

Meeting Note

File reference	EN010015
Status	Final
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Meeting with	RWE NPower Renewables (RWE)
Meeting date	20 th April 2011
Attendees (IPC)	Mike Harris (Case Lead) Andrea Kellegher (Case Officer) David Price (EIA & Land Rights Advisor) Tim Hallam (Lawyer)
Attendees (RWE NPower Renewables)	Rob Thornhill (Development Manager) Gill Moore (Offshore Consents Manager) Natasha Bacon (Onshore Consents Manager) John Houghton (Bond Pearce)
Location	TQH, Bristol.

Meeting purpose	To provide an update on project progress.
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Summary of key points discussed	<p>The IPC advised on its policy of openness and that any advice provided in accordance with s.51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) would be placed on its website.</p> <p>RWE provided an update on the project and programme leading to an application to the IPC for Development Consent. The following milestones were confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) will be published in June/early July 2011; • s.47 consultation to be carried out in September 2011; • consultation for the purposes of s.42 of the Act will be carried out in Quarter 1 of 2012, most probably in February 2012. • an application for Development Consent will be submitted in Q3 2012. <p>RWE confirmed that responses from consultees to the consultation conducted by the IPC in the production of the Scoping Opinion are being considered and responded to and that RWE will provide a copy of the combined response to the IPC in due course.</p>
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The following specific matters were discussed.

Onshore cable route

RWE confirmed that the chosen route for the onshore connection cable to the proposed substation at Alverdiscott follows the Cornborough route and that this will be undergrounded. Survey works are ongoing to define the precise route in respect of local issues and where two options exist they will be presented for public consultation.

Consent Envelope (including onshore and offshore components)

RWE outlined the flexibility they envisage being incorporated into the draft Development Consent Order (DCO).

RWE confirmed that depending on the timescales for commencement of construction a review of baseline ES information could be necessary. This is to ensure that there were no significant changes since the ES surveys were undertaken.

RWE said that they were considering making provision in the draft DCO for the project to be built out on a phased basis. If such an approach was taken it is likely that there would be a maximum of three such phases. If the offshore element was to be phased then the onshore substation would also be constructed on a phased basis.

RWE also said that they will provide for sufficient flexibility in the draft DCO to allow the use of either air or gas cooling technology for the onshore substation, due to limitations on space at the substation site and need to maintain the option to build the substation in phases. RWE said that when the application is submitted the draft DCO may provide for more than one offshore cable route corridor. At present, three such potential routes are being considered as included in the Scoping report. In relation to both the onshore substation and the offshore cable route corridor these would be within the Order Limits.

The IPC advised that any flexibility proposed in a draft DCO is a matter to be considered by the Examining authority during the examination of any future accepted application, but that from an EIA perspective the ES must be able to demonstrate that the worst case scenario has been assessed and that there are clear justifications behind the decisions made. The IPC referred RWE to IPC Advice Note 9 on using the Rochdale Envelope in this regard.

Cumulative/in-combination assessment

RWE confirmed that within the next few weeks they will circulate to relevant statutory consultees and the IPC a proposed methodology on their approach to assessment, which will be similar to the proposed methodology for the Triton Knoll project. This will utilise a matrix system to identify how each element interacts with other elements. This will also consider other projects although RWE said those coming forward post October 2011 will not be considered. In response to a query on how to consider projects which are at various stages within the planning or other consenting system the IPC referred to the categories set out in page 7 of IPC Advice Note 9 on the Rochdale Envelope.

Ports

RWE will not be acting as promoter for any port development for the Atlantic Array project and confirmed that they do not intend to assess port development in detail within the ES as the port to be used will not be confirmed at the point at which the DCO application is submitted.. The IPC confirmed that reference to assessing port development made in the Scoping Opinion will have been in relation to the description of development.

Routing Measure

RWE confirmed that ongoing work with stakeholders has resulted in UK Safety of Navigation Group stating that they do not feel a routeing measure is justified given the volume of shipping in the area. As a result RWE intend to reform the project specific navigation working group to discuss what level of mitigation is appropriate for the project.

The IPC confirmed that there is ongoing work to consider how routeing measures are best dealt with under the 2008 Act regime. An update on this will be provided at the next meeting.

Marine Licensing (cross border)

RWE indicated that a small part of the project falls within Welsh waters and in relation to that a Marine Licence will be required from the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). This would be in addition to the Marine Licence from the MMO for that part of the project in English waters. Only the MMO licence will be deemed within the DCO. It will be necessary to coordinate work on these licences. RWE said that they were setting up a meeting with WAG, MMO, CCW and other relevant bodies to discuss marine

	<p>licensing issues.</p> <p><i>Appropriate Assessment</i></p> <p>RWE provided an update on survey works and confirmed that they are likely to submit a draft screening report in about three months time. The IPC were invited to attend progress meetings and the IPC confirmed that it may attend such meetings as an observer. The IPC referred to its recently published Advice Note on the Habitats Regulations process under the 2008 Act regime.</p> <p><i>Any other business</i></p> <p>RWE said that they will be seeking consent for a proposed National Grid substation as associated development in the draft DCO for this project (such works to be included within the DCO order limits). RWE said that these proposed works would not be required were it not for this offshore wind farm project. RWE said that the likely significant impacts of these proposed works would be assessed in the EIA.</p> <p>RWE noted that discussions held with statutory consultees have indicated that they would rather see this development brought forward within this DCO application. RWE confirmed that these works would also be included within the description of the proposed development for the purposes of their formal pre-application consultation exercises.</p>
Specific decisions/follow up required?	RWE to provide the IPC with a list of Local Authority contacts – completed post meeting.
Circulation List	As per attendee list