



Meeting note

File reference	EN010098 Hornsea Project Four
Status	Final
Author	Planning Inspectorate
Date	21 October 2020
Meeting with	Ørsted (Applicant), key stakeholders
Venue	Teleconference (hosted by Ørsted)
Attendees	PINS, Ørsted, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation, Historic England.
Meeting objectives	Evidence Plan Steering Group Six
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The DCO application date was discussed with respect to the delay resulting from a change to the Order Limits in June 2020 to accommodate commercial shipping interests, resulting in a gap between Hornsea Four and Hornsea Project Two, with expected submission now being Q1 2021. Ørsted confirmed that the Technical Reports and other documents previously issued to stakeholders had now been updated following the change to the proposed Order Limits.

A review of actions from the previous meeting confirmed that cut-off dates for Evidence Plan input for stakeholders had been agreed and that the extension to the project programme had allowed further time for discussions. The Applicant provided an update on the progress of key DCO application documents, including the draft Environmental Statement and accompanying Technical Reports, as well as an updated Commitments Register. An overview was provided of progress to date in sharing drafts of these documents with key stakeholders.

A discussion was held around the assessment of cumulative effects from other offshore infrastructure projects at a very early stage in development and for which little environmental information exists in the public domain eg proposals which are at a stage of inception prior to a formal EIA scoping process. Ørsted described that their approach to the assessment of cumulative effects would be not to include projects for which no information is available, but would keep the situation under review up until a set cut-off date for the assessment, stated as mid-November. The risk that new information could be brought to the Examination was acknowledged. PINS advised that the Applicant's approach was a reasonable one and that it would be essential to clearly set out the approach in the ES submitted with the application.

The Applicant gave an update on the progress of Project Seabird which focusses on the derogation workstream and compensation measures for key species where there is potential for Adverse Effect of Integrity in relation to the Flamborough & Filey Coast Special Protection Area (SPA). The ongoing work to produce Statements of Common Ground between Ørsted and relevant stakeholders was also discussed.

The Applicant provided an update on planned surveys at the Hornsea Four landfall and a discussion was held with Historic England on the implications of these for post-application historic documents (eg Written Schemes of Investigation). Ørsted agreed to seek confirmation on whether a survey method statement would be available for Historic England's comment. An update on discussions between the Applicant and East Riding of Yorkshire Council regarding other proposed road improvements and the Design Vision Statement was also provided. In response to a query from the Marine Management Organisation, the Applicant confirmed that the draft DCO was being finalised and would be made available.

Stakeholders noted that changes to a number of project elements had been made since PEIR and requested further information on the reasoning. The Applicant agreed to consider how this information could be presented in the ES.

PINS sought views from attendees on their ability to engage with the outstanding planned work in relation to approaching submission date. Historic England confirmed they have carefully considered how to assign resource, and suggest that the provision of an engagement plan by Ørsted would be helpful. Other attendees confirmed that they had resource in place and would benefit from agreement on key dates for engagement and delivery. Natural England highlighted that the exception to this was the ornithological work which was still ongoing and would likely be a tighter turnaround in advance of the planned application date.

Follow up/ next steps

A further meeting is proposed in late November/ early December 2020.