



## Meeting note

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<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
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<b>Date</b>	12 April 2016
<b>Meeting with</b>	East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO
<b>Venue</b>	Teleconference
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>The Planning Inspectorate</b> Tom Carpen (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Marie Evans (Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Karl-Jonas Johansson (Case Officer)  <b>Scottish Power Renewables</b> Mandy King (Planning and Environmental Advisor)
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project update
<b>Circulation</b>	All attendees

### Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

#### Introduction

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) outlined its openness policy and ensured those present understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under s.51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the applicant (or others) can rely.

#### Project update

To enable stakeholders to focus on the upcoming East Anglia THREE (EA3) examination, the applicant is currently only conducting low level non-statutory consultation until the autumn for East Anglia ONE North (EA1N) and East Anglia TWO (EA2). It was further clarified that the two projects are currently running in parallel, but that EA2 will be submitted to the Inspectorate one year in advance of EA1N.

The applicant informed the Inspectorate that the projects intend to connect at Bramford substation, near Ipswich.

The applicant intends to request a scoping opinion for both EA1N and EA2 at the same time to minimise the impact on the statutory consultees. The applicant provided

provisional timings for requesting a scoping opinion, starting consultation on a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), statutory (s42) consultation and submission of DCO application for both projects.

The Inspectorate clarified to the applicant that the Inspectorate has 42 days to adopt a scoping opinion following receipt of a scoping request. During this 42 day period, the Inspectorate provides prescribed consultation bodies with 28 days to respond to the Inspectorate's scoping consultation. The applicant informed the Inspectorate that due to the fixed milestones in their agreement for lease with the Crown Estate, the timetable for the projects could not move beyond 2020.

The Inspectorate advised the applicant to be clear with the Local Authorities (LA) when statutory consultation starts and to keep a record of all contact with the LAs so the evolution of the SoCC can be fully described in the consultation report to be submitted with the DCO application. If requested, the Inspectorate can also review the draft SoCC prior to statutory consultation with the LAs.

The Inspectorate asked for an update in due course on when statutory community consultation (s47) would begin.

It was agreed that Jo Young (Stakeholder Manager) would attend the next meeting to provide the Inspectorate with more information on how the applicant intends to conduct its non-statutory and statutory stakeholder consultations for both projects. The Inspectorate advised the applicant to keep records of all statutory and non-statutory consultation to enable the applicant to show how it has had regard to consultation responses in its consultation report.

The applicant was also informed that that the Inspectorate can review the draft consultation report and a number of other application documents, including the draft DCO, Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) report, and plans prior to the submission of the DCO application.

## **Evidence Plan**

The applicant explained that it intends to use the same approach to the Evidence Plan process as that carried out for EA3. The agenda for the Steering Group meeting was discussed and the Inspectorate advised that it would be helpful to add a section at the start of the agenda to provide an introduction to the project, including proposed project timescales.

The Inspectorate also suggested to the applicant that it might be prudent to put timings on the agenda to ensure that all items were discussed at the meeting and to ensure the meeting was managed to time. The applicant stated that they intend to circulate example documents to all Steering Group participants in advance of the initial Evidence Plan Steering Group meeting, including example risk registers, a lessons learned document, and agreement tracker.

It was agreed that the Inspectorate would chair the Evidence Plan Steering Group meetings and act as a facilitator but it would not act as arbitrator or decision maker on any issues arising from or discussed at the meetings. It was agreed that the Inspectorate would send to the applicant its proposed terms of reference for chairing the Evidence Plan Steering Group meetings. It was clarified that the applicant would be responsible for organising the meetings and for the production of detailed meeting

minutes. The Inspectorate would publish a high-level meeting note on the National Infrastructure Planning webpage for the project, together with any s51 advice provided at the meeting.

The applicant informed the Inspectorate that the Evidence Plan meetings would focus on the key HRA issues by topic area, including offshore ornithology, marine mammals and benthic. A lessons learned/best practice presentation would also be included in the agenda. It was clarified that the composition of Steering Group was likely to comprise Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the Planning Inspectorate. Other relevant stakeholders would be invited to the topic group meetings, as appropriate, to discuss in more detail the technical aspects of each topic areas. Other matters proposed to be discussed at the Steering Group meeting are the existing bird survey data held by the applicant and its applicability to the future East Anglia projects.

## **AOB**

No other business was discussed.

## **Specific decisions / follow up required?**

- Agreed to hold an Inspectorate/applicant project update meeting every six weeks
- The Inspectorate to request from the applicant the necessary information to set up the projects on the National Infrastructure Planning webpage
- Applicant to provide the Inspectorate with the proposed s47 consultation dates at the next meeting
- Jo Young (Stakeholder Manager) to attend the next meeting
- Applicant to amend agenda for the Evidence Plan Steering Group to include a section introducing the project, including programme and time frames
- Applicant to include estimated times for each item on the Evidence Plan Steering Group meeting agenda.
- Applicant to send out example documents (e.g. agreement trackers, risk registers) in advance of Evidence Plan Steering Group meeting