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Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Volume 7: Other Documents

Document 7.3: Status of Statements of Common Ground

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nationalgrid

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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Status of Statements of Common Ground document sets out the status of each Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) that the applicant (National Grid) has submitted to-date, or which are currently being prepared for submission. It will be updated throughout the examination phase.
- 1.1.2 A SoCG is a written statement produced as part of the application for development consent and is prepared jointly between National Grid and another party. It sets out matters of agreement between both parties, as well as matters where there is not an agreement. It also details matters that are under discussion.
- 1.1.3 The aim of a SoCG is to help the Examining Authority manage the examination phase of the application. Understanding the status of the matters at hand will allow the Examining Authority to focus their questioning, and provide greater predictability for all participants in examination. A SoCG may be submitted prior to the start of or during examination, and then updated as necessary or as requested during the examination phase.
- 1.1.4 National Grid has been developing SoCG with a number of statutory consultees, statutory undertakers and other interested parties during the preparation of the application for development consent. The SoCG seek to identify matters on which parties agree and to track progress towards the resolution of any matters where agreement has not yet been reached.
- 1.1.5 All SoCG have been prepared in accordance with The Planning Act 2008: examination of applications for development consent (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2015).

2. Status of SoCG

- 2.1.1 National Grid has undertaken early preparation of SoCG with the bodies identified in Table 2.1 during the pre-application period. Table 2.1 provides a list of those SoCG currently being prepared and a summary of the key topics covered in each SoCG. This list is subject to change.
- 2.1.2 The application for development consent is accompanied by eight SoCG which are at an advanced stage. The eight submission SoCG are detailed at Table 2.1 and have been assigned an application document number.
- 2.1.3 A number of SoCG are currently being progressed, in addition to those submitted alongside the application for development consent. The status of these SoCG are also detailed in Table 2.1. It is anticipated that the outstanding SoCG will be submitted at the first examination deadline.

Table 2.1 – Status of Statements of Common Ground

No.	Consultee	Application Document Number	Summary of topics within the SoCG
Prescribed Consultees			
1	Local Authorities	7.3.1	<p>This is a combined SoCG between the five host Local Authorities; Babergh District Council; Mid Suffolk District Council; Braintree District Council; Essex County Council and Suffolk County Council. All host Local Authorities have agreed to the submission of a joint SOCG whilst ensuring that the SoCG has space to record if there is any divergence between the parties on any topic. The submission version of the SoCG (application document 7.3.1) is the result of an iterative process, with numerous rounds of discussion, negotiation and review having taken place with the Local Authorities. Overall, good progress has been made on the submission version of the SoCG and the Local Authorities are in agreement with the positions stated therein.</p> <p>The SoCG addresses the following principal matters: planning policy context, survey methodologies and reviews of draft DCO documentation.</p>
2	Natural England	7.3.2	<p>The draft SoCG is the result of an iterative process, with numerous rounds of discussion, negotiation and review. The Consultee has been given the opportunity to review and comment on the submission version of the SoCG, and a signed version of the SoCG is submitted with the application (application document 7.3.2). Whilst a signed version has been submitted, it is anticipated that the discussions with Natural England would continue throughout the examination and the SoCG will continue to evolve as a result.</p> <p>The SoCG addresses the following principal matters: Habitats Regulation Assessment and survey methodology. The parties have also been discussing the components of the project around Hintlesham Woods; it is anticipated that further progress will be</p>

