

Dogger Bank News

Dogger Bank Teesside A&B examination starts

The six-month examination phase for Dogger Bank Teesside A&B kicked off in August with a preliminary meeting held by the Planning Inspectorate in Redcar, Teesside.

The meeting focussed on the procedures that will be involved in the examination of the application for the 2.4GW offshore wind energy project. The outcomes from that meeting have been published on the National

Infrastructure Planning Portal along with the proposed timetable for the examination.

The timetable includes dates for hearings to look at specific technical areas and details of open floor hearings for general issues and members of the public (see page 3 for dates). Consent manager for the development, Andy Guyton said that this is designed to be an open and iterative process to examine the application and ensure that everyone

who would like to be involved or have their say, has the opportunity to do so.

"I would also encourage anyone interested in the progress of the examination phase for Dogger Bank Teesside A&B to regularly check the National Infrastructure Planning Portal as well as the Forewind website to ensure they are up to date with the latest hearing times and relevant deadlines, as they may be subject to change."

Diving expedition reveals steam ship

Divers and scientific volunteers on a recent expedition to clean wrecks at Dogger Bank discovered that a sunken vessel formerly assumed to be a submarine was actually a very old steam ship, whose mysterious identity is still to be understood.

The Dutch expedition called 'Duik de Noord Zee Schoon', translated as 'Dive the North Sea Clean', was on Dogger Bank to remove abandoned fishing nets off wrecks and look at the marine biology and archaeology of some of the North Sea's most inaccessible sites.

Forewind Head of Offshore Development, Gareth Lewis was fortunate enough to be invited on the trip and he took a week of holiday to join the team of 30 on board the dedicated specialist diving vessel, *Commandant Fourcault*. "Even on holiday I can't get away from being engrossed in Dogger Bank," he said.

The Dogger Bank Creyke Beck archaeology report identified various wrecks in the zone, with sidescan sonar images indicating one in particular could be a First World War U-boat submarine. Offshore wind farm developers set up appropriate exclusion



Specialist diving vessel, *Commandant Fourcault*.

areas to avoid wrecks and similar seabed objects so the opportunity for archaeologists to understand more about the potential submarine was welcomed.

"What was thought to be a submarine conning tower turned out to be a big steam ship boiler, with a nice propeller and rudder sternpost in place too," he said. "The details can now be taken back for analysis and it is hoped that the vessel can be identified and a piece of history solved."

The annual Dutch expedition is now in its fourth year and as well as cleaning more than 100 wrecks so far, and studying the marine archaeology, those involved also work to consider some of the management aspects of North Sea Special Areas of Conservation, particularly in Dutch waters.



Inspecting the wreck. © Udo van Dongen

In this issue

This issue of Forewind's Dogger Bank News is about the examinations – one ending and another starting, and includes upcoming dates for those interested in the next phases, particularly of Dogger Bank Teesside A&B.

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**DOGGER BANK
CREYKE BECK**

Dogger Bank Creyke Beck comprises two up to 1.2GW offshore wind farms – Dogger Bank Creyke Beck A and Dogger Bank Creyke Beck B. Both connect into the existing Creyke Beck substation near Cottingham, in the East Riding of Yorkshire and are subject to a single development consent order application.

End of Dogger Bank Creyke Beck examination

The six-month examination of the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck development consent order application by the Planning Inspectorate has now concluded.

The examination started in February this year and included one open floor public hearing and an additional nine days of issue-specific hearings. It also featured two site visits to locations along the proposed landfall and onshore cable route.

The examination involved more than 30 stakeholder organisations and individuals with an interest in the project proposals and a total of more than 500 documents were submitted to support the process.

Dogger Bank Creyke Beck consent manager Melissa Read said it was an open and

thorough process with full involvement of stakeholders and interested parties.

“Forewind and stakeholders worked hard to agree nearly 100 statements of common ground with bodies ranging from environmental and technical organisations to local parish councils,” she said.

The examiners will now spend up to three months preparing a recommendation for the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, who will take a further three months to issue the consenting decision including, if approved, the final development consent order.

It is anticipated that the Secretary of State’s decision will be announced in February 2015.

