

BT-NG-020621-545-0126

Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Volume 7: Other Documents

Document 7.3.6: Draft Statement of Common Ground UK Power Networks

Final Issue 1
April 2023

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020002

Infrastructure Planning (Applications, Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 Regulation 5(2)(q)



nationalgrid

Page intentionally blank

1. Contents

1.	Contents	2
2.	Introduction	3
2.2	Description of the Project	3
2.3	This Statement of Common Ground	4
3.	Record of Engagement	6
3.1	Role of the Consultee in the process	6
3.2	Summary of pre-application discussions	6
3.3	Summary of post-submission discussions	7
4.	Matters Agreed	8
5.	Matters Not Agreed	9
6.	Matters Outstanding	10
7.	Approvals	11
	Reference List	12
	Table 2.2 – Post-submission discussions	7
	Table 3.1 – Matters agreed	8
	Table 4.1 – Matters not agreed	9
	Table 5.1 – Matters outstanding	10

2. Introduction

- 2.1.1 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 or parties. It sets out matters of agreement between both/all parties, as well as matters where there is not an agreement. It also details matters that are under discussion.
- 2.1.2 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.
- 2.1.3 This SoCG is between National Grid Electricity Transmission Ltd ('National Grid') and UK Power Networks 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).
- 2.1.4 This SoCG has been prepared to identify the matters agreed and matters under discussion between National Grid and UK Power Networks. The SoCG will evolve as the application progresses to submission and through examination.
- 2.1.5 This SoCG covers the relationship and agreements between National Grid and UK Power Networks. It will also make reference to the Bi-Lateral Connection Agreement between UK Power Networks and National Grid Electricity System Operator, which is integral to the changes required by National Grid Electricity Transmission to the UK Power Networks Assets and electrical system.

2.2 Description of the Project

- 2.2.1 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).
- 2.2.2 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).
- 2.2.3 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.
- 2.2.4 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.

2.2.5 Some aspects of the project, such as the underground cable sections and the GSP substation, constitute 'associated development' under the Planning Act 2008.

2.2.6 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.

2.3 This Statement of Common Ground

2.3.1 For the purpose of this SoCG, National Grid and UK Power Networks will jointly be referred to as the 'Parties'. When referencing the Consultee alone, they will be referred to as 'the Consultee'.

2.3.2 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 dispute remains.
- Where a section begins 'matters outstanding, this sets out matters that are subject to further negotiation between the Parties.

2.3.3 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 DCO application process and details consultation undertaken between National Grid and the Consultee.
- Section 3 sets out matters agreed between National Grid and the Consultee.
- Section 4 sets out matters not agreed between National Grid and the Consultee.

- Section 5 sets out matters where agreement is currently outstanding between National Grid and the Consultee.
- Section 6 includes the signing off sheet.

DRAFT

3. Record of Engagement

3.1 Role of the Consultee in the process

- 3.1.1 The Consultee is named as a Secondary Undertaker on the project, is the local Distribution Network Operator (DNO); operates under a Distribution Code Licence and is managed by Ofgem.
- 3.1.2 As a result of the options appraisal process, the route for the reinforcement selected requires National Grid to utilise the route corridor currently occupied by the Consultee's DNO existing 132kV PCB overhead line.
- 3.1.3 To enable the Consultee to release this route corridor, National Grid has agreed to provide the Consultee with system reinforcement providing electrical equivalency. This is being achieved by the building of a new 400/132kV grid supply point substation, adjacent to the A131 in Braintree, Essex.
- 3.1.4 The proposed reinforcement also interacts with a number of the Consultee's lower voltage assets.

3.2 Summary of pre-application discussions

- 3.2.1 National Grid's engagement with the Consultee in respect to the agreements includes regular monthly meetings held since the project was re-launched in 2020, including:
- Director-level meetings to discuss progress and resolve outstanding issues;
 - Project manager-level meetings to maintain progress;
 - Engineering meetings to discuss and agree the technical interface;
 - Legal team Meetings to work through the bi-lateral and framework agreements; and
 - Lands Meetings to address the interaction of land interests.
- 3.2.2 In addition, National Grid has consulted UKPN on multiple occasions in its capacity as a prescribed consultee under the Planning Act, at the following stages:
- Non-statutory consultation (between 25 March 2021 and 6 May 2021) – National Grid emailed the Consultee on 26 March 2021.
 - Statutory consultation (between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022) – National Grid wrote to the Consultee on 19 January 2021.
 - Targeted consultation (between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022) – National Grid emailed the Consultee on 1 September 2022.
- 3.2.3 National Grid and the Consultee have agreed the principles of the various agreements and interaction between the two companies. These agreements comprise a Bilateral Connection Agreement, and a Framework Agreement.
- 3.2.4 A Bilateral Connection Agreement is the means by which National Grid agree with the DNO the details of the modification to the electricity system (connection and use of system code).

3.2.5 The Framework Agreement is the means by which matters including the scope of works (including diversionary works), the division of responsibilities, programme, and commercial matters are agreed.

3.3 Summary of post-submission discussions

3.3.1 Table 2.2 summarises the consultation and engagement that has taken place between the Parties post submission of the DCO application.

Table 2.2 – Post-submission discussions

Date	Topic	Discussion points

DRAFT

4. Matters Agreed

- 4.1.1 National Grid and the Consultee are engaging in positive and productive dialogue, with the aim of establishing mutual agreement regarding the interfaces between the proposed reinforcement and the DNO network.
- 4.1.2 Significant progress has been made since discussions commenced in 2020, with both parties in agreement to progress both a Bilateral Connection Agreement and a Framework Agreement. These documents are substantially progressed, with dialogue on residual matters ongoing.

Table 3.1 – Matters agreed

SoCG ID	Agreed Position	Date Agreed
3.1 Diversions to UK Power Networks 11kV and 33kV networks		
3.1.1	All diversionary works have been assessed and agreed to allow the 400kV cable and overhead line to progress.	07/02/2023
3.2 UK Power Networks responsibility under DCO		
3.2.1	The Consultee have agreed to be named as a 'Secondary Undertaker' in the Development Consent Order for the project.	04/01/2023
3.3 The DNO Options		
3.3.1	It was agreed that the most cost-effective solution to allow for the 132kV PCB overhead line to be removed (in part) is a two supergrid transformer GSP substation at Butler's Wood.	04/02/2022
3.3.2	National Grid have agreed with the Consultee, in advance of the Bi-Lateral Agreement, the measures required to modify their system, to enable the project to proceed.	04/02/2022
3.4 Framework Agreement		
3.4.1	Principles and content of the Framework Agreement.	03/04/2023

5. Matters Not Agreed

Table 4.1 – Matters not agreed

SoCG ID	Matter	UKPN position	National Grid position
---------	--------	---------------	------------------------

DRAFT

6. Matters Outstanding

Table 5.1 – Matters outstanding

SoCG ID	Matter	Consultee position	National Grid position
<i>5.1 Bi-Lateral Connection Agreement</i>			
5.1.1	<i>This is yet to be agreed between the Consultee and National Grid ESO.</i>	<i>The Consultee is considering the wording of this document, but understand the need for the system changes.</i>	<i>National Grid have issued the Mod Notice to the ESO.</i>
<i>5.2 Framework Agreements</i>			
5.2.1	<i>The detailed wording of Framework Agreements including the schedule of works to be completed by each party.</i>	<i>Currently being finalised.</i>	<i>Currently being finalised.</i>

7. 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)

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