



Meeting note

Project name	Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	17 March 2020
Meeting with	Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited
Venue	Telecon
Meeting objectives	Discussion around the timing of the request for a Scoping Opinion
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed, and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the discussions 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 (if requested by an Applicant for commercial reasons).

Timing of request for a scoping opinion for an environmental statement

The Applicant wishes to apply for a scoping opinion to inform the environmental impact assessment (EIA). When a request for a scoping opinion is received the Inspectorate is required to consult the consultation bodies to seek their views. The EIA Regulations require consultation bodies to respond within 28 days. The Inspectorate advised that it may be difficult, given the current concerns and responses to COVID-19, for consultation bodies to respond within 28 days, if they are requested to do so. The Inspectorate pointed out that, given the overriding timescales for making a Scoping Opinion (42 days), it does not extend this 28-day period. The Applicant explained their concerns about the impact that any delay in making the scoping request may have on the timescale for project delivery. In response to these matters, the Applicant and the Inspectorate discussed options including:

1. The Applicant submitting their request for a scoping opinion as originally planned and how this might be handled and perceived at this time.
2. The Applicant delaying their request for a scoping opinion by several weeks.

3. The Applicant proceeding to fulfil the requirements of Regulation 8 notifying the Inspectorate of their intention to provide an environmental statement. This would require the Inspectorate to conduct its own notifications and to provide the Applicant with the contact details of the bodies which have been notified.

Option 3 was discussed in more detail particularly the opportunity it provided to enable earlier engagement between the Applicant and the likely consultation bodies ahead of any formal request for a scoping opinion. The Applicant was content with the options discussed and will decide on the most appropriate way to progress their project. Inspectorate requested that whatever option/approach the Applicant takes they continue to engage proactively with them and all consultation bodies.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required

The Applicant will review the options available to them and advise the Inspectorate on the course of action they wish to follow.

Meeting attendees

Organisation	Role
The Planning Inspectorate	Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor
The Planning Inspectorate	EIA and Land Rights Advisor
Innogy	Senior Consents Manager
Innogy	Offshore Consents Manager