



Meeting note

Project name	Dogger Bank D Wind Farm
File reference	EN010144
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	24 April 2024
Meeting with	Gatrogen Developments 2 Limited (“The Applicant”)
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

A project update was provided by the Applicant. Key points from this update were:

- In January 2024, the Applicant announced on its website that the potential Hydrogen production facility aspects have been removed from this scheme.
- There is now a revised grid connection which would use the proposed Birkhill Wood substation near to the existing Creyke Beck Substation.
- A Multi-purpose Interconnector (MPI)/Offshore Hybrid Asset is being included in the scope of Dogger Bank D Wind Farm, which would also connect to the proposed Birkhill Wood substation. The connection would either be built as a MPI, or as the radial connection.

The Inspectorate asked if the optionality to connect to the MPI was likely to remain throughout the course of the examination, or whether it would be resolved before submitting the application. The Applicant confirmed that the flexibility was likely to be retained throughout the examination. The Applicant noted that there would not be significant differences between the footprint of the options and that it intended to assess the impacts on a worse-case basis.

The Applicant confirmed that there was currently very little information in the public domain about the MPI, and as such, the more public facing messaging and signing of a co-ordination agreement is in progress.

The Inspectorate asked about the timing of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 application by National Grid for the Birkhill Wood substation. The Applicant responded that no details or confirmation had been given yet, but it is hoped that construction of the substation construction will be completed before Dogger Bank D Wind Farm.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Update

An EIA scoping update was provided by the Applicant. As a result of the project changes, the Applicant will submit a new scoping request under Regulation 10(1) of the Infrastructure Planning EIA Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) to the Secretary of State on 7 June 2024.

Post Meeting Note: The Applicant queried whether the original EIA scoping report (dated 21 April 2023) and EIA scoping opinion (dated 1 June 2023) will remain on the National Infrastructure website - noting that if so, it may cross-reference to these documents within the new scoping report. The Inspectorate confirms that these documents will remain on the website. Notwithstanding this, the Applicant should ensure that the new scoping request contains all the information required by EIA Regulation 10.

The Inspectorate noted that the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions (MP)) Regulations 2024 came into force on 30 April 2024 and amend the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. This, together with the red line boundary changes, is likely to result in some changes to the list of consultation bodies notified and consulted by the Inspectorate as part of the 2023 scoping exercise. The Applicant would be provided with a new list of the consultation bodies notified under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, as required by Regulation 11(1)(b)), together with the new scoping opinion.

Key DBD Programme Milestones

The Inspectorate asked if any draft documents will be submitted for review between the Statutory Consultation and the submission of the DCO application. The Applicant responded that this is being considered and will be confirmed in due course.

Onshore-Project Update

A programme update was provided by the Applicant.

The Inspectorate enquired about the length of the grid connection cable as this would have an impact on the amount of Compulsory Acquisition included within a future application. The Applicant responded that it would approximately be 30km and that the CO had been taken into account.

Site Selection Update – Offshore

A programme update was provided by the Applicant.

The Inspectorate noted that they were expecting imminent consultation for the Dogger Bank South project which could help inform this issue.

Other Updates

The Applicant noted that its Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening and Marine Conservation Zone Assessment Screening will be finalised within a similar timeframe to the EIA scoping report. The Applicant also noted that a Plan-Level HRA is being undertaken by The Crown Estate (TCE) and engagement with TCE is ongoing.

Post meeting note: The Inspectorate will reconsider the potential for transboundary effects under EIA Regulation 32 further to the adoption of a new scoping opinion. Any European Economic Area (EEA) States identified as having a likely significant effect on their environment, will be notified of the Proposed Development under Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations (with the exception of those who previously confirmed their intention to participate in the EIA procedure, who will be consulted following acceptance of any DCO application). Within the scoping report, the Applicant may wish to provide a completed transboundary screening matrix dealing with the potential effects of the Proposed Development on EEA States.

Lessons and feedback from early adopters programme

The Applicant was keen to gain any insights arising from the Early Adopters Programme. The Inspectorate advised that it was still too early to make or release key lessons and feedback from the programme as some of the outcomes from components tested may be still to be identified now the trial cases are now in Acceptance and Pre-Examination stages.

It was noted by the Inspectorate that some feedback, both to and from Applicants had already been published as required as section 51 advice and in the [news article](#) published on the government's website. The Applicant is encouraged to review this advice and take on board points of relevance to its application.

The benefits of programme planning in ensuring the Inspectorate and other key stakeholders are kept informed of the programme and any changes in the programming of the Pre-Application stage was emphasised by the Inspectorate as this would assist the management of resources for these stakeholders.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The Applicant will contact the Inspectorate about a date for the next meeting, to which a month's notice should be given.
- Applicant to update the Inspectorate on any changes to the planned submission date for the scoping request and provide a GIS Shapefile at least ten working days prior to the submission.