



Meeting note

File reference

Status	Final
Author	Louise Evans
Date	13 April 2016
Meeting with	Vattenfall
Venue	Temple Quay House
Attendees	Planning Inspectorate Tom Carpen – Infrastructure Planning Lead Hannah Pratt - Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor Stephanie Newman – Case Manager Louise Evans – Case Officer Vattenfall – Developer Ruari Lean - Vattenfall Kathy Wood - Vattenfall Alistair Davison – Royal Haskoning DHV Will Morgan – Remarkable Pendragon Victoria Redman – Bond Dickinson Claire Rees – Bond Dickinson
Meeting objectives	To introduce the teams and provide an overview of the developer's pre-application progress to date.
Circulation	All

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Welcome and introductions (all)

Project Overview

The Applicant gave a presentation which provided an overview of their organisation and the background to and technical information on the proposed development Norfolk Vanguard, intended for submission in 2018. They also provided an overview of the Norfolk Boreas project, VWPL's other offshore windfarm proposal within the former East Anglia Zone 5, scheduled for submission in 2019.

The offshore cable route for the proposed Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind project has not yet been defined; the Applicant is in discussion with National Grid over the grid connection and hopes to provide an update at the next meeting.

The Applicant is aiming to submit a scoping request for the project in October 2016; to consult with s42 consultees on the preliminary environmental information by December 2017; and to submit the application by June 2018, with consent being granted (if successful) by December 2019.

S42 Engagement with stakeholders

The Applicant has had early discussions with the Ministry of Defence (MoD), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), National Air Traffic Services (NATS), the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Trinity House, Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), this early engagement has been met with a positive response.

The Applicant has also been in contact with Norfolk County Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and North Norfolk District Council with a further meeting with Norfolk County Council due to discuss how they would like to be involved with the consultation and Evidence Plan process.

The Applicant will also liaise with Scottish Power Renewables on the East Anglia THREE Offshore Wind Farm to enable a strategic approach to consulting and to refer to their register of Interested Parties.

Engagement has so far been with offshore groups; the Applicant will meet with onshore groups once the grid connection has been finalised and aims for this to be September 2016 at the latest.

The Applicant stated that they have existing relationships with fishermen in other EEA States from the East Anglia ONE Offshore Wind Farm. The Applicant has contacted Dutch, Belgian and French fishing groups in relation to other projects in the former East Anglia zone.

The Inspectorate advised that during the scoping period they will consult with UK bodies only. However, if a likely significant effect on any EEA State is identified by the Secretary of State (under Regulation 24 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009), then these States would be notified of the proposed development and asked to confirm whether it wishes to participate in the examination stage. The Inspectorate pointed the Applicant to Advice note 12 for further information.

Consultation

The Applicant confirmed that non statutory consultation started in January 2016 and so far there has only been general interest in the project.

Consultation for feedback on the draft SoCC will start late 2016/early 2017 and consultation on the final SoCC will commence in 2017 with statutory consultation estimated to begin late 2017.

The Applicant is aiming to hold a 'lessons learnt' exercise with key stakeholders, based on their experiences with consultation for previous projects, the outcomes of which will be fed into the Applicant's SoCC.

The Inspectorate offered to facilitate a 'round-table' meeting with the Applicant and the key local authorities and statutory bodies, following statutory consultation. The purpose of the meeting would be to provide advice on what could be expected in procedural terms from any Examination, should the application be accepted, and to table potential issues arising from consultation that parties can work on prior to submission of the application.

Evidence Plan

The first Evidence Plan meeting was held 21 March 2016 and the Applicant is expecting comments from attendees on the draft Terms of Reference. The Applicant intends to hold up to six rounds of Evidence Plan meetings, covering topics such as marine mammals and ornithology. The Applicant is hoping to draw out areas of uncertainty or disagreement from the Evidence Plan meeting, so that these can be addressed where possible at the pre-application stage.

Revised EIA Directive and EIA Regulations

The Applicant asked for the Inspectorate's advice on future proofing for the introduction of the new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations in 2017. The Inspectorate advised that until the new regulations are published it would be sensible to take into consideration the revisions made to the EIA Directive.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

The Inspectorate advised that a monthly meeting may be helpful during the pre-application period, but that this can be driven by the Applicant.

Interaction with the Inspectorate's Environmental Services Team will be made through the Evidence Plan Process, but any queries can be made directly via email.

The Applicant will provide the project information to register their application on the Inspectorate's website and in line with the Pre-application prospectus a date will be agreed to go live and for meeting notes to be published.