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Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Volume 7: Other Documents

Document 7.3 (B): Status of Statements of Common Ground

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.
September 2023	B	Final	Updates principally comprise the addition of the Deadline 1 Update Column at Table 2.1 to reflect on-going discussions with the Consultees, as well as the inclusion of a Summary of Key Topics Covered column, which broadly details the topics covered in the SoCG, for submission at Examination Deadline 1.

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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 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.
- 1.1.3 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 The Applicant developed SoCG with a number of statutory consultees, statutory undertakers and other interested parties during the preparation of the application for development consent. Further SoCG have been developed in light of ongoing engagement since the submission of the application for development consent in April 2023.
- 1.1.5 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.
- 1.1.6 All SoCG have been prepared in accordance with The Planning Act 2008: examination of applications for development consent (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2015).

2. Status of SoCG

- 2.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken preparation of SoCG with the bodies identified in Table 2.1 during the pre-application and post-application period.
- 2.1.2 Table 2.1 provides a list of those SoCG currently being prepared and a summary of the key topics covered in each SoCG. Table 2.1 also provides details of the progress made since the submission of the application for development consent in April 2023. This list is subject to change and is correct as of Deadline 1 (25 September 2023) (D1).
- 2.1.3 The application for development consent was accompanied by a number of SoCG. The SoCG are detailed at Table 2.1 and have been assigned a National Grid application document number. Once documents are submitted and processed by the Planning Inspectorate, they are also assigned a unique reference number by the Examining Authority as listed in the Examination Library.
- 2.1.4 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. The SoCG will be updated as agreements progress throughout the Examination period, with revised versions submitted at the next appropriate deadline.

Table 2.1 – Status of Statements of Common Ground

No.	SoCG Document Name	Application Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1
Prescribed Consultees				
1	Draft SoCG Local Authorities: Babergh District Council; Mid Suffolk District Council; Braintree District Council; Essex County Council and Suffolk County Council.	7.3.1 (A) [APP-168] 7.3.1 (B)	Planning policy context, survey methodologies and reviews of draft DCO documentation.	Initial version submitted with application (A). Updated SoCG provided at D1 (B). Incorporates comments from Relevant Representations. Content agreed in principle before submission but minor wording amendments were made which Local Authorities have not had the opportunity to formally confirm yet.
2	Draft SoCG: Natural England	7.3.2 (A) [APP-169]	Habitats Regulation Assessment and survey methodology and Hintlesham Woods (including ongoing discussions on the timing and nature of the works in and around the woods).	Signed version submitted with application (A). No updated SoCG submitted at D1. Natural England wishes to review the Applicant's response to its Relevant Representation to understand if it resolves a number of outstanding matters in the submission SoCG.

No.	SoCG Name	Document	Application Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1
3	Draft SoCG Historic England		N/A	Methodology and potential impacts on Hintlesham Hall and other listed buildings.	Not submitted with application or at D1. The Applicant is currently awaiting comments from Historic England.
4	Draft SoCG Environment Agency		7.3.3 (A) [APP-170]	The potential impacts on Main Rivers, methodology used for the surface and ground water assessments and the approach taken on the Flood Risk Assessment.	Signed version submitted with application (A). No updated SoCG submitted at D1. The Environment Agency wishes to review the Applicant's response to its Relevant Representation as it believes this may resolve a number of outstanding matters in the submission SoCG.
5	Draft SoCG National Highways		7.3.4 (A) [APP-171]	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.	Signed version submitted with application (A). No updated SoCG submitted at D1. An updated SoCG has not been provided at D1 as whilst discussions with National Highways are continuing; there are currently no material updates to the submission SoCG.
6	Draft SoCG East Suffolk Water Management Board		7.3.5 (A) [APP-172] 7.3.5 (B)	Confirmation that no consents from the East Suffolk Water Management Board are required for the project and the works are not likely to affect any riparian watercourse.	Initial version submitted with application (A). Updated SoCG provided at D1 (B) All matters discussed are agreed and no issues are under discussion. However, the document has been updated to include latest correspondence and reflects the Suffolk Water Management Board new organisation name. Content agreed in principle before submission but minor wording amendments were made which the East Suffolk Water Management Board have not had the opportunity to formally confirm yet.
10	Draft SoCG UK Power Networks (UKPN)		7.3.6 (A) [APP-173]	The removal of a circa. 25km section of UKPNs existing 132kV distribution network forms a critical component of the project. The Applicant and UKPN have, therefore, agreed terms on which this removal may take place, as well as reaching agreement on	SoCG submitted with application (A). No updated SoCG submitted at D1. An updated SoCG has not been provided at D1, whilst discussions

