



Meeting note

File reference	EN010080
Status	Final
Author	Karl-Jonas Johansson
Date	27 September 2016
Meeting with	DONG Energy
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Tom Carpen (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Helen Lancaster (Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Karl-Jonas Johansson (Case Officer) Dong Energy Emily Woolfenden (Consultation Manager) Stuart Livesey (Project Development Manager) Tracey Sidle (Consents Manager) Emily King (RPS)
Meeting objectives	Hornsea Project Three meeting update
Circulation	All attendees.

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Introduction

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate continued by outlining 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 s.51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the Applicant (or others) can rely.

Meeting notes

Following the Applicant's comments on the previous meeting note, the Inspectorate proposed that the post-meeting notes added to the meeting note, dated 31 August 2016, should be clearly marked for transparency before being published and would send through its proposals following the meeting.

Evidence Plan

It was agreed that Helen Lancaster on behalf of the Inspectorate should continue to chair the steering group meetings and that she would send the Applicant the Inspectorates terms of references. The Applicant noted that the next meeting would be after the Scoping Opinion was issued.

Project update

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it had refined the onshore and offshore cable route corridor following responses received on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and a review of all technical and environmental information collected to date. The onshore and offshore cable route corridor will be shown in the SoCC (due to be published at the end of September) and Scoping Report (due to be submitted at the end of October).

Post meeting update – SoCC was published on 30th September 2016

The Applicant explained that the draft SoCC delineated a westerly and easterly landfall area (together with associated onshore and offshore cable route corridors). Contrary to initial concerns, the Applicant didn't envisage any major technical/engineering issues with installing a cable at the westerly landfall area and as such, the easterly landfall area (and associated onshore and offshore cable route corridors) has been dropped from the project boundaries. In order to further refine the westerly cable route corridor, the Applicant explained that they are planning to undertake further geophysical and geotechnical surveys of the westerly landfall area in 2017 and would keep the Inspectorate informed of survey progress.

Statement of Community Consultation

As noted above in 'project update', the Applicant noted that the draft SoCC delineated a western and eastern cable route corridor. The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it would be issuing a Project Update (via email) to all consultees that had been asked to comment on the draft SoCC, to clarify that the scoping area had been narrowed down to one cable route corridor (the westerly route) based on initial consultation feedback and further site review. The final SoCC that will be issued to the public would be updated with a new map delineating only the westerly cable route corridor. The Applicant was advised by the Inspectorate to include details related to the site selection and alternatives in the Environmental Statement.

The Applicant clarified that the newspaper version of the SoCC would have a different layout from the hand-out at the events, however the content would be identical (one being a folded up handout at the events for ease of reading/carrying and the other being published as a full page spread or set of sheets in local newspapers). The Inspectorate confirmed to the Applicant that this would not be an issue as long as the content was the same.

The Applicant explained that, for transparency they were providing a table of changes, which resulted from the consultation on the draft SoCC, to the parties who were consulted on the draft SoCC. This table will also be sent to the host authorities. The SoCC consultation will be launched 30th September 2016 and the scheduled Community Consultation events (from 31st October – 9th November) has taken into

account half-term leave and other consultation events in the area in order to enable as many stakeholders as possible to engage in the consultation exercise.

Scoping

The Applicant intends to submit its scoping request on Friday 28 October 2016. The Applicant was advised to submit its shapefile at least ten working days beforehand. It was also agreed that the Applicant would provide the Inspectorate with a table of their local authority contacts details before submitting the scoping request.

Surveys

The Applicant noted that, as per previous meetings between the Inspectorate and the Applicant, surveys to inform the EIA have already commenced. The Applicant confirmed that they had completed the geophysical survey of the array area but had not completed the analysis of the data collected and could therefore not comment on the results of the survey. The Applicant went on to confirm that additional baseline surveys to inform the EIA would commence at the beginning of 2017.

