

Fisheries Update 5

Dogger Bank Creyke Beck consented

The first consent order for offshore wind energy at Dogger Bank was granted in February making it the largest renewable energy development ever to receive planning consent in the UK.

The consent approval is the result of more than four years of comprehensive assessments, stakeholder consultation and planning by Forewind, which included the most extensive study of an offshore area by a wind energy developer ever undertaken with more than £60 million spent on surveys, the vast majority going to UK-based contractors.

The fish ecology surveys were undertaken by Suffolk-based Brown & May Marine and Hull-based Precision Marine Services Limited. Local UK fishing vessels including the *Jubilee Spirit* were used to carry out a number of surveys employing scientific and traditional fishing sampling methods.

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ed Davey approved the application for the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck development, which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the Forewind consortium in August last year. He said:

"This is another great boost for Yorkshire and Humberside. This development has the potential to create hundreds of green jobs and power up to two million homes.

"Making the most of Britain's home grown energy is supporting jobs and businesses in the UK, getting the best deal for consumers and reducing our reliance on foreign imports. Wind power is vital to this plan, with £14.5 billion invested since 2010 into an industry which supports 35,400 jobs."



Fishing survey vessel, *Jubilee Spirit* used during the environmental impact assessment

Dogger Bank Creyke Beck, which has a total generating capacity of 2.4GW, comprises two separate 1.2GW offshore wind farms, each with up to 200 turbines installed across an area of around 500km².

The wind farms will be located 131 kilometres from the UK coast and will connect into the existing Creyke Beck substation near Cottingham, in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

When constructed, Dogger Bank Creyke Beck will be one of UK's largest power generators, second only to the 3.9GW Drax coal-fired station in North Yorkshire.

In total it will be capable of generating 8 terrawatt hours (TWh) of green energy per annum, equal to the amount used annually by approximately two million British homes.*

* Homes powered equivalent: This is calculated using the most recent statistics from the Department of Energy and Climate Change showing that annual UK average domestic household consumption is 4,192kWh.

Dogger Bank Teesside A&B decision due August

The Planning Inspectorate's six-month examination of the Dogger Bank Teesside A&B development consent order application concluded in February, with a recommendation due to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in May and a decision anticipated in August.

As per Dogger Bank Creyke Beck, Dogger Bank Teesside A&B also comprises two 1.2 gigawatt wind farms, however they are located further from the UK coast at their closest point (165 kilometres) and are planned to connect to the national grid at the existing Lackenby substation near Eston, in Redcar & Cleveland.

If consent is granted, fisheries stakeholders, and particularly those directly impacted, will continue to be engaged and involved by operators in planning for the construction and operation and maintenance phases of the wind farms.

Issue highlights

This is the fifth edition of Fisheries Update – Forewind's newsletter for the commercial fishing industry. It gives the latest news on the Dogger Bank development and consenting progress.

If you would like to receive copies electronically please email your request and contact details to info@forewind.co.uk.

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DOGGER BANK CREYKE BECK

Dogger Bank Creyke Beck comprises two up to 1.2GW wind farms subject to a single development consent order application. Consent was granted for the 2.4GW development in February 2015.

Next steps post-consent

The Forewind consortium is a joint venture formed specifically with the remit to gain the consents for the Dogger Bank projects, and now that the consent for Dogger Bank Creyke Beck has been granted, the work to further the development will be transferred to operators for the next phase.

General Manager, Tarald Gjerde said the organisation and its four owners were thrilled when the first consent for the Dogger Bank Zone was granted, taking the flagship development a step closer to supplying the UK with a significant amount of renewable energy, and to realising the many potential economic opportunities, particularly on the east coast.

Dogger Bank Creyke Beck could create up to 4,750 new direct and indirect full time equivalent jobs** and generate more than £1.5 billion for the UK economy, with the majority of opportunities in the North East and Yorkshire and the Humber regions.

