

# Tranche A and Dogger Bank Project One

October 2010

## Four tranche development

Forewind is a consortium comprising four leading international energy companies which joined forces to bid for the Dogger Bank Zone Development Agreement as part of The Crown Estate's third licence round for UK offshore wind farms (Round 3).

As development partner for Dogger Bank, the largest of the Round 3 zones, Forewind has the objective to achieve consent for an agreed target installed capacity of 9GW of offshore wind farm projects by 2020 (13GW by 2023). To ensure that the work associated with meeting this objective is managed effectively, and to more evenly distribute demands on stakeholders and the supply chain, Forewind has proposed to develop the zone sequentially in four stages, known as tranches.

The ongoing Zone Appraisal and Planning (ZAP) phase will use both available information and the outcome of stakeholder consultations to identify the optimum location of these tranches offshore. Tranche A has now been identified and the ZAP will continue to help identify the three further tranches (B, C and D) for development.

Within each tranche, a number of separate projects will be selected and will be the subject of independent applications for consent. Each of the projects will be optimised according to its location, capacity and the timing of grid connections, secured through an application process with National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid).

## Tranche A

Tranche A is an area of 2000 km<sup>2</sup> and lies in the south west section of the Dogger Bank zone. Forewind will seek to develop three similar sized offshore wind farm projects of up to 1.4GW each within this area. It was chosen after stakeholder consultations, consideration of safety and examinations of environmental and consenting issues related to the zone.

Key features are that it:

- is between 125km and 182km from shore
- is reasonably free of geographically specific consenting issues
- has water depths generally less than 30m
- offers maximum design flexibility

The boundary of Tranche A was selected following stakeholder workshops and discussions, as well as an assessment of the outcomes from the Dogger Bank zone characterisation and technical, environmental and commercial considerations, which focused on identifying the optimum areas for initial project development.

The zone characterisation work included the spatial and geographic constraints, such as fisheries, cables and pipelines, shipping routes, archaeology and ecology, and were defined as either hard or soft constraints.

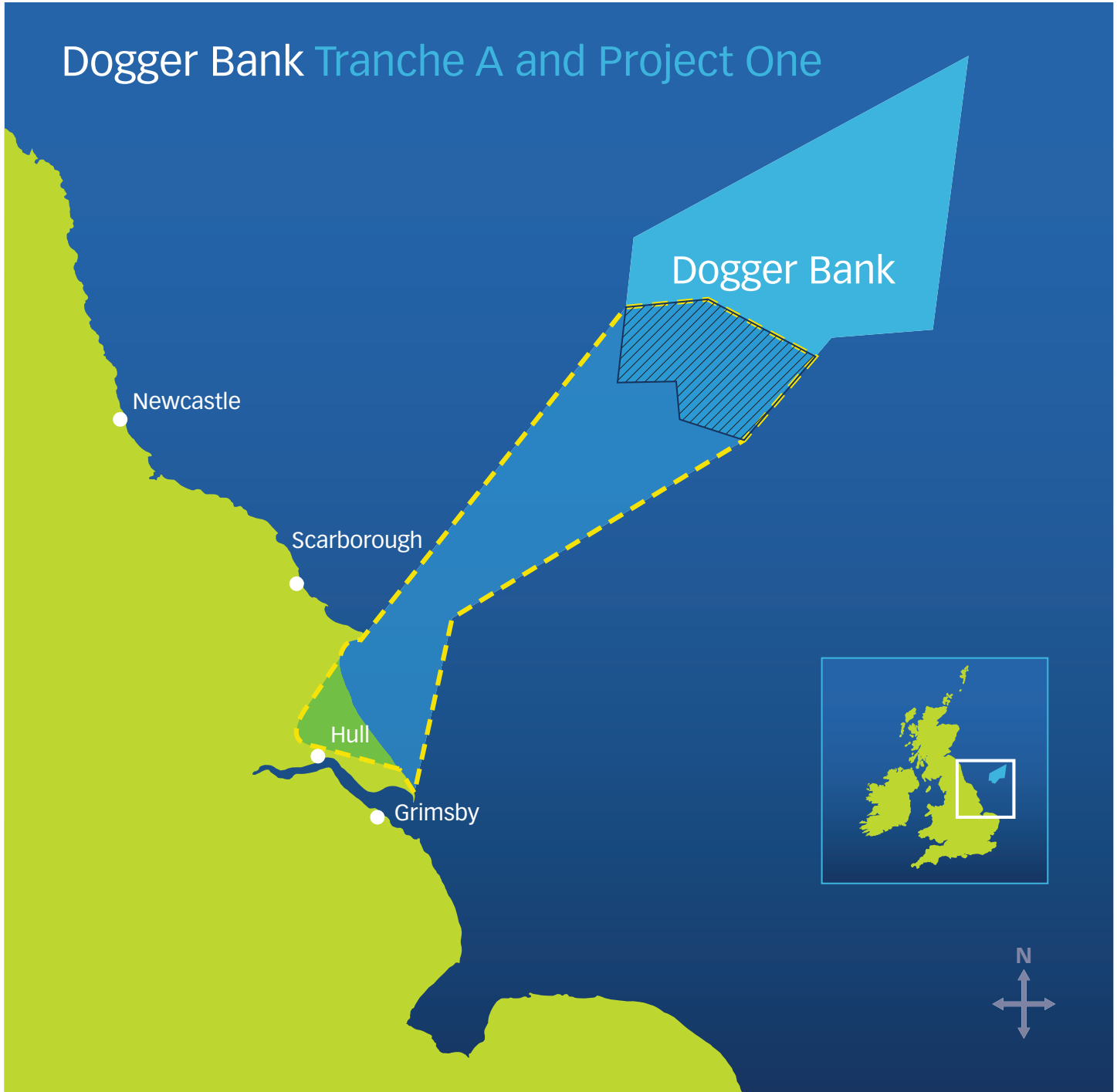
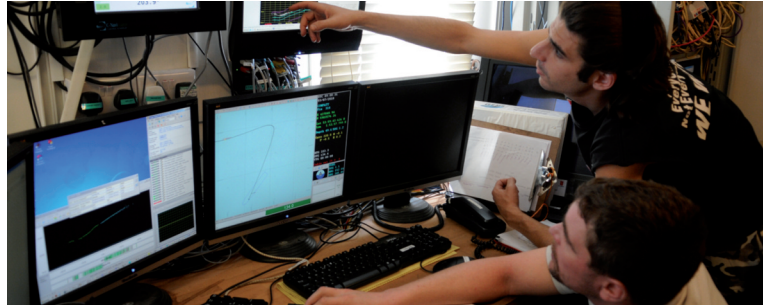
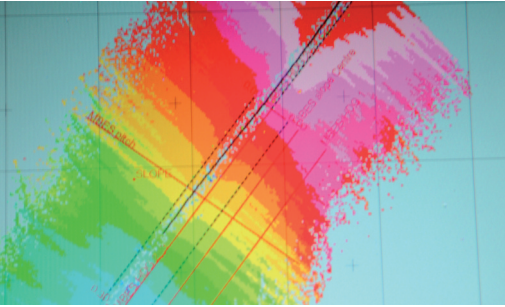
Hard constraints are those that physically prevent any development. Soft constraints were assigned a weighting in line with their perceived likelihood of influencing consent.

