



Meeting note

Project name	Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm
File reference	EN010098
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	25 June 2019
Meeting with	Ørsted, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation, GoBe Consultants
Venue	Teleconference - Temple Quay House, Bristol and York
Meeting objectives	Steering Group third meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

Introductions were made for those who had not met previously. The Applicant confirmed that Historic England have now joined the Steering Group but were unable to attend this meeting. The Inspectorate ensured those present understood that a summary note of the meeting would be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

The Applicant confirmed the actions from the last meeting and that an updated version of the Steering Group Terms of Reference would be issued shortly incorporating comments from Natural England and Historic England.

A brief discussion of the project timescales was held where both Natural England and the Inspectorate advised the Applicant on the importance of allowing adequate time following the issue of Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) to respond to consultation before finalising the Environmental Statement. The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant make the information in the PEIR as accessible as possible to consultees to enable them to provide specific comments, and the Applicant confirmed they were taking steps to do this.

The Applicant then gave an overview of the progress on the project to date, with respect to further onshore cable route refinement and substation site selection. The Applicant explained that they are adopting a reduction in the offshore Agreement for Lease (AfL) area than was presented at Scoping, in light of ornithological information. The Applicant confirmed the narrative behind these processes will be included in the PEIR and the Environmental Statement. The Applicant confirmed that the PEIR will be issued at the start of Section 42 consultation at the end of July 2019.

The Applicant gave an overview of a new digital engagement tool proposed for use in their consultation. The Inspectorate advised that given that this is a new approach care would need to be taken to ensure responses can be captured in a way that meets the legal requirements under the 2008 Act. The Applicant explained how this tool will be used to inform the Consultation Report to be submitted with the Application.

The Applicant gave an update on the Technical Panel discussions which have taken place since the second Steering Group meeting. Offshore and Onshore matters were discussed. In response to Natural England, the Applicant confirmed that where surveys are ongoing and information will be outstanding at the time of PEIR, draft documents would be made available through the Evidence Plan process to stakeholders prior to final submission. The Applicant confirmed when asked by the Inspectorate that they had secured complete access to land for the purposes of investigations to inform the ES.

The Applicant confirmed that the next meeting would be arranged in due course.