

Meeting Note

File reference	EN010003 – Galloper Offshore Wind Farm
Status	Final
Author	Amy Cooper

Meeting with	Galloper Wind Farm Ltd (GWFL)
Meeting date	16 January 2012
Attendees (IPC)	Tim Hallam, Sheila Twidle, Jessica Potter, Owain George, Hannah Pratt, Amy Cooper
Attendees (non IPC)	Kate Harvey (GWFL) Robert Gully (GWFL) Colin McAllister (GWFL) Adam Pharaoh (Royal Haskoning) Julian Boswall (Burgess Salmon)
Location	IPC Offices, Temple Quay House, Bristol

Meeting purpose	Discussion on procedures under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) following acceptance of an application for examination.
------------------------	--

Summary of key points discussed and advice given	<p>Introductions</p> <p>The applicant (GWFL) was advised on the IPC openness policy and the IPC being unable to advise on the merits of the scheme. Reference was made to the publication of advice given by the IPC in accordance with s.51 of the PA 2008.</p> <p>Post-acceptance procedure</p> <p>GWFL intend to complete their acceptance publications and notices by 23 January 2012. The timeframe set for relevant representation will be 23 January – 24 February 2012.</p> <p>GWFL explained that site notices went up and the first statutory newspaper notice was published on 13 January 2012. Statutory notices were being sent out today, 16 January, and the second statutory newspaper notice was being published on 20 January.</p> <p>In preparation for the Preliminary meeting, the IPC expects applicants to assist by identifying appropriate venues and liaising with venue management to ensure the IPC's requirements are met. The applicant stated that it is investigating potential venues in the vicinity of the project and noted that some venues in the immediate locality (e.g. Leiston) are limited in size.</p> <p>The IPC noted that the examination stage begins the day after the Preliminary meeting. The Examining Authority can only be appointed after the IPC has received the applicant's certificate</p>
---	---

under s.58 and notice under s.59 of the PA2008. From previous experience, examining authorities have tended to request that Local Impact Reports are submitted within around 6 weeks of the examination timetable (as set out in the letter under Rule 8 of the Examination Procedures Rules) being issued. The timetable will also state when any Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) are to be submitted. These deadlines are strict and must be adhered to therefore the IPC encourages early engagement with statutory consultees.

GWFL indicated that it is likely to be seeking to submit SoCGs with the relevant local authorities (LAs), JNCC / Natural England (NE), Marine Management Organisation (MMO), EDF and the Environment Agency. GWFL noted that they had a meeting with Suffolk County Council (SCC) and Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) on Friday 20 January 2012. GWFL agreed to make the IPC aware of the timescales that JNCC/NE agree to on SoCG.

Following a decision by the IPC Chair as to whether the application should be examined by a single Commissioner or a panel of Commissioners, the IPC will request the pre-examination fee which must be received within 28 days.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) process

The IPC expects applicants to continue their discussions with relevant statutory bodies on HRA matters, and for those bodies to submit their initial representations concerning such matters during the relevant representation period so that any outstanding issues are identified prior to the start of the examination. The IPC noted that the HRA process will be ongoing throughout the examination period. GWFL said that they were continuing to discuss these matters with JNCC/NE, including a telephone conference with them on the afternoon of 16 January 2012.

Transboundary effects

The IPC has formed the view that the proposed development is likely to have significant effects on the environment in other European Economic Area (EEA) States. In response to a request for clarification, the IPC confirmed that in reaching this view the IPC has taken into account the information supplied by GWFL in the application documents and has applied the precautionary approach (as explained in Advice Note 12).

Regulation 24 of the EIA Regulations places a duty on the IPC to notify these States of the development and, where the States in question wish to participate in the process, consult with them on the application. The IPC noted that its duty under Regulation 24 is an ongoing one. In response to a suggestion from GWFL, the IPC advised that it is for the applicant to decide whether it wishes to contact member states directly following issue of the IPC letter in relation to GWF.

The applicant sought clarification on timescales. The IPC has published a notice in the London Gazette this week (week commencing 16 January) and sent letters to the relevant States. Copies of the letters will be available shortly on the IPC website on the Galloper project page, under 'project documents'. IPC stated that they would give GWFL as much notice as possible if the non-technical summary of the ES, or any other documents, needed to be translated into another language.

The IPC has asked that the States indicate within 6 weeks from the date of the letters whether they wish to participate in the process. If they do wish to participate, they will be given time to consult with the public and relevant authorities within their country. The time period given for this consultation would be a matter for discussion and agreement between the States concerned and the IPC.

The IPC advised that the States notified would need to review the application, establish what they consider are the likely significant effects (if any) and, should they wish to, comment on the application. This process is likely to run into the examination period.

EEA states are not Interested Parties unless they register as such during the relevant representations period. Should they wish, they may though comment on issues raised by the application or relevant/written representations. How such States might participate in the examination process would be at the discretion of the Examining Authority.

GWFL's approach in responding to the IPC's s.55 checklist comments

The applicant intends to produce additional plans electronically which seek to respond to comments in the IPC's s.55 acceptance checklist, for example comments regarding the scale of plans. The IPC noted that these additional plans will not be accepted as part of the application at this stage since they did not form part of the application that was submitted to and accepted by the IPC. The IPC advised that if additional information is made available on the applicant's website it should be accompanied by text that clearly explains that it does not form part of the application. GWFL to advise IPC secretariat when clarification documents, in response to s55 checklist, are put on the GWFL website.

Engaging with the local community

The applicant intends to hold 'information drop-in sessions' on 3 and 4 February in Sizewell. These will enable local people and interested parties to ask any questions about the project. GWFL will also be holding separate sessions with local MPs and Councillors.

	<p>GWFL will be making hard copies of the application documents available in several libraries and other public places in the vicinity of the project. The IPC will send posters, leaflets and contact details to each of the venues to ensure that local people understand how they can register to become an interested party.</p> <p>Other matters GWFL said that they were in discussions with SCDC regarding a s.174 (s.106) obligation, although the County Council have also been involved in discussions regarding the Heads of Terms for this.</p> <p>The IPC referred to the legislative changes under the Localism Act which are expected to come into force in early April 2012, in particular that the IPC is being abolished and its functions transferred to the relevant Secretary of State. IPC staff and Commissioners will transfer to The Planning Inspectorate from April 2012.</p> <p>The changes are expected to have a minimal effect on existing applications. The main changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A 3 month addition to the end of the overall timetable for the relevant Secretary of State to make the decision - Commissioners will be renamed Inspectors - Possible changes to the scope of advice that the IPC can give under s.51 of the PA2008. <p>Members of the public and other bodies that have registered as interested parties in the project will continue to be involved in the examination.</p>
--	---

Specific decisions/ follow up required?	GWFL to inform IPC of the timescales they are working towards with statutory consultees to produce SoCGs.
--	---

Circulation List	All attendees