

## SECTIONS 91, 93 AND 94 PLANNING ACT 2008 RULE 13(6) INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010 NOTIFICATION OF OPEN FLOOR HEARINGS AND ISSUE SPECIFIC HEARINGS THE NORFOLK BOREAS OFFSHORE WIND FARM ORDER (Application Reference: EN010087)

Notice is hereby given that the following hearings will be held by the Examining Authority for the examination of the application made by Norfolk Boreas Limited (the **Applicant**) of 1st Floor, 1 Tudor Street, London, EC4Y 0AH for a Development Consent Order (**DCO**) under sections 14, 15 and 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the **Application**). The Application was made on 11 June 2019 and accepted on 4 July 2019 (reference: EN010087). In light of the current public health situation due to Covid-19 these hearings will be virtual and held as indicated below.

Hearing	Date	Time	Forum
Open Floor Hearing	2 July 2020	Arrangements conference at <b>1:30pm</b> ; hearing starts at <b>2pm</b> .	Digital device or telephone*
Open Floor Hearing – Oulton area	14 July 2020	Arrangements conference at <b>6:30pm</b> ; hearing starts at <b>7pm</b> .	Digital device or telephone*
Open Floor Hearing – Necton area	15 July 2020	Arrangements conference at <b>6:30pm</b> ; hearing starts at <b>7pm</b> .	Digital device or telephone*
Open Floor Hearing – Cawston area	16 July 2020	Arrangements conference at <b>6:30pm</b> ; hearing starts at <b>7pm</b> .	Digital device or telephone*
Open Floor Hearing – Happisburgh area	17 July 2020	Arrangements conference at <b>6:30pm</b> ; hearing starts at <b>7pm</b> .	Digital device or telephone*
Issue Specific Hearing – offshore ornithology	21 July 2020	Arrangements conference at <b>9:30am</b> ; hearing starts at <b>10am</b> .	Digital device or telephone*
Issue Specific Hearing – Haisborough Hammond and Winterton Special Area of Conservation	22 July 2020	Arrangements conference at <b>9:30am</b> ; hearing starts at <b>10am</b> .	Digital device or telephone*
Issue Specific Hearing – Marine mammals	23 July 2020	Arrangements conference at <b>9:30am</b> ; hearing starts at <b>10am</b> .	Digital device or telephone*
Issue Specific Hearing – Draft Development Consent Order and other matters	24 July 2020	Arrangements conference at <b>9:30am</b> ; hearing starts at <b>10am</b> .	Digital device or telephone*

\*The Planning Inspectorate will provide joining details for the hearings within the agendas to be published approximately two weeks in advance of the hearing. Interested parties should check the National Infrastructure Planning website and register accordingly prior to the hearing (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-boreas/?ipcsection=overview>).

The Application relates to the construction and operation of an offshore wind farm located approximately 73km from the coast of Norfolk (at the closest point) (the **Project**). The Project, located in the southern North Sea, would cover an area of approximately 725km<sup>2</sup>. Offshore cables transmitting power from the Project would make landfall south of Happisburgh. From there underground cables would continue approximately 60km to an onshore project substation, and connect into the National Grid substation near Necton, Norfolk.

The Project is the second offshore wind farm proposal being developed by Vattenfall in this part of the southern North Sea. With the same proposed export capacity of up to 1.8GW (1,800MW), the Norfolk Vanguard Project (also classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project), submitted its DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate in June 2018 (Norfolk Vanguard). Vattenfall aims to optimise synergies in relation to the development, construction, operation and eventual decommissioning of the two projects, enabling overall impacts to be reduced. If both projects secure consent and progress to construction, these synergies will be realised by the Applicant implementing Scenario 1 for the Project (as described in Table 1 below). However, the Applicant needs to consider the possibility that Norfolk Vanguard may not be built, and in this case Scenario 2 would be relevant (as described in Table 1 below).