Examination helps allay concerns

The examination phase for Dogger Bank Creyke Beck enabled Forewind to allay a number of concerns about the initial development consent order application by presenting stakeholders with more details on the plans and proposals.

Forewind gave in-depth answers to many varied questions with more specifics on how the wind farm development would be delivered, to give stakeholders the opportunity to better visualise the construction processes and have uncertainties clarified.

For example, through this process, Forewind presented a draft landscaping scheme setting out an outline landscape restoration plan and a separate outline landscape management plan, for the onshore infrastructure associated with the development.

Also an Outline Code of Construction Practice was produced as part of the examination, to bring together and secure the measures proposed to mitigate the impacts of the construction of the onshore works of Dogger Bank Creyke Beck, both on the amenity of local residents and the local environment.

A draft Fisheries Liaison Plan was also produced which gave details about liaison and consultation with the fishing industry in association with the development of the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck projects, including cable corridors and landfall sites.

The examination therefore provided an excellent forum for stakeholder concerns to be presented and addressed thereby reducing the likelihood of issues in the future when the wind farms are under construction.



The proposed landscaping scheme for the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck converter station site



**DOGGER BANK
TEESSIDE A&B**

Dogger Bank Teesside A&B also comprises two up to 1.2GW wind farms subject to a single development consent order application. Together the two wind farms have the potential to generate around 8 Terawatt hours (TWh) of green power every year, which is equivalent to the electricity used annually by approximately 1.8 million British homes.

Hearings start in October

The hearings for the Planning Inspectorate's examination phase for the Dogger Bank Teesside A&B development consent order application will start in October.

The hearings will both be open-floor – with parties with an interest in the land invited to attend – or will focus on specific issues, covering in detail key areas such as the Habitat Regulations Assessment, construction impacts or the natural environment.

The hearings will all take place at **The Council Chamber, Redcar & Cleveland**

House (Community Heart), Kirkleatham Street Redcar Cleveland TS10 1TD.

The purpose of the hearings is to ensure that relevant aspects of the application for the 2.4GW offshore wind energy project can be discussed openly between Forewind, the examining authority and stakeholders. They provide an opportunity to further explore elements of the application and ask questions or gain clarity as needed.

The upcoming Dogger Bank Teesside A&B examination hearings are scheduled as follows:

Date (2014)	Type of hearing (subject to requirements)
Tuesday 14 October	Issue-specific Hearings - biodiversity effects - Habitat Regulations Assessment - geological effects.
Wednesday 15 October	Issue-specific Hearings - fisheries resource sustainability - other natural environment considerations.
Thursday 16 October	Issue-specific Hearing - Development Consent Order
Tuesday 11 – Wednesday 12 November	Issue-specific Hearings - onshore and offshore construction impacts - onshore and offshore social and economic impacts - onshore traffic and transportation impacts - effects of existing and/or proposed land or sea uses on the application and vice versa - natural environment issues (if required) - Habitats Regulations Assessment (if required)
Tuesday 2 December	Issue-specific Hearings - biodiversity effects - Habitat Regulations Assessment - natural environment issues.
Wednesday 3 December	Issue-specific Hearing - Development Consent Order - individual proposed changes - security methods, protective provisions and agreements.

Details of the hearings will also be published in local newspapers, on the Forewind website and on the National Infrastructure Planning Portal. Agendas will be published on the portal seven days before the hearings. Anyone interested in attending the

hearings should check the schedule before attending, in case of any changes. The examination process is due to be completed by Thursday 5 February 2015 and a decision from the Secretary of State is expected in the third quarter of the year.

Application documents in libraries

All the application documents for the Dogger Bank Teesside A&B development consent order are available on the Forewind website and for viewing at local libraries.

Documents can be viewed electronically throughout the examination phase at the following three locations, although please note that identification may be needed to make use of the computers here. They can also be viewed in hard copy at both the Marske and Redcar Central libraries.

