|  |
| --- |
| XXXXX  XXXXXX  XXXX  XXXX |
| S42 Consultation Notification |

Dear Sir/ Madam,

**Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm**

**Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008**

We are writing to consult with you on a proposed offshore wind farm, Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as Hornsea Four) that Orsted Hornsea Project Four Ltd (hereafter referred to as Orsted) is proposing to develop. Hornsea Four is located in the southern North Sea and comprises a maximum of 180 wind turbine generators.

You have been identified as a consultee for the purposes of section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.

Orsted has previously written to you to consult with you on the proposals for Hornsea Four however we understand from you that you do not recall receiving our correspondence.

This statutory consultation period commences on Tuesday 4 August 2020 and closes at midnight on **Tuesday 8 September 2020.**

Please see below for more information on how to view and comment on our proposed application.

The offshore wind turbines will be located in the "array area", which is located approximately 65km east of Flamborough Head on the Yorkshire coast.

The electricity generated from Hornsea Four will be transmitted via subsea electricity cables. The Hornsea Four offshore cable corridor extends from the southwestern boundary of the array area in a west-south-westerly direction to the East Riding of Yorkshire coastline (See Statutory Consultation Plan).

From the East Riding of Yorkshire coast, underground onshore cables will connect the offshore wind farm to an onshore high voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station or a high voltage alternating current (HVAC) substation, which in turn, will connect to the existing Creyke Beck National Grid substation, located to the north of Cottingham. The mode of transmission will be either HVDC, HVAC or a combination of the two. Depending on the mode of transmission, a HVAC booster station may be required (onshore and/or offshore). The onshore cable corridor search area currently comprises an 80m wide corridor within which a 60m onshore cable corridor permanent easement will be located.

**THE DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER APPLICATION**

As the proposed generating capacity of Hornsea Four exceeds 100 megawatts (MW) it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project as defined by Section 15(3) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the Act), for which Orsted must apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO). If the DCO application is accepted, the Planning Inspectorate will then process and examine the application and then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The final decision on the DCO application will be made by the Secretary of State.

The DCO application will contain full details of Hornsea Four and will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement prepared under Section 37(3) of the Act and in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the Regulations).

The proposed DCO will include powers for Orsted to construct, operate, maintain and decommission Hornsea Four, including Deemed Marine Licence(s). The proposed DCO will also seek the compulsory acquisition of land and rights over land, including the power to take temporary possession of land to construct and maintain Hornsea Four.

In accordance with section 48 of the Act, Orsted must publicise the proposed application. A copy of that notice is enclosed with this letter in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Regulations.

Hornsea Four is currently in the pre-application phase, with a DCO application expected to be submitted in Quarter 4 of 2020. Under the Act, Orsted is required to carry out consultation on the proposed DCO application before submission and will have regard to the responses received in the final design of Hornsea Four, and in the assessment and mitigation of its environmental impacts. A Consultation Report explaining how Orsted has had regard to responses will be submitted as part of the DCO application.

Statutory consultation was carried out by Orsted between 13th August 2019 and 23rd September 2019. This consultation included:

* Consultation with prescribed bodies, host and neighbouring authorities and any persons with an interest in land affected by Hornsea Four (under Section 42);
* Consultation with the local community near Hornsea Four (under Section 47); and
* General public consultation on Hornsea Four (under Section 48).

Orsted has prepared a Preliminary Environment Information Report (PEIR) (which is a draft version of the Environmental Statement). The PEIR sets out the preliminary findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken to date and forms the basis of this statutory consultation.   A non-technical summary of the PEIR has also been prepared. The purpose of the PEIR is to enable consultees to understand the likely environmental effects of Hornsea Four and to help inform consultation responses.

You are invited to consider the proposed application for Hornsea Four and the information provided in the PEIR and Orsted is keen to receive your comments on Hornsea Four and the PEIR.

In considering responses to the statutory consultation carried out previously and as part of the ongoing design development, Hornsea Four now proposes that the permanent access for the onshore substation and energy balancing infrastructure will be taken directly from the A1079. A wider temporary access will also be located in this location in order to construct the onshore substation, energy balancing infrastructure and onshore export cable corridor. The location of the temporary and permanent access has been selected so as to route construction, and operation and maintenance traffic away from Cottingham and Dunswell. Hornsea Four also proposes to move the access 15m away from the Birkhill Wood to reduce any impacts on the ancient woodland.

