



Meeting note

Project Name	Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects
File reference	EN010109
Status	FINAL
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	16 November 2020
Meeting with	SADEP
Venue	Virtual
Meeting objectives	Project Update
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (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.

Present project update and schedule

The Applicant has identified the minimum (14MW) and maximum (26MW) turbine scenario to identify (and be resilient to) the worst-case scenario. The Applicant is proposing an offshore connection between Dudgeon South and Dudgeon North, Weybourne will be the definitive land connection point.

The Applicant intends to use Section 42 consultation to decide routing options for the cable corridor. The Applicant confirmed it is also engaging with the contractor to advise upon which route is best. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to contact Highways England to ensure routing takes account of any development on the A47. The Applicant confirmed this has been considered and they are now able to take a more simplified approach to routing.

The Applicant completed a RAG assessment on nine zones for the location of the onshore substation. Following on from this assessment the Applicant identified two preferred locations for the substation. Feedback from councils and technical constraints also contributed to this conclusion. The Applicant intends to use the Phase 2 consultation to inform a decision on the final substation site. It confirmed that access is one of the key considerations, and that access through the National Grid private road is preferred.

The Inspectorate sought clarification on discussions with landowners. The Applicant confirmed its intention to enter into voluntary agreement with landowners where possible. The Applicant has secured agreement to access of 70% of the cable corridor required for surveys. The winter birds survey will be completed this year, but the Applicant intends to complete most of the surveys in Spring 2021, contingency has been created due to Covid-19.

Share experiences from digital phase 1 community consultation process

The Applicant confirmed that it developed a virtual exhibition room for Phase 1 of community consultation. It emphasised their aim to create a balance between digital consultation and traditional forms of engagement.

Section 42 consultation

The Applicant intends to use Section 42 consultation and the publication of the PEIR to refine the project boundary.

The Applicant sought advice on the possibility of a wholly virtual consultation. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to remain flexible for consultation and plan for both a virtual and physical consultation. The Inspectorate also advised for the Applicant to build a relation with an AV company to assist with consultation and examination events in the future. The Applicant confirmed that the company Counter Context assisted with stakeholder consultation.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider the ability of parties to engage digitally in the area. The Applicant must ensure no parties are precluded from any form of consultation.

The Applicant confirmed that Phase 1 consultation was quickly adapted from in person to virtual. The Inspectorate advised that this must be clearly set out in the Consultation Report.

The Inspectorate advise the Applicant to consider its provisional DCO submission date of December 2021 to ensure that the acceptance period is not impacted by the Christmas break.

Discuss approaches to derogation cases

The Applicant set out its intended approach for derogation, based off the approaches of Norfolk Vanguard and Hornsea 3. The general principle of this approach is early engagement with consultees and a transparent decision-making process, the Applicant confirmed EPP is a suitable approach for this. The Applicant also intends to identify the long link of compensatory options based on suitability, which will be completed before consultation on the PEIR.

The Applicant asked for clarification on how much information is needed for the ExA on the sufficiency of consultation. The Inspectorate confirmed that the Applicant's intended approach will be adequate and that more work done in pre-application stage mitigates potential risks in examination.

AOB

The Applicant intends to work on producing draft documents to be submitted to the Inspectorate at least six weeks prior to the submission of the application.

The Inspectorate advise for the next update meeting to be scheduled prior to Phase 2 consultation.

