



Meeting note

File reference	EN010087
Status	Final
Author	Karl-Jonas Johansson
Date	24 January 2017
Meeting with	Vattenfall
Venue	Temple Quay House Bristol
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Tom Carpen (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Kay Sully (Case Manager) Karl-Jonas Johansson (Case Officer) Hannah Prat (Senior EIA and land rights advisor) Vattenfall Graham Davey (Vattenfall) David Tarrant (Royal HaskoningDHV) Victoria Redman (Bond Dickinson) Catrin Jones (Vattenfall)
Meeting objectives	Project inception 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 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.

The Inspectorate updated the Applicant regarding the upcoming personnel changes and clarified that Tom Carpen's roll would be taken over by Chris White who will be heading up the energy team for the next 8 months.

Background

The Applicant explained the background for the project. The project will, when fully built out, be able to generate 1.8GW of electricity. The wind farm site has been

granted a lease from the Crown Estate and the Applicant expected the lease for the off shore cable corridor to be finalised shortly.

The Applicant explained that the number of turbines in the array is currently likely to be around between 257 and 90, but due to the advances in turbine technology this number might decrease toward the 90 as the project evolves. The Applicant intends to build the project in up to three phases. Each phase could commence in conjunction with a successful bid to provide electricity to the grid at the annual capacity auctions. The project is currently likely to have up to six offshore substations, two for each phase. The type of cable technology (i.e. HVAC or HVDC) is yet to be determined. The onshore landfall point for the cable will be near Bacton and the onshore cable would follow the same route as Norfolk Vanguard (Vanguard) to Necton. The Applicant clarified that the cable landfall location had yet to be determined as the options had different constraints.

The Applicant clarified that Vanguard is due to be submitted a year before Norfolk Boreas (Boreas) and therefore the intention is to retain the option to install ducting for Boreas cables during the onshore cable route construction of Vanguard. However, it was clarified that the Development Consent Orders (DCO) for Vanguard and Boreas will enable the Applicant to build them independently of each other. The Inspectorate advised that the Environmental Statement (ES) needs to be clear regarding what is overlapping between the two projects and how the phasing has been assessed. The Applicant confirmed that the ES would assess a worst case scenario of both projects being implemented in full independently of one another.

Programme

Boreas follows a similar project plan as for Vanguard but with a one year delay. Boreas scoping opinion will be submitted in May 2017 and the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report will be consulted on in December 2018. The Applicant intends to submit the application June 2019 with the ambition to start construction mid 2020s.

The Inspectorate advised that new EIA regulation is due to come into effect in May 2017. The Applicant confirmed that it was aware of the change and that it had considered the implications on its timescales. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to submit the scoping request when there was sufficient material for the consultees to comment on the project. The Applicant was advised to send the shapefile of the application site 10 working days prior to submission of the scoping report (details of which are within [Advice note three: EIA consultation and notification](#)), along with the local authority contact details.

Consenting strategy

The DCO and Deemed Marine License (DML) for Boreas will be drafted so it can be built as a stand-alone project. Each phase of the projects will have its own DML. The Inspectorate stressed the importance of drafting the DCO and DMLs so they are consistent with the project description within the ES.

The Inspectorate and the Applicant discussed and agreed on the value of working closely with the Marine Management Organisation both in terms of early discussions and formally as part of any Evidence Plan process. The Applicant advised that this was built into its programme

Stakeholder Engagement

Boreas was introduced to the public during the non-statutory consultation that took place in October 2016 for Vanguard. Further non-statutory consultation for Boreas will be conducted at the same time as for the non-statutory for Vanguard scheduled for March 2017.

As the projects are similar and have overlapping stakeholders, the Applicant intends to use the Vanguard consultation events to clarify to the stakeholders what is overlapping between the two projects and what is different. The consultation programme for the two projects will run in parallel until 2018. After that the two projects will diverge. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to be clear in all its consultation material which project the material is related in order to avoid confusion and to act promptly if consultation responses indicate that the stakeholders are having problems understating which project the material relates to. The Applicant stated that if this turns out to be an issue after the March consultation, it intends to revise its consultation strategy.

The Applicant was advised to be clear in its consultation report to distinguish between statutory consultation and non-statutory consultation but to have due regard to both types of consultation. The Inspectorate also clarified that the report needed to be clear on how the applicant had had regard to responses received.

Evidence Plan and approach to EIA

The terms of reference for the evidence plan steering group are due to be circulated in June 2017 for agreement with the intention of starting the process at the end of 2017. If possible the Applicant will use the same terms of reference as for Vanguard.

The Applicant intends to run a combined EIA and HRA evidence plan for Boreas in parallel with Vanguard to minimise the impact on statutory consultees. However the groups would operate independently for each project. It was clarified that for EIA purposes the Applicant regarded building Boreas on its own as the worst case scenario. If needed the Applicant might introduce extra topic group meetings for the more complex topics.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to contact Historic England (HE) about whether they wished to be a member of the steering group as HE had requested this for Vanguard. It was clarified that the Applicant intends to widen the scope of the evidence plan to cover aspects of EIA.

Statements of Common Ground

The timing for agreeing Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) was discussed. The Inspectorate clarified that it common practise for SoCGs to evolve during pre-examination and the early examination but that the Examining Authority usually has a deadline for final SoCGs. The Applicant was advised that the statutory consultees might not be able to commit to agreeing to a SoCG until they have seen the full application. It was further highlighted that it would benefit the Secretary of State to know what matters the parties had not agreed upon in the SoCG.

Marine Noise Registry

The Applicant was advised to contact the Joint Nature Conservation Committee regarding the marine noise registry and where informed of recent Deemed Marine Licence conditions requiring applicant's to provide construction noise data to JNCC.

Applicant was advised to review the Hornsea Offshore Wind Farm (Zone 4) - Project One requirements regarding marine noise

Compulsory Acquisition and Crown land issues

The Applicant confirmed that the DCO will contain compulsory acquisition powers but intend to apply for them only if private agreements cannot be reached. It was confirmed that the Applicant was aware of the recent decision by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy relating to the interpretation of s135(1) of PA2008 (compulsory acquisition of Crown land). The Applicant was advised to start working with statutory parties early on protective provisions to minimise them being an issue at examination.

Statutory Instrument template

The Applicant's legal team confirmed that they have access to the template.

Project information necessary for the Inspectorate's website

The Applicant confirmed that they wanted to launch the website in February 2017.

Intended submission date

June 2019

Draft documents review

The Applicant was advised to programme in 2-3 months for the review but it was clarified that it depends on how many iterations of the documents the Inspectorate was asked to review. The initial review usually takes four weeks including a meeting at Temple Quay House. It was clarified that the Inspectorate can only review specific sections of the Environmental Statement under certain circumstances. The documents normally reviewed are the DCO and Explanatory Memorandum, Book of Reference, Works plans, Funding Statement and Statement of Reasons, the Habitats Regulations Assessment and Consultation report. If requested the Inspectorate can review the Statement of Community Consultation too.

AOB

It was agreed to hold next meeting after the March consultations.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

- The Inspectorate to confirm if it has the capacity to chair the Boreas Evidence Plan steering group.
- The Inspectorate to request the necessary information to launch the project website.

- The Inspectorate to set up project email accounts for Vanguard and Boreas
- The Applicant to send the Inspectorate its local authority contacts together with the shapefile at least 10 working days in advance of the scoping request being made.