



## Meeting note

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| <b>Project name</b>       | Hornsea Project Four Offshore Windfarm |
| <b>File reference</b>     | EN010098                               |
| <b>Status</b>             | <b>Final</b>                           |
| <b>Author</b>             | The Planning Inspectorate              |
| <b>Date</b>               | 7 May 2020                             |
| <b>Meeting with</b>       | Ørsted (the Applicant)                 |
| <b>Venue</b>              | Teleconference                         |
| <b>Meeting objectives</b> | Project update                         |
| <b>Circulation</b>        | 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 informed the Inspectorate that it had undertaken targeted section 42 consultation between 17 February 2020 and 18 March 2020 on 34 amendments to the export cable corridor (ECC), logistics compounds and accesses. It said it had received 16 responses, including one from Natural England expressing a preference on the two variations on the cable route the Applicant aimed to take into Examination as options. The consultation period closed prior to the lockdown period commencing as a result of COVID-19.

The Applicant noted that it had made some changes to the proposed cable route as a result of an application for a petrol filling station along the route. Additionally, a stakeholder had requested a number of changes after the consultation had closed. The Applicant said it had tried to accommodate these where it could. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to include any responses to requested changes within the Consultation Report, specifying how it had considered late submissions.

The Applicant explained how the project was now at the design freeze phase, with the proposed Order Limits set and these shared with relevant consultees and the local community via a Community Newsletter in early June 2020. It said it had also updated its Design Vision document to include the National Infrastructure Commission's design principles and was looking at locally designated wildlife sites with a view to establishing 35-year plans with the local Wildlife Trust, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, and landowners to provide environmental net gain.

The Applicant said it was using the additional time due to delayed submission to reduce large strategic risk within the project, to do this:

- Hornsea Four were hopeful of reaching agreement with Natural England on 2 vs 4 camera analysis and precision;
- Hornsea Four had been looking at the possibility of a structure exclusion zone and were in the process of arranging a workshop with key stakeholders and interested parties;
- Hornsea Four are intending to submit a full derogation case with the Application (the decision being dependent upon the Decision on HOW03 and Norfolk Vanguard).

The Inspectorate and the Applicant spoke about the Commitments Register that the Applicant had finalised. The Inspectorate queried how additional commitments might be added during Examination. The Applicant replied that the aim had been to take on board commitments that had been added during the Examinations of other offshore windfarms such as Hornsea Project Three and Norfolk Vanguard. It had also worked hard with all stakeholders to ensure the commitments agreed so far were extensive. However, the

Applicant recognised that some additional commitments might have to be made in Examination and would consider the governance procedure for this.

The Inspectorate said that the Commitments Register would be a useful document in allowing the appointed Examining Authority, should the Application be submitted and accepted, to track how certain commitments or positions had been reached. It would therefore aid the Examination.

### ***DCO Application and Covid-19***

The Applicant spoke about how, while those working on the Application continued to operate from home, it would potentially be more difficult to pull together a Development Consent Order application without a core team returning to the office.

The Inspectorate noted that as the Applicant was moving towards submission it should ensure there were no signatures in any Application documents, to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations.

### ***Compulsory Acquisition***

The Applicant gave an update on how negotiations and agreements with various parties was progressing:

- In relation to the former White Rose Carbon Capture Storage Project all parties were hopeful of a coexistence agreement however there was work that needed to be done to reach one;
- In relation to fisheries it was expected that agreement would be reached soon on coexistence in relation to Geotechnical survey in 2020 and an in-principle understanding for future works;
- In relation to land and property along the ECC there was steady progression with the Land Interest Group (LIG) on Heads of Terms (HoTs);
- There had been more certainty around the connection to the National Grid substation however, this was still not finalised;
- In relation to oil and gas it was hoped there would be commercial agreement and letters of no opposition by the time the Examination starts.

### ***Derogation Case***

The Applicant explained how it had been establishing its derogation case with respect to the Habitats Regulations. A Compensation "Long list" has been drawn up. Including 'non-like-for-like' compensation. The Inspectorate suggested looking at previous cases from Europe for examples of 'non like for like'.

The Applicant then spoke about how it was concerned by the lack of an established approach for derogation and was therefore concerned that it may not take the optimal approach for itself or other stakeholders. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to look at the Relevant Representations from Natural England on East Anglia One North and East Anglia TWO as these touched on some of these concerns.

### ***Specific decisions/ follow-up required?***

The following actions were agreed:

- Arrange a meeting for June (**Now completed**)