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Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Volume 7: Other Documents

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

Final Issue B
September 2023

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020002

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

nationalgrid

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Version History

Date	Issue	Status	Description / Changes
April 2023	A	Final	For DCO submission .
25 September 2023	B	Final	Updates to all sections of the Draft SoCG to reflect on-going discussions with the Consultee, for submission at Examination Deadline 1.

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.2	Description of the Project	1
1.3	This Statement of Common Ground	2
2	Record of Engagement	4
2.1	Role of the Consultee in the process	4
2.2	Summary of pre-application discussions	5
2.3	Summary of post-submission discussions	5
3	Matters Agreed	7
4	Matters Not Agreed	8
5	Matters Outstanding	9
6	Approvals	10
	Reference List	11

Table 2.1 – Pre-application Discussions	5
Table 2.2 – Post-submission discussions	6
Table 3.1 – Matters Agreed	7

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 Limited (National Grid) and the East Suffolk Water Management Board (the Consultee) 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 the Consultee. The SoCG will evolve as the application progresses through examination.
- 1.1.5 This SoCG (Revision B) has been submitted at Examination Deadline 1 and supersedes the version (Revision A) submitted in April 2023 (Draft Statement of Common Ground Water Management Alliance East Suffolk Drainage Board [**APP-172**]) at application stage. Also note, the Consultee has changed their name since the submission draft and is now known as the East Suffolk Water Management Board.

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 ('the project').
- 1.2.2 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).
- 1.2.3 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).
- 1.2.4 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.

- 1.2.5 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.
- 1.2.6 Some aspects of the project, such as the underground cable sections and the GSP substation, constitute ‘associated development’ under the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.2.7 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 Consultee will jointly be referred to as the ‘Parties’. When referencing the East Suffolk Water Management Board 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
- Section 6 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 East Suffolk Water Management Board, a member Board of the Water Management Alliance (WMA). The WMA is a consortium of Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) operating in South Lincolnshire and East Anglia (UK) Members include Broads IDB, East Suffolk WMB, 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 will 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 project.

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	Non-Statutory Consultation	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	Response to Non-Statutory Consultation	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 2022	Statutory Consultation	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 2022	Statutory Consultation	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	Targeted Consultation	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. A response was received from the Consultee outlining their current position on 30 September 2022.
24 January 2023	Project scope via phone call and email	Telephone discussion on the scope of the project with information on extent of the project shared with the Consultee subsequently.
25 January 2023	Email received	<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>. (known as East Suffolk Water Management Board as of 24 March 2023)</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, this was received on 14 February 2023.</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

Date	Topic	Discussion Points
6 June 2023	Notification of Relevant Representation	National Grid wrote to the Consultee to inform them that the application for development consent had been accepted and that relevant representations could be submitted.
27 July 2023	Response to Relevant Representation	The Consultee submitted a relevant representation to the Planning Inspectorate [RR-050] key point included requesting to monitor the progress of the application. National Grid's response to the Consultee's Relevant Representation is included in the Applicant's Comments on Relevant Representations document (document 8.3.3).

3. Matters Agreed

Table 3.1 – Matters Agreed

SoCG ID	Matter	Agreed Position	Date Agreed
3.1	Consent Requirement	The Consultee has confirmed that no consent is required in an email which stated, <i>'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. The Consultee has additionally stated in a separate email, 'if any discharge to a watercourse (of surface water or treated foul water) is proposed, consent will be required under Byelaw 3.'</i>	25 January 2023
3.2	Unmapped Watercourses	The Consultee to be consulted if any unmapped watercourses require alteration as stated in the email which stated, <i>'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 ... 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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