



The Planning Inspectorate

Planning Act 2008 – Section 91

Application by Ørsted Hornsea Project Four Limited for an Order granting Development Consent for the Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 2 dealing with onshore environmental matters

Issue Specific Hearing 2:	Onshore environmental matters
Date:	Tuesday 26 April 2022
Arrangements Conference from:	9:00am ¹
Hearing start time:	9:30am ²
Location:	Virtual event via Microsoft Teams
Hearings Guidance:	Please see Annex A of this Agenda

Interested Parties who wish to speak at this event were required to provide notification by Deadline 1. In order to receive the joining instructions to participate in this virtual Hearing can you please complete and submit the following [form](#). Alternatively, you can contact the Inspectorate's Case Team for further information about the event (HornseaProjectFour@planninginspectorate.gov.uk). If you wish to observe the Hearing then you do not need to register. A link to the livestream will be made available on the project page of the National Infrastructure Website closer to the event.

Each Interested Party is entitled to make oral representations at hearings. However, this is subject to the power of the Examining Authority (ExA) to control the conduct and management of hearings.

The virtual event will be open 30 minutes prior to the start of the hearing to enable a prompt start. Hearings will finish as soon as the ExA deems that all those present have had their say and that all matters have been covered.

The agenda is for guidance only. It is not designed to be exclusive or exhaustive. The ExA may add other issues for consideration, may alter the order in which issues are

¹ Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance of the meeting to those who register to participate.

² If you are joining as an active participant, please follow the joining instructions for the virtual event carefully and connect to the Hearing in good time. In common with traditional Hearings, the event will start on time irrespective of any late arrivals, for whom access may not be possible.

considered and will seek to allocate sufficient time to each issue to allow proper consideration of them. Any lack of discussion of a particular issue at a hearing does not preclude further examination of this issue, including the asking of further written questions.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the issues will be discussed on the day that they are scheduled for. Should the consideration of these issues take less time than anticipated, the ExA may conclude the Hearing as soon as all relevant contributions have been made and all questions asked and responded to.

If there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time, there may be a need to continue the session for longer on the day. Alternatively, it may be necessary to prioritise matters and defer others to further written questions.

Please Note:

In order to ensure timely publication of the agenda, this has been drafted before the receipt of submissions for Deadline 3. As a consequence, the ExA may need to adjust the agenda at the meeting to allow for responses received at Deadline 3.

Purpose of hearing on onshore environmental matters:

The purpose of the Hearing is to examine onshore environmental matters, in particular:

- **Proposed Development, Site Selection and Design:** the Applicant's design process and proposals for onshore development, computer generated photomontage views and the design of screening and other boundary treatments.
- **Landscape and Visual Effects:** including the effectiveness of the Applicant's landscape planting, monitoring and maintenance strategies.
- **Traffic and Transport and Public Rights of Way:** including the Applicant's Traffic Assessment, issues around the location of the proposed Logistics compound and impacts from Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) traffic and impacts on Public Rights of Way (PRoW).
- **Historic Environment:** including measures to ensure effective protection of heritage assets during the construction process.
- **Noise, vibration, electro magnetic fields (EMFs) and light**
- **Onshore ecology and onshore water environment:** including the impact from temporary bridge crossings of 'main rivers' and the disapplication of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.
- **Socio-economic and land use effects:** the significance of loss of Best and Most Versatile agricultural soils.



The Planning
Inspectorate

Agenda

Title of meeting	Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm Issue Specific Hearing 2 – onshore environmental matters
Date	Tuesday 26 April 2022
Time	9.30am
Venue	Online via Microsoft Teams invitation
Attendees	Invitees

1 Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the Hearing

2 Proposed Development, Site Selection and Design

- 2.1 Comments and observations relating to the design process undertaken by the Applicant to date.
- 2.2 Comments and observations relating to the robustness of the design review process established by the Applicant in order to secure the highest possible design quality.
- 2.3 The effectiveness of photomontage views presented by the Applicant to date in depicting the impacts of the Proposed Development on its setting, including depiction of the impact of the onshore cable corridor during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.
- 2.4 The implications of excluding the design of screening and other boundary treatments at the onshore substation site from the Examination.

