



Meeting note

Project name	Hornsea Project 4
File reference	EN010098
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	29 August 2019
Meeting with	Ørsted
Venue	Temple Quay House
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Project update

The Applicant noted that it had been consulting on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PIER) and draft Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA). The PEIR was a draft Environmental Statement (ES) with surveys in Ecology and Historic Environment to be completed before it would be the finalised ES.

The Applicant confirmed that it had conducted shipping and navigation workshops, during which there was discussion with a number of stakeholders around the issue of route deviations and potential mitigation solutions. Particularly consultation was ongoing with DFDS, amongst others, and was going well.

The Inspectorate requested updated information on the project in relation to potential transboundary significant environmental effects, which the Applicant stated would be provided in the next couple of weeks.

Compulsory Acquisition

The Applicant explained how feedback from landowners indicated a preference for a southern landfall site. The Applicant said it intended to accommodate this.

The Applicant provided an update on negotiations with landowners and tenants with property in the vicinity of the substation. The Applicant was considering what mitigation could be provided to reduce the visual impacts of the substation.

The Applicant said further work was required in terms of reducing options for its connection point into the national grid to limit the impact on statutory undertakers.



Consultation

The Applicant explained how it had responded to consultation responses, including accepting multiple minor onshore cable route realignments. A more significant realignment was being considered due to concerns raised during the consultation period, however this would require further geophysical surveys and targeted consultation.

The Applicant discussed workshops it was holding to navigate through the commitments register and application register. It explained that, at present, only East Riding of Yorkshire Council had accepted an invitation to attend.

The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant should consider how it dealt with late consultation responses. The Applicant noted that there were cut-off points after which certain aspects of the design could not be altered.

The Applicant spoke about how its commitments register allowed people to easily navigate from commitments to the documents which secure them. The Applicant said it was continuing to formulate ideas on how to demonstrate how consultation responses had been taken into account in the commitments register.

The Inspectorate and the Applicant discussed the Applicant's use of the online platform, Commonplace, to gather responses to consultation. The Applicant explained the benefits of this, in making the consultation a more interactive process. The Inspectorate asked whether consultees could still respond via online feedback forms. The Applicant confirmed they could.

The Inspectorate then queried how responses from Commonplace would be represented in the Consultation Report. The Applicant said these responses would be appended. The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant needed to ensure it was clear for consultees where they were responding to formal consultation. It would also be important for the distinction between engagement methods such as Commonplace and formal involvement in the examination to be clear, if the application is accepted for examination.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Inspectorate asked about in combination impacts of Hornsea Project 4 along with other development in the area. The Applicant's position was that it doesn't have adverse effects on integrity alone or in combination.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- Arrange a meeting for October