Other factors included safety as the primary concern, stakeholder issues and costs – including the influence of water depth, distance from shore, wind resource, operation and maintenance, grid connection and foundation types. Also key were strategic issues related to future tranche requirements to establish the relative cost of energy across the zone.

The area of Tranche A is larger than the footprint required for the first three projects to ensure that the ultimate location of those projects remains flexible throughout the data collection and stakeholder consultation phase. The next phase is the identification of the individual projects within Tranche A, which will be done in parallel with stakeholder discussions and with due consideration to environmental and engineering factors.

## Dogger Bank Project One

Dogger Bank Project One will be the first project to be developed. It will comprise; a wind farm of up to 1.4GW located within Tranche A, export cables, and up to two onshore converter substations with associated infrastructure. Forewind has accepted a grid connection offer made by National Grid to connect Dogger Bank Project One into the existing Creyke Beck substation, near Cottingham in the East Riding of Yorkshire.





## Dogger Bank Project One

Forewind has now submitted a Scoping Report under Regulation 8 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 to support a request for a scoping opinion for Dogger Bank Project One.

The report requests a scoping opinion for the development of Dogger Bank Project One, within a scoping envelope.

### Selection of the scoping envelope

The scoping envelope has been finalised following initial studies and research, stakeholder discussions and assessments. It comprises Tranche A, an export cable corridor and an onshore study area.

#### Tranche A

As the location of projects within Tranche A will be defined at a later stage, the whole area has been included within the scoping envelope for Dogger Bank Project One.

#### Export cable corridor

The export cable corridor connects Tranche A to the onshore study area. In the next steps, a cable routing assessment will be undertaken, considering the technical, commercial and environmental factors associated with the installation and maintenance of the export cables. This assessment will identify the preferred route and landfall location.

#### Onshore study area

The onshore scoping envelope is a broad area of land identified early in the consents process, within which the onshore works for Dogger Bank Project One are likely to be located.

