

# Dogger Bank News

## Consultation feedback under review

**Feedback from Forewind's final stage of pre-application consultation, which ended in June, has already been incorporated into its development proposals for Dogger Bank Creyke Beck.**

Almost 300 people attended the public consultation events held at six locations along the proposed cable route of the 2.4 gigawatt (GW) offshore wind development and 75 per cent of those who filled in exit questionnaires were supportive of the plans presented.

Written responses have also been received from statutory consultees such as government departments and agencies, non-governmental organisations and trade associations on topics from coastal erosion, construction traffic and tourism to birds and employment opportunities.

Forewind General Manager, Lee Clarke said that all the responses will be carefully reviewed and comments considered and incorporated where possible.

"Already we have decided, following discussions with landowners in the East Riding of Yorkshire, to remove the alternative cable route option which would have passed through Woodmansey and close to a number of residential properties," he said.

"The feedback we had from landowners and agents on this alternative, which was originally proposed to avoid Figham Common, an area of common land near Beverley, prompted us to return to the original cable route and use a directional drilling cable installation technique to minimise any disruption."

Forewind will now finalise the development consent order application documents, including the full Environmental Statement, before submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

Consultation is a key part of Forewind's development activity and this latest phase for Dogger Bank Creyke Beck, as well as ongoing efforts to incorporate stakeholder responses, is part of the organisation's aim to incorporate feedback early in the planning phase when it is still feasible to make changes.

The development consent application for Dogger Bank Creyke Beck, which will include a Consultation Report, is due to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination at the end of summer. Construction would start in 2016 at the earliest.

A summary of the consultation responses can be found on pages two to four of this newsletter.

## Latest news on Dogger Bank

**This issue of Forewind's Dogger Bank News focuses on the responses received to the final consultation for Dogger Bank Creyke Beck and the plans for consultation for Dogger Bank Teesside.**

To receive a copy electronically, please visit [www.forewind.co.uk](http://www.forewind.co.uk) to register your contact details. Previous issues of this newsletter can also be found on the website, or contact us to request hard copies.

## Annual review published

**Forewind's third annual review summarising the work done over the past 12 months towards gaining development consent has now been published.**



With the theme "Innovation in action" the review highlights the fact Dogger Bank is proving to be a site for firsts. New technology has been trialled, improved health and safety techniques implemented and unprecedented survey work undertaken.

Hard copies of the report can be ordered via [info@forewind.co.uk](mailto:info@forewind.co.uk) or electronic versions can be downloaded from [www.forewind.co.uk](http://www.forewind.co.uk).



Feedback and responses from the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck consultation will help Forewind finalise its application.

In June Forewind completed its final consultation stage for Dogger Bank Creyke Beck with responses received from more than 100 individuals and around 40 organisations. These next three pages will summarise the feedback from that consultation and how it has been incorporated into the development consent order application so far.

# Questionnaires lead to action

**Almost 80 completed questionnaires were returned to Forewind as part of its final consultation for Dogger Bank Creyke Beck.**

Primarily filled-in by those people who attended the public events, the questionnaire has proved to be a valuable source of information and Forewind appreciates the efforts of everyone who took the time to complete one.

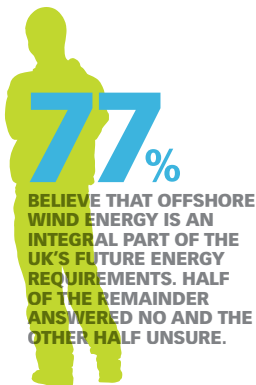
Feedback on all aspects of the proposed development was welcome although the questionnaires asked direct questions on a number of areas, which Forewind was most keen to receive comments on in advance of the final application submission.

To follow is a summary of the responses and the subsequent actions Forewind has taken to incorporate the feedback.

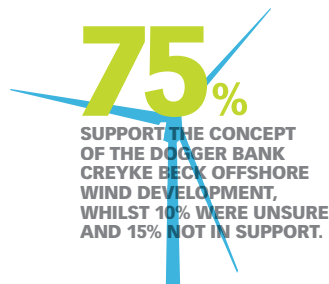
**1. How did you find out about our exhibition?**

Forewind posted more than 500 invitations to stakeholders, advertised in local and national press and sought media coverage to promote the events. There was a fairly even spread of those who received invitations, read it in the press, saw posters in the local area or were just passing by.

