



## Meeting note

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| <b>Status</b>             | <b>Final</b>   |
| <b>Author</b>             | Stella Perrett   |
| <b>Date</b>               | 26 February 2014   |
| <b>Meeting with</b>       | East Anglia Three and Four Project Team  |
| <b>Venue</b>              | Meeting Room 3/03 Temple Quay House  |
| <b>Attendees</b>          | East Anglia Offshore Wind (EAOW):<br>Keith Morrison (Project Manager for EA 3 & 4)<br>Richard Britton (Head of Development, taken over from James Donald)<br>The Planning Inspectorate (The Inspectorate):<br>Katherine Chapman (Case Manager)<br>Stella Perrett (Assistant Case Officer)<br>Hannah Nelson (EIA and Land Rights Advisor)<br>Tim Hallam (Legal) |
| <b>Meeting objectives</b> | East Anglia Offshore Wind (EAOW) updating the Planning Inspectorate about status of the Projects   |
| <b>Circulation</b>        | All attendees  |

### 1. Health & Safety matters in relation to the building

### 2. Introductions

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) explained its openness policy and the requirement to publish any advice under Section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008).

All roles were explained in relation to both teams and the wider organisations. Richard Britton was introduced as having taken over in his role in the last few months.

### 3. General update from EAOW

#### General Update on the Zone

The total capacity of the zone is 7.2 GW.

Now that the examination has closed for East Anglia One Offshore Windfarm (EA1), the EAOW team are working at 'closing out' the cable route, ensuring that all the landowners are signed up and doing further surveys to assist in commencing work for

the construction of the cable route as soon as possible should the application be granted.

East Anglia (EA) projects 2 and 5 are still planned to come forward. EAOW are required to provide project information on the amount of seabed required to the Crown Estate in March 2015 for EA2 and October 2015 for EA5. This is to inform the leasing process. Therefore it is unlikely that these projects will commence pre-app consultation prior to the recommendation being made on EA3.

EA6 does not have a programme at the moment.

The EAOW team is undertaking further work on cumulative impacts. The Inspectorate encouraged working with other developers on cumulative issues.

#### **4. Projects THREE and FOUR**

EAOW provided a presentation of the two projects' progress.

The applicant is working at learning from experiences from EA1.

Part of the onshore works (cable route and converter station locations) will be the same as EA1 and there will be a shared landfall at Bawdsey. Onshore cable route for EA3 and EA4 will be identical to EA1.

There will be one converter station per project at Bramford, Suffolk.

Both projects are being consulted upon at the same time (and this is being explained in all documents) however they have separate Preliminary Environmental Information Reports (PEIR), Environmental Statements (ES) and Development Consent Orders (DCO).

There was a discussion as to why EA3 and 4 are two separate projects, and EAOW explained that it builds in resilience as one may be granted consent but not the other.

##### **a) Team update**

Rachel Furlong has joined the EA team heading up offshore policy.

Royal Haskoning have a dedicated team of 5 staff working on EA3 and 4.

Bond Dickinson are leading on legal as they did on EA1.

##### **b) Progress to date and ongoing work**

###### **Timescales:**

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been finalised through consultation with the Local Authorities; this was completed in September/October 2013  
Information days were held - October 2013

Submitting s46 notification – Mid May 2014

Consulting on the PEIR and carrying out further information days – May / June 2014

Submission of EA3 application – Mid November 2014

Submission of EA4 application – May 2015

The Inspectorate advised EAOW to consider the period prior to the General Election in relation to submission dates and consultation.

EAOW will use some of the same venues for public consultation as they did with the EA1 application.

To achieve the timetable, EAOW are working towards a design freeze for EA3 and 4 in the next few weeks and finalising the draft PEIR in March ready for publication.

### **c) Programme updates**

#### **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

Two options for the onshore cable works are currently being assessed as part of the EIA, one pulling the cables through pre-installed ducts should they be permitted as part of the DCO for the EA1 Offshore Windfarm, and the second, laying separate cables for both the EA3 and EA4 applications. The applicant confirmed that both options will be set out in the PEIR.

With regard to the onshore works, the applicant confirmed that some of the surveys that have already been carried out for EA1 will be used to inform the assessments for EA3 and 4, and updates carried out where necessary. The applicant confirmed that agreement on this approach with regard to the ecological assessment is being sought with the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCB). The Inspectorate advised that evidence of any agreements with SNCBs and other relevant bodies are included in the application.

The applicant confirmed that the number of turbines being assessed is less than EA1, which was 325 (3-8MW), EA3 and 4 are currently looking around 240 (7 - 12MW). The EIA will assess the maximum parameters anticipated. Shortly the applicant will come to the end of the current stage of bird monitoring which will provide 24 months worth of data covering 100% of the area. Bird surveys have been completed in early February 2014.

EAOW are seeking to agree Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) with all key parties and these are to be submitted with the applications.

### **d) Key matters over next few months**

#### **Transboundary**

EAOW are working closely with Rijkswaterstaat to ensure that Dutch interests are factored into the project design. This has, so far, resulted in the boundary for EA3 and 4 being moved 1km away from the Dutch territorial water boundary, moved 2nm from the deep water shipping route to the east of the project areas to ensure shipping routes not affected. They are also working together to ensure that shipping routes are not affected.

The Inspectorate advised on the transboundary consultation process undertaken at both the pre and post application stages to ensure that all European Economic Area (EEA) states with the potential to be significantly affected by the development are given the opportunity to be involved in the application process.

## **Reports, DCO and Plans**

EAOW requested an opportunity to receive comments on draft documents by the Inspectorate prior to submission. These documents would include the Consultation Report, Draft DCO, Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report, other reports and plans. At present, review of these documents would be undertaken in July/August.

The Inspectorate encouraged this and requested as much notice as possible to ensure that this could be achieved in a timely manner.

## **5. Update on Evidence Plan Process**

Feedback on the evidence plan process was positive. They are working to tight deadlines with a number of organisations to agree on the data required and assessment approach to inform the application. The main steering group is made up of EAOW, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Natural England (NE) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

A number of small technical working groups have been set up of 5/6 people which enables conversations to be focussed rather than dealing with a number of issues in a larger group.

Everyone is working to a common goal so more solutions are sought than problems.

A point to note is that the plan covers EIA and HRA. It was recognised that there was much cross over between the documents and therefore it was logical to address both areas together.

## **6. Update from the Planning Inspectorate**

The Inspectorate advised EAOW to speak to the EA1 team regarding submission of documents and look at the s55 checklist in relation to that application to gain any experience. One issue that is often uncovered during acceptance is consistency between electronic and hard copy documents.

The Inspectorate advised that consistency between the draft DCO and other application documents is also a common issue, ensuring that all documents are cross-referenced accordingly.

The Inspectorate advised that from experience it is helpful if the proposed submission date is early rather than late in December as a later date makes it harder to obtain Adequacy of Consultation Responses from the Local Authorities.

The Inspectorate also advised that at present new projects do not have to maintain a hard copy of all documents at deposit locations during examination. Whilst this is a trial, it is being well received so far.