

Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm Consultation Overview

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial
Strategy (BEIS) Request for information



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Photo: Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm

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1 INTRODUCTION

1. Throughout the development of Norfolk Vanguard ('the Project'), the Applicant has undertaken extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders with the aim of open collaboration to maximise the benefits of the Project.
2. In response to a Request for Information from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), dated 6 December 2019, the Applicant has sought to engage actively and openly throughout the request for information period, sharing information on a without prejudice basis to provide parties with the opportunity to consider and contribute towards the development of the further mitigation measures and the development of in-principle compensation measures as part of the Habitats Regulations Derogation Case for Norfolk Vanguard. Written feedback from the parties has been taken into account in the Applicant's final submissions.
3. This consultation process has covered the following topics included in the BEIS letter, discussed further in Sections 2 and 3 of this document:
 - Consultation with offshore stakeholders, in particular Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) regarding matters relating to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), discussed further in Section 2.1:
 - Ornithology
 - i. Kittiwake of Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - ii. Lesser black backed gull (LBBG) of Alde-Ore Estuary SPA
 - Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
 - i. Site Integrity Plan
 - ii. Particle Size Condition
 - Marine Mammals
 - i. Vibro piling and 'blue hammer'
 - ii. Water quality
 - Consultation with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) regarding shipping and navigation, discussed further in Section 0:
 - Part 4 Condition 9(12) of Schedules 9 and 10, and Condition 4(12) of Schedules 11 and 12 – notice of cable exposure
 - Conditions 14(1) and 9(1) of Schedules 9 and 10, and Condition 9(1) of Schedules 11 and 12 – lighting and marking plan and operation and maintenance programme

- Consultation with onshore stakeholders, including Norfolk County Council, North Norfolk District Council, Breckland Council and Broadland District Council on the following topics, outlined in Section 3:
 - Traffic Movements at Cawston
 - Appearance of Electrical Equipment
 - Additions to Trenchless Crossings
 - Replacement Period in Landscaping Scheme
 - Timing of Traffic Management Measures
 - Non-standard Construction Hours
 - Control of Noise During Operational Phase

2 CONSULTATION WITH OFFSHORE STAKEHOLDERS

2.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment

4. The Applicant has undertaken extensive consultation with NE and the MMO in response to the BEIS letter, as well as consultation with other relevant stakeholders e.g. Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (EIFCA), RSPB and the National Trust.
5. The consultation with NE and the MMO has included a series of conference calls, a face to face meeting and a large number of submissions by the Applicant regarding additional specific mitigation proposals and in-principle compensatory measures.
6. In addition to the stakeholder consultation outlined below, the Applicant has engaged with the supply chain, including turbine manufacturers, construction vessels, decommissioning specialists and cable protection manufacturers in order to refine the design envelope and propose new mitigation commitments based on the latest industry developments.

Table 1 Summary of consultation with stakeholders regarding HRA matters

Stakeholder	Date	Type	Topic
Natural England	07 January 2020	Submission by the Applicant	Outline Terms of Engagement issued by the Applicant for review
Natural England	08 January 2020	Conference call	Discussion of Outline Terms of Engagement
Hornsea Project Three	9 January 2020	Conference call	Project updates from both parties
Natural England	10 January 2020	Submission by the Applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HHW SAC Position Statement • Updated CRM for 11.55MW turbines issued by the Applicant for review
Natural England	16 January 2020	Conference call	Discussion of initial feedback on HHW SAC Position Statement and Updated CRM
MMO	16 January 2020	Conference call	Discussion regarding BEIS letter
Natural England and MMO	17 January 2020	Submission by the Applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft HHW indicative compensation proposals issued by the Applicant for review • Draft kittiwake and LBBG indicative compensation proposals issued by the Applicant for review
Natural England, MMO	23 January 2020	Meeting	Workshop to discuss in principle compensation measures
Natural England and MMO	27 January 2020	Submission by the Applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated benthic assessment to consider additional mitigation issued by the Applicant for review

Stakeholder	Date	Type	Topic
Natural England	31 January 2020	Conference call	Progress update
Natural England and MMO	3 February 2020	Submission by the Applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated draft kittiwake and LBBG indicative compensation proposals issued by the Applicant for review Headroom Position Statement issued by the Applicant for review
Innogy	3 February 2020	Conference call	Alde-Ore Estuary SPA
Natural England	5 February 2020	Conference call	Workshop follow up call
EIFCA	7 February	Conference call	Regarding HHW SAC compensatory measures
MMO	10 February 2020	Conference call	Progress update
NE	11 February 2020	Conference call	Alde-Ore Estuary SPA with Site Responsible Officer
Natural England and MMO	12 February 2020	Submission by the Applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated ornithology mitigation issued by the Applicant for review
Natural England, MMO	17 February 2020	Conference call	Workshop follow up call
RSPB	19 February 2020	Conference call	Alde-Ore Estuary SPA
MMO	20 February 2020	Conference call	DCO conditions
Natural England, MMO	24 February 2020	Conference call	Workshop follow up call
National Trust	25 February 2020	Conference call	Alde-Ore Estuary SPA
DEFRA	25 February 2020	Email exchange	Regarding HHW SAC extension compensatory measure

2.2 Shipping and Navigation

7. The Applicant has undertaken consultation with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) regarding the shipping and navigation points raised in the BEIS letter. These points are now agreed by both parties, as noted in the Applicant’s Response (ExA; WQ; 11.D10.1)

Table 2 Summary of consultation with stakeholders regarding shipping and navigation

Stakeholder	Date	Type	Topic
MCA	4 February 2020	Conference call	Discussion regarding BEIS letter

3 CONSULTATION WITH ONSHORE STAKEHOLDERS

8. The Applicant has undertaken consultation with the relevant local planning authorities in response to the BEIS letter regarding traffic, the appearance of electrical equipment, replacement planting, and noise.
9. The consultation has included a series of conference calls and a number of submissions by the Applicant.

Table 3 Summary of consultation with stakeholders regarding onshore matters

Stakeholder	Date	Type	Topic
Norfolk County Council	15 January 2020	Meeting	Discussion regarding BEIS letter, in particular regarding the traffic mitigation scheme through Cawston
Breckland Council	7 February 2020	Conference call	Discussion regarding BEIS letter, in particular regarding noise and appearance of the electrical equipment
Broadland District Council	14 February 2020	Conference call	Discussion regarding BEIS letter, in particular regarding the traffic mitigation scheme through Cawston
North Norfolk District Council	21 February 2020	Conference call	Discussion regarding BEIS letter, in particular regarding trenchless crossings and replacement planting

4 CONCLUSION

10. The extensive engagement undertaken by the Applicant in response to the Request for Information has facilitated the development of, and commitment to a range of additional mitigation measures described in document reference ExA; Mit; 11.D10.2 ('Additional Mitigation') and in-principle compensatory measures described in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the Habitats Regulations Derogation Provision of Evidence (document reference ExA; IROPI; 11.D10.3.App1, ExA; IROPI; 11.D10.3.App2 and ExA; IROPI; 11.D10.3.App3, respectively).