



Meeting note

File reference	EN010080
Status	Final
Author	Karl-Jonas Johansson
Date	26 April 2017
Meeting with	DONG Energy
Venue	Telecon
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Chris White (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Kay Sully (Case Manager) Helen Lancaster (Senior EIA and Land Advisor) Karl-Jonas Johansson (Case Officer) DONG Energy Stuart Livesey (Project Development Manager) Sophie Banham (Consents Manager) Emily Woolfenden (Consultation Manager)
Meeting objectives	Hornsea Project Three – Project 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 s51 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.

Project update

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that there have been no major changes to the project programme and that it intends to conduct a wider statutory consultation in the beginning of the summer 2017 and its non-statutory consultation later that summer. The Project is striving to program in an increased statutory consultation period (i.e. longer than the statutory 28 days) based on requests from stakeholders and to make allowances for people being away during the holiday season.

Section 47 Consultation

The Applicant is still analysing the feedback that came out from the March 2017 consultation, and is aiming to produce a Consultation Summary Report related to these in May 2017. The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that one of the elements of the March consultation events related to consultation on various options for the proposed onshore HVAC booster station location, where three potential locations were shown. The Project indicated that a reasonable amount of feedback was received on this and that one of the proposed sites was highlighted by several members of the public as being sensitive due to its locally attributed environmental sensitivities. Also that the local community had also recently successfully challenged an application to use the area for a mineral extraction site as it is used by the community as a recreational area.

The local community has also raised concerns regarding the visual impact from the onshore HVAC booster station that might be required if the Applicant decides to export electricity from the windfarm as HVAC (high voltage alternating current, which is the method used throughout all UK offshore wind farms to date, as an alternative to emerging HVDC technology) to the national grid. The Applicant is seeking to apply for the ability to have an offshore and/or onshore located HVAC booster station.

The Applicant further informed that concerns had also been raised regarding any potential impacts the Project may have on the River Glaven which the onshore export cable runs close to and needs to cross, and that it is including this sensitivity within the EIA and elements of this will be covered in the PEIR. There has been some useful information provided by the conservation group for the River. The Project will continue to engage with the local community and other stakeholders to resolve/address their concerns regarding perceived impact on the River Glaven.

It was agreed that the Applicant would send the Inspectorate a copy of its Consultation Summary Report covering the March 2017 consultation period.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

The Applicant was advised to consult the Inspectorate's [Advice note seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping](#) regarding the publication of the PEIR. The Applicant confirmed it would send the Inspectorate the same information regarding the PEIR as it would its statutory consultees in accordance with PA2008.

Surveys

The Applicant provided the following update on survey work:

- Aerial and video surveys of birds and marine mammals was ongoing;
- Benthic surveys are due to commence soon;
- Onshore archaeological surveys completed;
- Onshore ecology ongoing;
- Survey scope agreed with the expert groups.

The Applicant noted that the location of the landfall site meant that the export cable will cross a Marine Conservation Zone. There is a need to explore the possibility of horizontal drilling which will require exploratory drilling/CPTs as part of a geotechnical campaign. A marine licence application has been applied for.

Evidence plan

The Applicant noted they had held various meetings with offshore ornithology and marine mammals expert working groups (EWG), and have met with all EWG stakeholders including the Wildlife Trust. They have also got a meeting planned with Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee in May in relation to the Special Area of Conservation that may be affected by the offshore cable route.

Transboundary issues

The Applicant stated they had a meeting planned with the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment (RWS) regarding transboundary issues. The transboundary screening matrix is currently being drafted by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Compulsory Acquisition (CA)

The Applicant confirmed that it would seek CA powers in the draft Development Consent Order and that it is not currently seeking to submit an s53 application regarding access to land. The onshore EWG is aware of the extent of access that has currently been achieved for onshore surveys and has indicated that this is in the range expected and that there are no major concerns in relation to this.

Any Other Business

The Applicant confirmed that no direct correspondence from local MPs has been received, although they had received correspondence which had been copied to MPs.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

- Applicant to send the Inspectorate its Consultation Summary Report that covers the March 2017 consultation.
- Applicant to send the Inspectorate the same consultation material regarding the Preliminary Environmental Report as to the statutory parties.
- Applicant to send the Inspectorate suggested dates for the next meeting.