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Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Volume 7: Other Documents

Document 7.3.5: Draft Statement of Common Ground Water
Management Alliance East Suffolk Drainage Board

Final Issue A
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Procedure) Regulations 2009 Regulation 5(2)(q)

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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is a written statement produced as part of the application for development consent and is prepared jointly between the applicant 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.
- 1.1.2 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.
- 1.1.3 This SoCG is between National Grid Electricity Transmission Ltd (National Grid) and the Water Management Alliance (WMA) relating to the application for development consent for the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement. It has been prepared in accordance with the guidance published by the Department of Communities and Local Government (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2015).
- 1.1.4 This SoCG has been prepared to identify matters agreed and matters currently outstanding between National Grid and the WMA. The SoCG will evolve as the application progresses to submission and through examination.

1.2 Description of the Project

- 1.2.1 This document accompanies National Grid's application for an order granting development consent to reinforce the transmission network between the existing Bramford Substation in Suffolk, and Twinstead Tee in Essex. This would be achieved by the construction and operation of a new electricity transmission line over a distance of approximately 29km ('the project'). The project meets the threshold as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), as defined under Part 3 of the Planning Act 2008, hence National Grid requires a development consent order (DCO).
- 1.2.2 The project would comprise approximately 18km of overhead line (consisting of approximately 50 new pylons, and conductors) and 11km of underground cable system (with associated joint bays and above ground link pillars).
- 1.2.3 Four cable sealing end (CSE) compounds would be required to facilitate the transition between the overhead and underground cable technology. The CSE would be within a fenced compound, and contain electrical equipment, support structures, control building and a permanent access track.
- 1.2.4 Approximately 27km of existing overhead line and associated pylons would be removed as part of the proposals (25km of existing 132kV overhead line between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee, and 2km of the existing 400kV overhead line to the south of Twinstead Tee). To facilitate the overhead line removal, a new grid supply point (GSP) substation is required at Butler's Wood, east of Wickham St Paul, in Essex. The GSP substation would include associated works, including replacement pylons, a single circuit sealing end compound and underground cables to tie the substation into the existing 400kV and 132kV networks.

- 1.2.5 Some aspects of the project, such as the underground cable sections and the GSP substation, constitute 'associated development' under the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.2.6 Other ancillary activities would be required to facilitate construction and operation of the project, including (but not limited to):
- Modifications to, and realignment of sections of existing overhead lines, including pylons;
 - Temporary land to facilitate construction activities including temporary amendments to the public highway, public rights of way, working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, welfare, storage and access;
 - Temporary infrastructure to facilitate construction activities such as amendments to the highway, pylons and overhead line diversions, scaffolding to safeguard existing crossings and watercourse crossings;
 - Diversion of third-party assets and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint; and
 - Land required for mitigation, compensation and enhancement of the environment as a result of the environmental assessment process, and National Grid's commitments to Biodiversity Net Gain

1.3 This Statement of Common Ground

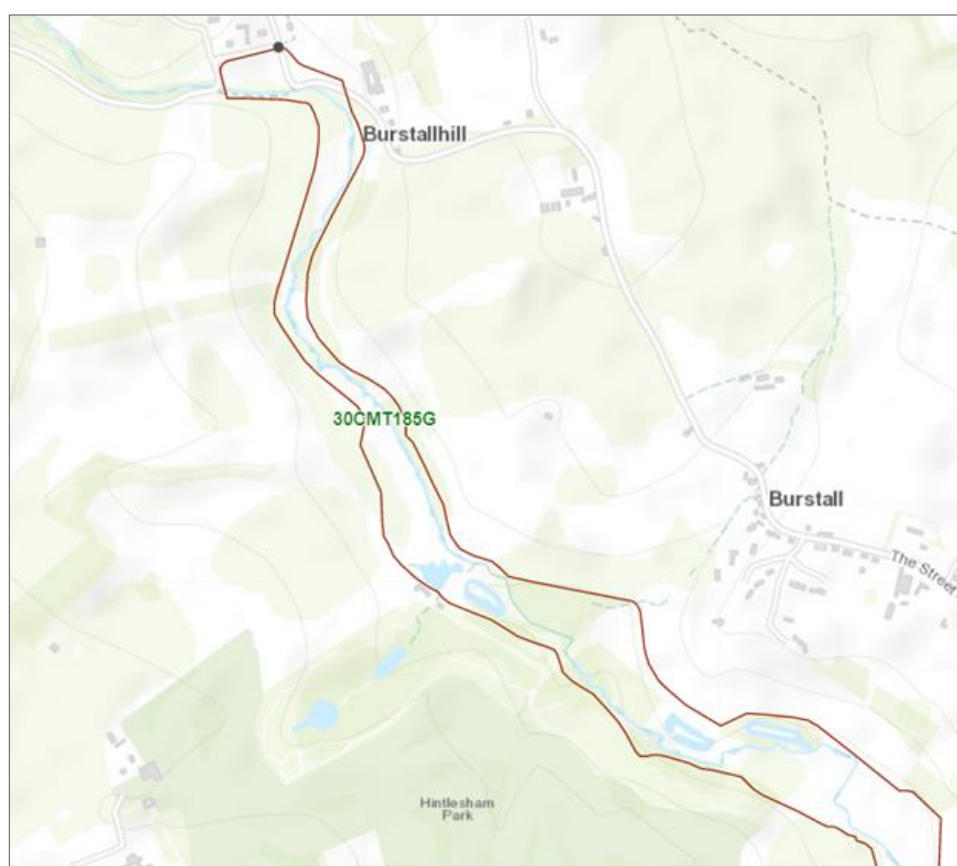
- 1.3.1 For the purpose of this SoCG, National Grid and the WMA will jointly be referred to as the 'Parties'. When referencing the WMA alone, they will be referred to as 'the Consultee'.
- 1.3.2 Throughout the SoCG:
- Where a section begins 'matters agreed', this sets out matters that have been agreed between the Parties and where there is no dispute.
 - Where a section begins 'matters not agreed', this sets out matters that are not agreed between the Parties and where a difference of opinion remains.
 - Where a section begins 'matters outstanding, this sets out matters that are subject to further negotiation between the Parties.
- 1.3.3 This SoCG is structured as follows:
- Section 1 provides an introduction to this SoCG and a description of its purpose.
 - Section 2 states the role of the Consultee in the application process and details engagement undertaken between the Parties.
 - Section 3 sets out matters agreed between the Parties.
 - Section 4 sets out matters not agreed between the Parties.
 - Section 5 sets out matters where agreement is currently outstanding between the Parties
 - Appendix A includes the signing off sheet.

