

Meeting note

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Project name | Dogger Bank D Wind Farm |
| File reference | EN010144 |
| Status | Final |
| Author | The Planning Inspectorate |
| Date | 13 March 2023 |
| Meeting with | Gatrogen Developments 2 Limited |
| 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.

Programme Update

The Applicant confirmed that the Dogger Bank D project had gone public in February 2023 and information was available on the Dogger Bank website.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping

The Applicant presented a map of the red line boundary to be presented in the Scoping Report and highlighted the changes since the previous version. The Applicant explained that it had refined the Hydrogen Production Connection Offshore and Onshore Areas in order to have more targeted and focused scoping. The Applicant stated that an additional connection had been removed from the red line boundary on the basis that it would not form part of the Development Consent Order application and would instead be delivered by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET).

The Applicant stated that it intends to submit the EIA Scoping Report for the Proposed Development to the Inspectorate at the end of Quarter 1 2023.

The Applicant explained that the Scoping Report would be a substantial document and will include 27 aspect chapters. The Applicant provided an outline of the report structure that had been adopted to accommodate the different geographical coverage and nature of potential impacts associated with the two connection options.

The Inspectorate advised that the Scoping Report should clearly and consistently identify aspects/ matters that are proposed to be scoped out from further assessment, with reference to the requirements set out in the Inspectorate's [Advice Note Seven](#) (see section 5.11).

The Inspectorate asked about the timing of any non-statutory consultation to be undertaken by the Applicant, specifically whether there was any potential for overlap with the Planning

Inspectorate's statutory scoping consultation process. The Applicant responded that only targeted, high-level consultations were planned in the next few months.

However, the Applicant highlighted its intention to notify bodies of the project generally, including of publication of the Scoping Report. The Inspectorate noted the potential for confusion around the purpose of any such "notification" with that of the formal scoping consultation and notification undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) with consultation bodies as defined in the Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017.

Therefore, the Inspectorate advised the Applicant to include text in any such notification it issues to specifically explain that the scoping notification and consultation process under the EIA Regulations 2017 is the Planning Inspectorate's (on behalf of the Secretary of State) and is not an exercise of public consultation. The Inspectorate advised that further explanation was available in [Advice Note Three](#) on EIA Notification and Consultation.

If any responses to the Inspectorate's scoping consultation from EIA consultation bodies are sent directly to the Applicant (rather than the Planning Inspectorate) in error, the Applicant confirmed that it will forward these on to the Inspectorate.

The timing of the Applicant's Scoping Report submission and the Planning Inspectorate's consultation was discussed in relation to bank holidays in the April/ May period. The Inspectorate advised that it will be consulting the consultation bodies for a 28 day period on receipt of the Scoping Report. The Planning Inspectorate confirmed that it must adopt a Scoping Opinion within 42 days of receiving a scoping request.

GIS shapefile

The Applicant made reference to submitting two separate GIS shapefiles to cover the scoping boundary. The Inspectorate requested that, preferably, the entirety of the red line boundary to which the Scoping Report relates should be presented in a single shapefile. Guidance on the technical specification for the shapefile are set out in [Advice Note Seven](#).

The Inspectorate requested that the GIS shapefile be submitted at least two weeks prior to submission of the Scoping Report. (Post meeting note – this has now been provided).

Submission of Scoping Request

The Inspectorate advised that a filesharing web service can be used to submit the scoping request documents; this can be tested before submission if the Applicant wishes. The maximum file size of 50MB per document (as set out in Advice Note Seven) was discussed. To achieve this the Inspectorate confirmed that the main report and figures/ appendices could be split into two or more documents if necessary.

The Inspectorate suggested that the Applicant provide details of any established project-specific contact details for Local Planning Authorities, so the Inspectorate can direct the scoping notification/ consultation letters to those contacts.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The Applicant stated that a HRA Screening was currently being prepared with a completion target date of Q2 2023.

The Inspectorate advised that [Advice Note 10](#) on HRA had been updated to reflect changes in legislation and emerging best practice.

Current consultation

The Applicant stated that discussions were ongoing with NGET around coordinated holistic networks design.

The Applicant noted that onshore and offshore survey work to inform the EIA was ongoing. Introductory meetings had commenced with key stakeholders and statutory consultees (including the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England, Wildlife Trusts and Local Planning Authorities). The Applicant stated that it would shortly be establishing an Evidence Plan Steering Group. The Inspectorate confirmed that it is able to attend the Steering Group meetings but will not attend the expert working group meetings.

AOB

The Applicant will be in touch regarding the timing of the next project update meeting but it was agreed this will likely be scheduled for May/ June 2023, following receipt of the Scoping Opinion.