

November 2011

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Document no. :	Contract no. (if applicable):	Project: Dogger Bank Zone
Classification:		Distribution: Insert distribution list here
Expiry date (if applicable): 22 November 2011		Status: Draft
Date: 22 November 2011		Version no.: 0.1
Overview: Forewind's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (StEP) explains how we will identify and consult with stakeholders, both individuals and organisations, who have an interest in the Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farm development proposals		
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Glossary of Abbreviations

DCLG	- The Department for Communities and Local Government
DCO	- Development Consent Order
EIA	- Environmental Impact Assessment
GW	- Gigawatts
IPC	- Infrastructure Planning Commission
Km	- Kilometre
m	- Metres
NSIP	- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
PEI	- Preliminary Environmental Information
RSPB	- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RWE	- RWE npower renewables (an RWE Innogy company)
SoCC	- Statement of Community Consultation
SSE	- Scottish and Southern Energy
StEP	- Stakeholder Engagement Plan
UK	- United Kingdom
ZAP	- Zone Appraisal and Planning
ZoC	- Zone Characterisation

1 Introduction

Purpose of this document

- 1.1 Forewind recognises that effective and meaningful consultation is an integral part of our development process and we are committed to ensuring that we maintain a transparent approach to consultation and engagement.
- 1.2 Forewind's stakeholder engagement objectives are as follows:
 - To identify and pro-actively engage with those statutory bodies, non-governmental organisations, other national and international organisations, the local community and landowners that have the potential to be affected by Forewind's activities;
 - To develop a transparent consultation and engagement strategy which fulfils the pre-application consultation requirements of the Planning Act 2008 (the Planning Act);
 - To prioritise consultation with stakeholders who are directly affected or who have a greater cause for concern as a result of our development proposals;
 - To be open and honest in all communications with our stakeholders;
 - To recognise the interests and points of view of our stakeholders and wherever appropriate to use these to inform our development activities; and
 - To undertake a comprehensive Zone Appraisal and Planning (ZAP) Process and appropriate consultation with stakeholders to enable robust site selection and identification of individual projects for development.
- 1.3 Forewind is publishing this Stakeholder Engagement Plan (StEP) to explain how we will identify and consult with stakeholders, both individuals and organisations, who have an interest in the Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farm development proposals.
- 1.4 In addition to the StEP, Forewind has published a standalone Fisheries Liaison Plan which explains how Forewind intends to engage with the fishing community. This plan is available to download from the Forewind website www.forewind.co.uk

Introduction to Forewind

- 1.5 Forewind Limited (Forewind) is a consortium comprising four leading international energy companies; Scottish and Southern Energy plc (SSE), RWE npower renewables (an RWE Innogy company), Statoil and Statkraft.
- 1.6 Together these companies combine extensive experience of international offshore project delivery and renewables development, construction, asset management and operations. Through the combined capabilities of its owner companies, Forewind has the ability to both make a significant contribution to the future of wind energy in the UK and demonstrate commitment to the continuing development of offshore wind.

Introduction to Forewind's development activities

- 1.7 In June 2008 The Crown Estate announced proposals for the third round (Round 3) of offshore wind farm leasing. Under the Round 3 process, nine development 'zones' were identified by The Crown Estate, with a combined target energy generation capacity of 25 Gigawatts (GW).
- 1.8 On the 8th January 2010, following a competitive tender process, The Crown Estate announced the successful bidders for each of the Zones. Forewind was awarded the development rights for the largest Zone: Dogger Bank.



Figure 1 The Dogger Bank Zone and other Round 3 Wind Farm Zones

- 1.9 As development partner for the Dogger Bank Zone, Forewind has the objective to achieve consent for an agreed target installed capacity of 9GW of offshore wind farm projects by 2020, however Forewind believes that the zone has a potential for up to 13GW. This figure equates to almost 10 per cent of the UK's projected electricity requirements. If fully developed, it is likely to be the world's largest offshore wind project.

