

Meeting note

Project name	Hornsea Project Three
File reference	EN010080
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	17 April 2018
Meeting with	Hornsea Project Three
Venue	Telecon
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Chris White – Infrastructure Planning Lead Kay Sully – Case Manger Karl-Jonas Johansson – Case Officer Helen Lancaster – Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor Stephanie Newman – EIA and Land Rights Advisor The Applicant Stuart Livesey Sophie Banham Emily Woolfenden
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Submission date

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it intended to submit the application to the Inspectorate in mid May 2018 and depending on the actual day of submission, queried whether there would be an issue if the date on the application form differed from the date the application was submitted to the Inspectorate. The Inspectorate confirmed this wouldn't affect it as it is the date the application is received by the Inspectorate that triggers the start of the acceptance.

Hornsea Project Three project update

The Applicant advised that no additional significant issues had been raised during the most recent targeted consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 that related to six minor amendments to the onshore cable route.

The Applicant confirmed it had met with Oulton Parish Council on 6 March 2018 and that it had taken into account the parish council's response dated 29 March 2018, which the council forwarded to the Inspectorate. The Applicant clarified that not all issues raised in

the parish council's submission would be resolved before the submission, but that the response to the latest consultation would be included in the documents it is preparing for the application, including the Consultation Report. The Applicant also noted that there was an intention to hold a further meeting to continue this dialogue and discuss further refinement of the application documentation e.g. Environmental Statement and Outline Traffic Management Plan. The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the Consultation Report would contain an Annex (Annex 15), which will include responses to all consultation responses received during the statutory consultation periods under section 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, including the detailed response to the parish council's concerns. The Applicant was advised to continue to work closely with the parish council after the application was submitted.

Examination Venues

The Applicant confirmed that it had scoped venues in the area and that most of the suitable venues were located in Norwich. The Inspectorate explained that for the Open Floor Hearings, they may look to hold them along the cable corridor and in areas that have shown a high interest in the project. It was confirmed that the Applicant would send across the documentation related to the venues, including other information that would seek to assist the Inspectorate in planning the logistics for the examination.

Evidence Plan

The Applicant stated that the delayed onshore Expert Working Group meeting (EWG) had progressed well and the suggested mitigation was well received.

The Inspectorate highlighted the potential risks over the lack of agreement between the Applicant and Natural England (NE) on the baseline data for the benthic and offshore ornithological studies and the possibility that, with reduced staff resources, NE may not be able to engage during the Pre-Examination and Examination period as they have in the past. The Applicant noted they were aware of this and were equally concerned having engaged the NE discretionary advice service consistently during the pre-application period to facilitate further engagement.

Compulsory Acquisition

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it had sent out its Heads of Terms to all land agents in February 2018, and the Heads of Terms were to be sent out to all landowners by 23rd April 2018 [post-meeting note - this was confirmed, and this date will be referenced in the Statement of Reasons]. It had delayed issuing these so it could consider all feedback from the most recent section 42 consultation responses.

Draft Consultation diagram review

Following request from the Applicant for the Inspectorate to review and comment upon a proposed consultation diagram that was intended to be included in the Consultation Report, the Inspectorate advised that the document could be clearer in regards of what parts of the consultation were non-statutory/statutory. The Applicant clarified that the Consultation Report referred back to the various sections in the diagram and thought that in conjunction with the text, the diagram would become clearer. The Applicant suggested it would consider making the non-statutory part of the diagram clearer and to use shaded colours to highlight the various stages of the process.

Confidential documents

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to submit cover pages for any confidential annexes so they could be published on the Inspectorate's website as placeholders. It was clarified that any annex that had a confidential appendix could be submitted with a cover page.

Any Other Business

Whilst the Applicant scoped under the previous EIA regulations and is therefore only required to provide a minimum of 28 days to register to become an interested party, the Applicant was advised to consider providing at least 30 days to register.

As submission of application is approaching, it was agreed to hold no further project meetings between the Applicant and Inspectorate. It was also clarified that the Inspectorate would not hold any more project meetings with the Applicant after the application was submitted.

It was confirmed that the Inspectorate required two hard copies of the application and advised that further copies may be requested at a later stage, if needed.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that in response to a request, the Applicant had offered to produce a photomontage for a household living close to the onshore substation to aid their understanding of what it could potentially look like. It was clarified that this document would not form part of the Application. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that if the photomontage was cited as supporting material by the landowner, it is likely this would then be requested as an examination document.

The Applicant was requested to submit its draft electronic index to the Inspectorate at the same time as the Shapefile.

The Applicant informed the inspectorate that it had been invited to partake in media event by BBC Norfolk on Wednesday 25 April 2018, with regards to potential further queries that could arise towards the Inspectorate on the Project.

Specific decision/follow-up required

- Applicant to confirm in writing in their covering letter at submission that the application documents can be published at submission [post-meeting note; this will be included on the cover letter].
- The Inspectorate will send out its 'warm-up' letter to the Applicant this week [post-meeting note; this has been received] and that the local authority equivalent would be sent two weeks before submission.
- The Inspectorate will update the project webpage submission date to mid-May.
- For storage purposes, the Applicant will confirm prior to submission how large the application is. This will be confirmed by email shortly.