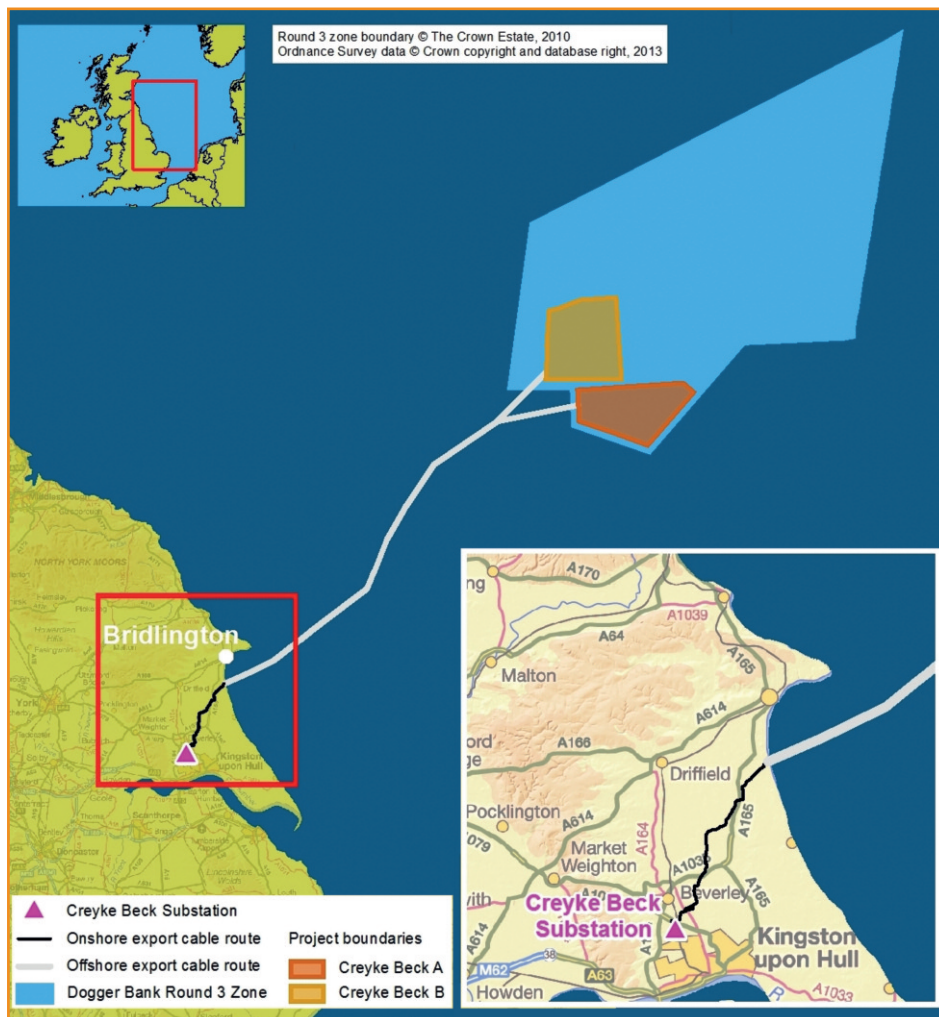
This is particularly due to the regions proximity to the development as well as their historic strengths, existing skills in large-scale production activities and a marine support legacy.

Operators to take over

The operators of the two Dogger Bank Creyke Beck projects should be in place this year. The operators look set to come from within the four Forewind owner companies, and they are now carrying out the complex work to finalise the administrative and governance arrangements for the handover.

Once in place, the operators will begin the postconsent work which will include the technical and commercial design of the wind farms, developing links with supply chain and stakeholders and carrying out all the pre-construction activity needed to reach the stage of financial investment decision.

Fisheries stakeholders will be informed about the operators and provided with



Dogger Bank Teesside A&B comprises two up to 1.2GW wind farms subject to a single development consent order application. A decision on the development consent application is expected in August 2015.

Examination brings revisions

Input from fisheries industry representatives during the Dogger Bank Teesside A&B examination process resulted in an updated Fisheries Liaison Plan (FLP) and other relevant commitments.

The examination started in Redcar in August last year and included both open floor and issue-specific hearings plus five site visits to the proposed landfall, along the onshore cable route, and to the sites for the two proposed converter stations and connection works into the national grid.

The examination involved approximately 40 stakeholder organisations and individuals with an interest in the project proposals. Around 55 statements of common ground were agreed with key groups as part of the process, including with 11 with fisheries groups and four with shipping and navigation organisations. More than 550 documents were submitted over the period.

The FLP was discussed specifically during the examination and updated following feedback from examiners, Hartlepool Fishermen's Society, National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations and Anglo-Dutch fisheries body, VisNed.

The plan covers Forewind's approach to coexistence and includes a consultation strategy with objectives to ensure early, effective, meaningful and transparent engagement with stakeholders. The necessary future roles are defined and it also includes an overall strategy covering mitigation or compensation for those within the commercial fisheries industry likely to be subject to residual significant impacts.

Specifically, the main updates to the draft FLP included:

- A commitment to early engagement from the start of the design phase to enable operators to benefit from previous lessons learned by the fishing industry and existing knowledge of ground conditions, as well as to give a platform for concerns
- A commitment to sharing post-installation survey results with fishermen



Teesside fishing boats – local fisheries organisations helped shape the new Fisheries Liaison Plan.

- Consideration of the use of guard vessels outside of safety zones
- Collaborative use of the Dogger Bank 3D computer generated simulation.

The updated plan is now available for download on the Forewind website (www.forewind.co.uk).

Fisheries related commitments

The revisions to the FLP were not the only change resulting from fisheries involvement during the examination process.

Its iterative approach enabled fisheries groups to attend and highlight their main issues, resulting in a number of conditions to be committed to within Deemed Marine Licenses as part of the Dogger Bank Teesside A&B draft Development Consent Order.

These commitments relate to: securing the Fisheries Liaison Plan, the appointment of Fisheries Liaison Officers; the cable specification and installation plan, post-installation cable surveys, and the search and rescue emergency response plan (ERCOP).

