



Meeting Note

File reference	Walney Extension offshore wind farm (EN010027)
Status	Final
Author	Mike Harris

Meeting with	DONG Energy
Meeting date	26 June 2012
Attendees (Planning Inspectorate)	Kathryn Powell (Senior Case Manager) Mike Harris (Case Manager) David Price (EIA Manager) Noreen Sutton (Lawyer)
Attendees (non Planning Inspectorate)	Trine Hoffmann Sørensen Cliff Pullen Emily Marshall
Location	The Planning Inspectorate offices, Bristol

Meeting purpose	DONG Energy to provide a project progress update
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Summary of key points discussed and advice given	<p>The Planning Inspectorate advised on its openness policy and confirmed that a meeting note would be published following agreement between attendees. It was confirmed that any advice given would be published in accordance with s.51 of the Planning Act 2008 and that applicants are required to take their own legal advice.</p> <p><i>Project Update</i> DONG Energy provided a presentation (See attachment) and the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work to develop options for offshore cable routes (2), landfall points (3) and onshore substation locations (2) is progressing;• Consultation under s.42 (6 weeks), s.47 (10 weeks and including community based events as per published Statement of Community Consultation) and s.48 publicity will commence towards the end of August 2012. Details will be provided to the Planning Inspectorate as required by s.46;• Work progresses with statutory parties to agree the scope of survey work and to gain feedback on information for the Environmental Statement (ES). This includes working groups of key stakeholders including local authorities and specialist local interest groups;• The application is due to be submitted towards the end of March 2013.
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Environmental Statement, Transboundary Consultation and HRA Report

During discussions relating to the ES, DONG Energy confirmed that the Preliminary Environmental Information to be provided as part of forthcoming consultation follows the proposed structure of the ES which currently is presented as two sections – offshore and onshore.

The Planning Inspectorate confirmed that it would assist all parties on submission if the linkages between mitigation proposed in the ES and associated requirements in the draft Development Consent Order are presented clearly in a table.

DONG Energy confirmed that they have prepared a matrix of potential transboundary impacts. The Planning Inspectorate confirmed that there is no statutory deadline during the pre-application stage for The Planning Inspectorate to conduct the consultation required under regulation 24 of the Environmental Impact Assessment regulations but that carrying this out early could provide useful information. It was confirmed that if submitted the EIA team would conduct an initial scoping. DONG Energy confirmed they will provide this around the same time as conducting consultation planned for late September 2012.

DONG Energy confirmed that a draft HRA Report has been prepared for discussion with stakeholders. The Planning Inspectorate confirmed that it is willing to look at draft reports and provide comments on process issues where appropriate.

Draft Development Consent Order (DCO), Marine Licence and Consultation Report

DONG Energy confirmed the intention to prepare a draft DCO 12 weeks ahead of submission. The Planning Inspectorate confirmed they are happy to provide comments where appropriate and suggested that as a minimum it would be helpful to see a draft 6 weeks prior to submission of an application. It was agreed that DONG Energy will consider the most appropriate time to seek comments and ensure that sufficient time is provided to review in advance of any meeting to discuss matters further.

DONG Energy confirmed that a draft Marine Licence is currently at an early stage of development but is following a framework provided by the Marine Management Organisation. The Planning Inspectorate confirmed that it is standard practice where seeking a deemed Marine Licence as part of the DCO, for this to be included as a schedule to the order, rather than as a standalone document.

DONG Energy confirmed that work has begun on drafting the Consultation Report, using consultation responses from earlier phases. It was confirmed that the intention is to

	<p>follow the style and presentation of the report to be submitted in respect of the Burbo Bank Extension project (currently anticipated to be submitted in early January 2013).</p> <p><i>Operations and Maintenance Facility Concept</i> DONG Energy confirmed that they are at a very early stage in considering the concept for an Operations and Maintenance Facility. It was suggested that this may serve multiple projects and that a separate application for planning permission will be submitted in due course.</p> <p>DONG Energy recognised the need for consideration of the operations and maintenance facility concept within the Environmental Statement for the Walney Extension NSIP but queried how this should be approached.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate confirmed the need to consider the cumulative impacts but that the degree to which meaningful assessment can be carried out is relative to the extent of progress in developing proposals.</p> <p><i>Any Other Business</i> DONG Energy sought clarification on how to refer to The Planning Inspectorate following the abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). It was confirmed that reference should be made to The Planning Inspectorate, rather than the National Infrastructure Directorate.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate made reference to its Advice Note 11 (working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process) and the four annexes.</p>
<p>Specific decisions/ follow up required?</p>	<p>The Planning Inspectorate committed to the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide an email outlining where advice previously contained within IPC Guidance Note 1 can be found in updated Advice Notes; 2. Forward a copy of a recently delivered presentation which contains clarification of amendments to the regime following the abolition of the IPC. 3. Further update meeting in three months time.
<p>Circulation List</p>	<p>All attendees</p>