



Meeting note

File reference	EN010080
Status	Final
Author	Karl-Jonas Johansson
Date	17 October 2017
Meeting with	DONG Energy (Hornsea Project Three)
Venue	Temple Quay House, Bristol
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate: Chris White (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Kay Sully (Case Manager) Helen Lancaster (Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Karl-Jonas Johansson (Case Officer) DONG Energy: Stuart Livesey (Project Development Manager, DONG Energy) Sophie Banham (Consents Manager, DONG Energy)
Meeting objectives	Hornsea Project Three project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

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.

Statutory Consultation

The Applicant gave a summary of the statutory consultation performed between 27 July and 20 September 2017. The main issue for the local community was the phasing of the project (being installed/built out in up to three phases), the HVAC versus HVDC consideration and associated need for the HVAC booster stations, also the required size/visibility of the HVAC booster station and main substation, and electromagnetic fields and perceived health risk.

The 3D visualisations used during the consultation events were discussed, where recent base mapping obtained via aerial surveys and site photography had been used

to provide high resolution footage of the onshore cable route and proposed substation sites. The Applicant clarified that it had been very clear to the attendees that the visualisations were only indicative and had been produced on a 'worst case scenario' basis in terms of colouration, maximum dimensions and without any visual mitigation. The substation layouts were also created to show potential differences between phased scenarios. This was provided in response to feedback received via previous events (March 2017) and correspondence. The Applicant queried what type of visualisation could be submitted during the examination. The Inspectorate explained that all submission must be available to view on the Inspectorate's website and not hosted on a third party platform. It was also clarified videos are usually not suitable for submission but that stills from videos have been submitted in the past.

Project update

The Applicant confirmed it has yet to finalise the onshore cable corridor (reducing the PEIR boundary to the final 80m wide onshore corridor), however would not submit the application with options, and will have finalised the potential alternative routes which were shown at the Community Consultation Events in September 2017. The Inspectorate requested to be kept informed about progress. The Applicant was advised to justify in the application the width needed for the cable corridor.

A decision to use High Voltage Direct Current (DC) or High Voltage Alternating Current (AC) technology will not be taken by the Applicant prior to Consent determination. This will only be determined as part of the detailed design work, post consent.. Both HVAC and HVDC technologies will be included in the application to be submitted. The Inspectorate advised that the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) needed to be clear what powers are needed if a decision has not been taken regarding AC or DC at submission.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that if it needed to do a targeted consultation before the submission, it needed to manage expectations to avoid it becoming a full-scale consultation.

Surveys/response to PEIR

The onshore ecology and geophysical surveys are due to finish soon. Offshore aerial and benthic surveys are complete while nearshore geophysical surveys have been completed. The Applicant is currently finalising the marine mammal noise studies. The envelope assessed by offshore wind farm developers has typically been much worse than the actual noise levels generated during piling. This has been demonstrated on a number of other DONG Energy offshore wind farms. The Applicant is considering how to incorporate this into the assessment to reduce the levels of precaution. The Inspectorate stressed the importance of ensuring that the effects of the works permitted under the DCO have been assessed. Any mitigation should also be secured in the DCO. The PEIR contained limited ornithological data so the Applicant is working to produce updated draft documents with more data in them to allow consultees to comment. The Applicant had received a lengthy PEIR response from Natural England (NE) so intend to have a follow-up conversation with them to ensure the project can focus on NE's key concerns. Constraints on resources at NE is making engagement with this body difficult, particularly in relation to the evidence plan work. The Applicant is utilising the NE Discretionary Advice Service however resources remain restricted.

The nearshore geotechnical survey is scheduled for late 2017 and will commence when a marine licence has been granted. The applicant is also negotiating with the fishing industry to access this area.

Compulsory Acquisition

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to produce robust evidence for the need to compulsory acquire land for the application. It was agreed that the applicant would provide the Inspectorate with general overview of what the compulsory acquisition would entail. The Applicant was requested to prepare a document showing how discussions with the landowners have progressed during the pre-submission period.

DONG energy name change

The Applicant explained the reasoning behind the name change from DONG energy to Ørsted and that this will come into effect on 6 November 2017. The Applicant agreed to contact the Inspectorate on this day to confirm the necessary contact detail amendments required for the Project website hosted by the Inspectorate.

Anticipated submission date

The Applicant confirmed it is on course to submit the application Q2 2018.

Any Other Business

The Applicant was advised to use the responses from the consultation on the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report as a basis for its Statements of Common Ground with the Statutory Parties.

The Inspectorate set out the timescales for the 'draft documents review process' that it provides as an indicative 8 week service and clarified that it was for the applicant to decide if it was needed.

The Applicant confirmed that there are a number of listed buildings along the corridor presented in the Section 42 consultation and the route refinement work will consider these further.

The Applicant was advised to start negotiating protective provisions with all the relevant statutory parties as soon as practically possible.

Specific decision/follow ups required

- The Applicant to provide the Inspectorate with the number of landowners affected by the project, the number of plots of lands to be acquire, a summary of rights to be acquired, a list of crown land/special category land/s127 affected by the project.
- The Applicant to provide the Inspectorate with any necessary amendments to the project webpage following the name change from DONG Energy to Ørsted
- The Inspectorate to send the Applicant the updated s55 checklist.
- The Applicant to provide the Inspectorate with a schedule of venues used for the statutory consultation which could potentially be used for hearings.