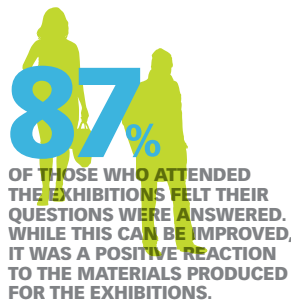
**2. Do you believe that offshore wind energy is an integral part of the UK's future energy requirements?**



**3. Do you support the concept of the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck offshore wind development?**



**4. Has this exhibition answered the questions or concerns you may have had about the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck project?**

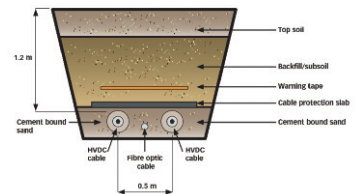


**5. Are there any additional areas we could have covered in the materials?**

A number of suggestions came out of the responses including: showing images of the machinery that will be used to install the onshore cables; electro-magnetic fields (EMF); more about traffic impacts during construction; emergency response plans, and more comprehensive option analysis and weighting.

**ACTION:**  
More imagery will be used in the final application. An EMF fact sheet has been produced and is available to download from [www.forewind.co.uk](http://www.forewind.co.uk). In summary the resultant electric and magnetic fields generated would be extremely low, or negligible, and would fall well under the accepted UK guidelines on exposure levels.

Further details on other issues raised have been covered in the full Environmental Statement. Cost analysis information will be part of the lead operator(s) final investment decision.

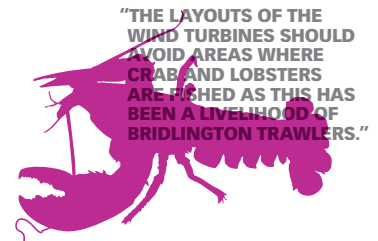


HVDC cables in pairs emit no electric fields due to their metal coverings, and only minimal magnetic fields as the current in one cable cancels out the current in the other.

**A number of specific areas were also raised as part of the questionnaire and the responses will be considered and incorporated as possible. Actions taken to date are included below.**

**Offshore works**

While many people did not respond to the questions posed on offshore, comments received focussed primarily on the need to avoid crab and lobster breeding grounds; not impact on the already rapid coastal erosion, and costs to the consumer.



**ACTION:**  
Forewind will continue to work closely with the fishing community to ensure impact during construction is minimised. Coastal erosion is a particular concern for seaside communities and Forewind's construction methodologies will ensure the work does not contribute to it. All work will be in accordance with the Environment Agency's Shoreline Management Plan.

## Onshore converter stations

Questions relating to the look, style and landscaping of the onshore converter stations garnered a number of useful suggestions with the main theme being the need for them to blend in with the local landscape. Neutral colours, eco-design and fitting in with the natural surroundings, including the planting of more native vegetation, were the key factors.



### **ACTION:**

The elements proposed by respondents tended to have an overall theme which emphasised the need for the onshore converter stations to be unobtrusive and blend into the natural environment. These will be considered for inclusion in the development consent order application as possible.

## Environment

Forewind presented a range of proposals on how to reduce impacts on wildlife and enhance biodiversity at the converter station site, which were generally well received. Additional considerations such as engaging with local environmental groups to build on their knowledge, creating local wildlife habitat zones, avoiding the use of culverts to cross watercourses and sensitive construction, were put forward.

### **ACTION:**

In response to concerns from various agencies and environmental groups, the option of using temporary or permanent culverts as a way to cross watercourses has been removed. There was concern they would block debris, obstruct water flow and possibly cause localised flooding. They could also make it difficult for creatures such as water voles to pass by and may damage habitat.

A second question regarding the way that the bird assessments were carried out and how the results are presented in the draft Environmental Statement received little input although there were some concerns about the impact the development would have on feeding grounds at Dogger Bank visited by birds breeding at Bempton Cliffs.



### **ACTION:**

Forewind's development avoids an area of sand eel colonies for just the reason quoted, however work continues with the RSPB and other environmental organisations to further reduce any potential impacts.

