



Meeting note

File reference	EN010051 – Dogger Bank Teesside Offshore Wind Farm
Status	Final
Author	Ruth Jones
Date	3 September 2013
Meeting with	Forewind Ltd.
Venue	Meeting Room M1, Temple Quay House
Meeting objectives	A meeting to provide an update to the Planning Inspectorate on pre-application activities for Dogger Bank Teesside A&B and Dogger Bank Teesside C&D
Circulation	PLANNING INSPECTORATE Jessica Powis (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Laura Allen (Environmental Services) John Gordon (Consents Service Unit) David Watts (Consents Service Unit) Ruth Jones (Assistant Case Officer) FOREWIND Chris Nunn (Teesside Project Manager/Onshore EIA Manager) Andrew Guyton (Teesside Consents Manager) Julie Drew (Teesside Offshore EIA Manager) Martin Goff (Teesside Offshore Project Developer)

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The Planning Inspectorate explained its openness policy and the commitment to publishing any advice under Section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act).

Forewind gave a presentation to the Planning Inspectorate, which gave a general background of the Dogger Bank Zone, and in particular, the Dogger Bank Teesside proposal, which was then split into the two separate proposals, Dogger Bank Teesside A&B and Dogger Bank Teesside C&D, in December 2012.

The presentation went on to give an update on the progress of the application for Dogger Bank Teesside A&B and the current stage at which Forewind are at, which is carrying out surveys and reporting in preparation for the Environmental Statement (ES), and carrying out statutory consultation specific to Dogger Bank Teesside A&B.

Statutory Consultation

The first phase of consultation for this project was in regards to all four wind farms under the name of Dogger Bank Teesside. Phase two of the consultation will look to consult specifically in regards to the separate applications for Development Consent Orders (DCOs).

Forewind informed the Inspectorate of provisional plans to begin phase two of statutory consultations at the beginning of November 2013, with the intention to be completed before the Christmas break. S48 (Duty to Publicise) is also intended to be carried out at this time.

Forewind explained that a Statement of Community Consultation was produced for the initial Dogger Bank Teesside proposal (prior to the division of applications) and that now a new SoCC will be produced specific to the Teesside A&B proposal, in order to ensure complete compliance with legislation and guidance.

Forewind stated that they would appreciate a review from the Inspectorate in regards to their draft ES, supporting documents, and draft DCO. They would also welcome advice from the Inspectorate in regards to the generation of the list of statutory consultees.

The Inspectorate enquired whether Forewind have carried out any further consultation with the Netherlands and Germany following the initial responses, as the current stage is the best time for any particular issues to be highlighted. Forewind have requested further meetings but as yet there has been no further response.

Dogger Bank Creyke Beck

The application for Dogger Bank Creyke Beck was submitted for acceptance by the Planning Inspectorate on 28 August 2013. Forewind discussed the relationship between that application and the Dogger Bank Teesside A&B application. They highlighted that the two projects are separate applications and it will be ensured that the project is clearly defined in the DCO; there will be no cross-over between all the projects. However, any issues that were experienced with Dogger Bank Creyke Beck application, will be taken into consideration during the drawing up of the Dogger Bank Teesside A&B application. Forewind highlighted that progress with the Dogger Bank Teesside A&B application will continue regardless of any delays that may occur regarding Dogger Bank Creyke Beck, as they are considered as separate projects.

Overview of progress of draft Environmental Statement

Forewind stated that the draft ES will look to follow the same format as the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck ES.

The EIA has been underway since early 2013 and the chapters are currently being finalized. The offshore surveys were completed by mid 2013.

Forewind explained how each wind farm site will be assessed individually, and as a whole within the applications, and also the cumulative effect with all Dogger Bank Zone projects, and on a larger scale, with other projects within the North Sea.

Overview of Onshore Works

Forewind highlighted that the onshore cable route is only approximately 9km in distance, which in comparison to other projects and Dogger Bank Creyke Beck, is relatively short.

