

Meeting note

Project name	Equinor UK
File reference	N/A
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	15 November 2018
Meeting with	The Planning Inspectorate Equinor UK
Venue	Temple Quay House, Bristol
Meeting objectives	Inception 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 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. The Inspectorate explained that the publication of the meeting note could be delayed up to six months, or until a formal scoping request had been submitted.

Project background

The Applicant gave a presentation as an introduction to the projects. It was confirmed that the Applicant had not previously submitted an application through the National Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) process.

Project description

The Applicant presented two offshore projects which would extend the existing Sheringham Shoal and the Dudgeon offshore windfarms. The Applicant is considering submitting separate Development Consent Order (DCO) applications for the developments as the project partners differ. The precise detail of the application options has not yet been determined, but the Applicant intends that the projects will have a joint offshore substation and export cable to a single onshore connection. The Applicant intends to prepare a single environmental assessment for the export cable, which would be applicable to one or more projects dependent upon the approach taken. The Applicant clarified that the delivery of the proposed extension were running concurrently in their preparation. The Inspectorate highlighted that the Applicant should consider the implications associated with multiple applications (two or more) for DCOs seeking powers over the same land and advised the Applicant to seek legal advice in regards of this. The Inspectorate further advised that it was possible to submit one DCO application that contains multiple NSIPs and recommended the Applicant review the Triton Knoll, Hornsea Project 1, East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two projects to see how they handled similar issues. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to also seek legal advice

regarding holding multiple examinations at the same time. The Inspectorate clarified that although it cannot give legal advice, it could bring legal representatives along to a project meeting, if requested.

Project Plan

- Lease from The Crown Estate - May 2019
- Ecological surveys carried out - until 2020
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report - Q4 2020/Q1 2021
- Submission of DCO - 2021

Grid Connection

It was confirmed that the Applicant had submitted a grid connection to National Grid and expect an offer early January. However the CION process won't be completed until February/March. The Applicant confirmed that they had submitted a preferred grid connection option. It was clarified that the preferred option would cross a Marine Conservation Zone/SPA.

Surveys

The Applicant confirmed that it had started to conduct both bird and marine mammal surveys.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Applicant confirmed that it has started engaging with the relevant Statutory Parties.

Environmental Issues

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it intended to submit a scoping request(s) once the approach to project had been finalised. It was confirmed that the Applicant intended to develop evidence plans in order to agree survey methods. The Applicant was advised to review [Advice Note Seventeen: Cumulative effects assessment](#) before commencing its cumulative assessment for the project.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required

The following actions were agreed:

- The Applicant to contact the Inspectorate in regards of the next meeting