

Meeting note

Project name	Immingham Green Energy Terminal
File reference	TR030008
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	06 March 2023
Meeting with	Associated British Ports
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

Statutory Consultation Update (concluded 20 February 2023):

Associated British Ports ('the Applicant') explained that the section 46 letter had been sent to the Planning Inspectorate on 6 January 2023. The Statutory Consultation period ran for 6 weeks (9 January 2023 to 19 February 2023). Around 5000 local homes, statutory consultees and key stakeholders were contacted with the project brochure links to all the project material and a feedback form.

The Applicant held 6 events between the 18 January 2023 to 18 February 2023, including a virtual consultation room. Attendees were supplied with a feedback form which could be submitted via the Applicants website or by post. The Applicant is currently collating all this feedback and intends to respond to all submissions in the Consultation Report. The Applicant provided project information sheets; project boards; Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR); a project website; and dedicated email addresses, phone numbers and post box.

Attendance / Feedback Summary

The Applicant explained there were 91 attendees across the 6 drop-in sessions and 43 feedback forms were received; the majority were in support of the proposals with a high regard for the creation of jobs and local economic impact. There were also over 500 views of the website. 1-2-1 meetings were also held with a range of stakeholders during that period. In addition, the Applicant engaged with the residents and businesses within the red line boundary. The Applicant explained that this will continue up until the submission of a DCO application and beyond.

There were some limited queries surrounding areas such as construction noise and traffic; the impacts on homes; safety; trees; fishing spaces and local businesses.

The feedback from Prescribed Consultees was also mostly positive. The Applicant received over 50 pieces of correspondence and has confirmed that all points will be addressed within the Consultation Report. The queries raised were mainly around the land and marine impacts; traffic and construction noise; water use; and details around any mitigation.

Overview of key themes from Section 42 bodies

The Applicant is having ongoing meetings or planning these with North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC), Environmental Agency (EA), Marine Management Organisation (MMO), and Natural England (NE). The Applicant is also having ongoing meetings with local stakeholders, local parishes, local councils, existing port users and neighbours. The Applicant has confirmed they hope to address all issues raised as much as possible in advance of application.

The Applicant explained that Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) will be developed, and that the intention is to progress this work as far as possible prior to application.

The Inspectorate asked the Applicant about consultation plans going forward. The Applicant explained that they are still in the process of analysing consultation responses and once this complete the proposal may need to be amended based on the results.

The Applicant shared with the Inspectorate a timeline of the project programme to better illustrate their predicted deadlines. The key date for the Inspectorate was the intended submission date which is currently August 2023 for the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

The Planning Inspectorate queried whether the Applicant intends to submit draft documents before the submission date. The Applicant confirmed this. The Inspectorate advised that draft documents of the following be submitted for feedback: Habitat Regulation assessment (HRA); Environmental Statement Project description chapter; draft DCO; Explanatory Memorandum (EM); Consultation Report (CR); and the Book of Reference (BoR). The Applicant agreed that this would be helpful and would also like to submit draft Land Plans and Work Plans. The Inspectorate advised that feedback usually takes between 6 to 8 weeks.

The Inspectorate enquired about any key risks which could delay submission. The Applicant expressed concerns regarding the HRA as being the biggest risk at this stage. The Applicant explained that they have had several meetings with Natural England but have not yet received any response to consultation. The Applicant explained that it would be undertaking an assessment of adverse effects on integrity (Stage 2) but that it was not intending to submit a without-prejudice case for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, alternative solutions, or proposals for compensatory measures with their application. Further complication arises from the presence of other proposals in the vicinity. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that detailed discussions are held with NE in order to ensure as far as possible that matters are addressed prior to application.

Scoping Opinion:

The Applicant responded to the Inspectorate's comments regarding noise and vibration during construction and operation, which was raised as a concern (See Annex A). The Applicant explained that the comment given in 3.2.4 should not be necessary considering the agreement to scope out the effects on residential NSRs in 3.2.2. (See Annex B) The Applicant asked if changes could be made. The Inspectorate explained that it could not revise the Scoping Opinion or change what has been already issued but acknowledged the contradiction in the Opinion and advised that receipt of the Opinion should not prevent the Applicant from subsequently scoping matters out of the ES, where further evidence has been provided to justify this approach. However, the ES must explain the reasoning for any divergence from the Opinion and justify the approach taken.

AOB and Next Steps

The Applicant requested that monthly meetings be set up for regular project update meetings. The Inspectorate will look at possible dates and send these to the Applicant via email.

The Inspectorate requested an update regarding the commercial arrangements and implications on the Proposed Development of the bulk import of CO₂ for Carbon Capture and Storage and the production and supply of ammonia from Saudi Arabia. The Applicant explained that the production of green ammonia is progressing very actively and on track and the supply element is a key driver for the Applicant's project programme.

The Applicant also explained that the jetty was being designed to accommodate a range of operations, but that Carbon Capture and Storage (including topside infrastructure) does not form any part of this current project. The Applicant was unable to expand on this further at this time.