



Meeting note

File reference	EN010080
Status	Final
Author	Siân Evans
Date	21 June 2017
Meeting with	DONG Energy
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	Planning Inspectorate Chris White Kay Sully Siân Evans Helen Lancaster Katherine King DONG Energy Stuart Livesey Sophie Banham Emily Woolfenden
Meeting objectives	Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm update meeting
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 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 s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the Applicant (or others) can rely.

Consultation

The Applicant advised that they are currently preparing the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for their statutory consultation.

The statutory consultation will take place indicatively 27 July to 20 September 2017. Along with the PEIR the Applicant will provide a draft Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment and draft Evidence Plan as part of the consultation material.

The Inspectorate welcomed the fact that the consultation period covers the holiday season and therefore may also capture comments from seasonal visitors to the area. The Inspectorate advised that it was useful that more than the statutory 28 day consultation period had been chosen as, for example, it may take longer for the owner of a holiday let property to receive consultation material. The Applicant also advised that several stakeholders have requested longer consultation time, and hence it had sought to incorporate this in expanding the timeline.

The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant to ensure, for the purposes of s46, that the PEIR is sent to the Inspectorate before, or at the same time as it is sent to consultees. An electronic copy will suffice.

The Applicant is intending to hold seven consultation events in the statutory consultation period (running from 4 – 13 September inclusive). They will also be holding briefings and Q&A sessions with the relevant parish councils in each local authority (these will be grouped and aligned in the following three district councils of North Norfolk, Broadland and South Norfolk) in August. A newsletter will be issued shortly. The Inspectorate asked if a copy of this could also be sent to them. [Post-meeting note, this quarterly newsletter was published on 29 June, a copy has been sent to the Planning Inspectorate, and it is available on the Applicant's website; www.dongenergy.co.uk/hornseaproject3]

Transboundary

The Applicant advised that they are consulting states that have expressed an interest in being kept informed about the project. The Inspectorate advised that the transboundary screening has been published on the Inspectorate's project page. A notice in the London Gazette will shortly be published, letters will be sent to Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Iceland and Norway. A letter will also be sent to the Applicant.

Evidence Plan

The Applicant mentioned that the Project has undertaken a recent offshore ornithological Expert Working Group and presented the meta-data analysis, which appears to have been received well. The Project will then need to explain how this analysis will be used in the application. However due to timing this will not be able to be included in the PEIR. The Marine Mammal Expert Group is meeting on 10 July. The Onshore Ecology Group is meeting on 25 July. At these meetings, the stakeholders will be informed about what will be presented in the PEIR and where there will be gaps.

Surveys

The Applicant advised that their application for a marine licence for the nearshore geotechnical survey has been submitted to the Marine Management Organisation who have raised some queries that have been responded to and the Applicant is awaiting further information back.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate of the ongoing targeted geophysical survey that is utilising a magnetometer to also assess proposed geotechnical locations for a planned Geotech campaign later in the year. The Inspectorate queried the status of commercial fisheries interactions and negotiations.

The Applicant stated that agreements have been reached with ~60% of the fishing vessels in the area and these have allowed a great deal of gear to be moved, however a fishing organisation and several individuals have yet to engage in reasonable constructive dialogue here. The Applicant advised that they are continuing negotiations with fishermen in the area and have had some good dialogue to date.

There are continuing monthly aerial ornithological and marine mammal surveys. The benthic ecology surveys will be conducted over the summer. Onshore ecology surveys are ongoing.

The Applicant advised that they are intending to conduct an aerial drone survey, the outputs of which may be incorporated into an interactive overview of the onshore cable route for use in their consultation exercise in addition to results from a larger aerial flyover. This exercise will hopefully be a useful way of giving stakeholders and members of the public a better visualisation of the proposal with regards to the surrounding landscape and interactions with it. It may also be used to analyse potential access or unknown installation constraints. The Inspectorate enquired about land owner access for this and implications on radar, as the proposed route is in a safeguarding zone. The Applicant stated they would follow this up. [Post-meeting note, the Project has sought landowner permission to undertake the drone flyover, and to date has received some approval, however others have declined initially, the Project is in further discussions with these landowners and/or their land agents. The Project had previously, as part of the required Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) asked for the contractor to consult with local airfields to make them aware of the planned survey and check for any concerns – none were raised].

The Inspectorate advised that this visualisation could be useful for the community to understand the project however they advised the Applicant to consider how any comments on this are presented in the Consultation Report. The visualisations cannot be hosted on the Inspectorate's website and therefore cannot be viewed by the Examining Authority (ExA). Where any comments are received, the Applicant may wish to identify the relevant part(s) of the visualisation and prepare stills so that these can be provided as still image extracts if required by the ExA.

Compulsory acquisition

The Applicant advised that they are continuing negotiations to seek voluntary agreements from land owners. However the application will still seek to include compulsory acquisition, with the goal of not having to utilise these powers.

Next meeting

Cancelled July meeting, and have rescheduled for 8 August 2017

Specific decisions / follow up required?

Applicant to send a copy of the Consultation Summary Report and quarterly newsletter to the Inspectorate. [Post-meeting note, this was emailed on 22 June 2017]