



Meeting note

Project name	Dogger Bank South
File reference	EN010125
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	13 December 2022
Meeting with	RWE Renewables
Venue	MS Teams
Meeting objectives	Virtual meeting 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 (RWE Renewables) confirmed to the Inspectorate that they have been continuing with surveys throughout this year and continued their non-statutory consultation throughout September and October 2022. The Applicant stated that they have narrowed down their development sites to two sub-station zones, two landfall sites and, in the main, one onshore cable route. The offshore cable route has also been refined with some optionality retained until results of offshore surveys have been assessed.

The Applicant is continuing their surveys, some of which will continue into 2023, and will include:

- Bird surveys;
- Geotechnical surveys;
- Geophysical surveys;
- Noise monitoring; and
- Traffic surveys.

The Applicant explained that offshore bird surveys have been ongoing since February 2021 and will complete in 2023. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that in light of the bird flu outbreak, seabird survey data collected after c. June 2022 was likely to require a bespoke assessment approach to be agreed with Natural England. The Applicant was advised to

discuss with Natural England at the earliest possible opportunity how species of concern have been affected and to agree the assessment approach.

Public Consultation

The Inspectorate enquired into the Applicant's public consultation reports. The Applicant stated that the public had shown support and understanding regarding the project. The Applicant is continuing their community engagements with the public. They also confirmed that the draft SoCC will be completed in January 2023. The Applicant will be meeting with Parish Councils and organisations such as Natural England.

Timeline

The Applicant confirmed that the current consultation programme includes the statutory consultation taking place in Q2 2023, with the DCO programmed for submission in Q1 2024.

Next Steps / AOB

The Inspectorate advised that it would be commencing the transboundary screening process as soon as practicable (in accordance with the procedures outlined in Advice Note 12), likely January 2023. The Applicant will be informed of the outcome.

It was agreed that the next project update meeting should take place mid-March to April 2023.