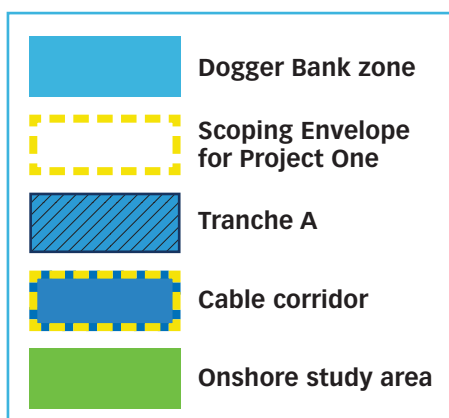
The study area is roughly cone shaped with the apex including a 4km radius encompassing Creyke Beck substation, near to Cottingham. The cone extends out to the coast to points approximately equidistant north and south and includes the towns of Skipsea and Easington. The study area excludes the international ecological designations associated with the Humber estuary to the south, and Flamborough Head to the north.

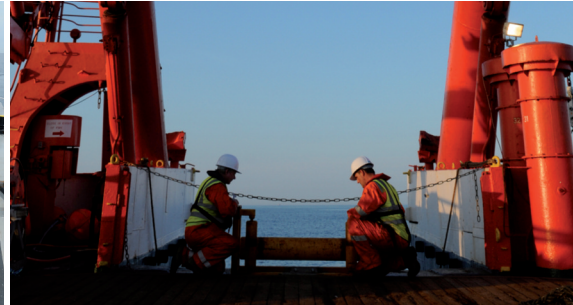
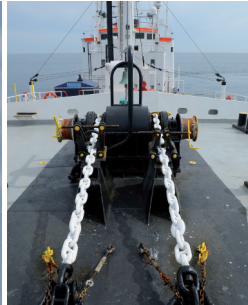
The onshore study area has been sub-divided into four project areas A to D, to describe the character in each of the technical onshore scoping sections. Each project area contains an indicative cable route corridor approximately 1km in width each. Forewind is not seeking comments on these routes as they are indicative only, and are likely to change as the result of a combination of EIA studies, engineering and commercial assessments and, importantly, the output of the consultation process.

The scoping envelope will be refined during the course of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and through engineering and technical studies, to establish the location of Project One that will be the subject of the consent application to the Infrastructure Planning Commission.

Forewind aims to secure a scoping opinion before the end of 2010 in order to progress its extensive survey work collecting baseline and characterisation data that will form the core of the EIA. The opinion is also needed to give Forewind confidence in its delivery of the stakeholder consultation strategy for the development of this first project.

The Scoping Report is available at [www.forewind.co.uk](http://www.forewind.co.uk).





## The next steps

The Scoping Report is the first stage in the EIA process and outlines the proposed way forward for the assessment of any effects likely to arise from the development proposals for Dogger Bank Project One.

The process of EIA is iterative and it will evolve as the survey work progresses and as Forewind's understanding of the existing environment and assessment of effects develops. The resulting Environmental Statement will build on this work and present a comprehensive account of all the potential environmental effects of the development proposals, both adverse and beneficial.

Before the formal application is submitted, there will be a series of consultations with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders and local communities. This will allow consultees to provide feedback on the potential options and design development process and therefore influence how projects are developed.

This consultation process, and in particular consultation with statutory consultees, will help to further define and agree the scope and methodology of the EIA and resultant Environmental Statement.

## Questions and Answers

### How will stakeholders be engaged?

Forewind recognises that effective and meaningful consultation is an integral part of its development activities and is committed to ensuring that it maintains a transparent approach to its consultation and engagement activities.

Following on from the production of the Scoping Report and using the information received at the stakeholder workshops and stakeholder meetings held during 2010, Forewind will develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (StEP) to communicate the proposed approach to consultation.

The StEP will help to maintain a transparent and structured approach to engagement activities and will clarify how consultation with stakeholders on both zonal and project development matters may be undertaken. It will consider what is necessary to achieve compliance with the Planning Act and what information is needed through consultation to inform the development process.

Direct stakeholder queries can be directed to the stakeholder managers, details on [www.forewind.co.uk](http://www.forewind.co.uk).

### Have any decisions been made on the design of the project?

The design of the project will be refined throughout the development and EIA process. The EIA will assess a number of different development options including various turbine layouts and models, foundation types, cabling arrays, export cable routes, installation methodologies, onshore cable routes, and converter station designs and locations.

The final development envelope, incorporating all elements of the project, will be defined as part of the Environment Statement.

### What will the EIA contain?

The EIA will cover studies on the existing physical and biological environments – including the geology, geomorphology, sea bed sediments, marine and land ecology, fishing resource, ornithology, marine mammals, ground conditions, and will assess the potential impacts during construction, operation and decommissioning. It will encompass any nature conservation or other designations and also assess cumulative effects related to other projects.

Human elements such as socio-economic impact, commercial fishing, visual character, military, civil aviation, shipping and navigation, archaeology, tourism and cultural heritage, will also form a key part of the EIA with assessments on the existing situations and potential developmental impacts.

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