

Date: 24 November 2020
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Mr Paul Chandler
Save Our Sandlings

By e-mail to: info@saveoursandlings.org.uk

Dear Mr Chandler,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter received on 16th November 2020.

As a point of clarification we act for National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc ("NGET"). We do not act for National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited ("NGESO"). NGET and NGESO are legally separate companies operating within the National Grid group as separate businesses. Since separation in 2019, interactions between the two businesses are formalised and NGET is not in a position to respond to the Examining Authority on matters which are the responsibility of NGESO. As BCLP are not instructed by NGESO this response is solely on behalf of NGET.

We have passed a copy of your letter to NGESO. A point of contact for NGESO is Zoe Morrissey, whose e-mail address is Zoe.morrissey@nationalgrid.com.

In response to the points raised in your letter:

1. Role of National Grid in the substation site selection

The connection offer process is managed and led by NGESO and NGESO issue connection offers. A National Grid note explaining how that process works and how the Leiston area was identified for the purposes of making a connection offer is on the [ScottishPower Renewables project website](https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/userfiles/file/National_Grid_COIN_Process_Connection_Assessment_Note.pdf) at:

https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/userfiles/file/National_Grid_COIN_Process_Connection_Assessment_Note.pdf

All connection offers issued are always subject to consents. In other words, the connection agreement can only be implemented if the necessary consents and land rights are secured.

In this instance, ScottishPower Renewables wished to consent both their works and the associated National Grid elements needed to connect to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). That included ScottishPower Renewables carrying out all consultation, detailed siting/routeing and environmental impact assessment activities.

To: Mr Chandler
Date: 24 November 2020
Page: 2

Separately, the role of NGET was to provide the parameters for the nature and size of equipment and accordingly the extent of land-take necessary for the delivery of the NGET substation and connection to the NETS.

ScottishPower Renewables identified the study area themselves and engaged in a site selection process. A link to their site selection report explaining the work they have carried out is provided here:

https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/userfiles/file/Onshore_Substation_Site_Selection_slideshow_for_PIDs.pdf.

2. Concern over the size of the NGET compound and the promoters two compounds and the consequent impacts on Flooding, light and noise pollution and on the Tourist economy.

As above the design parameters for the sub-station have been provided to the Promoter by NGET. These are standard size requirements for the sub-station required to connect EA1N and EA2 projects.

The other two compounds are required by the Promoter for their own sub-stations, one for each project. The Promoter identified the parameters for their own substations. As explained above, these are the Promoters applications. The Promoter has carried out the site selection process which identified this sub-station location within their search area and thereafter has carried out all of the Environmental Impact Assessment Work including considering the impacts that this built development may have on flooding, light and noise pollution and any necessary mitigation required to address impacts arising from their proposals. As such the Promoter is the party with all of the detailed technical information available to answer questions over such impacts and the mitigation proposed within the application. Accordingly the Promoter, not NGET, is in the best position to answer questions at the Issue Specific Hearing in relation to the impacts of both the NGET footprint and their own compounds in terms of flood mitigation, lighting, noise and tourism impacts.

As you will see from NGET's response to the above issues, NGET is not the party most able to answer the majority of the issues that you have raised because either (i) they sit with the Promoter of these applications, who has done the Site Selection and also the Environmental Impact Assessment or (ii) they relate to issues around the location of the Grid Connection offer and COIN process, which is the responsibility of NGENSO which is a legally separate business.

Accordingly NGET do not feel that their attendance at a virtual Issue Specific Hearing on the 2nd or 3rd of December will assist in answering the issues of concern to SoS or the examining authority.

To: Mr Chandler
Date: 24 November 2020
Page: 3

We would add that the examination process is primarily a written examination process. NGET have engaged and responded to written questions asked of NGET by the examining authority and will continue to do so throughout the examination. To the extent that there remain any unanswered questions properly directed to NGET, the examining authority can raise these in their further written questions. However at this juncture we are not aware of any specific or direct questions that NGET themselves can answer for the reasons explained above, which would warrant attendance at the Issue Specific Hearings.

Yours sincerely



Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

Solicitors for National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC

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