3 Landscape and Visual Effects

- 3.1 Update on the progress of agreement, or otherwise, on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) matters within the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between the Applicant and East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC).
- 3.2 Comments and observations on the Applicant's revised outline Landscape Management Plan (oLMP) commitment [REP1-031, para 4.1.1.3] which seeks to ensure that appropriate, local hedgerow species are sourced and planted during the construction stage of the Proposed Development.
- 3.3 An overview of the assessment process and likely timeframes for any potential decision on designation of the Yorkshire Wolds as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

- 3.4 The effectiveness of landscape planting around the onshore substation in mitigating the visual effects of the onshore substation and energy balancing infrastructure buildings.
- 3.5 Landscape monitoring, maintenance, remedial actions and appropriate timescales for management of planting relied upon to reduce the magnitude of visual effects

4 Traffic and Transport and Public Rights of Way

- 4.1 Traffic assessment (having particular regard to the Traffic and Transport Technical Report [APP-125], Examining Authority's written questions (ExQ1) [PD-006] and Applicant's Responses to ExQ1 [REP2-038]).
- 4.2 The location of the proposed Logistics Compound accessed via Station Road west, and the preferred location accessed via Station Road east as proposed by Lockington Parish Council (having particular regard to [RR-018], Annex 4 of [REP1-038], [REP1-075] and [REP2-038]).
- 4.3 Impacts of HGV construction traffic on level crossings [REP2-086].
- 4.4 Impacts on Public Rights of Way, having particular regard to the permanent diversion of Skidby Footpath No. 16 (Sheet 28 of [APP-215]).

5 Historic Environment

- 5.1 Procedures to ensure effective protection of heritage assets during the construction process.

6 Noise, Vibration, Electro Magnetic Fields (EMFs) and Light

- 6.1 Update on the progress of agreement, or otherwise, on Noise, Vibration, EMF and Light matters within the SoCG between the Applicant and ERYC.

7 Onshore Ecology

- 7.1 Biodiversity enhancement and Biodiversity Net Gain considerations.

8 Onshore Water Environment

- 8.1 Update on discussions between the Applicant and the Environment Agency on the temporary bridge crossings of 'main rivers', particularly Watton Beck, and the disapplication of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.

9 Socio-Economic and Land Use Effects

- 9.1 Update on assessment of significance of loss of Best and Most Versatile agricultural soils.

10 Action Points arising from the Hearing

11 Any other business

12 Close of Hearing

Attendees:

All Interested Parties are welcome to attend the hearing. However, the ExA considers that representatives for the following parties should consider attending because the ExA believes that the material that they have submitted raises issues that may need to be explored at the hearing:

- The Applicant;
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council;
- The Environment Agency;
- Historic England; and
- Lockington Parish Council.

Conduct and Management of Hearings

The Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provide that the ExA that will probe, test and assess the evidence at hearings through direct questioning of persons making oral representations. Questioning at this Hearing will therefore be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of the person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that a person has had a fair chance to put their case. Parties wishing to make a representation will be invited to do so at the ExA's discretion.

The ExA will begin the Hearing with opening comments and introductions, then will run through housekeeping matters and explain how the Hearing will be conducted. The ExA's expectation is that each hearing session will typically last for one to two hours. However, the actual duration will depend on the progress made on the day and will be subject to the ExA's powers of control over the conduct of the Hearing.

The agenda may be amended by the ExA at the start of the Hearing or throughout its course. Furthermore, the ExA may wish to raise matters arising from oral submissions, Relevant Representations and Written Representations, and pursue lines of inquiry that are not listed on the agenda in the course of the discussion.

The Hearing is being held at the discretion of the ExA to consider matters that it considers to be important and relevant to the effective and robust examination of the application. Consequently, the business of the Hearing will be limited to the matters identified in the agenda or otherwise raised by the ExA.

Active participation is at the invitation and discretion of the ExA. Oral submissions must address the matters and questions identified on the Hearing agenda or raised by the ExA at the hearing. Oral submissions on other subject matters or from persons who have not been invited to speak by the ExA may only be heard at the discretion of the ExA, who may decide that such matters are not heard in the interests of relevance, efficiency or fairness.

A recording and transcript of the Hearing will be published by the Planning Inspectorate on the project page of the national infrastructure website³ and any Interested Party may make a written submission on the specific matters either included in the agenda or arising at the Hearing by Deadline 4, 10 May 2022.

³ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/hornsea-project-four-offshore-wind-farm>