A position to alleviate key concerns was agreed with the Hartlepool Fishermen's Society during the examination. The concerns related to a potential loss of habitat and safety issues over cable protection and it was agreed these would be best dealt with post consent through early engagement in the early design phase and the sharing of information.

Forewind's Offshore Environmental Impact Assessment Manager, Martin Goff said that the cornerstone for Forewind has always been the belief that the fishing industry and the Dogger Bank offshore wind farm development will be able to co-exist peacefully.

"The operators will be keen to also ensure good cooperation and a close working relationship once they take over the projects," he said. "Key to this will be adhering to the commitments made by Forewind and secured within the Development Consent Order and Fisheries Liaison Plan."

What's in a name?

The Dogger Bank projects were early on given names that linked the offshore wind farm location with the onshore substation site.

The names were intentionally functional for the development consent process and it was understood they would most likely be later changed in line with the longer-term needs of the operators and to meet the practical needs of key offshore stakeholders.

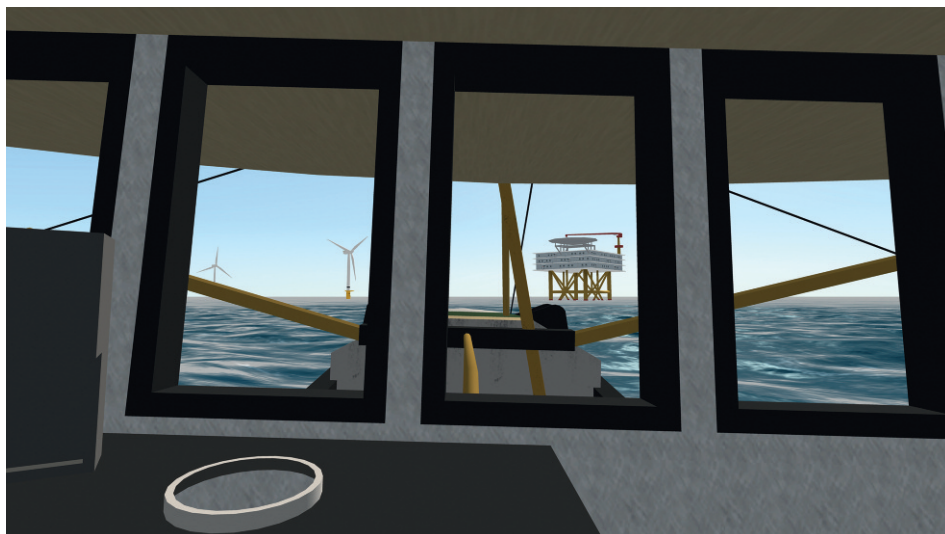
The re-naming will be the responsibility of the operators and will be changed and publicised when the timing is appropriate.

Trawler view added to 3D programme

Forewind's 3D computer generated simulation of the proposed Dogger Bank offshore development has been updated to include the view from the bridge of a trawler which is of particular relevance to fisheries.

The model was developed to enable fishermen and offshore authorities to better understand and visualise how the development will look once constructed and can now be downloaded from the organisation's website.

Anyone wanting to download a copy of the model should email info@forewind.co.uk to



request a username and password. They can then visit the Downloads section of www.forewind.co.uk to install the 2GB .exe file and find instructions and a user guide.

The view from a trawler has now been incorporated into the Dogger Bank 3D computer simulation, which has proved popular with offshore and other stakeholders.

Dealing with subsea cable risks

The potential risk to fishing trawlers from subsea cables will be the focus of a new subgroup of the Fisheries Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables (FLOWW) group, which Forewind supports and will actively participate in.

The risk to trawlers from subsea cables from the Dogger Bank offshore wind farms was a topic which emerged during the examination of Dogger Bank Teesside A&B, however it is recognised as a wider issue extending to the whole offshore wind industry as well as oil and gas, telecommunications and other sectors.

The newly formed FLOWW subsea cables subgroup has the remit to develop best practice guidance on this important issue as well as guiding principles for the fisheries liaison related to offshore renewables cables, from planning through to operation, and dealing with emerging concerns.

Forewind will be represented on the subgroup to contribute to the discussions and assist with the development of guidance on this issue.

Danish fishermen assist in porpoise research

Danish fishermen have been assisting a group of offshore wind developers, which have joined forces to better assess the impact of offshore wind farm construction on the harbour porpoise population of the North Sea.



Harbour porpoise in the North Sea.
Photo courtesy of Malcolm Barradell.

The fishermen have contacted the researchers at Aarhus University, who are carrying out the research known as Disturbance Effects on the Harbour Porpoise Population in the North Sea (DEPONS), when harbour porpoise have been found in their pound nets. The researchers have then been able to tag the harbour porpoise for monitoring.

The research will continue this year with the final results published in peer-reviewed scientific publications in 2016.

Fisheries contacts

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