

Potential Impact of the Hornsea Project Three Cable corridor on Kelling Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

The plan for the Hornsea Project Three Cable corridor on the Hornsea Project Three Dong Energy Web Site, indicates a 200m corridor that will cross Kelling Heath SSSI on its SE boundary. A final planning application will be submitted by Dong Energy in 2018.

There will be public consultation events held by Dong Energy at Weybourne Village Hall on 7th September 2017 (3.30-7.30 pm) and at Holt Community Centre on 13th September 2017 (4 pm –7.30 pm). More information can be found at www.dongenergy.co.uk/hornseaproject3

The extent of damage to the heath and disturbance to its wildlife will depend on the exact position of the final 80m corridor that will be dug within the 200m boundaries set out in the plans by Dong Energy. The corridor will need to remove soil, heather and gorse, a grassy track, mixed hedgerow and trees prior to cable laying. The soil will be restored after cable laying but it will not normally be possible for trees to be planted along the route.

Based on the planned route of the 200m corridor, the following impacts are envisaged.

1. Damage to habitat of Kelling Heath SSSI that is noted by Natural England as **“perhaps the best example of glacial outwash plain in England**
2. Destruction of an important hibernation site for adders (about 20 present in spring 2017) and disturbance of adders and other reptiles.
3. Disturbance to birds that breed close to or within the cable corridor, including Dartford Warbler, Stonechat and Woodlark.
4. Destruction of one of the sites for Silver-studded Blue Butterfly.
5. A serious long-term visual impact if the trees forming the boundary of Kelling Heath SSSI and Kelling Heath Park are removed and cannot be re-planted.

Note: Birds are most sensitive to disturbance whilst breeding (from approximately late March to August) and the reptiles are most vulnerable when hibernating (adders typically emerge in February at this site), thus it will be difficult to choose a timing for the construction of the corridor that avoids impact on both reptiles and birds.

Cley Bird Club members with an interest in Kelling Heath may wish to provide their comments direct to Dong Energy via email, contact@hornsea-project-three.co.uk