The proposed DCO would, amongst other things, authorise offshore components including:

- Up to 158 wind turbine generators and associated foundations, with a maximum turbine hub height of 198.5m, a maximum rotor diameter of 303m and a maximum tip height of 350m, to give a combined export capacity of up to 1,800MW;
- Up to two offshore electrical platforms and an offshore service platform, both with associated foundations;
- Scour protection, as required, for foundations and cables;
- The construction of a network of subsea array cables connecting the wind turbines to each other and to the offshore electrical platforms; and interconnector cables connecting the offshore electrical platforms to each other or, applicable for Scenario 1 only, project interconnector cables connecting an offshore electrical platform in Norfolk Boreas with an offshore electrical platform within Norfolk Vanguard;
- Up to two pairs of export cables from the offshore electrical platforms to the shore; and
- Up to two meteorological masts and their associated foundations, up to two LiDAR buoys, two wave buoys and a number of navigational buoys.

The onshore project area would be from the point at which the offshore cables come ashore (the Landfall) at Happisburgh South, Norfolk, to the existing Necton National Grid Substation. The cable route from landfall to the onshore project substation is approximately 60km. The key landfall and onshore components would, amongst other things, comprise the following:

- Up to two pairs of subsea export cables laid in ducts installed under the cliff by long Horizontal Directional Drilling;
- Up to two onshore transition pits to house the connection between the offshore cables and the onshore cables;
- Onshore connection works, subject to different scenarios dependent on whether Norfolk Vanguard proceeds to construction, as described in Table 1:

**Table 1:** summary of the two scenarios described in the Application:

<b>Scenario 1:</b> <i>Norfolk Vanguard proceeds to construction and installs ducts and carries out other shared enabling works to benefit Norfolk Boreas</i>	<b>Scenario 2:</b> <i>Norfolk Vanguard does not proceed to construction and Norfolk Boreas proceeds alone. Norfolk Boreas undertakes all works required as an independent project</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pulling up to two pairs of cables and associated communication cables through pre-installed ducts</li> <li>12km (approx.) running track alongside the cable route</li> <li>300m extension to the access road installed by Norfolk Vanguard to the onshore project substation.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cable duct installation and pulling up to two pairs of cables and associated communication cables through ducts</li> <li>Trenchless crossings at various roads, railways and sensitive habitats</li> <li>Mobilisation areas and compounds for trenchless crossings</li> <li>60km (approx.) running track alongside the cable corridor</li> <li>A47 junction improvement works to install a right turn/filter and new exit at the Spicers Corner junction</li> <li>1.8km access road to the onshore project substation</li> <li>Modification to the existing overhead line network in the vicinity of the Necton National Grid substation</li> </ol>

- Jointing pits and link boxes to facilitate cable pulling, at intervals along the cable route;
- Cable logistics area near Oulton to allow for the storage of cable drums and associated materials close to the cable corridor;
- Construction of an onshore project substation in proximity to the existing Necton National Grid Substation together with associated equipment and a temporary construction compound;
- Extension to the existing Necton National Grid Substation;
- Up to 12 400kV underground cables between the new onshore project substation and the existing Necton National Grid Substation;
- Temporary construction areas and access roads, together with works to secure vehicular and/or pedestrian means of access including the creation of new tracks, footpaths, and/or widening, upgrades, creation of bell mouths, creation of temporary slip roads and improvements to existing tracks, footpaths and roads;
- Planting to provide screening for permanent infrastructure;
- The permanent and/or temporary compulsory acquisition (if required) of land and/or rights for the Project;
- Overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land for the Project;
- The application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project including inter alia legislation relating to compulsory purchase; and
- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, permits or consents as are necessary and/or convenient.

The proposed works are an environmental impact assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and accordingly an Environmental Statement accompanied the Application.

In light of the current public health situation surrounding coronavirus, please access copies of the application documents online through the Planning Inspectorate's website at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-boreas/>. Paper copies can be provided on request from <https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk/norfolk-boreas/> or from the Applicant at the address above for a charge of £8,896 plus VAT for the full suite of documents. USB device copies can be provided free of charge, on request. A hard copy of the full suite of application documents including accompanying plans, maps and other documents are on deposit at North Walsham Library for the Examination period. However, North Walsham Library is closed until further notice.

During the current Covid-19 period, in the interests of public health, the Planning Inspectorate should be contacted by written electronic form via the following email address: [NorfolkBoreas@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:NorfolkBoreas@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) or via Telephone: 0303 444 5000. Any correspondence with the Planning Inspectorate about the Project should be marked 'FAO Norfolk Boreas Case Team' with the Application reference number EN010087.