- 1.10 The Dogger Bank Zone is approximately the same size as North Yorkshire, covering 8660 km² / 3,343 square miles. It is 125 to 290 km from the UK shore line and the water depth in the Zone ranges from 18 to 63m below chart datum.
- 1.11 Due to the scale of the Dogger Bank Zone, Forewind intends to develop the zone sequentially in a series of four tranches each of which is likely to include three wind farm projects each with a generating capacity of up to 1.4 GW. This will relieve pressure on stakeholders and the supply chain and will enable Forewind to apply what it learns on early projects to the development of later projects. Forewind's project proposals will incorporate the offshore elements of each project and the associated onshore infrastructure needed to connect the offshore wind farm projects to the UK transmission network.
- 1.12 Each of the wind farm projects that Forewind develops in the Dogger Bank Zone will have a generating capacity of up to 1.4GW and therefore will be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as defined under the Planning Act. Therefore, for each project Forewind intends to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) which, if granted, would allow the construction and operation of the project. DCO applications for NSIPs are currently submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC)¹, but as the abolition of the IPC is provided for in the Localism Bill², which is expected to come into force in 2012, Forewind will most likely submit its applications to the IPC's successor.
- 1.13 The StEP describes how Forewind intends to consult on the Dogger Bank Zone development as a whole and also on a project by project basis so that we meet the requirements of the Planning Act.
- 1.14 There are a number of ways to submit comments on the development proposals or to ask questions. These include the Forewind website, e.mail, freephone telephone number, Freepost postal address, and in person at the consultation events. Contact details are provided at the end of this document.

¹ For more information on the IPC please refer to their website <http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/>

² For more information on the Localism Bill please refer to <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/localism.html>

2 Stakeholder engagement during zone appraisal and planning

- 2.1 The first phase in the development process is called Zone Appraisal and Planning (ZAP). During ZAP, Forewind will consult on and assess the various development considerations that might influence where the tranches are located. ZAP is predominantly focussed on the offshore elements of the development.
- 2.2 Forewind will engage with National Grid through the grid connection application process to identify suitable onshore connection points to the national transmission network. Forewind will then progress the majority of the onshore site selection work on a project by project basis, to support the identification of timely, cost-effective and environmentally acceptable sites.
- 2.3 Figure 2 shows the stages of the zone development process and how it feeds into individual project development.