No.	SoCG Name	Document	Application Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1
				other matters related to the interface between the project and UKPN existing apparatus and land rights in various legal agreements.	with UKPN are continuing; there are currently no material updates to the submission SoCG.
7	Draft SoCG Network Rail		N/A	The technical interface between the project and Network Rail's existing assets, and the status of protective provisions and any further asset protection agreements.	Not submitted with application or at D1. A draft SoCG which the Applicant intends to submit is currently awaiting review and comment from Network Rail.
8	Draft SoCG Anglian Water		7.3.8 (A) [APP-175] 7.3.8 (B)	The technical interface between the project and Anglian Water's water pipeline scheme, and the status of protective provisions and any further asset protection agreements.	Initial version submitted with the application (A). Updated SoCG provided at D1 (B). This updated SoCG reflects ongoing discussions with Anglian Water in respect to the preparation of a suitable interface agreement. Content agreed in principle before submission but minor wording amendments were made which Anglian Water have not had the opportunity to formally confirm yet.
9	Draft SoCG Cadent Gas Limited		8.3.6.2 (A)	The technical interface between the project and Cadent Gas Limited's existing assets, and the status of protective provisions.	Not submitted with the application. Draft SoCG provided at D1 (A). This SoCG reflects ongoing discussions with Cadent Gas Limited and summarises the position in terms of the technical interface between the project and Cadent Gas Limited's existing assets, as well as the status of protective provisions. Content agreed in principle before submission but minor wording amendments were made which Cadent Gas Limited have not had the opportunity to formally confirm yet.
11	Draft SoCG TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited		8.3.6.3 (A)	Construction programmes and the technical interface between the project and East Anglia One's existing and proposed assets.	SoCG provided at D1 (A). The subject of this SoCG was previously contained in the Draft Statement of Common Ground TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited and East Anglia Three Limited [APP-174].

No.	SoCG Name	Document	Application Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1
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However, the transmission assets of the East Anglia One Windfarm were subsequently transferred to TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited, who are now the Transmission Licence holder for these assets. Since the divestment of East Anglia One from Scottish Power Renewables (SPR), the Applicant has been engaging with the new licence holder. Meanwhile, the East Anglia Three project remains wholly owned by SPR.

As such, the submission SoCG [APP-174] has been split into two separate SoCG to reflect the two discrete projects and Licence holders.

This SoCG reflects ongoing discussions with TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited.

An updated draft version of the SoCG was sent to TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited in July 2023; however, no response has been received to date. The Applicant will continue to attempt to engage with TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited in order to fully determine the technical interface between the respective projects.

Overall, the Applicant believes the Draft SoCG represents an accurate representation of the status of discussions; however, at present, this has not been formally confirmed with TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited.

12	Draft SoCG East Anglia Three Limited	8.3.6.4 (A)	Construction programmes, the technical interface between the project and East Anglia Three Limited's existing and proposed assets and mitigation planting.	SoCG provided at D1. As above, the subject matter of this SoCG was previously contained in the Draft Statement of Common Ground TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited and East Anglia Three Limited [APP-174]. This SoCG reflects ongoing discussions with East Anglia Three Limited only. The Applicant and East Anglia Three Limited remain in discussions in respect to the technical interface, with a view of agreeing a suitable interface agreement.
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No.	SoCG Name	Document	Application Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1
					Content agreed in principle before submission but minor wording amendments were made which East Anglia Three Limited have not had the opportunity to formally confirm yet.
Non-Prescribed Consultees					
13	Draft SoCG Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)		8.3.6.1	Hintlesham Woods SSSI and RSPB reserve; effects on birds within the woods and mitigation proposals.	SoCG provided at D1, The content of the SoCG has been agreed with the RSPB and a signed SoCG has been submitted.
14	Draft SoCG Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Project Partnership		N/A	Effects on the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley including effects on the special qualities, setting and statutory purpose.	Not submitted at D1 A draft SoCG which the Applicant intends to submit is currently awaiting review and comment from the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Project Partnership.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1.1 The Applicant will continue to review and update the SoCG with the relevant bodies throughout the examination stage. 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 and Local Government (2015) The Planning Act 2008: examination of applications for development consent. March 2015.

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