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

Dear Sir/ Madam,

**Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm–** **Adoption of an alternative** **Export Cable Corridor (ECC) route option at Lockington Carr Cross, Minor Onshore Route Amendments** **and additional Operational Access Rights**

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

We are writing to you as you have been identified as a consultee for the purposes of section 42(1) of the Planning Act 2008 in respect of the Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm (Hornsea Four). The statutory consultation commences on Monday 17th February 2020 and closes on **Wednesday 18th March** **2020.** Please see below for more information on how to view and comment on our proposed application.

Hornsea Four is located approximately 65 km east of Flamborough Head in the southern North Sea. The electricity generated from Hornsea Four will be transmitted via subsea electricity cables to the East Riding of Yorkshire coastline. 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.

This Targeted Statutory Consultation under section 42(1) of the Act, covering an alternative ECC route option, a number of minor onshore route amendments and operational access rights, is further to two rounds of consultation undertaken in accordance with the Planning Act 2008, the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 between 10 October and 21 November 2018 (Scoping Report) and between 13 August and 23 September 2019 (Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)). The Statutory Consultation on the PEIR encompassed an approximate 1.5-kilometre-wide offshore export cable corridor (ECC) search area as well as an 80-metre wide onshore ECC. This Targeted Statutory Consultation proposes relates to refinements to the design of the onshore ECC that have been identified following consideration of responses to the Statutory Consultation and ongoing design development.

In considering responses to the Statutory Consultation, Hornsea Four has identified one location where works are now proposed beyond the area previously consulted on (see Proposed Change 1) and a further 36 minor amendments to the onshore ECC route, logistic compounds and temporary accesses (see Proposed Change 2). These proposed changes are shown on the attached plans and a short description of the proposed changes is provided below. Supporting environmental information is provided in the accompanying report (**S42 Consultation: Supporting information**).

This Targeted Consultation also seeks comments on the inclusion of a number of access routes to the onshore ECC in order to carry out operational maintenance activities. These proposed access routes are either located outside of the area previously consulted on or relate to access routes previously described as being for construction purposes only (See Proposed Change 3)

The three proposed changes are set out in the proceeding sections.

**Proposed Change 1**

In response to comments received during the Statutory Consultation and subsequent discussions with landowners and occupiers, Hornsea Four is seeking comments on an alternative cable corridor routing option (Option B) at Lockington Carr Cross which is located to the north and west of the proposed cable corridor shown in the Statutory Consultation on the PEIR at this location (Option A). The alternative cable corridor routing option (Option B) is 1,385 m long and 80m wide. The construction would be as per Option A. Please note that Hornsea Four continues to consider both Option A and Option B in this location.

See **Map 1**: S42 minor changes Overview Map and **Map 2**: S42 minor change Detail Map Book (**NOTE:** Change 1 is ID ECC.1.20).

**Proposed Change 2**

In response to comments received during the Statutory Consultation and ongoing design development, Hornsea Four is proposing 36 minor amendments to the onshore ECC shown at PEIR. These comprise:

* 14 amendments to the onshore ECC route
* 6 amendments to the logistic compounds
* 16 amendments to temporary access tracks

See **Map 1**: S42 minor changes Overview Map and **Map 2**: S42 minor change Detail Map Book.

**Proposed Change 3**

Hornsea Four will need to carry out routine maintenance activities to the onshore cables and link boxes and in a number of locations access will be required across land outside of the ECC in order to gain access to the ECC. Hornsea Four will be seeking to put in place voluntary access agreements with affected landowners. However, Hornsea Four will also be applying compulsory acquisition powers for access in case agreement cannot be reached.

In this Targeted Consultation Hornsea Four is requesting comments on the proposed use of 27 new operational accesses (including 9 accesses which were previously identified as only temporary construction accesses in the Statutory Consultation on the PEIR (see Inside Temporary Access ID on **Map 3**) and 18 new operational accesses using existing farm accesses (see Outside Temporary Access ID on **Map 3**)) to gain access to the link boxes and cables during the operational phase for maintenance purposes.

It should be noted that Hornsea Four will remove and reinstate all temporary construction accesses as previously proposed in the PEIR. However, where Hornsea Four is proposing to use an existing private track or public right of way, Hornsea Four will be seeking powers to maintain the track or right of way to ensure that the access is useable.

Should the applicant progress with Option A there would be 24 accesses in total taken forward to construction and operation, comprising 9 accesses previously identified as temporary construction accesses and 15 new operational accesses.

Should the applicant progress with Option B would result in 25 accesses in total taken forward to construction and operation, comprising 9 accesses previously identified as temporary construction accesses and 16 new operational accesses.

See **Map 3**: Overview of operational accesses

This Targeted Statutory Consultation is provided to prescribed consultees and those who have an interest in the land and/or are potentially affected by any works detailed above. If you provided a response to the Statutory Consultation on the PEIR, please be assured that these responses are being considered by Hornsea Four.

**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.

Hornsea Four is currently in the pre-application phase, with a DCO application expected to be submitted in September 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.

**PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED**

* Hard copy of the Targeted Statutory Consultation Plan (Please see **Map 1, Map 2** and **Map 3**)
* S42 Consultation Supporting Information and accompanying **Annex 1**

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Hard copy and USB copies of all 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 free of charge during the Consultation from 17th February 2020 until **18th March 2020** at:

* Beverley Reference Library in Beverley Treasure House

Champney Road, Beverley, HU17 8HE

* Bridlington Customer Service Centre

Bridlington Town Hall, Quay Road, Bridlington, YO16 4LP

Further information regarding Hornsea Four (including the consultation information referred to above) can be found on the Hornsea Four website: https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/en/Hornsea-Project-Four

**RESPONDING TO THIS CONSULTATION**

Orsted welcomes your comments on Honsea Project Four and the Targeted Consultation**.** Any responses to, or other representations in respect of, Hornsea Four and/or the Targeted Consultation 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 is;

* received by Orsted no later than **18th March**;
* 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.

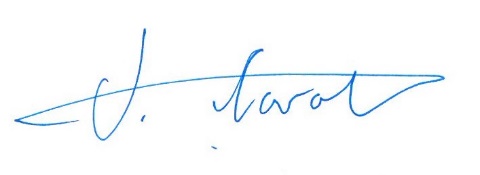
Guidance on the pre-application process and the Act can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/>

**NEXT STEPS**

As mentioned above, consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 is a formal part of the pre-application process for a DCO. Hornsea Four will have regard to comments received during the 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