



Meeting note

File reference	EN010077 and EN010078
Status	Final
Author	Karl-Jonas Johansson
Date	15 December 2016
Meeting with	Scottish Power Renewables
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Tom Carpen (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Marie Evans (Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Karl-Jonas Johansson (Case Officer) Katherine King (EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Scottish Power Renewables (UK) Ltd Mandy King (Planning and Environmental Advisor) Julia Bolton (Assistant Project Manager) Jon Allen (Principal Environmental Consultant – Royal Haskoning)
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Introduction

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate continued by outlining 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.

The Applicant was updated on changes to the Inspectorate's staffing team that will providing pre-application advice on the East Anglia One North (EA1N) and East Anglia Two (EA2) offshore wind farm proposed developments.

General project update

Royal Haskoning has been appointed EIA consultants for the two proposed developments.

The onshore cable corridor route was discussed, including potential cable route pinch points. The Applicant is currently looking at two options: either to widen the East Anglia ONE (EA1) Development Consent Order (DCO) corridor to accommodate EA1N and EA2; or rerouting around the pinch points. It was clarified that the routing of the cable is an essential element that is currently dictating the likely timescales for the Applicant's EIA, but the application remained on track for submission.

The Applicant is also currently analysing noise data at the proposed substations in Bramford.

It is proposed that the offshore cable route will follow the existing cable corridor for EA1 and the proposed East Anglia THREE offshore wind farm (EA3) (currently in Examination). However, the EA1 DCO boundary may need to be extended.

The Applicant intends starting discussions with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in the new year to resolve any issues relating to military radar. The Applicant intends to employ an aviation /radar specialist to work on this matter. It was agreed to add the matter of radar and MoD/Applicant discussions as a standing item to the agendas for future Inspectorate/Applicant project update meetings for the proposed developments.

Consultation programme

The Applicant consultation for EA1N and EA2 is currently low level, so that stakeholders can focus on the on-going EA3 Examination. The Applicant intends to engage the local authorities on EA2 and EA1N in February 2017 and start non-statutory consultation for both projects in Q2 2017.

The Applicant is considering the release of the Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) in March 2018 for EA2 and March 2019 for EA1N.

Scoping

Scoping is planned for September 2017 for both EA1N and EA2, as the Applicant envisages having finalised the route options by this point. It was noted that the revised scoping date for the two proposed developments would result in the proposed developments following the new Infrastructure Planning (IP) EIA Regulations 2017. The Applicant confirmed that they are aware of the proposed changes to the EIA Regulations.

The Applicant intends to submit two scoping reports. The Applicant identified that feedback had been received from the local authorities with regards to scoping, and that a preference had been noted to scope the two proposed developments at the same time as they are very similar. The Inspectorate reiterated its previous advice that the Applicant make sure that the requirements of the IP EIA Regulations are met for both projects independently. The Inspectorate raised the risk that scoping both projects at the same time could potentially result in some confusion amongst the consultees and also when interpreting responses to consultation in terms of which project the consultees are responding to. However, as previously advised, as long as the Applicant complies with the legislation it is for the Applicant to decide its approach to seeking a scoping opinion. The Applicant should make sure that each project stands up on its own.

The Applicant stated that it didn't perceive an early scoping for EA1N to be a risk (as a DCO application for EA1N would be one year later than EA2) due to its similarity to EA2. The Applicant highlighted its desire for streamlining and reducing the workload for consultees by running a single consultation exercise.

Surveys

The Applicant provided an update with regards to surveys. The Applicant commenced digital aerial bird surveys for both projects in September 2016. The surveys are conducted on a monthly basis. . The Applicant is currently tendering for consultants to conduct geophysical, benthic and vessel traffic studies. Appointments should be finalised in March 2017.

HRA Evidence Plan

To date, only one Expert Topic Group has been held, this was in respect of the bird surveys. The timetable for the Evidence Plan will be reissued by the Applicant by end of February 2017. The date for the next Evidence Plan Steering Group meeting has yet to be determined.

The Applicant discussed Natural England's (NE) request for two years of bird surveys and informed the Inspectorate that it did not consider that an additional 24 months of bird survey data would be necessary, as they have access to large amount of historical data for the proposed developments and the former East Anglia Zone. A meeting to discuss the bird survey requirements is to be scheduled with NE.

The Inspectorate requested to be kept updated about any opposing views with regard to surveys, to enable the Inspectorate to monitor potential risks/issues for the proposed development.

The Inspectorate identified that Historic England (HE) have expressed an interest to be involved in the Evidence Plan process on other offshore wind farm developments. The Applicant agreed to consider this and how best to involve HE.

Compulsory Acquisition and land rights/s53

The Inspectorate clarified to the Applicant that compulsory acquisition (CA) is a standard item on the agendas due to its complexity and the impact CA tends to have on the Examination.

The Applicant stated that they do not intend to seek any authorisations under s53 but will notify the Inspectorate if this position changes.

The inclusion of protective provision (PP) in the DCO was discussed and the Applicant was advised to try to agree PP in principle with the relevant statutory parties during pre-application to minimise their impact on Examination, and potentially the decision period.

Statutory instrument template

It was agreed that the Applicant would provide an update regarding access to the statutory instrument template before the next meeting.

Submission date

The Applicant confirmed that a DCO application for EA2 is currently scheduled for January 2019, with an application for EA1N to follow one year later (ie January 2020). The Inspectorate requested to be updated if there were any changes to the anticipated submission date.

AOB

The Applicant was informed that the Inspectorate's suite of Advice Notes under Advice Note 8 is in the process of being updated.

It was agreed that the Applicant would schedule meetings for EA1N and EA2 every six weeks for 2017.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

- The Inspectorate to circulate contact details for the new EA1N/EA2 team members
- Radar/aviation matters to be added as a standing item to the agenda
- Applicant to provide an update regarding access to the statutory instrument template
- Applicant to schedule meeting in six week intervals.