## Onshore elements

Visitors were asked for comments on the onshore elements – the route of the onshore cable corridor, landfall location and converter stations site. The main message here was the major preference for both sets of cables to be laid simultaneously.

There were also requests to not work during peak hours or late into the night, ensure large vehicles do not travel down narrow roads and through villages, and to preferably avoid any disruption when the tourist season is underway.



### **ACTION:**

The one-way road from Brandesburton to Bethell's Bridge was highlighted and avoiding this will be part of the final proposals. Also in response to community feedback, haul roads will be used to keep as much construction traffic off the public network as possible.

Other specifications about working hours, traffic management and time-frames will be incorporated into the application.

## Cumulative impact assessment

An industry document entitled: Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines – Guiding Principles For Cumulative Impacts Assessment in Offshore Wind Farms has recently been released to assist developers and stakeholders with this issue. The approach taken by Forewind is consistent with the published principles.

## Communication

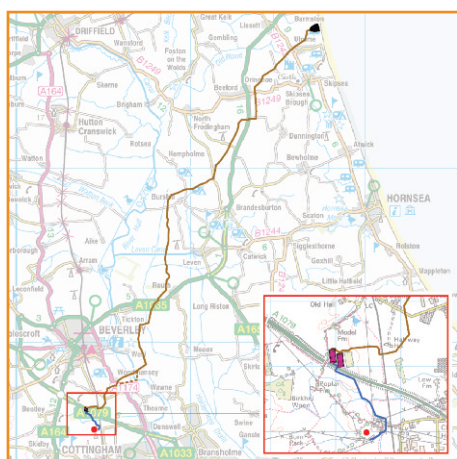
Seven of the respondents suggested improvements to the way Forewind communicates including: more television coverage of the project; use of electronic maps that can be enlarged to highlight access areas along the cable route, and additional details about the proposed construction methodology.

### **ACTION:**

In terms of communications during construction, some useful ideas were provided and will be considered as part of a construction communications plan. Examples were: close ties with parish councils and attendance at meetings; use of local notice boards; leaflet drops; early notification to landowners and residents; public viewing areas of the work being undertaken; articles in local newspapers; a regular newsletter, and public meetings or drop-in question and answer sessions.

## Any other comments

This final section of the questionnaire was included to catch any concerns not covered elsewhere. Some common areas included here related to traffic and congestion concerns; birds and wildlife and the need for effective mitigation; interest in archaeological finds along the cable route; field drainage issues on the arable land, and the involvement of local labour, businesses and schools to ensure the nearby communities benefit.



- Creyke Beck substation
- Alternating Current cable route
- Direct Current cable route (main route)
- - - Direct Current cable route (Woodmansey option)
- Creyke Beck converter station plots
- Landfall area

Map of the proposed onshore cable route – following consultation the Woodmansey option shown has now been removed.

## Consultation helps refine proposals

Forewind’s public events were part of a wider consultation process aimed at all stakeholders with an interest in Dogger Bank Creyke Beck.

Responses received from around 40 councils, government agencies, non-governmental organisations and interest groups will now be collated, considered and incorporated into the final Environmental Statement and application documents.

Some issues raised have had relatively straightforward solutions, such as the elimination of the proposed alternative route around Figham Common, and concerns can be allayed. However others will require further actions as they may involve significant implications for the lead operators, such as the establishment of a single marine coordination body for offshore emergency response for the projects, or require technical changes such as comments on the turbine layout or health and safety related requirements.



Feedback on environmental issues relating to birds, fisheries, marine mammals and habitats will also require on-going liaison with the relevant bodies to agree on assessment methodologies used, interpretation of data and requirement for further surveys.

Forewind team members will continue to work through the responses and finalise its recommendations prior to submitting the application documents later in 2013.



The lead operator(s) will be responsible for the construction of the wind farm projects. Photo by CHPV courtesy of Scira.

## Next steps for application

**The development consent order application for Dogger Bank Creyke Beck is on track to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate at the end of August.**

If accepted, the full application will be available to download from the Planning Inspectorate’s website and to view at local libraries. The Planning Inspectorate has 28 days to validate and accept the application, following which Forewind anticipates a period of up to 15 months, until the end of 2014, for the examination and determination of the consent.

