



Meeting note

Project name	East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO
File reference	EN010077 and EN010078
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	25 April 2018
Meeting with	Scottish Power Renewables
Venue	Rivergate, Bristol
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Chris White – Infrastructure Planning Lead Kay Sully – Case Manager Ewa Sherman – Case Officer Gail Boyle – Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor (dialling in)
	The Applicant Alex Hampson - Senior Environmental Consultant, RHDHV Helen Walker - Senior Project Manager, ScottishPower Renewables
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 (s51) of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under s51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Welcome and introductions

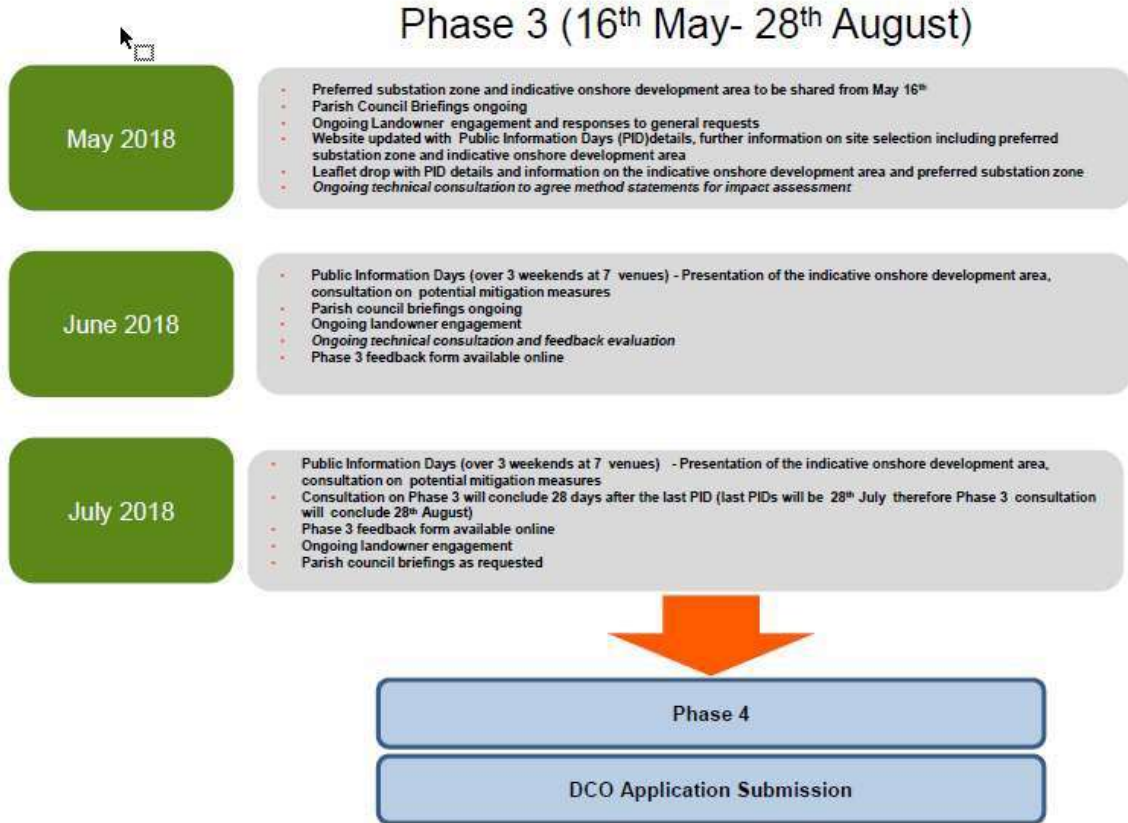
The Applicant and the Inspectorate team introduced themselves and their respective roles.

Project update

The Applicant provided a summary of actions in respect of the onshore site selection process to progress the onshore development area boundary, and advised of the key constraints affecting the study, such as the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, unsuitability and unavailability of EDF land, proximity to the overhead electricity line, crossing points on the Aldeburgh Road between western and eastern areas, and access to the proposed areas for a substation (vehicle, permanent and for construction). Definition of onshore study area, identification of seven potential substation zones) and selection of the preferred substation zone have been completed. The Applicant is now working on the micro-siting of substations with the selected zone and identification of the preferred cable route. Feasibility studies in relation to the access to the proposed substation have also been completed. The Applicant advised that they are now undergoing extensive



consultation (Community Consultation Phase 3) with stakeholders and the public regarding the substation zone selection and details of future engagement on mitigation and cable routeing. The flow chart below provides details of Community Consultation Phase 3.



