

## Meeting note

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Project name</b>       | Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm                                     |
| <b>File reference</b>     | EN010130   |
| <b>Status</b>             | <b>Final</b>   |
| <b>Author</b>             | The Planning Inspectorate  |
| <b>Date</b>               | 6 July 2023  |
| <b>Meeting with</b>       | Total Energies and Corio Generation<br>(Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind) |
| <b>Venue</b>              | Microsoft Teams  |
| <b>Meeting objectives</b> | Project update meeting   |
| <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.

### Overview of the Project

The Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind proposal is located in the southern North Sea, with an operational target date of 2028/29. The Offshore Wind Farm (OWF) is a joint venture between TotalEnergies, Corio Generation and Gulf Energy Development. With a projected capacity of 1.5GW, the OWF would consist of up to 93 turbines and a proposed landfall at Wolla Bank, between Mablethorpe and St Leonards in Lincolnshire.

The Applicant signed an agreement for lease with The Crown Estate in January 2023. The Proposed Development currently includes two radial connection options following recommendations from the Offshore Transmission Network Review, those being the Lincolnshire Node and Weston Marsh. National Grid should decide on this (Connection Agreement) in August 2023.

### Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) Consultation and Draft DCO

The Applicant has now issued the relevant s42, s46, s47 and s48 consultation materials. Letters to statutory consultees, local authorities, the Marine Management Organisation, and those with a relevant land interest have also been sent out to landowners. The Draft DCO and Draft Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment were also issued as part of the consultation information.

The statutory consultation commenced on 7 June 2023, running until 21 July 2023. The full Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) is available for public viewing in hard copy at public exhibitions and on the [developer's website](#). Copies of the PEIR have been made available at eight public access points through the provision of USB sticks and hard copies of the non-technical summary. The Applicant held five public information days in June & July 2023 with some 450 attendees, both in person and virtually. The consultation programme for Autumn 2023 will be targeted and will discuss the potential substation siting and design approach, traffic and transport refinement, and a suite of other design components.

## **Environmental Data**

The Applicant summarised the onshore and offshore surveys undertaken to date and confirmed the data from these have fed into the PEIR, and subsequently to the Environmental Statement (ES). Some further studies are ongoing such as archaeological surveys and borehole surveys at proposed key watercourse crossings. The latter is to determine whether the proposed design option is suitable based on the ground conditions.

## **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Compensation Plans**

The Applicant confirmed that draft 'without prejudice' HRA Compensatory Measure proposals have been published alongside PEIR as part of the Statutory Consultation. These include draft compensatory measures for the kittiwake qualifying feature of the Flamborough and Filey Coast (FFC) SPA, and the development of draft without prejudice proposals in the form of roadmaps in respect of other bird qualifying features of the FFC SPA and benthic features of the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SAC.

The Applicant confirmed that the Draft DCO includes the optionality to utilise emerging strategic measures such as the Marine Recovery Fund to deliver strategic compensation if timescales align. It also includes (if required) outline works numbers and area for compensatory measures alongside the boundaries. Proposed ornithological compensatory measures include new Offshore Artificial Nesting Structures to offer additional nesting space for kittiwake. Initial site selection work has already been carried out and discussed with Natural England; with two potential areas identified in the PEIR. The Applicant is also considering wider locations for Bycatch Reduction, Predator Control and Fisheries Management and in discussion with relevant stakeholders in those areas. The Applicant is in early discussions with The Crown Estate in relation to seabed rights for potential compensatory measures.

## **Early Adopter Programme (EAP)**

The Inspectorate gave an overview of the EAP and elaborated on the components engaged by the Applicant.

### Programme Planning

This is a mandatory component of the EAP. The Applicant must prepare a Programme Plan for publication on its website in order that stakeholders may

understand, and where relevant contribute towards, key milestones in the build up to the submission of the application. The Applicant is expected to update the plan if/ when changes to the programme occur.

The Applicant must also proactively share with the Inspectorate and principal consultees (eg statutory consultees) a detailed Programme Plan which establishes when service interactions will be requested to occur eg meetings, review and feedback. All requested interactions associated with the EAP components engaged must be agreed in the detailed Programme Plan.

The Inspectorate requested for the public Programme Plan to be published on the Applicant's website within two weeks.

### Evidence Planning

The Inspectorate summarised this component and requested for the Applicant to clarify how it envisaged the role of the Inspectorate might change within an already mature Evidence Plan process in this case. The Applicant agreed to provide this clarification to the Inspectorate as soon as possible following the meeting.

### Issues Tracker

The Inspectorate would provide the Applicant with a template for issues tracking. The Inspectorate established that this template could be refined by the Applicant to suit the individual circumstances of the project. The issues tracker should be proactively shared by the Applicant with the Inspectorate and relevant consultees prior to interactions.

### Pre-application Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements (PADSS)

The Inspectorate reiterated that PADSS are consultee owned and authored. The Inspectorate would provide the Applicant with a PADSS template for distribution to relevant consultees to prepare and maintain. The Applicant would be required to retrieve final versions of pre-application PADSS from relevant consultees in order for them to accompany the DCO application submission.

### Policy Compliance Document

The Inspectorate explained the scope and purpose of the Policy Compliance Document. It is for the Applicant to respond to the brief in terms of how to develop this product, with input from relevant consultees as appropriate. The Inspectorate confirmed that it would be able to review and feedback on draft iterations of this document as they become available within the remainder of the pre-application stage.

### Design Approach Document

The Inspectorate explained the scope and purpose of the Design Approach Document. It is for the Applicant to respond to the brief in terms of how to develop this product, with input from relevant consultees as appropriate. The Inspectorate confirmed that it would be able to review and feedback draft iterations of this

document as they become available within the remainder of the pre-application stage.

### Use of multipartite meetings

The Inspectorate summarised its offer under this component and requested for the Applicant to confirm (i) any multiparty meetings that it would wish to engage as soon as possible following the meeting and (ii) the requested role of the Inspectorate in any meetings.

### **AOB**

**Transboundary matters:** The Inspectorate informed the Applicant that it had recently been contacted by Germany, which had received the Applicant's Statutory Consultation notification and had queried with the Inspectorate whether this was a further formal consultation by the Secretary of State. The Inspectorate confirmed to Germany that the Applicant's correspondence was not related to the SoS' notification/consultation duties under the EIA Regulations/Espoo and advised that Germany contact the Applicant directly. Germany subsequently requested to be removed from the Applicant's mailing list.

**Examination:** The Applicant has begun scoping potential venues for examination events. The Inspectorate welcomed this and also advised the Applicant of the need to secure an AV company for examination events.