



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Web: <https://www.gov.uk/desnz>

Case Ref: EIA/2023/00017

To

Ørsted Burbo Bank Offshore Windfarm

Date: 12 July 2023

## **SECTION 36C OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989**

**The Electricity Generating Stations (Variation of Consents) (England and Wales) Regulations 2013**

**The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017**

**Environmental Impact Assessment - Variation to Section 36 (“the Application”) for Burbo Bank Offshore Wind Farm (“Burbo Bank”) by Ørsted Burbo Bank (UK) Limited (“the Applicant”).**

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Secretary of State notes the screening opinion request submitted to the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (“the Department”) by the Applicant on 24 April 2023. This screening opinion is provided pursuant to the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (as amended) (“the Regulations”).

The Applicant is seeking to install aerodynamic tip boosters to the end of each turbine blade within Burbo Bank, which will add 80cm to the diameter of each turbine.

### **Screening opinion**

The Applicant submitted supporting environmental information with the screening request. The only impact-receptor pathway it identified was a change in the risk of seabird collisions due to the increase in the rotor swept area. Collision risk models were presented for both the consented scheme and the “as-built” scheme with the tip-boosters installed. The models predicted that for all bird species considered (common gull, great black-backed gull, lesser black-backed gull, gannet, herring gull and kittiwake) the number of bird mortalities would be lower for the “as-built” scheme with the tip-boosters, than for the consented scheme.

The Secretary of State has reviewed the information submitted to the Department and has consulted with the Local Planning Authorities in the areas that may be impacted by the proposed

works, including Chester and West Chester Planning Council, Flintshire Council, Liverpool County Council and Lancashire County Council. The Secretary of State also consulted and received feedback from the Crown Estate, the Marine Management Organisation, Trinity House, Ministry of Defence, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Planning and Environment Decisions Wales, Northwest Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority and Historic England. None of the organisations or authorities consulted took the view that the proposed development once built, nor the change to the turbine diameter, would have significant effects on the local environment.

The Secretary of State has also taken into consideration the Marine Management Organisations (MMO) screening assessment for the related Marine Licence application they are determining. The MMO concluded that even though there is potential for environmental impacts, these have been assessed as having a very low risk factor and the proposed works therefore do not need an Environmental Impact Assessment.

The Secretary of State considered all this information with reference to the characteristics of the development, its location and the potential impacts on the environment, in line with Schedule 3 of the Regulations. Having considered the information provided by the Applicant, along with the responses to his consultation and the MMO's conclusions, the Secretary of State has decided that the proposed works are not likely to have significant effects on the environment and therefore do not constitute EIA development.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Dawkins', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

James Dawkins

Head of Planning  
Energy Infrastructure Planning