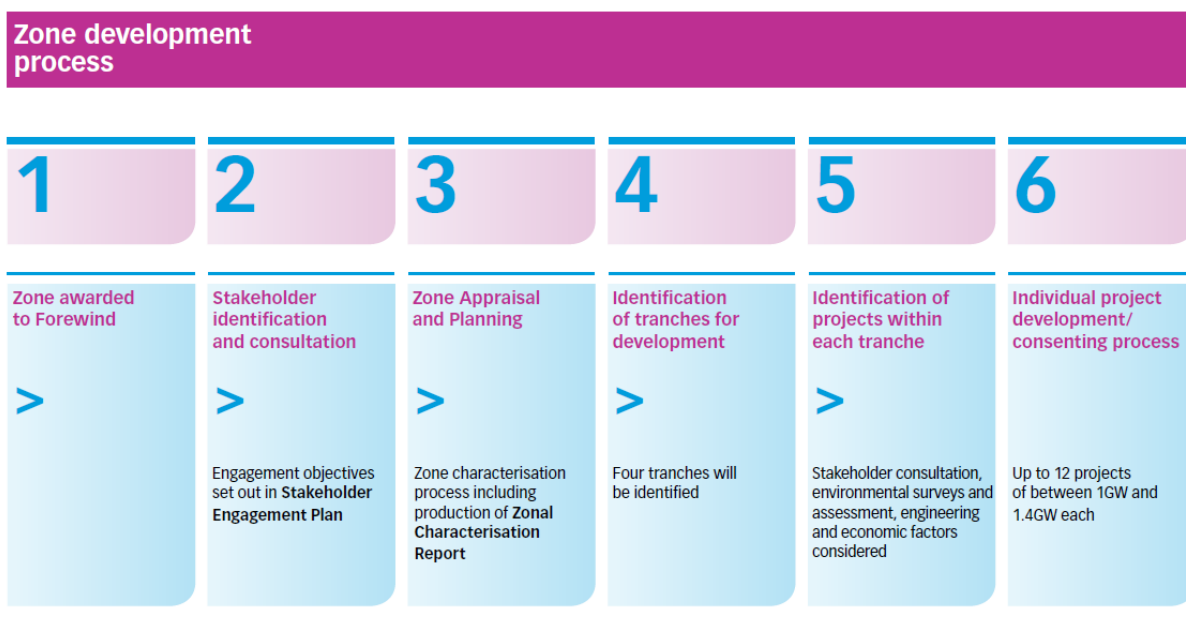


Figure 2 The Zone Development Process

- 2.4 In April 2010, at the very start of the zone development process, Forewind held three stakeholder workshops in Hull, Newcastle and London. Eighty eight national and international stakeholders from across the public and private sector attended the workshops, which were designed to provide an early opportunity to consider the various development considerations in the Dogger Bank Zone. This consultation exercise aligns with stage 2 of Figure 2. Issues raised during the workshops fed into the Zonal Characterisation Document (ZoC) – stage 3 of Figure 2. Further details

and the results of the workshops, as well as the ZoC are available to download from the Forewind website www.forewind.co.uk

- 2.5 Using the ZoC, and with further subject-specific consultation meetings with specific stakeholders, Forewind will identify four areas of the zone (called tranches) to assess in more detail (stage 4 of Figure 2). Forewind identified Tranche A in 2010 and Tranche B in 2011. The Tranche A Selection Report is available to download from the Forewind website www.forewind.co.uk and the Selection Reports for the other tranches will be downloadable when they are available.
- 2.6 The ZoC will be updated and republished to present the information used to identify Tranche B and the information used to identify Tranches C and D.
- 2.7 Each tranche will then be surveyed and assessed in more detail to allow the identification of project boundaries (stage 5 of Figure 2). At this stage, the project development process and the ZAP process may run in parallel. Stakeholders will be consulted on a subject specific basis – such as consultation with the shipping and navigation authorities on the location of tranches within the zone, to reduce the impact on shipping traffic, where appropriate.
- 2.8 ZAP is an ongoing process and therefore Forewind welcomes comments and feedback from stakeholders at any time.

3 Stakeholder engagement during project development

- 3.1 Once the ZAP process has identified a study area for the offshore works of a project and a suitable onshore grid connection point has been identified by National Grid, Forewind will commence the project development and consenting process. This process is set out in Figure 3.

Regulatory requirement to consult

- 3.2 The Planning Act places a greater onus on a developer to consult thoroughly on a proposed NSIP before an application for consent is submitted than was required for large infrastructure projects under previous planning regimes.
- 3.3 Before the IPC (or its successor) will accept a DCO application for a NSIP they must be satisfied that Forewind has fully complied with the requirements of the Planning Act, and this includes consultation with stakeholders. Their judgement will be based on whether the procedures in the Planning Act have been complied with, and the extent to which Forewind has had regard to:
- The Consultation Guidance produced by the IPC and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)³;
 - Any Advice Notes produced by the IPC; and
 - Any representations received from the relevant Local Authorities as to whether Forewind has adequately consulted the Local Authority and the local community.
- 3.4 Each of the projects that Forewind develops will require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)⁴. Therefore, in addition to the consultation requirements of the Planning Act, for most projects Forewind will consult the IPC (or its successor) on the proposed approach to the EIA by submitting a scoping report (stage 4 of Figure 3). The IPC (or its successor) will in turn consult a number of organisations on Forewind's scoping report and will collate the formal Scoping Opinion in response to this consultation.

³ All guidance and advice notes can be found on the IPC's website: <http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/legislation/#Guidance>

⁴ The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009, <http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/legislation/>

