



Meeting note

File reference	EN010084
Status	Final
Author	Karl-Jonas Johansson
Date	1 November 2016
Meeting with	Vattenfall
Venue	By telephone
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate: Tom Carpen (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Richard Kent (EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Karl-Jonas Johansson (Case Officer) Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd: Helen Jameson (Project Manager)
Meeting objectives	Thanet Extension project 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 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.

Actions from last meeting

It was agreed that the Applicant would send the Inspectorate the shapefile and local authority contacts in advance of the formal scoping request. The Inspectorate further requested that the Applicant submitted a PDF of the shapefile boundaries so as to verify it is correctly interpreted by the Inspectorates GIS system. It was clarified that the Inspectorate could not advise the applicant on the regulation 9¹ consultee list in advance as its production is only triggered by the applicant's formal notification under regulation 6 of the EIA regulations (establishing whether environmental impact assessment is required).

¹ Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (the EIA Regulations)

It was confirmed that the Applicant had been sent the Inspectorate's Evidence Plan standard terms of reference document.

The Inspectorate will send the Applicant the contact plan template and advised the applicant to populate it with the major project milestones.

Project update

It was confirmed that the scoping request under EIA regulation 8 would now be submitted in January 2017.

It was confirmed that the Applicant has received a partial grid connection offer from National Grid (NG) and that they were working with NG to reach a full offer by the end of Q1 2017.

Progress with the Crown Estate

The Applicant gave an update on the status of discussions with The Crown Estate (TCE) regarding an Agreement for Lease (AfL) for the project. The situation remains as previously communicated, no AfL nor mechanism for AfL award is currently in place, however TCE are aware that the Applicant intends to proceed with scoping of the project early in 2017.

The Applicant and The Inspectorate discussed the extent to which the area of the proposed wind farm extension (outside the remit of past leasing process) has been considered as part of the Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment (OESEA) process.

Consultation updates

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it had started non-statutory consultation with key stakeholders such as Thanet Fishermen's Association, Port of London (PLA) and Estuary Services Limited (ESL), a subsidiary of PLA. PLA has informed the Applicant that they intend to object to the project. The Applicant clarified that the PLA had concerns over how the project would impact on shipping routes and that a meeting with both PLA and ESL was scheduled for later in November to work on these issues. The Inspectorate informed the Applicant that they can direct the PLA and ESL to the Inspectorate with any queries they might have about the PA2008 process. The Inspectorate further advised that they are able to chair tripartite meetings (post-statutory consultation) to aid in resolving outstanding issues between the Applicant and key stakeholders.

Stakeholder updates

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that they have yet to establish contact with the relevant officers at the Environment Agency (EA) and the Wildlife Trust in regards of the project. The Applicant explained that it has been in contact with Dover District Council who had stated that they needed to set up a formal agreement with the Applicant to be able to work on the project. Both the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Natural England (NE) are engaging with the project and the

evidence plan process. Marine Coastguard Agency (MCA) and Trinity House will be sent a layout of the turbines prior to scoping as they have requested.

Scoping/Transboundary issues

A discussion was had in respect of proposed development's potential for transboundary effects on other European Economic Area (EEA) member states. The Inspectorate advised that it will use the information provided by the applicant as part of the scoping request to assist in determining the potential for likely significant effects on the environment in other EEA States (on behalf of the Secretary of State).

Post meeting update: The role of the applicant in the EIA Regulation 24 process (Development with significant transboundary effects) is set out in Section 7 of the Inspectorate [Advice note twelve: Transboundary Impacts](#).

Surveys

The Applicant updated the Inspectorate about their ongoing and future survey work including fish and benthic surveys which are due to commence in November 2016 and shipping surveys December 2016/January 2017.

The Applicant is planning to hold a meeting with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and NE before the end of the year to discuss the Applicants approach to ornithological surveys. The Applicant intends to share, as far as possible at this stage, their approach to use of existing survey data with RSPB and NE before the meeting. This data will also be shared with the Inspectorate. The Applicant also agreed to explore, at the Inspectorate's request, whether the Inspectorate could dial in to the meeting with RSPB as observers without necessarily partaking in the meeting, to enable it to understand potential issues. The Inspectorate advised the applicant to try to finalise the approach to bird surveying through this meeting if possible although further discussion and agreement may be sought as part of the evidence plan process.

Compulsory acquisition

The Inspectorate clarified to the Applicant the background to its compulsory acquisition schedule template, and the benefits it could have during examination. The Applicant agreed to send the schedule to their land agents. The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the land agent would need 4-6 weeks to establish the land interests relevant to the project and that this would occur after further internal governance decisions.

AOB

The Inspectorate informed the Applicant that it can look into specific technical issues for the Applicant as part of impartial 'section 51' advice, if requested. It was agreed that the Inspectorate would look into how the ornithological surveys were considered as part of the Burbo Bank and Walney Extension offshore wind farms development consent order examinations, and fisheries issues on previous examinations.

Specific decisions/follow ups required

- The Inspectorate to send specific instructions to the Applicant about the formats used for the shape file.
- Applicant to send the Inspectorate a PDF of the shapefile boundary and their local authority contacts with the shapefile.
- The Inspectorate to send the Applicant the contact plan template
- The Inspectorate to send the Applicant the relevant EA contacts we has on file
- Applicant to explore if the Inspectorate can listen in to the meeting with the RSPB and NE
- The Inspectorate will look into how ornithological surveys were considered during the Burbo Bank and Walney Extension offshore wind farm examinations.