



Meeting note

Project name	Norfolk Boreas
File reference	EN010087
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	7 June 2018
Meeting with	Vattenfall
Venue	Temple Quay House, Bristol
Meeting objectives	Norfolk Boreas project update meeting
Circulation	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 will be starting discussions with the local authorities on their Statement of Community Consultation imminently. Statutory consultation will take place in October/ November 2018. The Applicant is taking the Norfolk Vanguard project into consideration in the timing of their consultation and the pressures on statutory consultees. The Applicant advised that they can provide early drafts of documents to consultees to further assist with this. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that if the Norfolk Vanguard application is accepted for examination then they could comment on the draft timetable once the ExA has issued its Rule 6 letter and any concerns can be raised at the Preliminary Meeting if they have any concerns about deadlines clashing with the Norfolk Boreas statutory consultation.

The Applicant advised that they still intend to submit their application in June 2019.

The Applicant advised that they have completed their geophysical and geotechnical surveys. Metocean survey equipment has recently been deployed and will be in place for one year. The marine traffic survey is also complete and the Applicant is in

ongoing consultation with Trinity House, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and other key stakeholders. For the aerial ornithological and marine mammal surveys, 22 of 24 months have been completed. 18 months of ornithology data has been processed and will be presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

The Applicant advised that method statements have been agreed and circulated for the Evidence Plan. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to ensure parties clearly indicate their views on this project and not to simply rely on comments made for the Norfolk Vanguard project. If both projects are accepted for examination there will be separate Examinations and there needs to be a clear chain of evidence for each project.

In relation to transboundary issues the Applicant advised that they will be contacting the commercial fisheries of the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Norway and Denmark.

The Applicant explained that their application will present two scenarios. Scenario one is with the Norfolk Vanguard project gaining development consent and installing the ducts and infrastructure for the Norfolk Boreas project. Scenario two is Norfolk Boreas as a standalone project. This is resulting in lengthy onshore Environmental Statement (ES) chapters. The Applicant advised that they are presenting the impacts for each scenario and the worst case is defined under each scenario.

The Applicant confirmed that they are investigating whether both projects could share an offshore substation. If so, interconnector cables would be required between offshore substation platforms as part of the Norfolk Boreas project and these would then be transferred to an Offshore Transmission Owner.

The Applicant confirmed that, although it submitted a scoping request prior to the 2017 EIA Regulations coming into force, it does not intend to rely on the transitional provisions because of this change to the Proposed Development. It will therefore prepare its ES in accordance with the 2017 EIA Regulations.

The Norfolk Boreas onshore Necton National Grid substation extension is now not included in the Norfolk Vanguard application. Therefore the Norfolk Boreas onshore Necton National Grid Substation extension will be included in the Norfolk Boreas application.

The Applicant advised that engagement with parties was going well, and people were familiar with the project through the Norfolk Vanguard informal consultation process, which described both projects and their relationship. The fact that the Applicant has announced that HVDC transmission technology will be used has also been welcomed. The Applicant advised that they are engaging with landowners and Heads of Terms have been drafted.

The Inspectorate enquired whether there are any hard to reach groups that should be consulted. The Applicant advised that they had developed an interactive website to engage with younger people, who often do not participate in consultation. The Applicant has also met with Norfolk County Council's engagement officer to help ensure hard to reach groups are consulted.

AoB

It was agreed that the next meeting could be held by teleconference and it would be helpful if this was before the start of the statutory consultation.