

Our ref: CBPEI305

17 April 2013

Dear

**Reference: NOTICE OF FINAL PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION**

Further to our previous correspondence about the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck offshore wind development, this letter is to inform you that the next and final stage of Forewind's statutory consultation will begin on 19 April 2013. **Responses must be received by Forewind by 5pm on Tuesday 11 June 2013.**

**Forewind and Dogger Bank Creyke Beck**

Forewind is a consortium comprising four leading international energy companies; SSE, RWE, Statoil and Statkraft which came together to develop the Dogger Bank Zone, located a minimum of 125 kilometres from the UK's shore. Dogger Bank Creyke Beck is the first development within the zone, and it comprises two offshore wind farms, Dogger Bank Creyke Beck A and Dogger Bank Creyke Beck B, with a proposed total installed capacity of up to 2.4 gigawatts (2,400 megawatts) together with the development described below.

**Consenting process**

In the UK, an offshore wind farm of more than 100 megawatts constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, which needs to be determined under the process set out in the Planning Act 2008. An application for a single Development Consent Order (DCO) will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate later in 2013 to seek consent to build and operate the two offshore wind farms which together form Dogger Bank Creyke Beck. This one application will encompass the development required to construct and operate these two offshore wind farms along with the onshore and offshore associated infrastructure.

**Environmental impact assessment**

An Environmental Impact Assessment, in line with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009, is well underway. The initial findings of this assessment, including mitigation proposed to remove or minimise adverse environmental effects, are documented within a draft Environmental Statement which is available as part of this consultation.

The full description of the project is provided in Chapter 5 – Project Description of the draft Environmental Statement. In brief, the Development Consent Order application will seek consent for:

- up to 600 wind turbines and associated foundations;
- offshore converter, collector and accommodation platforms;

- offshore meteorological masts;
- offshore and onshore export cables;
- cable landfall and transition bays;
- onshore converter stations; and
- connection works to the National Grid substation.

### **Purpose of this consultation**

In advance of submitting the Development Consent Order application, Forewind is providing a final opportunity for stakeholders to review and comment on the proposals and draft Environmental Statement for Dogger Bank Creyke Beck.

This consultation follows on from the previous statutory consultation in December 2011 when stakeholders were approached for their views on the draft proposals (known as Preliminary Environmental Information 1 or PEI1). It also builds on the dialogue Forewind has had with stakeholders throughout the development of the project and in compiling the draft Environmental Statement.

### **Consultation documents**

The following documents have been prepared for this final stage of consultation:

- **Community Consultation Summary** of the proposals;
- **Non-Technical Summary** of the draft Environmental Statement;
- **Draft Environmental Statement** comprising chapters relating to assessment of both onshore and offshore elements of the project;
- **Plans** showing the location of the proposed development, set out in Figures 2.7 and 2.8 in Chapter 5 of the Draft Environmental Statement;
- **Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment Report**; and
- Other draft application documents, as detailed in Annex 1.

### **Who is Forewind consulting?**

Forewind is consulting all transboundary consultees in European Economic Area member states which could be affected, as well as:

- all consultees prescribed by Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Application: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, as amended, in accordance with Section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008 and additional non-prescribed bodies with an interest in the proposals;
- the Marine Management Organisation, in accordance with Section 42 (1)(aa) of the Planning Act 2008;
- local authorities identified in line with Section 43 of the Planning Act 2008;
- landowners and anyone with an interest in the land (onshore and/or offshore) which is likely to be affected by the proposals, as identified in accordance with Section 44 of the Planning Act 2008; and

- the local community, in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 and the Statement of Community Consultation.

### **Distribution and availability of consultation documents**

Due to the number of documents produced, not all documents are being sent to all consultees as a matter of course, however all of the documents listed above and in Annex 1 are available on request from Forewind.

The main consultation documents are the draft Environmental Statement, Non-Technical Summary, Community Consultation Summary and draft Habitats Regulations Report. These are being distributed by DVD (enclosed with this letter) and will also be available online from 18 April 2013 at [www.forewind.co.uk](http://www.forewind.co.uk).

Alternatively, hard copies of the draft Environmental Statement can be inspected during the consultation period at a number of local libraries as detailed on the enclosed Section 48 Notice, or purchased at cost price (£600) by contacting Forewind. Additional DVDs and hard copies of the Non-Technical Summary are available free of charge.