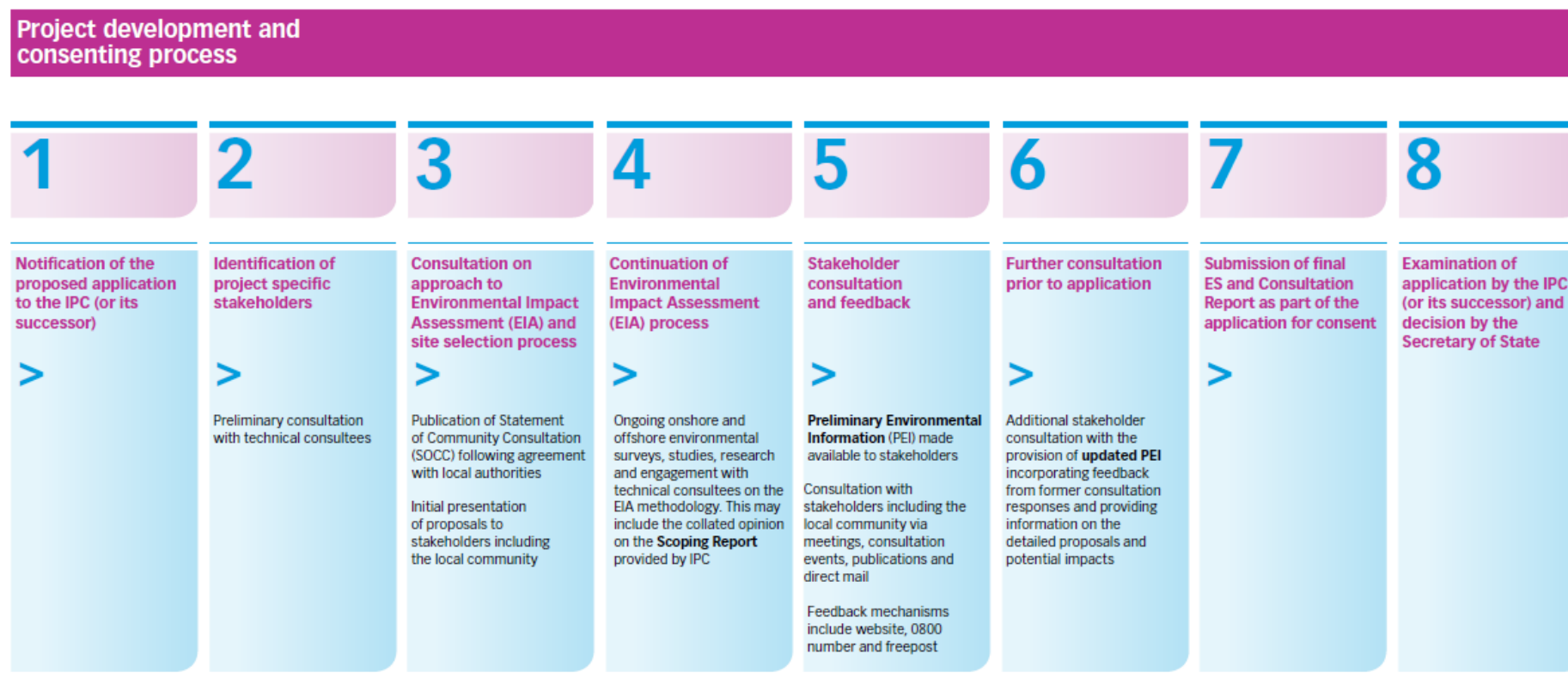


Figure 3 The Project Development and Consenting Process

Who Forewind will consult

- 3.5 Forewind is keen to engage with any person or organisation that has an interest in any or all of the Dogger Bank projects and will endeavour to provide stakeholders with clear information about why they are being consulted by Forewind and what their duties and rights are as consultees.
- 3.6 The Planning Act stipulates that the following people should be consulted during the pre-application project development process:
- Those directly affected by the scheme, which includes statutory bodies, the relevant Local Authorities, landowners and others with an interest in the land or who may be affected by the construction and operation of a consented scheme (Section 42 of the Planning Act);
 - The Local Community (Section 47 of the Planning Act); and
 - The General Public (Section 48 of the Planning Act).
- 3.7 How Forewind will identify stakeholders in the categories stipulated by the Planning Act and in some additional categories identified by Forewind (mariners and the fishing community, other non-statutory organisations and transboundary consultees) is described below.

Those directly affected by the scheme

- 3.8 The *Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009* (the APFP Regulations) list the statutory stakeholders that must be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act. The list includes organisations that have a statutory or regulatory role as well as technical specialists and the relevant Local Authorities.
- 3.9 Forewind will add to this list any additional organisations that are consulted during scoping for each project. The scoping process is briefly described in section 3.4 of this document.
- 3.10 Once a technically and environmentally feasible onshore cable corridor and converter station study area have been identified for a project, Forewind's appointed Land Agent will identify the affected landowners through the Land Registry and local enquiry. It may not be possible to identify all landowners and others with an interest in the land right from the beginning of the process but Forewind will endeavour to ensure as many as possible are consulted prior to submitting the consent application.