2. Record of Engagement

2.1 Role of the Consultee in the process

- 2.1.1 The Consultee is a Statutory Consultee under the Land Drainage Act 1991. The Consultee is a group of coastal Internal Drainage Boards (IDB) operating in South Lincolnshire and East Anglia (UK), known as the Water Management Alliance (WMA). Members include Broads IDB, East Suffolk IDB, King's Lynn IDB, Norfolk Rivers IDB, South Holland IDB and Waveney, Lower Yare and Lothingland IDB.
- 2.1.2 Only a small area of land within the Order Limits, which is required for the removal of the 132kV overhead line around the Burstall Hill area, falls within the remit of the Consultee, as illustrated at Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1: Burstall Hill Area, Land within the Consultee's remit



- 2.1.3 Pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, National Grid must consult with the Consultee to discuss the proposals. The Consultee has been strongly encouraged to discuss and work with National Grid to provide a local perspective at the pre-application stage of the application process for the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement.

2.2 Summary of pre-application discussions

- 2.2.1 Table 2.1 summarises the consultation and engagement that has taken place between the Parties prior to submission of the application.

Table 2.1 – Pre-application Discussions

Date	Topic	Discussion Points
13 March 2021	<i>Non-Statutory Consultation</i>	National Grid wrote to the Consultee as they are a prescribed consultee in the DCO process, informing them of the start of the non-statutory consultation and inviting their views.
5 May 2021	<i>Response to Non-Statutory Consultation</i>	Response to non-statutory consultation from the Consultee's Sustainable Development Officer advising that the route fell partially within the Internal Drainage District of the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board and, therefore, the Board's Byelaws apply. The Consultee also advised that depending on the works involved, other permits and licences may be required.
19 January 2021	<i>Statutory Consultation</i>	National Grid wrote to the Consultee as they are a prescribed consultee in the DCO process, informing them of the start of the statutory consultation and inviting their views. No response from the Consultee was received.
21 January	<i>Statutory Consultation</i>	National Grid emailed the Consultee as they are a prescribed consultee in the DCO process, informing them of the start of the statutory consultation and inviting their views. No response from the Consultee was received.
1 September 2022	<i>Targeted Consultation</i>	National Grid wrote to the Consultee as they are a prescribed consultee in the DCO process, informing them of the start of the targeted consultation and inviting their views. No response from the Consultee was received.
24 January 2023	<i>Project scope via phone call and email</i>	Telephone discussion on the scope of the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement, with information on extent of the project shared with the Consultee subsequently.
25 January 2023	<i>Email received</i>	<p>Consultee confirmed, <i>'that having reviewed the scheme, the works within the East Suffolk IDB district are confined to the Burstall area, and not likely to affect any riparian watercourses based on their mapping. The route crosses the main river, but cannot see that any works are proposed to affect it. Regardless, the EA would be regulators of any works affecting the main river. As such no consents are required for the works proposed, from ESIDB'</i>.</p> <p>Should any unmapped watercourses require any alteration, then National Grid are to contact the consultee for them to review.</p> <p>Consultee has requested that National Grid send over a shapefile of the Order Limits for their records.</p>

2.3 Summary of post-submission discussions

2.3.1 Table 2.2 summarises the consultation and engagement that has taken place between the Parties post submission of the application for development consent.

Table 2.2 – Post-submission discussions

SOCG ID	Matter	Discussion points

3. Matters Agreed

Table 3.1 – Matters Agreed

SoCG ID	Matter	Agreed Position	Date Agreed
3.1	Consent Requirement	No consent required.	25 January 2023
3.2	Unmapped Watercourses	The Consultee to be consulted if any unmapped watercourses require alteration.	25 January 2023
3.3	Consultee's Position	<i>The Consultee confirmed via email, 'Thank you for sending these links. Having reviewed, I can confirm that the works within the East Suffolk IDB district are confined to the Burstall area, and are not likely to affect any riparian watercourses based on our mapping, a clip of which I have attached below with the Board's area denoted by the red line. The route crosses the main river, although I cannot see that any works are proposed to affect it. Regardless, the EA would be regulators of any works affecting the main river. As such no consents are required for the works proposed from ESIDB. Should any unmapped watercourses require any alteration, please get in contact and I'd be happy to re-review.'</i>	25 January 2023

4. Matters Not Agreed

4.1.1 No matters not agreed.

5. Matters outstanding

5.1.1 No further matters outstanding.

6. Approvals

Signed

On Behalf of

Name

Position

Date

Signed

On Behalf of

Name

Position

Date

Reference List

Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) *Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent*. March 2015 (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2015)

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