3, replaced with an open managed crossing; and
- The reduction in the length of the proposed diversion of a section of PRoW Crof/276/4.

The ExA welcomes the applicant's approach of pre-emptively highlighting its proposed changes in this manner and takes the view that these proposed changes fall within the broad description of changes to the draft DCO as articles are reviewed, drafting is improved, or requirements are developed and that they are not such substantial changes that they would warrant a formal Change Request.

If you have any questions about the content of this letter, please contact the Case Team on the details above.

Yours faithfully,

Rod Macarthur

Rod Macarthur
Lead Member of the Examining Authority

Examination Timetable

The Examining Authority (ExA) is under a duty to **complete** the Examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

The Examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

Item		Date
1.	Procedural Deadline Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses to the Rule 6 letter relating to Examination procedure, including any submissions about the draft Examination Timetable and the use of virtual methods Responses to Relevant Representations (RRs), as requested by ExA in its Procedural Decision (PD) letter on 31 July 2024 [PD-006] Other responses (if applicable) to the ExA's PD letter of 31 July 2024 [PD-006] Summaries of all RRs exceeding 1500 words Submission of Pre-examination Progress Tracker Applicant's submission of the CA and Land Rights Tracker Applicant's submission of draft Statement of Commonality for Statements of Common Ground Requests to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting and under which part of the agenda set out in Annex A of the Rule 6 letter. Requests by Parties to be heard orally at the Open Floor Hearing (OFH) to be held on Thursday 10 October 2024. An indicative schedule showing when updated or new benthic and intertidal ecology, offshore and intertidal ornithology and HRA documents are likely to be submitted into the Examination by the Applicant, including their likely content and approximate size. 	Thursday 19 September 2024
2.	Preliminary Meeting	Thursday 10 October 2024 10:00

Item		Date
3.	Open Floor Hearing (OFH1)	Thursday 10 October 2024
4.	Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Examination Timetable 	As soon as practicable following the Preliminary Meeting
5.	Deadline 1 Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comments on any updates to application documents submitted by the Applicant before or at the PM ▪ Submission of comments on oral submissions made and written summaries of oral case put at the OFH held on 10 October 2024 ▪ Requests from Affected Persons to be heard at any subsequent Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH). Requests by Affected Persons (defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008) ▪ Requests by Interested Parties to attend an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) ▪ Suggested locations for the ASI including justification, and whether such locations can be seen from public land or require private access, for consideration by the ExA ▪ Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party (IP) by the ExA ▪ Notification of wish to have future correspondence received electronically ▪ Applicant's updated Book of Reference (BoR) and Schedule of Changes to the BoR (If required) in clean and tracked versions ▪ Applicant's planning obligations, proximity and commercial side agreements tracking list and any draft s106 agreement (see Annex F of the ExA's Rule 6 letter [PD-009]) ▪ Applicant's updated Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought in clean and tracked versions ▪ Comments on the Applicant's Land Rights Tracker ▪ Initial draft Statements of Common Ground ▪ Comments on the Applicant's draft Statement of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground 	Thursday 24 October 2024

Item		Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written Representations (WRs), as requested by ExA in its PD letter on 31 July 2024 [PD-006] ▪ Summaries of any WRs that exceed 1500 words ▪ Summaries of all RRs exceeding 1500 words (if not provided at the Pre-Examination Procedural Deadline) ▪ Responses to RRs (if not provided at the Pre-Examination Procedural Deadline) ▪ Local Impact Reports (LIRs) from local authorities (see Annex B) ▪ Requests from Interested Parties to be heard at any subsequent Open Floor Hearing (OFH) ▪ A revised version of the draft Development Consent Order (draft DCO) in clean and tracked versions ▪ An updated Explanatory Memorandum in clean and tracked versions (if required) ▪ Comments on any further information / submissions accepted by the ExA ▪ Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules 	
6.	Publication of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The ExA's First Written Questions (ExQ1) 	Wednesday 6 November 2024
7.	Deadline 2 Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Responses to ExQ1 ▪ Written Representations (WRs), if not provided at Deadline 1 ▪ Summaries of any WRs that exceed 1500 words, if not provided at Deadline 1 ▪ Comments on the LIR(s) ▪ Applicant to provide a draft itinerary for the ASI if required ▪ Applicant's update to the Guide to the Application ▪ Applicant's update to the Statements of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground ▪ Applicant's update to the Land Rights Tracker ▪ An updated version of the draft DCO in clean and tracked versions (if required as a result of ExQ1) 	Wednesday 27 November 2024

