



Meeting note

File reference	EN010080
Status	Final
Author	Karl-Jonas Johansson
Date	16 January 2018
Meeting with	Ørsted
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate: Chris White - Infrastructure Planning Lead Kay Sully – Case Manager Karl-Jonas Johansson - Case Officer Helen Lancaster – Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor Applicant Stuart Livesey Sophie Banham Emily Woolfenden Richard Grist (Site & Land Rights Manager)
Meeting objectives	Hornsea Project Three project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Welcome and Introductions

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate outlined its openness policy and ensured that those present understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under section 51 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.

Project update

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it had identified two disused offshore cables whose owners it had been unable to identify. The Applicant was advised to explain in the Consultation Report what steps it had taken to identify the owner.

The Applicant advised that it is finalising a commercial agreement with Vattenfall regarding onshore cable crossings.

It was confirmed that the next stakeholder newsletter would contain all recent changes to the project as a result of refinements to the proposal based on stakeholder feedback and further analysis.

Outcome from the statutory consultation

The November 2017 formal consultation produced over 120 responses. Some of the comments received raised similar issues to those submitted previously. The responses identified some new areas impacted by the offshore cable. During the statutory consultation the Applicant also met with the relevant parish councils to make them aware of the proposed onshore amendments.

Evidence plan

Marine mammals: The Expert Working Group (EWG) has agreed the baseline data that will be used but the approach to noise assessment is still being discussed as the project is proposing a slightly different approach to take account of recent construction experience.

Offshore ornithology: The baseline data and the meta-analysis of available data have still not been agreed with the EWG. As the Masden model contains errors, collision risk modelling will be carried out using the Band model. The Applicant will present different versions of the analysis, based on the options and parameters they think are correct and on the options and parameters that NE thinks are correct. It has not been possible to derive flight height data from the high definition aerial video surveys so instead the data will be derived from generic flight height data from published sources or from historic data gathered from the Hornsea zone.

Benthic ecology/Marine Conservation Zones: The Applicant has provided appropriate consultees with a Cable Route Comparison note which discusses the effects on the nearshore environment of a potential alternative cable route which would affect less of the Cromer Shoals MCZ but more of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation. The Wildlife Trusts were supportive of the re-routing of the cable while NE had confirmed that they would submit their comments by 19 January. In response to a question from the Inspectorate the Applicant advised that they did not see a need at present to construct 'no alternative solutions/Imperative reasons of overriding public interest' case as the new cable route would not affect any of the features for which the SAC was designated. This decision may be reviewed, depending on the comments received on the Cable Route Comparison note.

Onshore: The EWG is broadly satisfied with the Applicant's approach to assessing onshore ecological effects.

The next Evidence Plan steering group meeting will take place on 31 January. Additional EWG meetings are planned in February for the other topic areas.

Surveys

The Applicant confirmed that it has collected 20 months of offshore ornithological data (greater than that initially planned) and that most of the onshore surveys had been completed, apart from wintering birds.

The marine licence for geotechnical surveys in the Marine Conservation Zone has still not been issued, despite initially submitting this in April 2017, as the extent of monitoring that will be required has still to be agreed by the MMO, NE and the Applicant. The timeline to undertake this survey is now becoming difficult in terms of feeding any results into potential mitigation (if required), and also has the potential to increase the interaction with commercial fisheries as fishing intensity increases after the winter period.

Some of the outstanding archaeological surveys have now been completed onshore where the Applicant was not originally able to gain access.

Compulsory acquisition

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the project will affect approximately 420 freehold parcels of land spread over 82 individual owners. In addition, the Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it had identified 190 occupiers but couldn't yet confirm who was an owner/occupier or only an occupier. The Applicant estimated that the Book of Reference would contain about 1660 land interests. The Applicant would much prefer to come to an agreement with all the landowners that interact with the planned project, and is seeking to voluntarily agree terms with all landowners. However, the Applicant will be seeking compulsory rights on all land irrespective of voluntary agreement should an agreement be unachievable. The Applicant also confirmed that it is liaising with the National Farmers Union regarding land rights.

Draft documents review

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it was not currently considering utilising the Inspectorate Draft Document Review Service as a result of the length of time required to undertake this. It was agreed that the Inspectorate could review some key documents within a shorter timeframe if requested by the Applicant.

Anticipated submission date

May 2018

Next meeting

20 February 2018

Any Other Business

The Applicant was advised to compile a statement of commonality with regard to key issues identified in the various draft Statements of Common Ground, using as an example the document produced for the Richborough application which can be found here: [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020017/EN020017-002310-National Grid 8.4\(F\) Statement of Commonality for SoCGs.pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020017/EN020017-002310-National Grid 8.4(F) Statement of Commonality for SoCGs.pdf)

It was confirmed that the Applicant should submit two hard copies of the application. The Inspectorate also requested that the Applicant send a USB with unlocked PDFs, so that it can easily extract sections.