



Meeting note

File reference	EN010079
Status	Final
Author	Siân Evans
Date	11 August 2017
Meeting with	Vattenfall
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Chris White (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Siân Evans (Case Officer) Hannah Pratt (Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Vattenfall Ruari Lean Ruth Henderson Jacob Lister Victoria Redman
Meeting objectives	Norfolk Vanguard project meeting update
Circulation	All attendees

Introduction

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate outlined its openness policy and ensured those present understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the Applicant (or others) can rely.

General Project update

Further non-statutory consultation took place at the end of March/early April 2017 with approximately 900 people attending events held at nine venues. 260 feedback forms were completed. In June a newsletter was distributed to 35,000 properties, parish councils and statutory bodies. On the project website the Frequently Asked Questions document has been updated and there is an interactive map to aid understanding of the project.

Letters have been sent to landowners to request ownership information, along with a landowner information pack. A Norfolk based land team are engaging on behalf of Vattenfall with landowners that have requested a meeting. The Inspectorate advised

the Applicant to seek to acquire land by negotiation with landowners where possible before submission of the application and to keep a record of engagement (letters, phone calls etc). The ExA is likely to look at the process of engagement with landowners in the Examination. This can be shown in a schedule which can be updated throughout the Examination to show how engagement has progressed.

The draft Statement of Community Consultation has been circulated to the local authorities for comment.

The Applicant advised that statutory consultation will likely take place between 7 November and 11 December. The Inspectorate noted that this met the statutory timescales set out in PA2008 and that a certain level of non-statutory consultation had also already been undertaken.

The Inspectorate advised that if the Applicant wishes to submit draft DCO documents for review advance notice should be given. A review is likely to take approximately six weeks. Following this the Inspectorate will issue a detailed agenda for a face-to-face meeting.

The Inspectorate advised that when submitting the s46 notice the same documents should be submitted to the Inspectorate as to other parties. It would be helpful if this could be submitted electronically on a pen-drive.

The Applicant advised that they still intend to submit the application in Q2 2018.

Evidence Plan

Further meetings concerning offshore issues were completed early July. The Applicant highlighted that Natural England has some concerns regarding the acceptability of dredging and levelling of material along the offshore cable route due to potential impacts on the Sabellaria spinulosa reef within the Happisborough, Hammond and Winterton Site of Community Importance. Further analysis of the baseline data obtained to date is also under discussion.

Onshore, the options for the cable relay station and substation are being progressed.

The Applicant enquired whether the Inspectorate could chair the Steering Group. The Inspectorate advised that it may be difficult to attend meetings in person but they could dial in. While the Inspectorate could do introductions at the start of the meeting they are usually led by the developer.

Transboundary

The Inspectorate advised that transboundary screening and notification is complete. Norway, France, Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany responded to state that they would like to participate in the Regulation 24 process under the EIA Regulations 2011. The Applicant advised that they will check whether they have consulted these EEA States.

Consultation complaints

The Inspectorate advised that a number of complaints had been received regarding the non-statutory consultation. The complaints included a lack of advertising for an

event; events held in the daytime which excluded those who worked in the day; questions from the public which were left unanswered; and use of incorrect place names.

The Applicant advised that they were aware of the complaints. The Applicant explained that attendees were invited to attend the July workshops, 80-90 for Happisburgh and approx. 70 for Necton. Invites were sent by email and post and followed up with phone calls to confirm attendance. Although the July workshops were by invite-only attendance, public drop-ins were held on the following day to the workshops. Letters and posters were sent to Parish Councils asking them to publish notices of the events (public drop-in and workshop) as well as publish contact details for the project. Contact was also made with community groups, including campaign groups N2RS and NSAG, who were encouraged to disseminate information on the events through their own communications network. For the public drop-ins, Necton village hall was unavailable so the Necton event was held outside of the village - 23 people attended. The Happisburgh drop in event was held at the Church rooms in Happisburgh. This venue was used to address and respond to previous concerns from members of the public that without a car it is difficult to attend events at the Wenn Evans Centre. 84 people attended the Happisburgh drop in event. All venues for public drop-ins had disabled access and were subject to Health and Safety checks before booking. The Applicant advised it is keen to engage with the local community on its proposals and therefore where any concerns are raised on its consultation process the Applicant is ensuring that these are recorded and fully considered in planning the subsequent consultation events. The Applicant also advised that it will explain how it has sought to address any concerns in its Consultation Report to be submitted with the application in due course.

The Applicant also advised that all previous public events and all future public events have and will be publicised through a variety of means including, email shots to all those who the Applicant has contacts for, newsletters to every property within the consultation area, addressed invitations to those who have previously attended the events, and media publicity including but not limited to paid advertisement in the local press.

AOB

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held early October 2017.