



The Sizewell C Project

9.10.8 Initial Statement of Common Ground - National Grid Transmissions Plc

Revision: 1.0
Applicable Regulation: Regulation 5(2)(q)
PINS Reference Number: EN010012

June 2021

Planning Act 2008
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009



DOCUMENT CONTROL

Revision history / Record of comments

Revision	Amendment	By	Date
010101		Niki Pieri	17/03/2021
020202		Spencer Jefferies	31/03/2021
02	*	Niki Pieri	06/04/2021
03	*	Niki Pieri	12/04/2021
04	*	Niki Pieri	25/05/2021
05	*	Niki Pieri	26/05/2021



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Status of the SOCG

1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG') has been prepared in respect of the application for development consent under the Planning Act 2008 ('the Application') for the proposed Sizewell C Project. This version [version 01], dated 28th May 2021, has been prepared through a programme of engagement between NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited ('SZC Co.') as the Applicant and National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (NGET), referred to as 'the parties'. A subsequent version will also be submitted at Deadline 3.

1.2 Purpose of this document

1.2.1 The purpose of this SoCG is to set out the position of the parties arising from the application for development consent for the construction and operation of the Sizewell C nuclear power station and together with the proposed associated development (hereafter referred to as 'the Sizewell C Project'). This SoCG has been prepared in accordance with the 'Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent' published in March 2015 by the Department of Communities and Local Government (hereafter referred to as 'DCLG guidance').

1.2.2 The aim of this SoCG is, therefore, to inform the Examining Authority and provide a clear position on the state and extent of discussions and agreement between the parties on matters relating to the proposed Sizewell C Project.

1.2.3 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the DCO application documents. All documents are available on the Planning Inspectorate website.

1.3 Structure of this Statement of Common Ground

1.3.1 Chapter 2 provides a schedule which detail the position on relevant matters between the parties, including any matters where discussions are ongoing. This is underpinned by Appendix A, which provides a summary of engagement undertaken to establish this SoCG.

2 POSITION OF THE PARTIES

2.1.1 Table 2.1 provides an overview of the position of the parties and any further actions planned.

Table 2.1 Position of the Parties

Ref.	Matter	NGET	SZC Co.'s Position	Further Action Required	Agreed / Not Agreed / In Progress
Draft Development Consent Order					
1.	The latest version of the draft DCO was submitted to the Examining Authority in January 2021 [AS-143].	<p>NGET is generally satisfied that the “grid works” as described in the dDCO are sufficient to authorise the NGET works.</p> <p>Upon review of the definition the “grid works”. NGET is now suggesting a minor change to the wording of the description of Work No. 1A (p), for the avoidance of any doubt:</p> <p><i>“buildings, structures and plant, including a new National Grid substation building, plant, equipment and apparatus, alterations to the existing National Grid substation building, plant, equipment and apparatus, and associated diversion of overhead lines.”</i></p>	Agreement that the SZC DCO, allows for all the ‘grid works’ required to be carried out by NGET.	N/A	Agreed
2.	DCO commitments and requirements	NGET is considering the commitments and requirements within the DCO to ensure that NGET can carry out the necessary grid works.	SZC Co are satisfied that NGET can carry out all the works within the commitments and requirements of the DCO.	Ongoing discussions on how the requirements and associated management plans will impact the delivery of works.	In Progress
Protective Provisions					
3.	NGET may require protective provisions to be included within the DCO to ensure that its interests are adequately protected and to ensure compliance with relevant safety standards.	NGET’s solicitors are discussing the latest draft Protective Provisions with SZC Co. These discussions are on-going with a view to finalising the Protective Provisions by the end of June 2021.	Updated protective provisions, bespoke to NGET were included in the January draft DCO. NGET provided comments to this to which SZC Co. have responded. Both parties continue to engage on this point to finalise the Protective Provisions by end of June 2021.	Discussions on protective provisions ongoing.	In Progress
Effect on the protection of NGET’s existing apparatus to be retained					
4.	NGET’s rights to retain its apparatus in situ and right of access to inspect, maintain, renew and repair such apparatus located within or near the Order limits should always be maintained and access to inspect and maintain such apparatus must not be restricted.	NGET requires these matters to be addressed in the Protective Provisions.	These matters are covered in the Protective Provisions. Where apparatus is covered by existing legal agreements, the project will work with NGET to ensure that where apparatus is to be altered/moved etc the appropriate legal agreements will be put in place to protect NGET’s position in relation to this apparatus.	Yes (in conjunction with 3)	In Progress
5.	<p>NGET assets have been identified as being within or in close proximity to the proposed Order limits are:</p> <p>Overhead Line :</p> <p>4ZW 400kV Overhead Line Route Bramford to Sizewell</p> <p>4ZX 400kV Overhead Line Route Bramford to Sizewell</p>	NGET requires protection of its existing infrastructure to be addressed in the Protective Provisions.	Protection of NGET’s existing infrastructure will be covered by the Protective Provisions.	Yes (in conjunction with 3)	In Progress

