



## Meeting Note

<b>File reference</b>	<b>EN020001 – Hinkley to Seabank Connection</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>FINAL</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Ulrike Hartmann</b>

<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>National Grid</b>
<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>18 March 2013</b>
<b>Attendees (Planning Inspectorate)</b>	<b>Robert Ranger</b> (Case officer) <b>Dean Alford</b> (Programme officer) <b>Ulrike Hartmann</b> (Programme officer)
<b>Attendees (non Planning Inspectorate)</b>	<b>Nikki Suri</b> (Lead project manager National Grid) <b>Davinia Parker</b> (3G Communications)
<b>Location</b>	<b>The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House</b>

<b>Meeting purpose</b>	Discussion of logistical arrangements / Clarification of venue requirements for examination purposes
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<b>Summary of key points discussed and advice given</b>	<p><b>Introductions</b></p> <p><b>National Grid</b> provided a general project update: NG advised that the draft route was announced in November 2012. NG are currently preparing for the consultation period (Section 48). The envisaged time frame is 3 September 2013 until 15 October 2013. A newsletter may be issued in May 2013. Currently it is envisaged that National Grid will apply for a Development Consent Order in January 2014. The timetable has been largely influenced by the connection date required by EDF.</p> <p><b>The Planning Inspectorate</b> advised that revised application guidance for the consultation period has been issued by DCLG, which can be found on the National Infrastructure Planning website.</p> <p><b>NG</b> confirmed that this has been incorporated into the SoCC and that formal meetings with Local Authorities will be held as part of the consultation strategy.</p> <p><b>NG</b> updated PINS on the logistical arrangements made so far: The project is of a linear nature and encompasses 37 miles of overground and underground connections. For logistical purposes, the project has been divided into sections NG and 3G have been researching potential venues in the vicinity of the proposed scheme and presented their findings.</p> <p><b>PINS</b> advised that NG are free to use any venue during the</p>
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consultation period. PINS venue requirements only apply during examination. PINS reiterated that there will be a high degree of flexibility; the key requirement for all venues used during an examination is full disabled access/DDA compliance. PINS also explained how the booking process would work in practice, and that PINS will liaise directly with the venues in question wherever possible and practical. It was stressed that the venue must be as neutral as possible, and that any display of the applicant's logos on banners, display boards or similar will not be permitted.

**PINS** advised that there will be uncertainty around where hearings will be required until the Examining Authority has been appointed and principal issues have been identified. Also, the number of hearings, location of hearings and general timetabling will be a matter for the Examining Authority. Holding simultaneous hearings may be a possibility, also holding several hearings on the same day.

The importance of audio recordings was reiterated: PINS stressed that it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that hearings are recorded so that the recordings can be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website. Equally it is important to test the audio set-up prior to a hearing to ensure that the Examining Authority can be heard in the entire venue, but is equally able to hear all participants.

**3G** explained that all options for hearings will be considered, particularly for the Preliminary Meeting. Should the selected venue prove too small for the expected number of attendees, the hearing could be screened in marquees or similar temporary structures.

**PINS** explained that feels a need for additional security arrangements, PINS advise plain-clothes security staff, who could integrate themselves into the crowd during hearings, rather than a visible security presence that could be intimidating.

**NG** asked how the Accompanied Site Visit would take place, i.e. how would the linear nature of the proposed scheme impact on arrangements.

**PINS** advised that this would also a matter for the appointed Examining Authority. Possibilities would include several shorter site visits to specific parts of the proposed scheme or visiting the scheme in its entirety. At this point in time PINS cannot provide any specific advice.

In summary, **PINS** advised that the requirements for venues during the examination period are kept as simple as possible and arrangements are made with a view to ensure full accessibility for and participation of the general public.

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<b>Specific decisions/ follow up required?</b>	n/a
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<b>Circulation List</b>	