



Meeting note

Project name	Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm
File reference	EN010098
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	10 September 2018
Meeting with	Ørsted
Venue	Temple Quay House, Bristol
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting for the Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm project
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

Introduction

Ørsted (the Applicant) and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate outlined 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 (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 advised that their Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) was published on Friday 7 September. They are also preparing a briefing pack for parish councils and planning committee members. The Applicant advised that a consultation leaflet will be sent to approximately 4000 residential addresses along the consultation area in early October. Non-statutory consultation events will start week commencing 22 October 2018 – three were suggested by East Riding of Yorkshire Council, and the Applicant has added a fourth to try and incorporate a good spacing along the route and at key areas of interest (landfall and substation search area).

The Applicant advised that they have a website <https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/hornsea-project-four/> which will host their SoCC, consultation material and a high level project timeline. The Applicant agreed to send a link and copy of the web-friendly SoCC to the Inspectorate to include on the project website.

The Applicant advised that Historic England had requested to become a member of the Evidence Plan steering group. The Inspectorate suggested the Applicant consider this. The Applicant advised that engagement with some statutory parties was proving difficult. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to ensure a clear engagement record was kept and set out in the Consultation Report, and noted that early drafting of Statements of Common Ground were useful in focussing discussions on key issues.

The Applicant advised that they currently foresee a program where they intend to submit their application in Q2 2020.

Approach to EIA

The Applicant advised that they are intending to submit their scoping report to the Inspectorate in October 2018. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that it is preferable for any consultation, such as Evidence Plan meetings, not to take place during the scoping period. From experience the Inspectorate has found that this can sometimes cause confusion with consultees not considering it necessary to respond to the scoping consultation as they have given their views to the Applicant. If Evidence Plan meetings do take place it is helpful if the Applicant makes clear that any consultation they are undertaking is separate to the scoping process.

The Applicant advised that they are proposing to submit a proportionate scoping report. It will include a commitment register which will be publically available and anyone can suggest additions to the register. The Inspectorate advised that the register that will be considered during the scoping period will be the one submitted with the scoping report and cannot take into account an updated register. The Applicant advised that they would cross reference the commitment register to the Consultation Report where necessary to show how suggestions had been incorporated into the design of the project.

Route planning and site selection

The Applicant advised that they have designed their consultation export cable route corridor around the indicators established in their methodology. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that their consultation should establish whether the methodology is acceptable. However the Applicant should be open to any flexibility consultees may consider necessary.

The Applicant advised that they do not anticipate any section 52 or section 53 applications for access to land for surveys.

AOB

It was agreed that the Inspectorate and Applicant would seek to establish reoccurring monthly meetings and a more general agenda would be used to structure conversation. Both parties would liaise on this, and the meetings could occur via teleconference.