Item		Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schedule of changes to the draft DCO (if required) ▪ An updated Explanatory Memorandum in clean and tracked versions (if required) ▪ Applicant's updated BoR and Schedule of Changes to the BoR (If required) in clean and tracked versions ▪ Responses to comments on RRs ▪ Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 1 ▪ Initial report on the inter-relationship with other infrastructure projects (as described in Annex B) ▪ Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules 	
8.	Dates reserved for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any Compulsory Acquisition Hearing ▪ Any Issue Specific Hearing 	Tuesday 3 December 2024 – Friday 6 December 2024
9.	Deadline 3 Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Post-hearing submissions including written summaries of oral case put at any of the hearings during the w/c 2 December 2024 ▪ Comments on the Applicant's update to the draft DCO ▪ Comments on other submissions received at Deadline 2 ▪ Comments on the Applicant's update to the Land Rights Tracker ▪ Applicant's update to the Land Rights Tracker ▪ Comments on the update to the Statements of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground ▪ Comments on draft ASI itinerary produced by the Applicant (if required) ▪ Comments on WRs ▪ Applicant to provide an updated Guide to the Application ▪ An updated version of the draft DCO in clean and tracked versions (if required) ▪ Schedule of changes to the draft DCO (if required) ▪ An updated Explanatory Memorandum in clean and tracked versions (if required) 	Friday 13 December 2024

Item		Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Applicant's updated BoR and Schedule of Changes to the BoR (If required) in clean and tracked versions ▪ Updated Statements of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground ▪ Applicant's updated Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought in clean and tracked versions ▪ Applicant's 'Mid-Examination' Progress Tracker ▪ Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules 	
10.	Publication of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ExA's further written questions (ExQ2). 	Monday 13 January 2025
11.	Deadline 4 Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Responses to ExQ2 ▪ Comments on the Applicant's update to the draft DCO ▪ Comments on the Applicant's update to the Land Rights Tracker ▪ Applicant's update to the draft DCO ▪ Applicant's update to the Land Rights Tracker ▪ Applicant's update to the Guide to the Application ▪ Applicant's update to the Statements of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground ▪ Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 3 ▪ Updated report on the inter-relationship with other infrastructure projects (as described in Annex B) ▪ Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules 	Monday 3 February 2025
12.	Dates reserved for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any Compulsory Acquisition Hearing ▪ A further Open Floor Hearing ▪ Any Issue Specific Hearing ▪ Accompanied Site Inspection 	Tuesday 11 February 2025 to Friday 14 February 2025
13.	Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) ▪ The ExA's preferred draft DCO, proposed schedule of changes, or 	Monday 17 February 2025

Item		Date
	commentary on the draft DCO (if required)	
14.	Deadline 4a Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-hearing submissions including written summaries of oral case put at hearings during w/c 10 February 2025 Comments on the Applicant's latest update to the draft DCO [REP-008] Comments on the Applicant's latest update to the Land Rights Tracker [REP4-092] Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 4 	Wednesday 26 February 2025
15.	Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ExA's preferred draft DCO, proposed schedule of changes, or commentary on the draft DCO (if required) 	Friday 28 February 2025
16.	Deadline 5 Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-hearing submissions including written summaries of oral case put at hearings during w/c 10 February 2025 (if held) Comments on the Applicant's third update to the draft DCO Comments on the Applicant's third update to the Land Rights Tracker Comments on the Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) and responses to questions asked in the RIES Comments on ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft DCO (if required) Completed, signed and dated Statements of Common Ground Final Statement of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 4 Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 4a Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules 	Thursday 13 March 2025

Item		Date
17.	Dates reserved (if required) for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Compulsory Acquisition Hearing Any Issue Specific Hearing 	Tuesday 18 March 2025 to Friday 21 March 2025
18.	Deadline 6 Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-hearing submissions including written summaries of oral case put at hearings during w/c 18 March 2025 (if held) Final Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements IP's Closing Statement(s) Applicant's Closing Statement(s) Applicant's Close of Examination Progress Tracker Final draft DCO to be submitted by the Applicant in the SI template with the SI template validation report Final Explanatory Memorandum in clean and tracked versions Final Book of Reference (BoR) and schedule of changes to BoR Applicant's final Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought in clean and tracked versions Completed, signed and dated s106 Agreements (if required) Final Land Rights Tracker Final signed and dated planning obligations and commercial side agreements tracker (if required) Final Guide to the Application Final schedule of changes to the draft DCO (if required) Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 5 Final report on the inter-relationship with other infrastructure projects Final preferred drafting of protective provisions, if not fully agreed between the applicant and respective parties before Deadline 6 Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules 	Friday 4 April 2025
19.	The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months. Please note that the ExA may close the Examination before the end of the six-month period if it is satisfied that all	Thursday 10 April 2025

Item		Date
	relevant matters have been addressed and discussed.	

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