



**THE PLANNING ACT 2008**

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11.**

**EN0210009 Tarchon Interconnector Project –  
Natural England’s advice on EIA Scoping – Project-Specific Detailed Advice to the  
Offshore and Onshore Elements of the Scheme  
Annex C.9 Onshore Ornithology**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference EN0210009**

**8<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Annex C – EN0210009 Tarchon Interconnector Project – Natural England’s advice on EIA Scoping – Project-Specific Detailed Advice to the Offshore and Onshore Elements of the Scheme (cont.)**

**C.9 Onshore Ornithology**

Point	Section	Paragraph/Table	Comment	Recommendations
1	V.4 23.4	23-11	Natural England notes that under the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA the waterbird Assemblage is not listed within its qualifying species.	Natural England advises that waterbird assemblage should be added to the bullet points and all other protected site features checked.
2	V.4 23.4	23.4.1.19 and 23.4.1.30	Natural England notes that no nocturnal surveys were undertaken in Year One and only a single nocturnal breeding visit in 2026. Natural England highlights that this may not be sufficient to enable a robust Ecological Impact Assessment, in particular for farmland species of conservation concern (e.g. grey partridge or quail) which are difficult to record during the day, but are vocal in the evening/night.	Natural England advises undertaking additional nocturnal visits. These need not be thorough walkover transects just sufficient to detect calling birds.
3	V.4 23.4	23.4.1.31	Natural England notes that the survey area has not been extended for sections that pass within 500m of a designated site. This is necessary to assess the impact on birds breeding within the designated area, and the supporting habitat they may need (this includes birds of conservation concern as well as the designated features).	Natural England advises extending the survey area for sections that pass within 500m of a designated site.
4	V.4 23	Figure 23-3	Natural England notes that the wintering bird survey results are indicated with a dot, with no species differentiation, also there is no indication of transect location. Consequently, it is not clear whether the scoping boundary area had limited results or was not visited.	Natural England advises that this needs to be clarified. Please illustrate wintering bird survey transects/viewing positions and provide more information on the different species observed within the figure.

5	V.4 23.4	23.4.1.29	Natural England notes that it is stated that surveys will be undertaken diurnally within the English Onshore Scheme (EOS) Scoping Boundary and a 500 m buffer following look-see methods will be applied. However, it should be noted that species such as curlew are known to be disturbed up to 650m away. Therefore, the survey should allow for recording curlew to a similar distance.	Natural England advises that the 500m buffer should be extended to a minimum of 650m to account for curlew.
6	V.4 23.4	23.4.1.38 Field survey Limitations	Natural England notes that in the description of limitations in the winter survey where there are large areas, it is stated that there will only be a single year of visits and instead a desk study will be used to supplement survey findings.	Typically, Natural England advises best practice would be for two years of survey for projects located this close to designated sites especially when the location passes between designated sites which may then affect land utilised by bird populations from both sites as they move between. Two years of surveys aims to allow for fluctuations in weather patterns that have the potential to influence how birds behave and where they may be found. However, desk study data and one year of comprehensive surveying may be adequate where a precautionary approach is taken to identify what numbers of birds could possibly have been missed within Functionally Linked Land, based on peak numbers which may have been present in the area and the potential use of habitats within the scoping area. However, this would have to be thoroughly justified.
7	V.4 23.4	23.4.1.48	Natural England highlights that with the absence of two seasons of field survey and any incorporation of desk study results, it is too early to draw conclusions on the importance	Natural England advises that this needs to be clarified. In addition, the results assessment should be revisited when all

		<p>Wintering Bird Survey results</p>	<p>of the land affected by this project to over-wintering and passage birds. In addition, paragraph 23.4.1.4 states that Brent geese were recorded during the non-breeding season on the intertidal and inland which contradicts the paragraph 23.4.1.48 that states that there is no evidence from surveys to indicate the area within the EOS is of importance to wintering birds.</p>	<p>surveys are completed and desk study peak results incorporated. If there are no desk study records for this area, then it may be difficult to draw robust conclusions and/or advise on the need and sufficiency of proposed mitigation measures.</p>
--	--	--------------------------------------	--	---