The Local Community

- 3.11 Section 47 of the Planning Act states that prior to consulting the local community on an NSIP, the promoter must prepare and publish in full⁵ a Statement of Community

⁵ The Localism Bill proposes that the obligation to publish the SOCC in full is removed and that instead, the developer should publish details of where and when the public can inspect the SOCC. At the time of writing, the Localism Bill is expected to come into force in 2012.

Consultation (SoCC) setting out who will be consulted, how and when they will be consulted and what they will be consulted on. The Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) must be consulted on the content of the SoCC and the promoter must have due regard to any responses made within the 28 day consultation period. DCLG guidance also recommends that Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and coastal authorities closest to the development are consulted on the content of the SoCC.

- 3.12 Once the statement has been published, the promoter is required to carry out consultation in accordance with the SoCC.
- 3.13 Identifying who the “local community” are will be a key element of SoCC. A SoCC will be published for each DCO application to reflect the fact that the local community will vary depending on the location and impact of each project.
- 3.14 DCLG Guidance⁶ states that the local community may include “people who live in the proximity of the development, but not close enough to be physically affected by it, people who are likely to be affected by the wider impacts of the development, or who are user of, or visitors to the area.”
- 3.15 The local community consultees, for the purpose of direct consultation, will generally be defined by Forewind as those people living or working within a defined distance of the onshore infrastructure. In addition, Forewind will endeavour to identify and consult community groups who may have an interest in the land, for example, the local archaeology group, and to keep elected representatives (MPs and councillors) informed about progress on the project.]
- 3.16 The wider community will be welcome at consultation events and will be notified of the events and invited to submit consultation responses through advertisements in the local newspapers.

The General Public

- 3.17 The general public (extending beyond the local community) will be given an opportunity to provide a formal comment on the proposal once it is reasonably well defined (at stage 6 of Figure 3) This is required under Section 48 of the Planning Act.
- 3.18 This consultation will be advertised in the national press, and will include a deadline for responses, which will be no less than 28 days. There is a prescribed list of content for a Section 48 notice, and also a prescribed list of places where the notice must be placed⁷.

⁶ Planning Act 2008 Guidance on Pre-Application Consultation, Sept 2009, The Department for Communities and Local Government

⁷ 2009 No. 2264. The infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

- 3.19 The general public are welcome to engage in the community consultation process but this will only be advertised locally and on the Forewind website.

Mariners and the Fishing Community

- 3.20 Forewind has developed a standalone “Fisheries Liaison Plan” which explains how Forewind proposes to engage with the fishing community. As this is an evolving document, it is not included here but is available to download from the Forewind website www.forewind.co.uk
- 3.21 Mariners and members of the fishing community are also encouraged to engage with Forewind through the local community consultation process. Forewind will consult the Marine Management Organisation on the definition of the offshore “local community” for each project. All community consultation events will be advertised in at least one marine publication.

Other Non-Statutory Organisations

- 3.22 In addition to the statutory stakeholders identified by the APFP Regulations, Forewind is aware that there are other organisations that have an interest in the Dogger Bank Projects. These include various wildlife and conservation organisations such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), private companies and international stakeholders. Forewind will seek to identify these stakeholders through consultation with the Local Authority (and by reference to the Local Authority’s Statement of Community Involvement) and by asking the statutory stakeholders and the IPC.

Transboundary Consultees

- 3.23 Forewind recognises that its development proposals have the potential to cause trans-boundary effects in areas such as commercial fishing, international shipping and international conservation. The Espoo (EIA) Convention sets out the obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities (that have the potential to have transboundary impacts) at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligation of States to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across boundaries.
- 3.24 Within the UK, the IPC published advice in June 2011 relating to the screening of likely trans-boundary effects for NSIP projects. Forewind will use this advice note and advice from relevant international organisations to ensure that its consultation process adequately involves trans-boundary consultees.

When Forewind will consult

- 3.25 It is important to note that the pre-application consultation process is the main opportunity for stakeholders to submit comments and influence the development

proposals. The Planning Act allows Forewind to set a deadline for responses to consultation but stipulates that the consultation period should be no less than 28 days. Forewind will let consultees know what the deadline is for consultation responses in each case.