It was highlighted that the scoping request will be submitted before the geophysical data had been analysed and therefore the scoping report will contain mostly high-level information. The Applicant was advised to provide detailed data for any impacts they wanted to scope out of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) within the Scoping Report.

As a number of the baseline studies will not have been completed at the time of publishing the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), the Applicant advised that the PEIR will not include all data that is being collected to inform the final Environmental Statement (for example, a couple of months from the aerial marine mammal and ornithology survey will be missing). The PEIR will however clearly outline any missing survey data. Furthermore, updates will be provided to key stakeholders through the expert working groups as part of the Evidence Plan process and the Applicant will also look to informally consult with key stakeholders after the publication of the PEIR on any additional data that had been collected to inform the EIA.

Following on from previous meetings between the Inspectorate and the Applicant, the Applicant stated that they intend to utilise the evidence based approach (i.e. utilising the data/knowledge that has been acquired through zonal studies, and from the surveys and assessments undertaken for Project One and Project Two, in order to inform the Hornsea Three EIA). It is therefore the Applicant's intention to maximise, where possible, the use of this existing data. This existing evidence basis will be supplemented, where necessary, with additional data collected to infill any gaps in knowledge/uncertainty. The Inspectorate advised that this approach is acceptable however stressed that the Applicant needed to agree this approach with consultees (e.g. statutory nature conservation bodies and other key stakeholders) prior to submitting the final Environmental Statement. The Inspectorate stressed the importance of agreeing the approach to obtaining baseline data with stakeholders and obtaining any baseline data prior to applying for Development Consent, as updating baseline data during the examination period is difficult and could pose a considerable risk to a project.

The Inspectorate asked if the Applicant will be undertaking surveys of the entire scoping boundary. The Applicant advised that, where surveys were required, the Applicant was looking to agree the extent (both temporally and spatially) of such surveys with the expert working groups.

Consultation Strategy

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it has updated its project website [post-meeting ref: www.dongenergy.co.uk/hornseaproject3]. In addition to this, the Applicant has launched a 'Register your Interest' form on the website, where stakeholders can indicate their key topics of interest and how they wish to be kept informed. The Applicant will use the SoCC and various forms of social media to inform stakeholders of the updated website and 'Register your Interest' form. In addition to this, the Applicant has started to prepare the material for the outreach events (phase one Community Consultation Events) and advance briefing packs for the host authorities, in addition to offering pre-event briefings to local councillors. The Applicant was advised to log all issues that came out of the meetings with the host authorities and to include this in the Consultation Report.

It was agreed that the Inspectorate would provide the Applicant with links to the scoping opinion and supporting material after it is published, and that the Inspectorate would review the Applicant's website wording for the links prior to it being published.

Compulsory Acquisition

The Inspectorate requested that the Applicant started to review and populate a template for a compulsory acquisition schedule, which has been produced by PINS. It was agreed that this schedule would be sent to the Applicant after the meeting and subsequently forwarded on to their land agent. The Applicant would then consider whether this tool could function effectively in addition to others it was using and would inform PINS accordingly.

Next Meeting

The Applicant will suggest dates in early November for the next meeting. The Inspectorate clarified that the scoping opinion would not be discussed at this meeting as the Scoping Report was still being considered by the Inspectorate and being consulted upon.

AOB

The Applicant queried resource availability at The Planning Inspectorate to support this application and the process. The Applicant was reassured that, based on current information, the Inspectorate was able to continue to provide the same level of pre-application support in 2017-2018 as it has to date.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

- The Inspectorate to request clarification on the post meeting notes in the note dated 31 August 2016 from the Applicant.
- The Inspectorate to provide a copy of their terms of reference for engagement in Evidence Plans.

- The Inspectorate to provide a compulsory acquisition schedule for the Applicant to review and consider.
- The Applicant to provide project shapefiles and a list of local authority contacts ten working days prior to submitting the scoping request.
- The Applicant to provide dates for next meeting