



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Hornsea Project Four
<b>File reference</b>	EN010098
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	12 October 2020
<b>Meeting with</b>	Ørsted (the Applicant)
<b>Venue</b>	Telecon
<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.

### ***Progress with other parties***

The Applicant provided an update on negotiations, explaining that it had formally signed its connection agreement with National Grid, and was holding round table discussions with National Grid Ventures and others in relation to the Endurance Carbon Capture Storage project.

### ***Project update***

The Applicant explained that it would use time available before submission in Quarter 1 2021 to address matters related to ornithology and incorporate this work into the Report to Inform the Appropriate Assessment and the Derogation case under the Habitats Regulations.

The Applicant confirmed that it had carried out a round of targeted consultation aimed at a small number of parties in the local area in relation to the altered substation access.

On a more industry wide basis, the Applicant explained that there were radar trials ongoing on Hornsea One Offshore Wind Farm. This was to investigate whether the loss of radar signal for the Ministry of Defence could be mitigated. This is an ongoing matter that will not be resolved before the Examination of the Hornsea Project Four application begins.

The Inspectorate queried how the nearby Carbon Capture Storage project would be taken into account in terms of cumulative impact and in-combination effects. The Applicant explained that at this stage there was not enough information provided by the developers to undertake a meaningful cumulative assessment. The Applicant stated this



would be completed and readied for presentation (on Examining Authority request) when the information became available. The Applicant advised it was in continued discussions with all parties on project details and coexistence and that a watching brief was being maintained. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to provide justification for why it had not been able to undertake this.

### ***Derogation case***

The Applicant described how it was investigating how to design and engineer out adverse effects on kittiwakes, gannets, guillemot and razorbill resulting from the project. Simultaneously, possible compensation measures are being considered with the intention to devise a quantum-defined, criteria based approach should it not be possible to exclude Adverse Effects on Integrity on European sites as a result of impacts to ornithological features, and reach agreement with Natural England and other stakeholders. Some combination of the two approaches (avoidance and compensation) depending on individual species effects is being considered.

### ***Virtual Events***

The Inspectorate talked through current virtual events processes, explaining that these would be the main method of conducting events for Development Consent Order (DCO) Examinations until at least 2021. Beyond this there would be consideration of blended events, i.e. a combination of virtual and physical. However, these were dependent on the wider Covid situation.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider current lockdown restrictions in place at the time and also keep up to date on what is happening on other DCO Examinations and planning inquiries. On a precautionary basis it should continue to scope possible venues to hold events.

The Applicant asked about access for hard-to-reach groups for virtual events. The Inspectorate reiterated that it is primarily a written process but suggested that looking at approaches being taken on the East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO Examinations could be useful.