



Meeting Note

File reference	EN010032 Rampion Offshore Wind Farm
Status	Final
Author	Ewa Sherman

Meeting with	E.ON
Meeting date	8 October 2012
Attendees (Planning Inspectorate)	Mike Harris Jessica Potter Tim Hallam Ewa Sherman
Attendees (non Planning Inspectorate)	Eleri Owen – E.ON Vaughan Weighill – E.ON James Eaton – E.ON John Houghton – Bond Pearce Claire Rees – Bond Pearce
Location	Temple Quay House, Bristol

Meeting purpose	Update on the project, including the consultation undertaken to date. Feedback on draft submission documents supplied to the National Infrastructure Directorate.
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Summary of key points discussed and advice given	<p>The Planning Inspectorate advised on its openness policy and confirmed that any advice given in accordance with s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) would be published and does not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) can rely; applicants must rely on their own legal advice.</p> <p>Project update and Consultation Process (s47, s42 and s48) E.ON provided an update on the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm project. At present the responses to consultations are being processed. S47 consultation lasted 12 weeks, and s42 and 48 publicity 8 weeks. E.ON issued further s42 letters, due to be completed next week, to capture some parties who were previously not notified.</p> <p>E.ON indicated that the response to consultation had been high: more than 4500 people attended various exhibitions and approximately 2000 responses were received. E.ON explained that the consultation periods were longer than the statutory minimum. Processing of the responses is ongoing. Throughout the process E.ON have been in discussions with the Local Authorities, including the South Downs National Park Authority, who are being made aware of the current project progress, and provided with draft Development Consent Order (DCO) application documents.</p> <p>Issues identified during the consultation process included: visual impact; public rights of way; cable route going through National Park; impact on traffic due to the temporary route closures.</p> <p>E.ON stated that they are overall very pleased with the responses,</p>
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	<p>especially from s42 statutory bodies, such as Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and others. Some of the issues identified include fish ecology and onshore ecological matters, which are currently being addressed (for example, further noise modelling). Through consultation, which commenced in summer 2010, E.ON explained the process of refining the onshore element of the development, such as choosing cable route corridors, considering routes through sensitive areas, trying to minimise impact on arable land, lengths of the route etc.</p> <p>PINS enquired about issues relating to the affected land owners and potential compulsory acquisition, and these matters are being discussed / finalised.</p> <p>The developer confirmed that as an outcome of the consultation process and issues raised, including navigation issues, engineering impacts, visual impact and Heritage Coast, the 'red line' boundary of the project is slightly revised and the maximum number of wind turbines proposed has been reduced from 195 to 175. The relevant information is part of the Environmental Impact Assessment. Within the revised boundary the most compact layout and worst case scenario are presented, while assessing all possibilities, cost of piling in deeper water etc. E.ON said that it was important to cap the total number of turbines, yet they are considering the impacts of greater density. The bulk of the turbines will be at the back of the area visible from the coast, to minimise the visual effect.</p> <p>Due to the project location relatively close to the shore there has been a big response from leisure users. Diving activity is a relatively new issue, and E.ON indicated that they have established good communication with the diving community (British Sub Aqua Club and others) so they are being made aware and are represented, and the impacts on diving, such as noise while piling, can be mitigated, and any danger during construction can be avoided.</p> <p>E.ON discussed the onshore cable route (27.8 km in length) which will need to be installed through sensitive areas such as National Park, SSSI areas and under the River Adur. They indicated that a vast majority of land owners agreed to the route.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate advised that plans for the onshore development (cable route, building a new substation near existing Bolney Substation, connection to the National Grid) need to be more clearly identified before submitting the DCO application and there is potential that traffic and construction access matters could be discussed at the examination stage.</p> <p>E.ON stated that they intend to issue the draft Consultation Report to the Local Authorities and possibly also to the Planning Inspectorate, before the submission date, either for comments or information only. They also are in discussions with Natural England regarding the issue of the project's impacts on European sites.</p> <p>Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) and Explanatory Memorandum (EM)</p> <p>E.ON provided an update on the draft DCO and EM, and stated that unless a significant issue is raised through informal consultation there</p>
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	<p>will be no major changes to the DCO. Some issues are still being clarified, for example Article 19 (issue for the Environment Agency).</p> <p>Other relevant consent and licence applications (to Marine Management Organisation etc) will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate at the same time as the DCO documents.</p> <p>E.ON confirmed that the Book of Reference is nearly completed. The Planning Inspectorate confirmed that it would be beneficial to see the document before the formal submission.</p> <p>Submission and Examination Timescales E.ON stated an intention to submit the application to the Planning Inspectorate in mid December 2012.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate stated that the timescales for examination will depend on the date of any decision being made on whether to accept the application and the Relevant Representations period set afterwards by the developer.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate provided advice on submission of the Statements of Common Ground, and stressed the importance of dealing with matters raised by the key consultees at the earliest possible stage.</p> <p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transboundary issues - The Planning Inspectorate advised that there has been consultation with EEA states. France and Belgium agreed with the draft Environmental Statement (fisheries), Holland is interested in shipping aspects of the project. • No confirmation of the port to be used during the construction. However, Newhaven confirmed as a port for operational use.
Specific decisions/ follow up required?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible further meeting to be arranged prior to submission if required by the applicant. • PINS to provide an update on the updated HRA process.
Circulation List	All attendees