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All Interested Parties and Category 3  
Parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010130

Date: 25 February 2025

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Dear Sir/Madam

## **Application by GT R4 Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Project**

### **Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 9**

The Examining Authority (ExA) refers to the applicant's Change Notification dated 20 February 2025 [[AS-032](#)] that relates to 5 potential amendments to the application, namely:

- **Change 1:** a commitment to the installation of removeable cable protection on defined areas of supporting habitat for Sabellaria spinulosa reef within the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge Special Area of Conservation (IDRBNR SAC) as further mitigation for the impacts of the proposed development on the IDRBNR SAC.
- **Change 2:** narrowing the options that may be pursued as compensation measures for impacts on the sandbank and biogenic reef features of the IDRBNR SAC.
- **Change 3:** removal of the option to install gravity base structure (GBS) foundations for the Offshore Reactive Compensation Platforms (ORCPs) to reduce the maximum design scenario for marine physical processes effects.
- **Change 4:** the introduction of a seasonal restriction for construction works within the Greater Wash Special Protection Area (SPA) to further mitigate impacts on overwintering red-throated diver.
- **Change 5:** the introduction of temporal piling restrictions for the protection of herring during the spawning season, covering defined areas within the array area and the northern artificial nesting structure (ANS) area.

### **For Changes 1 to 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 revised or further information submitted in response to matters raised by the ExA and interested parties (IPs) during the examination and that they are not such substantial changes that they would warrant a formal change request.

## **For Change 5**

The ExA notes that the applicant has stated that: *“In addition to the above four changes, the Applicant is considering the potential introduction of piling restrictions for the protection of herring during the spawning season ...”*. The applicant has not set out how this proposed change would be effected, but that it would submit this change at deadline 5 (or earlier if possible). However, based on the information that the applicant has set out in its Change Notification the ExA’s in principle view is that, should it be proposed, Change 5 would not require the submission of a formal change request. The applicant should also note that the ExA intends to address this issue further in its commentary on the draft Development Consent Order to be issued on 28 February and looks forward to responses from all relevant IPs subsequent to this.

The ExA considers that updates will also need to be provided to any relevant documents that would require amending as a result of any of these proposed changes. This includes, but is not limited to, the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment.

Furthermore, IPs’ responses to questions raised in the ExA’s Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) should make reference to the most up to date information submitted to this examination, which will include the applicant’s deadline 4a submissions.

Yours faithfully,

*Rod Macarthur*

Rod Macarthur  
**Lead Panel Member for the Examining Authority**