No.	Consultee	Application Document Number	Summary of topics within the SoCG
			made on the SoCG by the first examination deadline in relation to matters around the timing and nature of the works in and around the woods.
3	Historic England	-	National Grid has been progressing discussions with the Consultee with a view to preparing a SoCG. It is anticipated that a draft SoCG (covering methodology and the potential impacts on Hintlesham Hall and other listed buildings) will be shared with the Examining Authority at the first examination deadline.
4	Environment Agency	7.3.3	The SoCG is the result of an iterative process, with numerous rounds of discussion, negotiation and review. The Consultee has been given the opportunity to review and comment on the submission version of the SoCG, and a signed version of the SoCG is submitted with the application (application document 7.3.3). The SoCG addresses the following principal matters: the potential impacts on where the project interacts with Main Rivers, methodology used for the surface and ground water assessments and the approach taken on the Flood Risk Assessment.
5	National Highways	7.3.4	The Consultee has been given the opportunity to review and comment on the submission version of the SoCG (application document 7.3.4) and a signed version has been submitted with the application. The SoCG addresses the following principal matters: extent of Strategic Road Network; agreement that National Highways have been involved in the evolution of the project and have been consulted on the draft Construction Traffic Management Plan; agreement that National Highways do not object to the principle of the project and the agreement of abnormal indivisible load.
6	Water Management Alliance (East Suffolk Drainage Board)	7.3.5	The SoCG confirms that no consents from the Consultee are required for the project and the works are not likely to affect any riparian watercourse. The Consultee has been given the opportunity to review and comment on the submission version of the SoCG (application document 7.3.5).
10	UK Power Networks (UKPN)	7.3.6	As set out in the application documents, the removal of a circa. 25km section of the Consultee's existing 132kV distribution network forms a critical component of the project. National Grid and the Consultee have, therefore, agreed terms on which this removal may take place, as well as reaching agreement on other matters related to the interface between the project and the Consultee's existing apparatus and land rights in various legal agreements. The Consultee has been given the opportunity to review and comment on the submission version of the SoCG (application document 7.3.6).
7	Network Rail	-	National Grid has been progressing discussions with the Consultee with a view of preparing a SoCG. It is anticipated that a draft SoCG (broadly covering the technical interface between the project and the Consultee's existing assets, and the status of protective provisions and any further asset protection

No.	Consultee	Application Document Number	Summary of topics within the SoCG
			agreements) will be shared with the Examining Authority at the first examination deadline.
8	Anglian Water	7.3.8	The SoCG is the result of an iterative process, with numerous rounds of discussion, negotiation and review. The Consultee has been given the opportunity to review and comment on the submission version of the SoCG, (application document 7.3.3). The SoCG addresses the following principal matters: the technical interface between the project and the Consultee's water pipeline scheme, and the status of protective provisions and any further asset protection agreements.
9	Cadent Limited	Gas -	National Grid has been progressing discussions with the Consultee with a view of preparing a SoCG. It is anticipated that a draft SoCG (broadly covering the technical interface between the project and the Consultee's existing assets, and the status of protective provisions) will be shared with the Examining Authority at the first examination deadline.
Non-Prescribed Consultees			
11	TC East Anglia ONE OFTO Limited and East Anglia Three Limited	7.3.7	<p>Up until early 2023, all engagement on both East Anglia ONE and THREE (offshore windfarms) was undertaken with ScottishPower Renewables, representing East Anglia ONE Ltd with regards to the East Anglia ONE windfarm, and East Anglia THREE Ltd with regards to the approved East Anglia THREE windfarm. The SoCG is, therefore, a combined SoCG in respect to the East Anglia ONE and East Anglia THREE offshore wind farms.</p> <p>However, On 18 January 2023, National Grid received an email from the Consultee's Head Of Development (ScottishPower Renewables) advising that the Transmission Assets of The East Anglia ONE Windfarm have been transferred to TC East Anglia ONE OFTO Limited and as of this date, TC East Anglia ONE OFTO Limited is the Transmission Licence holder for these assets. National Grid has, therefore, continued to engage with appropriate contacts in respect to the East Anglia ONE project.</p> <p>In respect to East Anglia THREE (which remains wholly owned by ScottishPower Renewables) whilst the Consultee has been engaging with National Grid throughout the evolution of the project, as well as responding to consultations, the Consultee did not provide a response on the draft SoCG which was initially shared with them on 20 January 2023.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the draft SoCG remains combined in respect to the two projects and reflects National Grid's understanding of the discussions with the Consultee(s) to date and has been submitted alongside the application for development consent. National Grid will continue to engage with the Consultee(s).</p> <p>The SoCG addresses the following principal matters: construction programmes and the technical interface between the project and the Consultee's existing and proposed assets.</p>

3. Next Steps

- 3.1.1 National Grid will continue to review and update the SoCG with the relevant bodies throughout the acceptance, pre-examination and examination stages. Draft SoCG will be submitted to the Examining Authority as required during the examination. This document will subsequently be updated when the next iteration of SoCG have been submitted to the Examining Authority.

Reference List

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2015) *The Planning Act 2008: examination of applications for development consent*. March 2015. (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2015).

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152
nationalgrid.com