### **Section 48 Notice**

Enclosed is a copy of the Section 48 Notice that Forewind will publish in various UK national and local newspapers over the next couple of weeks, in accordance with Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008. The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 set out the matters to be included within that notice (Regulation 4(3)) and we are providing you with a copy of this Notice to meet our obligations under Regulation 11 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009.

### **Key issues we are consulting on**

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views and feedback on the proposals to allow stakeholders to influence the way Dogger Bank Creyke Beck is developed.

Since the initial consultation, and having taken into account the responses received, Forewind has now established some elements of the development and changed others. The changes listed below are included within the project description in Chapter 5 and any impacts are assessed within the draft Environmental Statement:

- the project boundaries for Dogger Bank Creyke Beck A and Dogger Bank Creyke Beck B;
- the location of the onshore converter stations;
- the onshore cable route with a working width of 36m for high voltage direct current cables and 38m for high voltage alternating current cables;
- the landfall location;
- a reduction in the total installed capacity; and
- a reduced maximum number of wind turbines.

Until final design work is carried out after consent, it is necessary to maintain some flexibility in the development; this is known as the 'Rochdale envelope' approach.

Therefore, maximum and minimum parameters for key elements of infrastructure have been used to inform a realistic worst case approach to the environmental assessment. The reasons for the parameters proposed are set out in individual chapters of the draft Environmental Statement, particularly Chapter 6 - Assessment of Alternatives.

While Forewind welcomes feedback on all aspects of the proposed development, there remain some key decisions to make prior to the final application. Forewind is particularly interested to find out stakeholder opinions on these, as set out below:

### Offshore

- i. **Birds:** Comments are sought on the methodology used in the ornithological chapter of the Environmental Statement and the Habitats Regulations Assessment and how the results are presented. In particular in relation to:
  - apportionment of impacts to protected sites, including breeding seabirds and non-breeding seabirds;
  - displacement, including species displacement rates, species mortality rates and the use of displacement/mortality rates matrices;
  - barrier effects; and
  - collision risk.
- ii. **Cumulative impact assessment:** There is no prescribed method for cumulative impact assessment. Views are sought on Forewind's selected approach as set out in the appendix to Chapter 4 of the draft Environmental Statement, which includes other projects within the Dogger Bank Zone. This strategy has been applied throughout the offshore chapters of the Environmental Statement.
- iii. **Final layout of the turbines:** The final layout of the turbines within the boundary of each wind farm has not been specified at this stage as some flexibility needs to be maintained post-consent. However, to address the concerns of relevant stakeholders, such as the Marine and Coastguard Agency and fishermen, Forewind has drafted some 'layout rules' to aid mariners and fishermen in their navigation of the area. These layout rules are set out within Chapter 5 of the draft Environmental Statement and referenced in the Development Consent Order.
- iv. **Offshore in-zone export cables:** The exit points of the export cables from the zone have yet to be determined, so views are sought on any environmental or other matters which may influence the final decision. The broad areas under consideration are likely to be refined following the consultation.

### Onshore

- v. **Converter station screening:** Views are sought on the landscaping proposed to reduce the visual impact of the converter stations, as set out in the appendix to Chapter 21a of the draft Environmental Statement.

- vi. **Converter station appearance:** Suggestions are requested on the style or type of building, material and colour for the converter station, in order to reduce visual impact. The Development Consent Order application will seek consent for the largest structure that may be needed, and detailed design will be determined post consent. Stakeholders' suggestions relating to the appearance of the converter stations will however be considered for inclusion as "design principles" in the Code of Construction Practice.
- vii. **Final design and cable routing:** Forewind would like to know whether there are any additional factors it should consider when finalising details for the onshore cable route, landfall and onshore converter station.
- viii. **Ecological mitigation:** Consultees' opinions are sought on the proposals for ecological mitigation and biodiversity enhancements on the converter station site as proposed in Chapter 25 of the draft Environmental Statement.
- ix. **Access:** This consultation is an opportunity to raise any issues around the planned access arrangements for construction and operational traffic as described within Chapter 28 of the draft Environmental Statement.
- x. **Consultation:** Forewind welcomes suggestions on the best ways to engage and inform local communities during construction.

