



Meeting note

File reference	EN010084
Status	Final
Author	Karl-Jonas Johansson
Date	4 October 2016
Meeting with	Vattenfall
Venue	By telephone
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate: Tom Carpen (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Richard Kent (EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Karl-Jonas Johansson (Case Officer) Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd: Helen Jameson (Project Manager) Julie Drew-Murphy (Senior Associate, The Renewables Consulting Group)
Meeting objectives	Thanet Extension project meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

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 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.

Actions from last meeting

The Inspectorate informed the Applicant that the Inspectorate was giving further consideration to its request for advice on its proposed approach to bird surveys

Evidence plan

The Inspectorate informed the Applicant about the role the Inspectorate can play in the process and that the Inspectorate would publish a high level note of the evidence plan meetings it chaired. It was agreed that the Applicant would compare its drafted evidence plan terms of reference with the Inspectorate terms of reference and send

its revised one to the Inspectorate for review. The evidence plan will contain two appendices with the scheduled meetings and a logistics plan.

The Applicant was advised to take into account its sister project Norfolk Vanguard timescales when programming in the evidence group meetings. The Applicant confirmed that it had approached key consultees such as the host local authorities about sitting on the evidence plan steering group, and is aligning with other projects to avoid clashes in timetabling of meetings.

The Applicant advised that steering group meetings would be held at Vattenfall's London Offices and that the Inspectorate was happy to act as Chair in line with its terms of reference. The initial meeting would be held in October 2016 and the expert topic groups would largely start their work in the New Year, though an initial ornithology related meeting is expected to be held before Christmas

The Applicant was advised to follow the advice given to Norfolk Vanguard regarding Freedom of Information requests. The Applicant was further advised to be clear about what they wanted the expert groups to achieve (ie form part of Statements of Common Ground).

Project update

The Applicant has a preferred onshore cable route but will consult on two options to maintain flexibility and in order to gain feedback from Scoping consultation. The cable routes consulted upon will be 25m wide but with an additional buffer of 1km to allow the route to be adjusted post-Scoping to mitigate issues identified within the corridor. The Applicant was advised to be clear in the scoping report where the two landfall positions are located. It was further advised that the shapefile needed to encompass both the wind farm and the cable corridors. If requested, the Inspectorate can review the shapefile prior to the formal submission of the scoping request.

The Applicant is consulting on the positioning of the wind turbines within the wind farm and expects to refine the proposal following consultation. 40 turbine positions will be consulted upon, but it is expected the maximum number for which consent will be sought will be 34.

It was confirmed that the project is proceeding according to the Applicant's project plan and that they were intending to submit their scoping request on Monday 12th December 2016.

Consultation

The Applicant confirmed that they had a meeting planned with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). In respect of bird surveys, the RSPB had not expressed any concerns to date regarding the applicant's approach to bird surveys. The Applicant advised the Inspectorate that the RSPB has expressed an interest to be involved in the ornithology expert topic group within the evidence plan process, and the Applicant welcomed their inclusion.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee has advised the applicant that it is content for Natural England to act on their behalf. The applicant advised that it has been in contact with the Kent Wildlife Trust and is due to contact the Environment Agency

shortly. It was agreed that the Inspectorate would provide the Applicant with the EA contact details the Inspectorate holds for the Kent/South East of England.

The Inspectorate would seek advice regarding the possibility of sending the Applicant the scoping responses as they are received rather than with the published scoping opinion.

Post meeting advice – The Inspectorate has concluded after seeking further advice that it is unable to send the Applicant the responses as they are received.

Surveys

The applicant confirmed that the aerial ornithological surveys had commenced and that the RSPB were content with the approach taken to date regarding ornithology, but that further work was required to justify < 24 months of surveys. The applicant confirmed that their approaches to offshore surveys were progressing as scheduled. The surveys relating to the on-shore cable route are currently scheduled to commence in Q1/Q2 2017.

Compulsory Acquisition and s53 access

It was agreed that the Inspectorate would send the applicant the compulsory acquisition schedule referred to in the meeting.

It was clarified that s.53 access should only be used as a 'last resort' if the Applicant failed to reach private agreement(s) to gain access to land they needed to survey so as to inform the environmental assessment work.

AOB

The Applicant is drafting a Communications Plan for all key stakeholders to ensure that all parties are aware how the project is progressing.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

- Applicant to send a table of Local Authority contacts to the Inspectorate with the shapefile
- Applicant to send its draft contact plan for review
- Inspectorate to provide advice on proposed approach to bird surveys
- Inspectorate to send on its advice on Freedom of Information for Evidence Plan terms of reference
- Inspectorate to send through compulsory acquisition schedule and contact details for Environment Agency.