The Applicant advised that an Indicative Onshore Development Area boundary will be ready for presentation at the Public Information Days (PID) in June/ July 2018.

Applicant’s post meeting note: Following discussion with the Local Authority (LA), the Indicative Onshore Development Area boundary has been prepared and is being used from the commencement of Community Consultation Phase 3.

The Applicant confirmed the ongoing stakeholder management with statutory bodies such as Environmental Agency, Historic England, Natural England and the continuous engagement with the LA.

Cumulative assessment

The Applicant provided an update on the cumulative assessment in relation to the proposed National Grid Ventures (NGV), and five potential projects: NGET substation – associated with three East Anglia projects, and two interconnectors (applications to be determined under TCPA by the LAs). The Applicant stated that it is not engaged in master-planning energy in the area but have considered the NGV projects in their site selection. The Applicant has made commitments not to sterilise NGV’s ability to develop their projects. The Applicant advised they will follow the Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note 17 on cumulative impact assessment.



The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to clearly explain all matters in the Consultation Report (CR) regarding land at Sizewell, especially with regard to whether some of this land has been secured for mitigation/ enhancement, and explain why the EDF and Mangox land is not available or appropriate for acquisition. Also, how engagement/ liaison with NG has been progressing. The Inspectorate emphasised the importance of the National Policy Statement (NPS) considering alternatives.

Landscape and visual impacts

Regarding the reduction of the substation height the Inspectorate advised to consider any architectural principles and approach taken on other projects, for example the [Hinkley Point C Connection project](#) where the proposed substation is located on the edge of AONB. On this particular project the Examining Authority and the LAs were interested in not having standard grey metal. The Applicant was advised to refer to Policy and considering good design to help the substation with blending in and mitigating potential issues.

Consultation

The Applicant stated that in January 2018 the LAs considered the western zones for the proposed substation as the best options to avoid impacts on AONB. However, following further consideration in March 2018 the LAs thought that the eastern zones would be more preferable. The reasons for this were uncertainty about the potential cable route and balance of public opinion. Cumulative impact is the remaining concern. Natural England's preferred options were also those in the west of the study area. In conclusion the Applicant considers that the West 1 (previously Zone 7) represents the most appropriate option to be taken forward.

The Applicant advised of the next steps which will involve informing the local authorities of the decision to choose W1 zone as preferable, followed by updating the statutory consultees in early May 2018. Presentations on W1 to the Parish Councils are scheduled for mid-May 2018. The Applicant's intention is to hold the LA and stakeholder workshop on substation and cable routing at end of May 2018, and more Public Information Days to inform public on development area towards the end of June 2018.

The Applicant also explained reasoning behind engaging with the technical stakeholders in smaller groups which allows focusing on technical matters. For example the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Wildlife Trust were engaged in the onshore ecology expert topic group. However, this does not mean presenting an agreed position to others but a more focused discussion. Parish Councils' input is considered as valuable and no less important.

The Inspectorate suggested that the Applicant may wish to highlight the ongoing engagement with the landowners, local Councillors and other stakeholders and how this relates to the statutory duties under s47 of the PA2008 preparing the Statement of Common Ground (SoCC) to get people engaged, and present the information in the final Consultation Report. The Applicant advised that they intend to publish an interim CR to show how the consultation comments and responses have been considered so far.



Additionally, videos explaining the DCO process and updated flowchart of two projects, including key consultation points, running in parallel will be available online.

In regards to establishing a contact plan during the pre-application stage the Inspectorate stated that it is not in a position to advise on matters such as whether a correct substation site has been chosen, or to revise and give a formal feedback/ review. Evidence Plans are usually set up around offshore issues. However, members of the Environmental Services Team are still available for Steering Group meetings. In response to the Applicant's query regarding the participation in tripartite meetings, the Inspectorate stated that it will be happy to set up a telecon with the LAs, or get involved if there is a particular reason/ issue to be discussed.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The Inspectorate highlighted the recent judgment European court ruling C-323/17 - People Over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (2018) which held that it is impermissible to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on a European Site (i.e. mitigation measures) at the screening stage. The Applicant confirmed that it would take the judgement into account and would be discussing with Natural England.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required

The following actions were agreed:

- The Applicant will provide an updated timeline to agree meetings at the right stage of the pre-application process.
- The parties agreed to arrange the next telecon shortly.