The Great Grid Upgrade

BT-NG-020621-545-0169

Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Volume 7: Other Documents

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

Final Issue F December 2023

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020002

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

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Version History			
Date	Issue	Status	Description / Changes
April 2023	А	Final	For DCO submission.
September 2023	В	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.
October 2023	С	Final	Updates principally comprise the addition of the Deadline 3 Update Column at Table 2.1 to reflect on-going discussions with the Consultees, for submission at Examination Deadline 3. A total of three updated SoCG have been submitted.
November 2023	D	Final	Updates principally comprise the addition of the Deadline 4 Update Column at Table 2.1 to reflect on-going discussions with the Consultees, for submission at Examination Deadline 4. One updated SoCG has been submitted.
December 2023	E	Final	Updates principally comprise the addition of the Deadline 5 Update Column at Table 2.1 to reflect on-going discussions with the Consultees, for submission at Examination Deadline 5. Four updated SoCG has been submitted.
December 2023 (2)	F	Final	Updates principally comprise the addition of the Deadline 6 Update Column at Table 2.1 to reflect on-going discussions with the Consultees, for submission at Examination Deadline 6. Six updated SoCG has been submitted.

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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 6 (22 December 2023) (D6).
- 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.
- 2.1.5 Where a row in Table 2.1 has been greyed out, this indicates that currently there are no remaining matters under discussion with the Consultee and no further updated SoCGs are anticipated to be submitted during the course of the Examination. Currently, this relates to National Highways, Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Partnership, Environment Agency and East Suffolk Water Management Board.

No.	SoCG Document Name	Latest Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1	Progress Update at Deadline 3	Progress Update at Deadline 4	Progress Update at Deadline 5	Progress Update at Deadline 6
Pres	cribed Consulte	es						
1	Local	G 7.3.1 (C)	context, survey	submitted with	No updated SoCG submitted at D3.	SoCG		Updated SoCG submitted at D6 (C).
	Authorities: Babergh Distric Council; Mi		methodologies and reviews of draft DCO documentation.	application (A).	An updated SoCG has not been	submitted at D4.	Whilst discussions are progressing	
	Suffolk Distric Council; Braintree Distric	-		submitted at D1 (B).	whilst discussions		Authorities and an	SoCG at Deadline 6, which reflects the on- going discussions with

Table 2.1 – Status of Statements of Common Ground

No.	SoCG Document Name	Latest Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1	Progress Update at Deadline 3	Progress Update at Deadline 4	Progress Update at Deadline 5	Progress Update at Deadline 6
	Council; Essex County Council and Suffolk County Council.			Relevant Representations. Content agreed in principle before submission but minor wording amendments were made which Local Authorities have not had the opportunity	AuthoritieshavereviewedtheApplicant'sD3		Authorities on 29 November 2023, it was agreed to delay the submission of the updated Draft SoCG until Deadline 6, to allow the Local Authorities reasonable time to comment on the	Authorities. Suffolk County Council provided comments on Landscape and Visual Impacts and Heritage (relating to Archaeology only, not built heritage). Babergh and Mid-Suffolk District Council provided comments on Ecology, Water, Air Quality, Noise,

No.	SoCG Document Name	Latest Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1	Progress Update at Deadline 3	Progress Update at Deadline 4	Progress Update at Deadline 5	Progress Update at Deadline 6
								has not been formally confirmed with Essex County Council and Braintree District Council.
2	Draft SoCG: Natural England	[REP5-011] 7.3.2 (D)	survey methodology and Hintlesham Woods (including ongoing discussions on the timing and nature of the works	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	technical notes at D3 to provide further information around the effects on ancient woodland and peak sound at	SoCG submitted at D4. There are currently no material updates	submitted at D5 (C). The Applicant has submitted an updated SoCG at Deadline 5, which	Natural England.
					consider the details			

No.	SoCG Document Name	Latest Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1	Progress Update at Deadline 3	Progress Update at Deadline 4	Progress Update at Deadline 5	Progress Update at Deadline 6
					in the technical notes and in the Applicant's response to its Written Representation to understand whether these resolve the outstanding matters in the SoCG.			
3	Draft SoCG Historic England	[REP5-024]		application or at D1. The Applicant is currently awaiting	Comments on the draft SoCG were sent from Historic England to the Applicant on 11	SoCG submitted at D4. There are currently no material updates to report from D3.	submitted at D5 (A). The Applicant has submitted a signed SoCG at Deadline	submitted at D6. There are currently no material updates to report

No.	SoCG Document Name	Latest Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1	Progress Update at Deadline 3	Progress Update at Deadline 4	Progress Update at Deadline 5	Progress Update at Deadline 6
					SoCG and outstanding matters. In addition, the Applicant sent the revised wording for embedded measure EM-AB01 (Hintlesham Hall) to Historic England on 5 October 2023 and is awaiting feedback from Historic England on this wording.			
4	SoCG Environment Agency	7.3.3 (D)	The potential impacts on Main Rivers, methodology used for the surface and ground water assessments and the approach taken on the Flood Risk Assessment.	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	been moved to matters agreed, except for one matter relating to the wording of good practice measure B13 in relation to fish friendly passes; and the need to add	SoCG submitted at D4. There are currently no material updates to report from	submitted at D5 (C). The Applicant has submitted an updated SoCG at Deadline 5 which	There are no further matters under discussion with the Environment Agency.

