



Meeting note

File reference	EN010079
Status	Final
Author	Karl-Jonas Johansson
Date	15 December 2016
Meeting with	Vattenfall
Venue	Teleconference[Location]
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Tom Carpen (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Richard Kent (EIA Land Rights Advisor) Karl-Jonas Johansson (Case Officer) Vattenfall Ruari Lean (Vattenfall) Ruth Henderson (Royal Haskoning DHV)
Meeting objectives	Project meeting update
Circulation	All attendees and Kathy Wood

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Introduction

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate continued by outlining its openness policy and ensured those present understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under s.51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the Applicant (or others) can rely.

General Project update

The Applicant intends to circulate interim consultation report to all stakeholders in January 2017. Next step is to produce consultation material for the non-statutory consultation in the spring of 2017, which will take into account the previously given feedback on the project and an opportunity to consult of a refined landfall location/s, cable relay station/s cable route corridor/s and substation/s. The Applicant intends to consult on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in Q3 2017, prior to the consultation on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) commences. The consultation on the PEIR is currently programmed for

October/November 2017. The Inspectorate informed the Applicant that the Planning Inspectorate can review the draft SoCC if requested.

The Applicant is keeping the local National Farmers' Union (NFU) and Country Land and Business Association (CLA) representatives briefed on the approach with potentially affected landowners. Engagement with landowners to seek permission for non intrusive ecological surveys will start in January 2017.

Surveys

Off-shore

Ornithology and marine mammal surveys of the offshore wind farm sites are ongoing. The geophysical and benthic surveys have been completed. The summer shipping survey has been completed and the winter shipping survey will be completed by February 2017. Surveys of the landfall location will commence in Q2 2017.

On-Shore

The Scoping Opinion has been used to inform the on-shore surveys the Applicant intends to conduct. The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the monthly on-shore ornithological surveys will be continue to March 2017 (inclusive) after consultation with Natural England (NE) and Norfolk County Council (NCC). It was confirmed that access to private land for on-shore surveys was currently under discussion. The data collected will be fed back to the expert topic groups under the evidence plan in March 2017 for analysis to inform further survey work and to define key receptors.

It was confirmed that the evidence plan had had a positive impact on how the ornithological studies were going to be conducted and had enabled the Applicant to fast track the ornithological studies as requested by NE and NCC. It was stated that the evidence plan process was having a beneficial impact on the project.

Evidence plan

The next meeting of the expert groups are scheduled for January/February 2017. At these meeting the draft method statements will be discussed. The statements will be circulated to all stakeholders in advance of the meetings to enable all parties to review the statements. The Applicant was advised to be open about what could be a potential risk to the project and that, if requested, the Inspectorate could facilitate tripartite meetings to help resolve outstanding issues.

Historic England (HE) originally requested to be included in the evidence plan steering group, however it has now been clarified that HE will attend the relevant topic group meetings (next due to take place in January 2017). The terms of reference has been updated to reflect this. The Applicant was advised to include HE in the expert topic group relevant to them.

Local Authorities

No formal agreement has been signed with NCC on working arrangements but all discussions and agreements agreed in principle are being logged for transparency and will be reviewed as necessary. It was confirmed that NCC had been sent earlier in the year Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) terms of reference to consider.

The Applicant, Dong Energy and National Grid intend to hold a briefing with NCC during Q1 2017 in regards of the proposed projects in the area. The Applicant has scheduled meetings with relevant district council(s) mid to late February 2017 to provide an opportunity for a general project update. It was confirmed that the Applicant had met with the district council(s) in October 2016.

Contact Plan

The Inspectorate and the Applicant agreed to hold quarterly meetings throughout 2017 and to hold monthly meetings from 2018 and onwards. It was agreed in principle to hold a round table at the end of summer 2017 or early in 2018.

Compulsory Acquisition

The Applicant is developing a compulsory acquisition (CA) strategy with its land agent to minimise CA being an issue during examination and is hoping to reach agreements with a majority of all landowners. In the cases where an agreement hasn't been possible to reach, the applicant might be able to mitigate the impact by rerouting the cable corridor. The Applicant was advised to document all CA negotiations as the test for CA in the PA2008 is very high. It was agreed that the recently introduced CA schedule would be sent to the applicant after the meeting.

Protective Provisions

The Applicant was advised to engage early with the relevant statutory undertakers to try to reach as much agreement over protective provisions as possible in pre-application to minimise this being an issue during the examination or post-examination.

Anticipated submission date

Q2 2018.

Norfolk Boreas update

The project is staggered one year behind Norfolk Vanguard. The project manager will be Graham Davey and initial main contact from the Inspectorate will be Tom Carpen. It was agreed that Mr Davey would contact Tom Carpen next week for an informal project update and to arrange an inception meeting in January/February 2017. The Applicant confirmed that they have started to build up a project team for Norfolk Boreas.

It was clarified that the Norfolk Vanguard project communications would include references to Norfolk Boreas to make all stakeholders aware of the upcoming project. The Applicant was advised to be clear in all communication what information related to which project. Scoping is currently planned for Q2 2017 but this might be changed to minimise overlap with the Norfolk Vanguard consultation programme. The Applicant confirmed that they were aware of the changes to the EIA regulation coming into effect in May 2017.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

- Applicant to update the Inspectorate regarding the inclusion of HE on the steering group.

- Applicant to update the Inspectorate about the outcome of the meeting with NCC and district council(s)
- Applicant to arrange a project meeting for late February/early March 2017
- Applicant to programme in a potential round table meeting during the summer of 2017/Q1 2018
- The Inspectorate to send the applicant the CA schedule.
- Applicant to arrange Norfolk Boreas inception meeting