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Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Volume 7: Other Documents

Document 7.3.8: Draft Statement of Common Ground Anglian Water

Final Issue A
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Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and 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 Anglian Water Services Limited relating to the application for development consent for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement ('the project'). 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 Anglian Water Services Limited. The SoCG will evolve as the application progresses to submission and through examination.

1.2 Description of the Project

- 1.2.1 National Grid proposes 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.
- 1.2.2 The reinforcement 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, a small 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 and underground cables to tie the substation into the existing 400kV and 132kV networks.
- 1.2.5 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 This SoCG has been prepared jointly by National Grid as the Applicant, and Anglian Water Services Limited as a statutory consultee and statutory undertaker.

1.3.2 For the purpose of this SoCG, NGET and Anglian Water Services Limited will jointly be referred to as the 'Parties'. When referencing Anglian Water Services Limited alone, they will be referred to as 'Anglian Water'.

1.3.3 This SoCG is structured as follows:

- Section 1 (this section) provides an introduction to this SoCG and a description of its purpose;
- Section 2 states the role of Anglian Water in the application process and details engagement undertaken between National Grid and Anglian Water;
- Section 3 sets out matters agreed between National Grid and Anglian Water;
- Section 4 sets out matters not agreed between National Grid and Anglian Water;
- Section 5 sets out matters where agreement is currently outstanding that are subject to further discussion between National Grid and Anglian Water; and
- Section 6 includes the signing off sheet.

2. Record of Engagement

2.1 Role of the Consultee in the process

- 2.1.1 Anglian Water is appointed as the water and sewerage undertaker for the Anglian region, by virtue of an appointment made under the Water Industries Act 1991.
- 2.1.2 Anglian Water's role in relation to the DCO process derives from being a statutory consultee - as a prescribed consultee of the Planning Act 2008.
- 2.1.3 Anglian Water has been encouraged to discuss and work with NGET at the pre-application stage of the application process for the project.
- 2.1.4 Anglian Water's Strategic Pipeline Alliance is a significant part of planned investments to help futureproof water supplies throughout the region. The pipeline is being constructed in sections and includes a 68km pipeline from Bury St Edmunds to Colchester. Planning applications for this section of the pipeline were submitted to the respective local planning authorities in December 2022. The pipeline interfaces with the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement.

2.2 Summary of pre-application discussions

- 2.2.1 Due to the lapse in time since any original discussions which took place with Anglian Water between 2009 and 2013 prior to project pause, the SoCG only records the meetings and matters agreed since the project restarted, with the first meeting held between the Applicant and Anglian Water in March 2021.
- 2.2.2 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
26 March 2021	Non-Statutory Consultation	A period of non-statutory consultation was held for six weeks, between 25 March 2021 and 6 May 2021. That consultation re-introduced the project, explained how National Grid had reviewed the previous proposals, and sought the views of the public and stakeholders. On 26 March 2021, National Grid emailed Anglian Water as they are a prescribed consultee in the DCO process, informing them of the start of the non-statutory consultation and inviting their views. No response to the consultation was received.
24 March 2021	Introductory meeting (Planning and Consenting)	Introductory call between planning/ consenting teams of Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement and Anglian Water Bury St Edmunds to Colchester Water Pipeline to share information regarding the two projects including indicative timeframes for planning submission and construction. The Bramford to Twinstead team informed the Anglian Water team of their recent non-statutory consultation and directed them to online sources of information. The parties agreed to exchange GIS files of the proposals at this time to assist with design proposals bearing in mind the project interface.
20 January 2022	Statutory Consultation	Statutory consultation was held for a period of eight weeks between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022 and provided the opportunity for the public and stakeholders to see how the project