The potential for the temporary onshore substation and energy balancing infrastructure construction access to become a permanent operational and maintenance access was initially identified within the PEIR (Volume 1, Chapter 3: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives and Volume 1, Chapter 4: Project Description). In response to a number of consultation responses received from local residents, parish councils and engagement with the local highway authority, Hornsea Four now proposes that an access track will remain in situ for the lifetime of the offshore wind farm, removing the requirement to route vehicles from the south, through Cottingham.

This change was first communicated in December 2019 Consultation Summary Report and then in the May 2020 newsletter, both of which were sent via post to all residents in our consultation zone and are available for viewing on the project website:

<https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/hornsea-project-four/documents-library>

Further detail on these changes, including vehicle numbers associated with the permanent access road is enclosed in the Supporting Information.

Two maps showing the access changes are also provided. See **Map 1 and Map 2**: S42 Overview Maps of access changes

**PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED**

* Hard copy of notice publicised in accordance with Section 48 of the Act.
* Hard copy of the Targeted Statutory Consultation Plan (Please see **Map 1 and Map 2**)
* S42 Consultation Supporting Information
* A link to the Hornsea Four website (https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/hornsea-project-four/documents-library/formal-consultation) where materials can be downloaded.
  + Statutory Consultation Plan/s;
  + Full PEIR including a Non-Technical Summary, Introductory Chapters, offshore chapters, onshore chapters, Introductory Chapter Annex’s, offshore chapter annex’s, onshore chapter annex’s;
  + Impacts Register;
  + Commitments Register;
  + Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) and Deemed Marine Licences; and
  + Outline protocols, plans and strategies.

The above consultation materials are available on USB upon request.

\* Please note that a copy of this notice has been included for information only. The deadline for your response is set out in this letter.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of Hornsea Four, including the PEIR (with a non-technical summary) for Hornsea Four, can be accessed in the Documents Library on the Hornsea Four website here:

<https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/hornsea-project-four/documents-library/formal-consultation>

Please note, hard copies of the PEIR and other consultation documents will not be available at the locations identified in the Section 48 Notice but are all accessible online using the link above.

For any enquiries in relation to any documents, plans or maps relating to Hornsea Four, the PEIR and/or other consultation information please contact Orsted on 0808 169 3030 or using the email address or postal address listed below.

**RESPONDING TO THIS CONSULTATION**

Orsted welcomes your comments on Hornsea Project Four, the PEIR and other consultation information**.** Any responses to, or other representations in respect of, Hornsea Four and/or the PEIR and other consultation information should be sent to Orsted:

* By email to: [hornseaprojectfour@orsted.co.uk](mailto:hornseaprojectfour@orsted.co.uk) or;
* By post to:

Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm

Orsted, 5 Howick Place, London, SW1P 1WG

Orsted requests that any response or representation in respect of the proposed DCO must be;

* received by Orsted no later than midnight on **8th September 2020** to be considered;
* be made in writing (email/letter);
* state the grounds of the response or representation;
* indicate who is making the response or representation; and
* provide an address to which any correspondence relating to the response or representation may be sent.

Please note that responses and other representations will be recorded in the Consultation Report and may be made public.

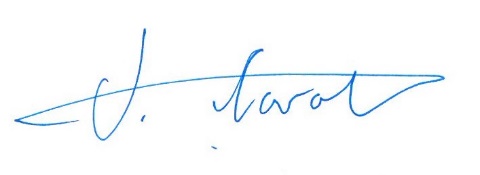
Guidance on the pre-application process and the Act can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/>

**NEXT STEPS**

As mentioned above, consultation under section 42 of the Act is a formal part of the pre-application process for a DCO. Hornsea Four will have regard to comments received during this consultation period and a Consultation Report explaining how Hornsea Four has had regard to responses will be submitted as part of the DCO application.

If you have any questions regarding the process or content of this consultation, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully



Julian Carolan

Consent Project Manager

Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm

Freephone: 0808 169 3030