Marske Library

Windy Hill Lane, Marske-by-the-Sea, Redcar, TS11 7BL
Mon, Thurs and Fri: 9.00am to 12.30pm / 1.30pm to 5.00pm
Tues: 9.00am to 12.30pm / 1.30pm to 6.30pm
Wed: 9.00am to 1.30pm
Sat: 10.00am to 1.30pm
Sun: Closed

Redcar Central Library

Redcar & Cleveland House, Kirkleatham Street, Redcar, TS10 1RT
Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri: 9.00am to 6.00pm
Thurs: 9.00am to 5.00pm
Sat: 9.30am to 12.30pm
Sun: Closed

Saltburn Library

Windsor Road, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, TS12 1JW
Mon: 9.30am to 12.30pm / 1.30pm to 6.30pm
Tues: 1.30pm to 5.00pm
Wed, Thurs and Fri: 9.30am to 12.30pm / 1.30pm to 5.00pm
Sat: 10.00am to 12.30pm / 1.30 to 4.00pm
Sun: 12 noon to 4.00pm

The documents are also available for download on the National Infrastructure Planning Portal, or requests for a CD can be made to Forewind via info@forewind.co.uk.

Joint approach to birds

Forewind and Natural England have together agreed a groundbreaking solution to one of the complex issues in determining an offshore wind farm's potential impact on birds.

Assessing and minimising the impact offshore wind development at Dogger Bank would have on different bird species, and ensuring there would be little or no adverse effect, was a key aim of the environmental impact assessment.

The ornithology surveys for Dogger Bank comprised almost four years of boat-based surveys covering more than 40,000 kilometres in transects while trained observers recorded their findings.

They also included aerial bird surveys over a total of almost 160,000 kilometres, or nearly four times around the world, in transects, using a bank of four digital video cameras attached to the aircraft recording in high resolution to allow identification of bird species.

With the surveys complete, the data had to be assessed and the cumulative impact for collision and displacement estimated, based on an agreed modelling approach.

Put simply, Forewind took the results of its bird surveys and analysis, and combined them with the results of surveys from other offshore developments, to look at how Dogger Bank Creyke Beck would impact birds in combination with all the possible nearby developments.

However the approach to bird assessments has differed between offshore wind farms so Natural England has sought to understand how the impacts would look if each project was assessed using the same modelling input parameters for key elements, such as the percentage of birds expected to be displaced from a wind farm site. This is known as the 'common currency' approach.

Forewind and Natural England worked closely and intensely to agree the approach to this 'common currency' assessment.

Head of Offshore Development at Forewind, Gareth Lewis said that trying to undertake cumulative assessments for collision and displacement with other offshore wind projects was complex, particularly as earlier

projects had not always provided in-depth data or analysis because it was not required at the time.

"Together with Natural England we explored many options but ultimately revisited and reviewed some of the assumptions behind previous offshore wind farm assessments as well as those used initially for Dogger Bank Creyke Beck," he said.

An overall review was undertaken on how nearby offshore wind projects – those from The Crown Estate's Round 2 and Round 3 – had apportioned the number of impacted birds from key species, namely kittiwake, gannet, razorbill and guillemot, to East coast breeding colonies.

Dr Chris Gibson, Natural England's Principal Adviser said that a robust understanding of the distribution and movements of birds, and their likely links to breeding sites, is central to assessing the population consequences of displacement and mortality from proposed wind farms.

"This review aimed to ensure that the same approach was used for each project, whilst using assumptions based on the most up-to-date knowledge about bird behavior, such as results of bird tracking projects," he said.

"By using this approach we were able to improve our confidence in predictions of potential impacts of the Dogger Bank development. Natural England believes that there are considerable merits in this approach which could be used as a platform for further improvement of understanding by forthcoming projects. Part of our aim is to ensure that environmental sustainability is at the heart of the developing offshore wind industry."

Through both extensive dialogue and a constructive challenge from Natural England's team, it became possible to conclude that the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck development would have no adverse effect alone or in combination with other projects, for almost all bird species.

The full details of the approach can be read on the Planning Inspectorate's website pages for the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck projects.

Gareth Lewis added: "this was a good solution achieved via positive engagement using an approach we feel could also

benefit other projects – so we will be sharing it jointly with Natural England via a presentation at the Renewable UK annual industry conference in November."



Surveying on Dogger Bank.



Gannet at Bempton Cliffs.



Great black-backed gull.

Forewind

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