Date	Topic	Discussion points
		has evolved since the non-statutory consultation, and comment on further detailed engineering design and environmental assessment work. On 20 January 2022, National Grid emailed Anglian Water 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 to the consultation was received.
9 February 2022	Update meeting	Update meeting to between engineering/ consenting teams of Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement and Anglian Water Bury St Edmunds to Colchester Water Pipeline Environmental team to update on progress and timeframes for planning submission and construction. The Applicant informed Anglian Water of the Statutory Consultation and directed Anglian Water to information on the project website.
18 March 2022	Update meeting	Update meeting to between engineering/ consenting teams of Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement and Anglian Water Bury St Edmunds to Colchester Water Pipeline Environmental team to update on progress and timeframes for planning submission and construction.
1 April 2022	Introductory meeting (DCO Planning and Engineering)	Introductory meeting between the Applicant and Anglian Water DCO lead and Bury St Edmunds to Colchester Water Pipeline engineering team. The Applicant provided updated GIS files of the project at the Statutory Consultation and directed Anglian Water to Location Plans and General Arrangement Plans on the project website. The Applicant explained that they have consulted on two Options at Hintlesham Woods in the vicinity of the project interface with the Bury St Edmunds to Colchester Water Pipeline. Discussion began regarding protective provisions.
1 September 2022	Targeted Consultation	Following statutory consultation, National Grid proposed several further changes to the proposals and ran a targeted consultation between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022, with a focus on the western part of the Stour Valley. On 1 September 2022, National Grid emailed Anglian Water as they are a prescribed consultee in the DCO process, informing them of the start of the targeted consultation and inviting their views. Anglian Water responded to the targeted consultation.
15 October 2022	Targeted Consultation	Anglian Water responded to targeted consultation confirming that they remain of the view that a Statement of Common Ground can be agreed which supports the project, subject to agreement of certain matters.
24 November 2022	Asset Protection	The Applicant met with Anglian Water to identify existing assets crossed by the Bramford to Twinstead Order Limits and obtain an update on the proposed Bury St Edmunds to Colchester Water Pipeline.
15 to 23 February 2022	Protective Provisions	Email exchanges regarding Anglian Waters standard protective provisions issued to the Applicant.
21 March 2023	Construction Interface Agreement	A meeting was held between National Grid and Anglian Water to discuss the construction interface between the Bury St Edmunds to Colchester Pipeline and the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement, discuss any required design work to further understand the interactions with existing assets; and progress a Statement of Common Ground.

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.

Table 2.2: Post-submission Discussions

Date	Topic	Discussion points

3. Matters Agreed

Table 3.1: Matters agreed

SoCG ID	Matter	Agreed position	Date agreed
3.1 The Project and Anglian Water Existing Assets			
3.1.1	There is an interface between the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement and Anglian Waters existing operational assets	National Grid and Anglian Water have agreed Protective Provisions which will be included with the application for development consent.	20 March 2023
3.2 Proposed Bury St Edmunds to Colchester Water Pipeline			
3.2.1	There is a construction interface between the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement and the Bury St Edmunds to Colchester Pipeline	The Applicant has shared a letter of representation in respect of the proposed Bury St Edmunds to Colchester Water Pipeline (planning applications DC/22/06309 and DC/22/06352) submitted to Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils by Anglian Water. The Applicant notes that there is an area of land in common for both infrastructure projects, as shown on Sheet 15 of 24 of Figure 2.2 of the submission documentation for the Anglian Water pipeline project (land in the vicinity of Hadleigh Bee Farm). It is agreed that the correct area of land has been identified as having a construction interface.	29 March 2023
3.2.2	Interface plan	<p>The area of land in common (identified in 3.2.1) is required for a significant and complex element of the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement works, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The removal of the existing 132kV overhead line and pylons (between pylons PCB20 and PCB21); • The construction of the proposed 400kV overhead line (between pylons RB16 and RB17); • Proposed realignment of the existing 400kV overhead line (between pylons 4YL017A and 4YL018A); • The removal of a section of the existing 400kV overhead line (between pylons RB16 and 4YL018A, including pylon 4YL018); • The undergrounding of existing lower voltage electric lines on wooden poles; • Areas of land for environmental mitigation and enhancement; and • Temporary construction works including access, working areas and protection works. <p>Works for the Bury St Edmunds to Colchester Pipeline in this location include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A main construction compound to the north of Pond Hall Road 	29 March 2023

SoCG ID	Matter	Agreed position	Date agreed
3.2.3	Interface Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A storage area to the south of Pond Hall Road • Pipeline Construction working area • Bellmouth, access tracks and associated visibility splays. <p>This is shown on the interface plan presented within the letter of representation in respect of the proposed Bury St Edmunds to Colchester Water Pipeline. It is agreed that this interface plan accurately reflects the construction interface.</p>	29 March 2023

4. Matters Not Agreed

Table 4.1: Matters not agreed

SoCG ID	Matter	The Anglian Water position	National Grid position
4.1 Proposed Bury St Edmunds to Colchester Water Pipeline			
4.1.1	A construction Interface Agreement	The interface agreement is in development	The interface agreement is in development

5. Matters outstanding

Table 5.1: Matters outstanding

SoCG ID	Matter	The Consultee position	NGET position
5.1 The Project			
5.1.1			

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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