### Issues for further consideration and assessment prior to the final submission

Since the environmental assessment work for this consultation was finalised, the proposed development has progressed and further options for some parts of the project have now become attractive. These were not evident before or did not appear to be available or required. As a result, views are sought on the options and parameters listed below which are described, along with a summary of likely environmental effects, within Chapter 5 of the draft Environmental Statement.

It should be noted that the individual assessment chapters do not yet reflect this updated assessment. For those elements which are taken forward into the final application further detail will be provided within the final Environmental Statement where relevant, taking into account feedback from this consultation. Forewind therefore seeks comments on any considerations which relate to these options. Reference to Sections and Figures below all relate to Chapter 5 of the draft Environmental Statement.

- i. **Offshore in-zone export cable route:** The specific locations of the export cable route within the Dogger Bank Zone which connect the exit points from the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck project development areas and the export cable corridors at the zone boundary are still being refined. Several options for these in-zone portions of the export cable corridors are under consideration and broad areas of search are shown in Figure 2.7.
- ii. **Offshore inter-project cables and cable corridor:** Additional cables may be required to provide a link between the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck wind farm development areas (linking Creyke Beck A and Creyke Beck B) to provide flexibility in the transmission network. The nature and location of these cables are described in more detail in Section 2.1.12 and the proposed broad area of search for a connection corridor is shown in Figure 2.6.

- iii. **Offshore Temporary work areas:** During the construction period there may be a need for temporary work areas, within which vessels may carry out intrusive activities, for example cable construction vessels requiring space for anchor spreads alongside the cable corridors. To accommodate this, a temporary construction area will surround both the offshore cable corridor route and the wind farm development areas, as shown in Figure 2.7.
- iv. **Wind turbine height:** The maximum upper blade tip height of the wind turbines is increased (although rotor diameters and maximum swept areas are unchanged), as explained in Section 3.1.
- v. **Monopile diameter:** Forewind intends to increase the maximum diameter of monopile foundation driven piles from 8 metres to 10 metres, as described in Section 3.2 (Table 3.3).
- vi. **Number of multileg piles:** The maximum number of driven piles is proposed to increase from four to six multileg piles per foundation, although still within the original maximum number of multileg piles per project. Further details are provided in Section 3.2 (Table 3.4).
- vii. **Export cable length and cable crossings:** It is necessary to maintain the flexibility to lay export cables in an 'unbundled' form. This means that the maximum export cable length and affected seabed areas may be approximately doubled, along with an increase in the number of cable and pipeline crossings. Further details are provided in Section 3.11.

### Compulsory Purchase

If deemed necessary, powers of compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights over land may be sought in connection with the proposed onshore infrastructure. All persons with an interest in the land identified at this stage, such as landowners or anyone with rights in the land are being consulted.

These discussions are continuing so only once the land interests have been fully identified and agreements entered into with landowners where possible, will the full extent of the compulsory purchase requirement be known. These details will be provided with the final application.

### How to respond to the consultation

This consultation formally commences on 19 April 2013. Forewind must receive responses back by 11 June 2013 in order to ensure their consideration. Responses can be submitted by:

**email:** info@forewind.co.uk  
**Online:** www.forewind.co.uk  
**Freephone:** 0800 975 5636

**Freepost:** Freepost RSLY-HKGK-HEBR  
 Forewind  
 Davidson House  
 Forbury Square  
 Reading, RG1 3EU

Any representations should indicate who is making the response, which organisation is represented and a contact address and email to which any further correspondence relating to the submission may be sent. In addition, for Forewind to effectively take account of the responses, we would appreciate comments being categorised by



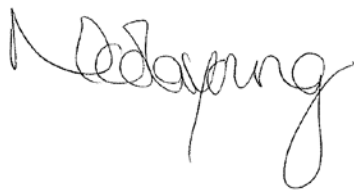
headings which specify the draft Environmental Statement chapter or document to which you are referring.

This is the final statutory pre-application consultation therefore please note that responses will be recorded within a Consultation Report, which will be a public document submitted with the application.

### **Next stages**

Comments received in response to this consultation will be considered and incorporated (where appropriate) into the final application for development consent and the Environmental Statement to be submitted with the application. The outcome of this consultation, and previous consultations, will be documented in the Consultation Report submitted with the application. This will set out where relevant responses have been included, and where they have not been included will explain the reasons for this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki Young".

