



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES
2010

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm

Appendix G3 to the Natural England Deadline 5 Submission
Natural England's Updated Advice on Seabird Compensation Calculations
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

13th March 2025

Appendix G3 - Natural England's Updated Advice on Seabird Compensation Calculations

Natural England's headline advice on calculations for seabird compensation requirements is set out in [REP3-071]. However, following testing of the application of the Hornsea 3 part 2 ('H3pt2') method for guillemot and razorbill, it has become apparent that lower levels of natal dispersal, compounded by older recruitment ages and lower productivity can produce unrealistic and clearly disproportionate requirements for scaling compensatory measures for these species. Furthermore, it is not clear that some of the demographic information is well evidenced, which can introduce significant uncertainty into any calculations reliant on those data.

In such cases and pending further refinement and updates to best practice advice, Natural England consider that, given the current absence of a robust alternative option for guillemot and razorbill, it is appropriate for the Hornsea 4 ('H4') method to be used. This should be carried out in conjunction with the use of the 95% upper confidence limit (UCL) predicted impact value and the application of a suitable ratio to address the uncertainty of success, set on a case-by-case basis. The mean or central impact value should be used to inform and define success criteria, if appropriate.

Our advice on kittiwake remains that the Hornsea 3 part 2 is the most complete method of scaling compensation requirements. Nevertheless, Natural England highlight that the application of any method to calculate the scale of compensatory measures with respect to the number of breeding pairs required to compensate a specified annual mortality impact remains somewhat contentious. The pressing need for independent expert advice on the topic led to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) being contracted by Natural England (on behalf of the Collaboration on Offshore Wind Strategic Compensation) to critically review the available methods and determine the most appropriate, or to identify an alternative method. The contract's principal focus is on kittiwake but also considering whether the method is appropriate for other species. However, it is unlikely that the outputs of this project will be finalised in time for proper consideration within this examination.

At Deadline 6 we will provide our end-of-Examination position regarding the Applicant's proposed compensatory measures and our current position on the appropriate compensation quanta. It should be recognised though that this is a matter that will continue to be explored beyond the close of the ODOW Examination.