

Meeting note

Project name	Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects
File reference	EN010109
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	19 September 2019
Meeting with	The Planning Inspectorate Equinor UK
Venue	Temple Quay House, Bristol
Meeting objectives	Inception meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. 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. The Inspectorate explained that the publication of the meeting note could be delayed up to six months, or until a formal Scoping Request had been submitted.

Project Update

The Applicant gave an overview of the project components. It was confirmed that the Applicant has secured a grid connection from National Grid at Norwich Main substation and that the agreement for lease from the Crown Estate is due to be signed soon.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that as part of the lease, the Applicant will take into consideration the Crown Estate's Cable Route Protocol for the cable route. The Applicant was advised to be clear about the proposed cable route options when it starts its consultation and to explain any decisions taken, especially in regards to the onshore substation. Explanation of the National Grid Connection and Infrastructure Options Note (CION) process, and alternatives considered in that process would also be beneficial.

The two landfall options were discussed. It was clarified that the eastern option was supported by Natural England as it has fewer environmental impacts, although Natural England has a better understanding of the baseline in the western cable route option. Irrespective of the landfall chosen, the offshore cable would likely route through Cromer Shoal Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ). The Applicant confirmed only one landfall option would be included within the DCO.

Environmental matters

Aerial ornithological surveys commenced in May 2018 and the Applicant intends to collect two years of data. Additional offshore and onshore surveys are planned for spring 2020.

The Applicant confirmed that it had commenced an Evidence Plan Process in July 2019 with a steering group comprising Natural England, Norfolk County Council and the Marine Management Organisation. The Applicant was advised to seek agreement on survey methodology and environmental baselines in the Expert topic group meetings of the Evidence Plan.

Consenting route discussion

The Applicant confirmed that it intended to submit one Development Consent Order (DCO) application covering the two windfarm extensions (Sheringham Shoal (317MW) and Dudgeon (402MW) and a shared grid connection. The DCO will also contain multiple Deemed Marine Licences. The Applicant was advised to seek their own legal advice regarding multiple National Significant Infrastructure Projects in one DCO application.

Scoping

The Applicant intends to submit its Scoping Report week commencing 7 October 2019. The Applicant was advised to submit its shapefile 10 working days beforehand and to review [Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping](#). The Applicant was advised to produce a clear project description in the Scoping Report.

It was confirmed that the Scoping Report will have two options for offshore substations (shared or one for each project) and that there would be no relay stations. The electricity will be exported as HVAC.

Anticipated submission date

The Applicant confirmed it intends to publish preliminary environmental information in early 2021, before a DCO application submission in July – August 2021.

AOB

- Next meeting to be scheduled after the Scoping Opinion has been published followed by further meetings after key project milestones.