The Planning Inspectorate has published a document, Advice Note 8, which gives details on how interested parties can get involved in the examination stage.

Stakeholder engagement, a key element of the pre-application process, will continue throughout the examination phase to ensure as many issues are addressed prior to construction as feasible.

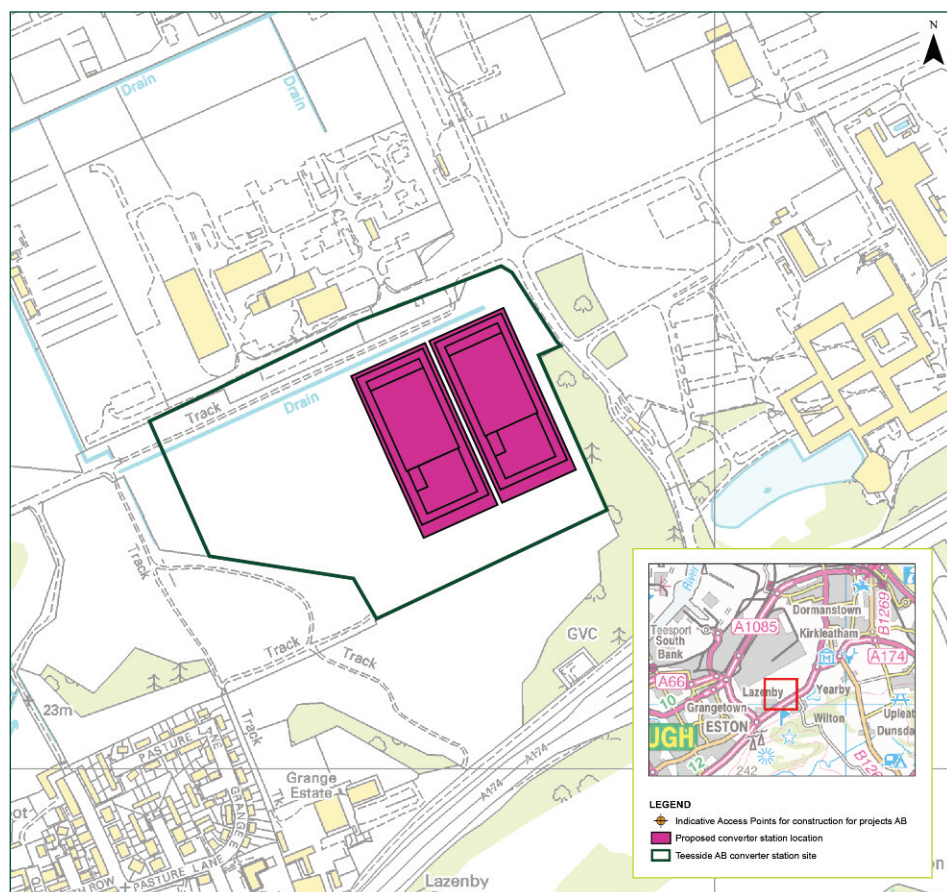
After consent, the lead operator(s) – those responsible for project construction – will take on the role of engaging with stakeholders, including the local community. Forewind will add principles for continuing stakeholder engagement in the Outline Code of Construction Practice.

This document will be submitted with the application for a development consent order along with the Environmental Statement, Consultation Report and other application materials.



Dogger Bank Teesside, is four separate wind farms, divided into two separate applications – Dogger Bank Teesside A & B and Dogger Bank Teesside C & D. The first phase of consultation referred to all four proposed wind farms but a second, more detailed, phase will be undertaken separately for each application.

## One-to-one session highlights



Map of the proposed locations of the Dogger Bank Teesside A & B converter stations.

### Important concerns were highlighted in Forewind's series of one-to-one consultation meetings, held in Teesside in May, despite the uptake being lower than anticipated.

The visual and noise impact of the converter stations and whether or not there would be any new overhead lines installed for the project were key issues at the surgery-style consultation sessions, held at venues along the Coast Road and in the village of Lazenby.

Following the sessions, Forewind provided copies of converter station visualisations to a number of local residents, and for distribution, to show what the converter stations may look like once complete. Maps of the proposed locations were also available at the meetings.