Ref.	Matter	NGET	SZC Co.'s Position	Further Action Required	Agreed / Not Agreed / In Progress
	<p>Substations : Sizewell A 132kV Substation Sizewell B 400kV Substation Leiston 132kV Substation Leiston 400kV Substation</p> <p>Cables : 132kV Underground Cable from Sizewell SGT 1 to Leiston 132kv Substation 132kV Underground Cable from Sizewell SGT 2 to Leiston 132kv Substation 132kV Underground Cable from Sizewell SGT 3 to Leiston 132kv Substation 132kV Underground Cable from Sizewell SGT 4 to Leiston 132kv Substation</p>				
The delivery by NGET of the infrastructure associated with the application					
6.	<p>Overhead Lines : Overhead lines that come into Sizewell, NGET are repositioning and removing and reinstating pylons</p> <p>Substation : The SZA 132kV Substation has now been decommissioned. SZB 400kV Substation is being extended and is where the main works are taking place Leiston Substation (400kV/132kV) is where SZCo Co. are connecting our 132kV electrical supply</p> <p>Cables : Existing underground cables owned by NGET are not impacted by these works.</p>	<p>The proposed delivery programme is agreed between SZC Co. and NGET in the Bilateral Connection Agreement.</p> <p>SZC Co and NGET are working together to agree appropriate rights in land for new infrastructure and variation to existing infrastructure.</p>	<p>The proposed delivery programme is agreed between SZC Co. and NGET in the Bilateral Connection Agreement.</p> <p>SZC Co and NGET are working together to agree appropriate rights in land for new infrastructure and variation to existing infrastructure.</p> <p>If alterations to their apparatus is required as part of the DCO proposals we will ensure that appropriate rights are granted for these works.</p> <p>NGET will need to build the new pylon in accordance with the approved plans (SZC-SZ0701-XX-000-DRW-100128). However, the DCO also allows for the plan to be revised in line with the parameters sought as part of the DCO (SZC-SZ0100-XX-DRW-100048). The maximum height parameter is 67m AOD (which allows for a 59m tower).</p> <p>NGET will need to build the extension to the existing sub station in accordance with the parameter plan sought as part of the DCO (SZC-SZ0100-XX-000-DRW-100048).</p>	<p>Ongoing discussions between SZC Co and NGET. These discussions are also relevant to 2 (above).</p>	<p>In progress</p>
7.	Vegetation Management	<p>The Landscape Masterplan (Drawing SZC-SZ0701-XX-000-DRW-100141) and Sheet 4 of the Landscape Retention Plan (Drawing SZC-SZ0701-XX-000-DRW-100151) show "Mixed woodland / trees to be retained" in the vicinity of NGET's new</p>	<p>In line with the description within Book 6, ES V2, Chap 14 and the CoCP (Doc Ref 8.11) the works would be carried out in the following manner –</p>	<p>Final detail of vegetation management subject to separate agreement between the parties</p>	<p>Agreed</p>

Ref.	Matter	NGET	SZC Co.'s Position	Further Action Required	Agreed / Not Agreed / In Progress
		<p>overhead lines. Vegetation under the overhead lines would only be removed for operational and safety reasons and can be pruned, lopped or coppiced as necessary. Final operational management is the subject of ongoing discussions between NGET and SZC Co.</p>	<p>To enable the re-provision and realignment of the overhead lines, the existing woodland vegetation within this corridor would be coppiced to ground level (in accordance with relevant plans) and then bog matting or a similar approach would be used to protect the wet woodland ground surface and coppiced stumps. Appropriate measures would also be used to protect the retained fen meadow habitats under this corridor. The overhead lines would be installed once these protective measures are in place. These works would be overseen by the ECoW, or a suitably qualified ecologist, to ensure impacts to retained habitats are minimised.</p>		

APPENDIX A: ENGAGEMENT ON THE SOCG

A.1.1. The preparation of this SoCG has been informed by a programme of discussions between the parties through correspondence and as are summarised in **Table 2.2**.

Table 2.2 SOCG meetings held between the parties

Date	Details of the Meeting
17.03.2021	Discussed programme and drafting of SoCG – First draft issued
12.04.2021	Progress wording of SoCG
26.05.2021	Agreed wording for Rev 01 of the SoCG for submission to the Examining Authority at Deadline 2.