



Meeting note

File reference	EN010080
Status	Final
Author	Karl-Jonas Johansson
Date	1 December 2016
Meeting with	DONG Energy
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Tom Carpen (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Karl-Jonas Johansson (Case Officer)
DONG Energy	Stuart Livesey (Project Development Manager) Emily Woolfenden (Consultation Manager) Emily King (EIA Project Manager, RPS) Julian Carolan (Offshore Consent Manager) Hornsea Project Three monthly meeting update
Meeting objectives	
Circulation	All attendees.

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Introduction

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles, the Applicant noted that a new permanent Consent Manager is starting on Hornsea Project Three – Sophie Banham – who will join the next call. 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.

Action from previous meeting

No outstanding actions.

Scoping

It was reconfirmed that the scoping opinion would be issued on the 7th December 2016 and that no extension to the consultation would be granted. It was further

confirmed that any late responses would not be taken into account but forwarded directly to the Applicant.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that they intend to set out a plan of engagement with the evidence plan groups after they have analysed the scoping opinion and appended responses, including any received outside the deadline where possible.

Statement of Community Consultation

The Applicant outlined the consultation that had already taken place, as set out in their Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The Applicant consulted on the draft SoCC with the local planning authorities (including the Inspectorate) and the final SoCC was issued on 30th September 2016. Since publishing the SoCC, the Applicant has held its first round of community consultation events (31st October – 9th November) and informed the Inspectorate that the information gathered would be circulated as a Consultation Summary Report to all consultees who had requested to be kept informed about the project (aiming for before the end of 2016).

Post meeting note – the Consultation Summary Report from the first round of community consultation events was sent to the Inspectorate on 5th January 2017. The Consultation Summary Report is also available on the DONG website. The applicant also advised that physical copies of the report will also be sent to the Community Access Points (CAP sites), including council offices across Norfolk.

The Applicant will issue a Consultation Summary Report after each round of public events to all consultees who had requested to be kept informed about the project. In addition to this, the Applicant has also issued the first of its community newsletters, which will be issued quarterly to consultees during the consultation period (up to submission of the DCO application in 2018). It was agreed that the Inspectorate would review the reports from an issues and engagement point of view ahead of future meetings.

Some of the feedback received from this early consultation has resulted in the Applicant adapting its approach, and continuing to review this, based on the experiences communities have had of previous windfarm developments. The Applicant also intends to shift its focus on future community consultation events (under section 47) to areas more impacted by the Project since there was a relatively low level of interest in the event locations furthest away from the Project site¹. The Applicant was advised to clearly reflect how it has actively adapted its approach in its Consultation Report.

The Inspectorate also advised that if the Applicant was asked any questions on the process during consultation, especially by those new to it, that people could contact the Inspectorate directly.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

¹ These venues were initially chosen to capture people who could be both directly and indirectly impacted by the proposal.

The Applicant outlined its programme for the issuing the PEIR and that although not all survey work would be complete for several topic fields, each chapter would clearly outline what information was missing and how this would be included, analysed and reported in the final application. The Applicant explained that the missing information would mainly relate to bird and benthic survey data and that this missing data would be consulted on with the statutory consultees via the Evidence Plan process.

Survey

The Applicant gave updates on its environmental surveys. It advised that onshore ecological phase one surveys had been completed and that phase two onshore environmentally protected species surveys would commence this winter and throughout 2017.

Photomontages for the onshore visual assessment will be completed in 2017.

The geophysical survey of the array area has been completed and the data will be analysed in the New Year (2017).

Post-meeting note - The results of the geophysical survey will be presented to the Marine Processes, Benthic Ecology and Fish Ecology Expert Working Group (EWG) in Quarter 1 of 2017.

Benthic surveys are due to be discussed and agreed with the Marine Processes, Benthic Ecology and Fish Ecology EWG in the New Year and the survey undertaken in the spring of 2017.

Evidence plan

The Applicant confirmed that they are actively engaging with Historic England (HE) with regards to both marine archaeology and historic environment matters. Although the discussions are outside of the evidence plan process (which is specifically related to HRA matters), the Applicant is following a similar format for the discussions.

The Applicant asked the Inspectorate's view on its proposal to focus on Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) issues in a separate working group, outside of the Marine Processes, Benthic Ecology and Fish Ecology EWG. This would enable MCZ issues to be considered in full and individual dialogue with the key statutory stakeholders to occur, whilst the Marine Processes, Benthic Ecology and Fish Ecology EWG would focus on all other issues in appropriate detail. The Applicant also asked if the Inspectorate would consider facilitating future MCZ discussions along with Natural England and other parties.

Post meeting note – The Inspectorate advised that it sees the benefit of separate MCZ discussions for all parties and agreed to facilitate future MCZ meetings, alongside its Evidence Plan chairing role. The Applicant will initiate these in coordination with the Inspectorate.

The Applicant also proposes to introduce a new onshore ecology EWG. It is the Applicant's intention to ask the evidence plan steering group to agree these changes to the EWGs.

The next evidence plan expert topic groups are scheduled for January/February and will focus on agreeing the scope of the benthic surveys.

Compulsory acquisition (CA)

The Applicant confirmed that it is continuing to prioritise voluntary agreements to avoid the need for CA but that the DCO may contain compulsory acquisition powers where agreement cannot be reached.

AOB

The Applicant confirmed that they still intend to submit the application in Q2 2018.

The Applicant is meeting the host authorities to discuss planning performance agreements in January/February 2017. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to discuss with the host authority the prospect of joint working.

The Inspectorate informed the Applicant that Katherine King (of the Inspectorate) would be joining the Environmental Surveys team on secondment and will be attending the next Hornsea Project Three monthly meeting.

Specific decisions / follow up required

- The Inspectorate to review the Consultation Summary Report when published.
- Inspectorate to advice on proposal for a new working group for the MCZ.
- The Applicant to send the Inspectorate a list of the Local Planning Authorities that they are seeking to propose planning performance agreements (PPAs) to *[Post meeting note; Seeking Norfolk County Council., North Norfolk District Council, Broadland District Council, and South Norfolk District Council]*