The predominantly 36m (temporary easement) wide cable route is primarily on agricultural land, also travelling underneath a railway and a major highway. The route has been developed as relatively 'wiggly'. This has been chosen following consultation with environmental consultees and local farmers to avoid interference with watercourses. Forewind presented an illustration of the proposed route which also showed the locations of temporary compounds. There was also a consideration given

to where the cable route for the Dogger Bank Teesside C&D could be located. This was to minimise consultation and Forewind made it clear that this aspect of the works plans would not be shown in the application for Dogger Bank Teesside A&B.

The Inspectorate highlighted the conflict in land interest for the cable route with the York Potash Pipeline, which is also in the pre-application stage (<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/york-potash-pipeline/>). Forewind explained that after some consultation, there is still uncertainty from the York Potash Scheme in regards to the exact location of their project, and this is an issue for future consultation and amendments.

Forewind illustrated how they are looking to mitigate the effects of their onshore works on the local community by using vegetation and increasing a bund to screen the industrial site.

The Inspectorate advised Forewind that in regard to crossing statutory undertaker's land, under s127 of the Act, the information is provided and that it is clear to the statutory undertakers.

Consents Service Unit and other Consents and Licenses

The Consents Service Unit (CSU) gave a brief background of the nature of their relatively new unit. They explained that they are an optional free service available to developers, and they are looking to "coordinate a logical and systematic approach to the handling of a range of non-planning consents which are required in addition to the Development Consent Order". They draw up a Consents Management Plan which ensures that the timing of the non-planning consents and the need to liaise with the relevant bodies is clearly understood.

The CSU informed Forewind that following the meeting, they could draw up what a Consents Management Plan could look like, and Forewind could then assess whether they would be interested in using the unit for the Dogger Bank Teesside A&B application.

The CSU advised Forewind that the sooner the issues regarding non-planning consents are addressed the better, even if the bodies state that no action needs to be taken until post-DCO.

The Environmental Services team advised Forewind to be aware of the revision of Advice Note three: EIA consultation and notification and to be aware of any changes. For example, there may have been changes in the structure of health bodies, and it would be useful to know when any consultation occurred, and whether there has been a change/abolishment of these organisations. They also drew attention to the revision of Advice note ten on Habitats Regulations Assessment HRA, which has now been made clearer for applicants.

Dogger Bank Teesside C&D: Application Update

Forewind informed the Inspectorate that most of the surveys have been completed; there is just one more offshore survey due to be carried out in Autumn 2013. Many of the offshore surveys were completed alongside those for Dogger Bank Teesside A&B.

The Inspectorate advised that s42 statutory consultations for Teesside C&D should only be carried out following the publication of the s46 notice, regardless of whether logistically it would be easier to carry them out at the same time as the Teesside A&B consultations. Forewind should ensure that this is clear in order to avoid any conflicts with procedural legislation.

Any other Business

Forewind drew to the attention of the Inspectorate, an initiative introduced by Forewind and in partnership with Humberside Engineering Training Association (HETA) called 'Champions for Wind'. The initiative looks to raise the awareness of 13-14 year olds from schools local to the Dogger Bank Zone, of potential career opportunities in the Offshore Wind sector.

The Inspectorate informed Forewind that due to Dogger Bank Creyke Beck currently being in Acceptance, the issue of comments on the draft HRA will be issued following the acceptance decision to avoid any potential complications.

Forewind anticipate that the next meeting between themselves and the Inspectorate will take place during mid-late October. At this meeting they will present their draft Works Plans and draft Environmental Statement.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

- Forewind to provide s42 consultees list by week ending 6 September 2013
- Forewind to begin phase two of consultations at the beginning of November 2013, with the intention to be completed by Christmas break
- Forewind are looking to submit Dogger Bank Teesside A&B application by Q2 2014. However, they will have a much clearer understanding of the feasibility of this in January 2014.
- CSU to draw up what a Consents Management Plan could look like and Forewind to assess whether they would find this service of benefit to their application.
- Next meeting details to be confirmed.