



Meeting note

Project name	Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms
File reference	EN010125
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	23 April 2024
Meeting with	RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Ltd and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Ltd (“The Applicants”)
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting, Draft Document Feedback and Submission Arrangements
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.

Submission Details

The Applicants confirmed their intention to submit the DCO application on 24 May 2024.

Post meeting note: The Applicants have since confirmed to the Inspectorate that the intended submission date has changed to 10 June 2024.

Following clarification on reference number/format of documents for submission the Applicants were referred to the Inspectorate’s [Advice Note 6](#).

In consideration of the impending submission, there was a discussion on the pre-submission and submission arrangements and processes to be followed for this application. The following key information was provided to the Applicants by the Inspectorate:

- The Pre-Submission letter to the Applicant and the Regulation 5 Fee Request for the Fee to Accompany the Application would be sent to the Applicant following the meeting. These letters would outline requirements around the fee to be paid, updated Shapefile submission, Local Authority details and publication of Application Documents.
- The Applicants were requested to keep the Inspectorate Case Team informed of any changes in the submission date or time provided in advance to assist it in the management of its resources. The Inspectorate reminded the Applicants that as

reflected in its advice pages it applies a 5:00pm cut off, with submissions that arrive after that time considered to have been submitted the next working day.

Discussion of PINS Draft Document Review Comments

Draft Documents were submitted by the Applicants on Friday 16 February 2024 for review and the resulting feedback was provided by the Inspectorate on Thursday 11 April 2024. The feedback provided is appended to this meeting note and clarification was provided on a few points queried by the Applicants.

The Applicants queried the following points:

- With respect to comment 5 regarding hyperlinks for non-verifiable website sources, the Applicants stated that the webinar link is an audio recording which is stored on the consultation website. The Applicants requested that the Inspectorate confirm if this is admissible as evidence of consultation activity. The Inspectorate confirmed and recommended that the Applicants submit the audio recording within the application documents as a hyperlink is likely to be redacted.
- In relation to comment 88, The Applicants informed the Inspectorate that they are investigating the purchase of additional master map information outside of the Order Limits that can be used to update the Onshore Works Plans following comments regarding missing background mapping.

The Inspectorate recommended including a document demonstrating regard to the draft document comments.

Project and Programme Updates

A short project and programme update was provided by the Applicants. Key points from this update were:

- The Proposed Development became a joint venture in March 2024, with Masdar as a shareholder in DBS West and DBS East. The Applicants assured that the Applicants were the same, only the shareholding of each Applicant was different.
- Pre-submission Expert Topic Groups were largely complete.
- Local Liaison Committee meetings had been held in February with further meetings being planned in coming months.
- Ongoing archaeology trial trenching had been delayed due to weather and will likely resume in summer 2024. The Inspectorate advised the Applicants to detail in the ES documentation any assumptions that have been made in reaching the assessment conclusions in the absence of this data and to provide the anticipated date of when the information will be submitted to the Inspectorate (which should be as soon as practicable).

The Applicants confirmed the structure of the Habitats Regulations Assessment documents and discussed the RIAA conclusions. The Applicants informed that Razorbills have been included in a Guillemot project-level Compensation Plan and that this had been confirmed as an acceptable approach by Natural England.

The Applicants confirmed that the Kittiwake Strategic Compensation Plan was published in February 2024 and the Dogger Bank Strategic Compensation Plan was due to be finalised imminently.

The Applicants explained that different delivery options had been considered for compensatory measures, where possible (strategic, collaborative and project-led). The Inspectorate advised the Applicants to provide a clear explanation of how the measures would be delivered, to provide comfort to an Examining Authority (and other parties) that the measures would be delivered.

Any other business

The Inspectorate recommended keeping confidential information in an annex as opposed to throughout a document.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The Applicants are to trial the submission method prior to submission day.
- The Inspectorate to send the pre-submission letter to the Applicants.