- 3.26 Forewind intends to carry out a multi-stage formal consultation process on each project with all consultees, including landowners and the local community (as defined above) except the wider general public, who will be consulted once, prior to the submission of the application. This will ensure that the stakeholders who are most affected by the proposals are engaged in the development from start to finish, and have an opportunity to comment on the proposals at key decision making points.
- 3.27 The number of formal consultation stages will vary by project, to ensure that consultation is appropriate and efficient. Most stages of formal consultation will involve all the consultees (except the general public), but it may be appropriate to carry out some stages of formal consultation with a select group of stakeholders, for example a specific consultation on the impact of a project on birds may be most relevant to the environmental stakeholders for that project.
- 3.28 Forewind will also consult stakeholders on an ad hoc and informal basis throughout the development of each project on issues that are relevant to their particular interest, area of expertise or statutory responsibility. This will enable Forewind to engage with and respond to stakeholders in a flexible and open way.
- 3.29 In particular, Forewind will endeavour to consult landowners, lessees, tenants and others with an interest in the land directly affected by the project on an informal basis prior to making public any details of the project that might affect them. This will ensure that those directly affected by the development have an opportunity to discuss and feedback comments to Forewind before the local community and general public.
- 3.30 Community consultation events will be advertised in advance in local newspapers and on the Forewind website. Forewind will also endeavour to advertise events on the local radio and television stations. Forewind will endeavour to avoid scheduling community consultation events at the same time as another developer in the same community.
- 3.31 In between the public exhibitions, Forewind will keep the local community informed of progress through topic-specific factsheets and the Dogger Bank Zone newsletter which will be available online and in hard copy.
- 3.32 The period for consultation with the general public will be advertised through a Section 48 Notice in the national press. It is likely to be aligned with the later stages of the formal consultation with other stakeholders.

What Forewind will consult on

- 3.33 For each project, Forewind will consult on the proposed location of the wind farm and its associated offshore and onshore infrastructure and the ways that it could be constructed, operated and decommissioned. Consultation will also be carried out on the EIA process, the data that we have collected and any proposed mitigation of impacts.
- 3.34 At each formal stage of consultation, Forewind will provide consultees with Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI). This will include information on the site selection process, what the project involves in terms of infrastructure and the way it will be constructed and operated, as well as the EIA. The PEI will evolve and increase in detail throughout the development process for each project and therefore Forewind will clearly explain at each stage of the consultation process, what the PEI consists of.
- 3.35 Forewind will endeavour to make all consultation documents accessible by writing all documents in non-technical language. In addition, non-technical summaries of the consultation documents will be provided to enable those who do not wish to inspect the consultation documents in detail to understand what will be done and what the effects of the project will be.
- 3.36 All consultation documents, factsheets and the SoCC will be made available for inspection at public places such as libraries and council offices as well as on the Forewind website.

What Forewind will do with consultation responses

- 3.37 All consultation responses will be recorded in Forewind's stakeholder database and considered carefully.
- 3.38 Forewind will produce a Consultation Report that will detail the consultation responses received and whether they have had an effect on the proposed scheme. The Consultation Report will be submitted to the IPC (or its successor) as part of the application for the DCO and therefore will become publicly available.
- 3.39 In order to comply with the Data Protection Act, Forewind asks consultees not to include in any response, any information about a third party without their consent. Forewind may have to withhold any such information from the Consultation Report.

4 How to get involved

- 4.1 If you are a statutory consultee (as defined under section 42 of the Planning Act) or community consultee who lives or works within the community consultation boundary for any project, you will be contacted directly by Forewind during the formal consultation exercises for each project. If you believe that you are in one of these categories and have not received a direct communication from Forewind during the formal consultation period for any project, please contact us to let us know.
- 4.2 The Forewind website www.forewind.co.uk will be kept up to date with details of any local community and public consultation activities. In addition, Forewind will advertise in the local press and, at the appropriate time for public consultation, in the national press.
- 4.3 Forewind is pleased to hear from anyone who has an interest in the development of the Dogger Bank Zone. You can contact Forewind to discuss the Dogger Bank Wind Farm, submit your comments on the consultation materials or request further information in the following ways:

Website: www.forewind.co.uk

e-mail: info@forewind.co.uk

Free Phone: 0800 975 5636

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