



Meeting note

Project name	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Project
File reference	EN010130
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	05 July 2023
Meeting with	Total Energies and Corio Generation
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	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 Overview and Updates

The Applicant explained that the array area is being refined and that it is also considering an increase in the number of turbines from 93 to 100. The Applicant stated it will update the parameters in the Environmental Statement (ES) should the turbine numbers increase.

The Applicant stated it has confirmed a Western Marsh grid connection, removing the possibility of connecting via the Lincolnshire Node. A new substation is planned at Western Marsh. Landfall will be south of Anderby Creek.

The port of Grimsby is a strong contender to become an operations and maintenance base for the project.

The Applicant explained it is currently preparing for its Autumn targeted consultation and is concluding environmental surveys.

Next stages of Consultation

The Applicant stated that the Autumn consultation, which is likely to take place in mid-late October 2023, will be engaging with stakeholders and members of the public, focussing on the onshore cable corridor route options, substation location and design.

The Applicant also added that the recent statutory consultation period closed on 21 July 2023, and the Applicant plans to meet with key stakeholders before the application submission.

Status of Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) compensation plans and progress.

The Applicant explained it has planned two further meetings with key stakeholders prior to the application submission and has received 24 months of Digital Aerial Surveys which has helped form the Red Line Boundary (RLB) for the reduction of the site.

The Applicant provided an update on its compensation plans, in which outlined the recreation of biogenic reefs and a proposal to extend the Inner Dowsing Race Bank and North Ridge (IDRBNR) Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The Applicant explained both Natural England (NE) have supported plans. The Applicant also added that plans for the removal of redundant infrastructure and marine debris is also under consideration.

Offshore birds

The Applicant outlined that it considers there will be an Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEoI) for Kittiwake, but no AEoI for Razorbill, Guillemot and Gannet. An agreed plan will be available by submission for kittiwake and the Applicants investigating 'without prejudice' compensation measures for the remaining species.

Early Adopters Programme Update (EAP)

The Applicant confirmed it is using NE's issue tracker in component 3 of the EAP. Under component 4 the Applicant stated it had invited relevant stakeholders to engage with Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statement (PADSS) and was waiting for a response. The Inspectorate explained that it is actively considering how issues tracking, PADSS and Statement of Common Grounds (SoCG) will interact within a future service.

The Applicant explained that it will shortly (end of September 2023) be providing a draft Policy Compliance Document and Design Approach Document (PCD and DAD), alongside the draft Consultation Report, draft Development Consent Order, and draft Plans, for the Inspectorate's review. The PCD and DAD will have a short turnaround time, as part of the EAP. However, the remainder of the documents will be subject to the Inspectorate's usual 6–8-week draft document review period.

For component ten, the Applicant indicated it was considering dates for multipartite meetings in October or November 2023. It will confirm what role it would like the Inspectorate to provide for these meetings.

Policy Updates

The Applicant queried any imminent policy updates or announcements, in which the Inspectorate confirmed that it was unaware of any planned announcements. The Applicant asked what the process should be in the event a policy change was to arise shortly before submission. The Inspectorate advised that were this to happen, it should not hold up a scheme from progressing.

DCO Application – payment, desire for an electronic submission, the application form

The Applicant provided an extract from its Issues Tracker and the Inspectorate explained they would provide feedback on it.

The Applicant asked whether the EAP team wanted to sit in on the Steering Group meetings during the trial for info. The Inspectorate stated we would consider it. The Applicant stated that the next Steering Group will be around the end of September / early October.

The Inspectorate explained that an electronic submission is desired for a DCO submission, albeit the appointed Examining Authority, at the right time, may request hard copies of specific documents, rather than full suites of documents. The Inspectorate also advised the Applicant 4 weeks before the application submission, the Applicant will receive correspondence from the Inspectorate explaining more information about how to submit an DCO application, request for local authority contact details, and for payment of the acceptance fee.