Forewind was able to reiterate that there will be no new overhead lines in the Dogger Bank Teesside proposals.

Stakeholder Manager Nikki Young said that those who took the opportunity to meet with Forewind gave valuable input at what is still an early stage in the development process.

"These events were just one opportunity for members of the public to comment," she said. "Later this year we will hold a series of public exhibitions giving details of the near-final proposals and enabling input before the development consent application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate."

Forewind welcomes feedback at any time and contact details can be found on the back of this newsletter.

### Dogger Bank Teesside A & B phase two consultation on track

The second and final phase of pre-application consultation for Dogger Bank Teesside A & B will be held later this year.

This phase will include a series of public exhibitions and will be the main opportunity for the local community to have input and help shape the development proposals.

In May 2012, Forewind published a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for Dogger Bank Teesside, a development comprising four offshore wind farms. In November 2012, when the project boundaries for the initial two projects, Dogger Bank Teesside A & B, were identified, a decision was made to split the development into two applications which will be consulted on separately.

Dogger Bank Teesside Consent Manager, Andy Guyton said that a SoCC explicitly covering Dogger Bank Teesside A & B, explaining how Forewind will consult with the local community would be issued prior to the consultation.

"This will be widely publicised and will focus on living within a specified distance of the project, the general public, community groups, local businesses, technical consultees and land owners, as well as others who work in or use the area, both offshore and onshore," he said.

Dates and locations for the public exhibitions will be published in the next edition of Dogger Bank News, and also on [www.forewind.co.uk](http://www.forewind.co.uk).

Dogger Bank Teesside C & D will follow the same process in 2014 with the publication of a SoCC and a consultation phase.



A series of public exhibitions will be held for Dogger Bank Teesside A & B as part of the second and final phase of pre-application consultation.

# Career options championed to 2000 students

More than 2000 students from Hull, East Riding and Teesside secondary schools have now gained an insight into the career opportunities offered by the offshore wind industry after the completion of the second year of Champions for Wind.

Teachers from almost 20 schools have now developed and implemented wind energy career-related activities as part of the initiative introduced by Forewind working in partnership with the Humberside Engineering Training Association (HETA).

Champions for Wind began late in 2011 with the recruitment of 10 teachers from Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire as "wind energy champions". In mid-2012 a further 10 teachers were selected in Teesside. The champions have worked with careers advisors to design and develop curriculum-based resources relevant to their students, school and local area, on opportunities offered by the offshore wind farm industry.

Recently the second group of teachers, those from Teesside, had the opportunity to showcase their work at a summer conference held in York. Subject areas covered included science, geography,



Teacher champions Tina Davison from Dyke House School (left) and Andy Day from Withernsea High School (above) present their wind energy career projects to other teachers.

technology, mathematics, English, history, business and design, and the initiatives included intra-school student competitions, app building, video production, debates and scaled wind turbine construction.

Forewind General Manager Lee Clarke said teachers interpreted the briefs in a wide variety of ways and tailored activities to suit the interests and abilities of their own students.

"The feedback from both the teachers and the students has been glowing and research

carried out has shown significant increases in knowledge about the wind industry career opportunities, and higher levels of interest in pursuing such roles," he said.

Each teacher involved delivers the initiative to their own, and two to three additional, schools and receives a bursary to support their progress.

## First meteorological mast update

**The first meteorological mast installed at Dogger Bank has been tested and is fully operational providing Forewind with valuable data for wind farm planning.**

The second mast is scheduled for installation later this year having undergone remedial works after an initial attempt to install it was not successful.

A combination of technical factors were the cause, so Fred Olsen United transported the first foundation back to its Belfast fabrication yard to quality check and carry out remedial works. Once complete, it will be back on its way to the Dogger Bank site.



Dogger Bank Met Mast East in situ and gathering valuable meteorological data.

## Who will build Dogger Bank?

**As a developer with its focus on the consenting phase, the Forewind consortium will not be responsible for the construction and operation of the Dogger Bank wind farms.**

Each wind farm will have an operator that will take over from Forewind to build, run and maintain it. The Forewind owners have initiated a project in 2013 that will identify the lead operator for each project, along with common issues to be agreed before construction.

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