



Meeting note

File reference	EN010079 Norfolk Vanguard
Status	Final
Author	Tom Carpen
Date	13 July 2016
Meeting with	Vattenfall
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	Vattenfall: Ruari Lean – Vattenfall Ruth Henderson – Royal Haskoning DHV Jake Lister – Remarkable Pendragon The Planning Inspectorate : Tom Carpen – Infrastructure Planning Lead Hannah Pratt – Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor Richard Kent – EIA and Land Rights Advisor
Meeting objectives	Project update
Circulation	All

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Welcome and introductions

Scoping report update

The applicant confirmed it is on track to submit a scoping request under regulation 8 of the Infrastructure Planning EIA regulations in early October. The applicant sought the Inspectorate's advice on whether there would be any risks to providing an early copy of the report accompanying the Scoping request to statutory consultees who request a copy. This would be in order to provide them with more time to review the scoping report.

The Inspectorate advised that it recognised the value for some stakeholders in having as much time as possible, but that the applicant should be mindful of fairness to all consultees and should take care to limit confusion (as the Inspectorate handle

consultation requests as part of the scoping process). The Inspectorate agreed to give further advice.

[Post – meeting advice: If the applicant provides consultees with the Scoping Report in advance of formal submission to the Inspectorate, the Applicant should ensure it provides consultees with clear information to consultees about the formal consultation process. The applicant should also be aware that in some cases the Inspectorate may request amendments to the Scoping Report if information required by legislation is not provided or if there are discrepancies that could cause confusion to consultees and would benefit from being clarified. Therefore, the applicant should make it clear to any consultees that comments should be made on the version of the Scoping Report published on the Inspectorate’s website. Should any changes to the Scoping Report be made, it would be beneficial for the applicant to bring these to the attention of any consultees that received a previous version.]

The Inspectorate reminded the applicant of the need to submit a shapefile of the application site two weeks (10 working days) in advance of the scoping request.

[Post-meeting advice: PINS would require 2 hard copies of the Scoping Report alongside one electronic version (e.g. a CD/USB/file transfer) in a single file (including all figures and any appendices) not exceeding 50MB. More details can be found in Advice Note 7: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Advice-note-7v4.pdf>]

Evidence Plan process update

The next Evidence Plan steering group is confirmed for 20 September 2016 in Peterborough and there will be a representative from all steering group members.

Following the previous steering group, the Terms of Reference document is being amended to take account of comments from Natural England. The terrestrial ecology topic group will be part of 'Stream 2' which cover topics outside of the HRA remit.

The applicant will circulate relevant documents no less than two weeks in advance of the steering group meeting as agreed in the terms of reference.

The applicant confirmed that topic groups will commence after the scoping process, and that prior to that it intends to follow up the Secretary of State’s scoping opinion directly with statutory consultees.

Stakeholder Engagement update

The applicant provided an update on non-statutory briefings it had held since the last update meeting with the Inspectorate.

The applicant had met officers and Norfolk County Council and subsequently provided a briefing to elected members at the Council. The briefings provided the information currently available about the project and forthcoming milestones in 2016. The applicant has agreed to update the Council on the outcome of grid connection discussions (see Grid connection section below).

The applicant has also met with and provided a similar briefing to the Environment Agency and local wildlife trusts.

Grid connection update

The applicant advised that upon receipt and acceptance of a grid connection offer from National Grid, expected soon, it will be able to do further work, plan surveys and consider which land owners to approach.

The applicant confirmed that it will include reference to the grid connection in the scoping report, clarifying whether it will be an underground or overhead line connection.

The applicant explained that once the grid connection is determined, they will commence engagement with landowners to seek permission for access to land for relevant environmental surveys. The Inspectorate advised the applicant of the provisions under section 53 of the Planning Act – where the Secretary of State can give the power for an applicant to access land for the purpose of surveying and taking levels. However, the Inspectorate advised that a request for powers under section 53 should be considered a last resort where agreement with landowners cannot be reached, and that there is no guarantee the powers would be granted. It advised the applicant to document its discussions with land owners and bear in mind that the s53 process takes time due to the nature of the powers being sought.

The Inspectorate also agreed to send on its standard advice relating to land interests.

Post meeting note: The Inspectorate provided the applicant with a link to standard advice contained in the following meeting note:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN020015/EN020015-Advice-00008-1-160414_North_Wales_Connection_Telecon_Meeting_Note.pdf

AOB

Vattenfall provided an update on proposed timings to progress the Norfolk Boreas offshore windfarm project, which will follow approximately a year behind the Norfolk Vanguard project in terms of milestones.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

Vattenfall to update the Inspectorate once a grid connection offer is made by National Grid.

The Inspectorate to issue further advice on section 53 and land rights.