



Meeting note

Project name	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm
File reference	EN010130
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	31 January 2024
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 Update

The Applicant confirmed that a Weston Marsh Grid Connection had been agreed and signed with National Grid and clarified that the National Grid proposed site was not part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The Applicant advised that the array area had been refined, including the onshore Export Cable Corridor Route and Offshore Reactive Compensation Platform.

The Applicant informed that it had completed Autumn and Targeted Winter consultation on the red line boundary changes. The Inspectorate recommended that the Applicant justify the reasoning for the Targeted consultation in the Consultation report.

The Inspectorate enquired about Shipping and Navigation agreements and the Applicant informed that bodies have expressed positive views via the Chamber of Shipping which had been recorded in the Shipping and Navigation chapter.

The Applicant notified that the operation and maintenance base was not yet confirmed, but Grimsby Port was the 'strong contender'.

Programme

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that DCO submission was anticipated for late February/early March 2024.

Consultation Overview

The Applicant detailed the consultation efforts to engage communities including Expert Topic Group meetings, Community Liaison Groups and a Local Design Panel.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The Applicant advised that it has identified likely significant adverse effects on European sites. A Compensation Strategy has been developed to identify options for compensation for the kittiwake qualifying feature of Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and on a 'without prejudice' basis for the auk qualifying features of this site. A 'without prejudice' case is also being developed for impacts on the sandbank features of the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SAC. Proposals include extension to existing Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) the re-creation of Biogenic Reef, removal of redundant infrastructure and seagrass creation/restoration. The Applicant was also engaging with the National Trust in Jersey to secure a Predator Eradication site in Plémont Seabird Reserve with the aim to restore auk populations.

The Applicant detailed two areas selected to create offshore artificial structures, one to the north and one to the south of the array area, to offer additional nesting space to seabirds. These locations would be secured through two Deemed Marine Licences in the DCO.

Early Adopter Programme (EAP)

The Applicant discussed the progress of EAP components it was partaking in and gave positive feedback regarding the early review of the Production of Policy Compliance Document, Design Approach Document and the Design Principles Statements.

The Applicant informed that stakeholders had been invited to partake the Pre-application Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements (PADS) and would submit with the DCO application as part of the consultation report. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to highlight the difference between Statements of Common Ground and PADS for stakeholders.

AoB

The Applicant and Inspectorate discussed hearing logistics including potential venues in the event that the application is accepted.

The Inspectorate recommended looking at other DCO applications to observe potential issues that may arise to avoid this delaying examination.

Specific decisions/follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The Inspectorate to send the submission warm up letters and hearing venue requirements to the Applicant prior to DCO submission.
- The Inspectorate and the Applicant to trial document submission prior to DCO submission.