

## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects
<b>File reference</b>	EN010109
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	29 April 2020
<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>The Planning Inspectorate</b> <b>Equinor UK</b>
<b>Venue</b>	Teleconference
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project update meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	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.

### Project Update

The Applicant has identified four potential zones for its onshore substation. It was highlighted that Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm's cable corridor traverses one of the zones shortlisted for the substation.

The Applicant has completed the offshore mammal and ornithological surveys, the geophysical cable route survey and wintering bird surveys. The geophysical survey for the array is ongoing. Phase 1 habitats surveys are scheduled to take place later in 2020.

The Applicant has set up expert working groups and are seeking to agree methodologies with the key stakeholders. It was confirmed that the Applicant is utilising Natural England's pre-application service.

The Applicant advised that they are aiming to issue their Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) in Q1 2021. It was clarified that the Applicant, rather than the Inspectorate, will consult on the PEIR. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to ensure there is sufficient information in the PEIR to enable meaningful consultation.

The Applicant sought advice regarding changes to the scoped cable corridor. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider the materiality of the changes to the project and the value of a revised scoping opinion for the project. It was highlighted that the scoping opinion is to be regarded as a snapshot in time and that the EIA regulations do not allow for formal rescoping of the project in part. The Applicant stated it didn't intend to seek a second scoping opinion but was intending to prepare a document report setting out the intended changes. The Inspectorate advised that these changes should be clearly set out in the PEIR and application documents so as to demonstrate how the

ES has been based on the most recent scoping opinion adopted as per the EIA regulations.

## **Consultation**

The Applicant has postponed its non-statutory consultation events due to Covid-19. The Applicant intends to publish the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) mid-June 2020. The statutory consultation period is planned to run for six weeks. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Applicant is working on various potential consultation methods to enable the consultees to engage constructively with the consultation process such as: a dedicated website for comments; webinars; providing hardcopy documents for consultees in the inner consultation zone (if requested); and the ability to submit feedback by post, email and phone. It was clarified that the Applicant intended to have a dedicated local liaison contact for telephone queries. The Applicant was advised to seek flexibility in the SoCC in consultation with the host authority(ies) so the consultation could accommodate any changes to the consultation methods as a result of changes to the current lockdown situation. It was further advised that the host authority(ies) might need additional consultation time for the SoCC due to Covid-19.

The statutory requirement to use deposit locations was discussed. The Applicant was advised to justify in the application documents how it approached the statutory requirement of providing hard copy documents for viewing if no physical venues were available. The Applicant was further advised to seek agreement from the host authority(ies) regarding any deviations from the statutory consultation requirements.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it was having some difficulties in gaining access to sites to carry out survey work. The likelihood of potential s53 applications were discussed.

## **Anticipated submission date**

The Applicant confirmed it intends to publish preliminary environmental information in early 2021, before a DCO application submission in Q3 2021.