



## Meeting note

<b>File reference</b>	<b>EN010087</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	Siân Evans
<b>Date</b>	19 October 2017
<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>Vattenfall</b>
<b>Venue</b>	Teleconference
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>The Planning Inspectorate</b> Chris White (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Kay Sully (Case Manager) Siân Evans (Case Officer) Hannah Pratt (Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor)
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	<b>Vattenfall</b> Graham Davey (Vattenfall) Catrin Ellis Jones (Vattenfall) David Tarrant (Royal HaskoningDHV) Norfolk Boreas project update meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	All attendees

### Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

#### Introduction

Vattenfall (the Applicant) and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate outlined 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.

#### Project update

The Applicant advised that they are on track to start their statutory consultation at the end of 2018 and submit their application in June 2019. The Applicant explained that one of the key issues raised by local communities is whether High Voltage Alternating Current (AC) or High Voltage Direct Current (DC) technology will be used. The Inspectorate enquired whether a decision on this would be made prior to submission of the application. The Applicant advised that they are keeping their options open at the moment and the Inspectorate advised that the draft Development Consent Order

(DCO) will need to be clear what powers are needed if a decision has not been taken regarding AC or DC at submission.

The Applicant advised that the Boreas project is not engaging in publicity activity while the Vanguard project is about to start statutory consultation to avoid causing potential confusion within local communities. Vanguard's project newsletter included a brief update on the Boreas project but in Spring there will be a Boreas focussed newsletter. The Boreas project is taking the opportunity to learn from the Vanguard project and as a result it is proactively working on skills and supply chain strategies and trying to engage with harder to reach groups.

The Applicant explained that the Vanguard project will be seeking consent for the cable ducts for the Boreas project. However the Boreas project will also be seeking consent for this in the event that the Vanguard project does not get consent, or is not built. The Inspectorate queried how it will be ensured that the onshore connection works will not in effect be permitted to be carried out twice; the Applicant explained that the draft Development Consent Order will be drafted to ensure that if Vanguard is permitted and ducting for Boreas built as part of it, the Boreas consent will not allow these works to take place again. The Applicant also confirmed that the Environmental Impact Assessment will consider (i) the scenario of Vanguard being built and including ducting for Boreas and (ii) Vanguard not being built and Boreas having to include all works for the onshore connection. The Inspectorate advised that whilst it will be useful to see both scenarios, it is important to present the worst case scenario.

### **Evidence Plan**

The Applicant advised that the samples collected from the geophysical surveys are now being analysed. Ornithology and marine mammal surveys are ongoing and the Applicant intends to have a two year dataset complete next year. Shipping and navigation surveys are ongoing. The Applicant explained that they are using survey data from the Norfolk Vanguard project where possible. For the benthic surveys, 2011 survey data from zonal surveys is being used and compared to recent grab samples to determine the suitability of the 2011 data. This approach has been agreed with the Marine Management Organisation.

The Applicant is currently drafting method statements for the EIA and will consult on these with relevant stakeholders in January/February 2018. This will help to determine the need for any further terrestrial surveys; of which it is currently anticipated that additional ecology surveys will be required.

### **Pre-application correspondence**

The Inspectorate drew the Applicant's attention to some correspondence received which raised concerns about the pre-application consultation carried out by the Applicant. This correspondence has been published on the Inspectorate's website. The Applicant explained that they were aware of concerns about decisions which had been made at a strategic level, in which it was difficult to allow local stakeholders to have an input. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to encourage all stakeholders to actively engage, and raise issues which they are concerned with, at the statutory consultation stage.

**AOB**

It was agreed that the next teleconference will be held in January. Vattenfall will send a list of dates to the Inspectorate.