Nikki Young  
Stakeholder Manager  
Forewind

### **Enclosures:**

1. Annex 1 – summary of the documents available for consultation
2. Notice to be published in accordance with Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008
3. DVD 1 – Preliminary Environmental Information

## Annex 1 - Summary of the consultation documents

### DVD 1 – Preliminary Environmental Information (enclosed)

#### Draft Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary

This document consists of chapters relating to assessment of both onshore and offshore elements of the project and makes an independent assessment of the project's likely significant environmental effects on the existing baseline conditions, taking into account any mitigation suggested. An overview of the findings can be found within the Non-Technical Summary. The chapters of the draft Environmental Statement are as follows:

1	Introduction	19	Military Activities
2	Project Need	20	Civil Aviation
3	Legislation and Policy	21a	Landscape Visual Character
4	EIA process	21b	Seascape Visual Character
5	Project Description	22	Socio-economics
6	Assessment of Alternatives	23	Tourism & Recreation
7	Consultation	24	Geology, Water Resources & Land
8	Designated Sites	25	Terrestrial Ecology
9	Marine Physical Processes	26	Land Use & Agriculture
10	Marine Water & Sediment Quality	27	Terrestrial Archaeology
11	Marine & Coastal Ornithology	28	Traffic and Access
12	Marine & Inter-tidal Ecology	29	Noise
13	Fish and shellfish	30	Air Quality
14	Marine mammals	31	Interrelationships
15	Commercial Fisheries	32	Transboundary Effects
16	Shipping & Navigation	33	Cumulative Impact Assessment
17	Other Marine Users	34	Conclusions
18	Marine/Coastal Archaeology	35	Summary - Monitoring & Mitigation

#### Plans

Plans showing the location of the proposed development are set out in Figure 2.7 and Figure 2.8 within Chapter 5 of the draft Environmental Statement, and indicative Works Plans are provided along with the draft Development Consent Order to show the positioning of each work area.

#### Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report

This document makes an assessment of Dogger Bank Creyke Beck with respect to its potential to have a likely significant effect on European sites of nature conservation importance. Responses to this document are sought to inform the final HRA report to be submitted with the application, along with screening and integrity matrices, to inform the decision-maker's final appropriate assessment.

#### Community Consultation Summary

This is a non-technical summary of the proposals produced specifically for the local community at this final stage of consultation.



## **DVD 2 – Other Draft Application Documents (available on request)**

### **Draft Development Consent Order**

The Development Consent Order is the Statutory Instrument which, if approved, will provide consent under the Planning Act 2008 to construct and operate the offshore wind farm and associated infrastructure. It also has the ability to grant deemed consent for a Marine Licence under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The document sets out the limits within which the development must be constructed and secures mitigation through requirements and conditions. A summary of the document is also provided for ease of reference.

### **Planning and Design Statement**

This draft statement sets out, for consultation purposes, a framework for the final Planning and Design Statement to be submitted with the application. It considers the relevant national and local policies and considerations in decision-making in accordance with Section 104 of the Planning Act 2008. In addition, the design considerations undertaken throughout the development process are articulated within this document.

### **Code of Construction Practice**

This is a draft of the outline Code of Construction Practice to be submitted along with the application. It will include predicted impacts of construction and mitigation to address these. The Code relates to onshore construction activities only and will cover various subject areas including traffic and transport, noise and vibration, air quality, waste and pollution.

### **Grid connection and cable details statement**

This draft statement provides details of the proposed cable routes both onshore and offshore, electrical system technology, installation methods and onshore connection works to the existing National Grid substation at Creyke Beck, in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

### **Statutory Nuisance Statement**

This draft statement provides additional detail on the matters set out in Section 79(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in respect of statutory nuisances. It is not expected that the construction or operation of Dogger Bank Creyke Beck would result in a statutory nuisance.

### **Decommissioning Statement**

This document outlines the draft decommissioning strategy that the operators of Dogger Bank Creyke Beck will follow once the lifetime of the development is complete. This includes the method of decommissioning of both offshore and onshore elements and any remediation or mitigation measures proposed.

### **Safety Zone Statement**

The draft Safety Zone Statement relates to the offshore development only and states that the current intention is to apply for safety zones of 500 metres during the construction phase of the wind farm, with 'Chartered Advisory Safety Areas' during the operational phase.