No.	SoCG Document Name	Latest Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1	Progress Update at Deadline 3	Progress Update at Deadline 4	Progress Update at Deadline 5	Progress Update at Deadline 6
					the intention of closing these matters out in the next version of the SoCG.			
5	SoCG National Highways	[REP3-022]	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	submitted with application (A). No updated SoCG submitted at D1. An updated SoCG has not been submitted at D1 as whilst discussions with National Highways are continuing; there are currently no material updates to the submission SoCG.	for a strategic road network traffic assessment.	N/A	N/A	N/A
6	SoCG East Suffolk Water Management Board	[REP4-002]	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.	submitted with application (A). Updated SoCG submitted at D1 (B).	An updated SoCG has not been submitted at D3, whilst discussions with East Suffolkt Water Management Board are	SoCG is provided at D4. A signed SoCG has been provided and there are no further matters outstanding with		N/A

No.	SoCG Document Name	Latest Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1	Progress Update at Deadline 3	Progress Update at Deadline 4	Progress Update at Deadline 5	Progress Update at Deadline 6
				discussion. However, the document has been updated to include latest correspondence and reflects the Suffolk Water Management Board new organisation name.	are currently no material updates to the D1 SoCG.			
				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)		critical component of the project. The Applicant and UKPN have, therefore, agreed terms or which this remova may take place, as	with application (A). No updated SoCG submitted at D1. An updated SoCG has not been submitted at D1, whilst discussions with UKPN are continuing; there are	submitted at D3, whilst discussions with UKPN are continuing. There are currently no material updates to	SoCG submitted at D4. There are currently no material updates to report from	There are currently no material updates to report from D3.	submitted at D6. There are currently no material updates to report

No.	SoCG Document Name	Latest Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1	Progress Update at Deadline 3	Progress Update at Deadline 4	Progress Update at Deadline 5	Progress Update at Deadline 6
			matters related to the interface between the project and UKPN existing apparatus and land rights in various legal agreements.	submission SoCG.				
7	Draft SoCG Network Rail	N/A	interface between the project and Network Rail's existing assets, and the status of protective provisions	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.	submitted at D3. A SoCG has not been submitted a D3.	submitted at	No SoCG submitted at D5.	No SoCG submitted at D6. Whilst the Applicant has not submitted a SoCG with Network Rail, the Applicant remains engaged with Network Rail in respect to progressing a commercial agreement and reviewing the Protective Provisions.
8	Draft SoCG Anglian Water	[REP1-019]	the project and Anglian Water's water pipeline	submitted with the application (A). Updated SoCG submitted at D1 (B). This updated SoCG reflects ongoing	An updated SoCG has not been submitted at D3, whilst discussions with Anglian Water are continuing. There are currently no material updates	SoCG submitted at D4. There are currently no material updates to report from D3.	There are currently no material updates	No updated SoCG submitted at D6. There are currently no material updates to report from D3.

No.	SoCG Document Name	Latest Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1	Progress Update at Deadline 3	Progress Update at Deadline 4	Progress Update at Deadline 5	Progress Update at Deadline 6
				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	[REP1-029]	interface between the project and Cadent Gas Limited's existing assets, and the	Draft SoCG submitted at D1	submitted at D3. An updated SoCG has not been submitted at D3, whilst discussions with Cadent Gas are continuing.	SoCG submitted at D4. There are currently no material updates to report from	There are currently no material updates to report from D3.	submitted at D6. There are currently no material updates to report

No.	SoCG Document Name	Latest Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1	Progress Update at Deadline 3	Progress Update at Deadline 4	Progress Update at Deadline 5	Progress Update at Deadline 6
				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 (B)	Construction programmes and the technical interface between the project and East Anglia One's existing and proposed assets.	D1 (A). The subject of this SoCG was previously contained in the Draft Statement of Common Ground TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited and	has not been submitted at D3. There are currently no material updates to the D1 SoCG and the Applicant has been unable to elicit a response from TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited.	SoCG submitted at D4. There are currently no material updates to report from D3.	There are currently no material updates to report from D3. However, the Applicant has since	submitted at D6. Updated SoCG reflects the re-engagement of TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited.

No.	SoCG Document Name	Latest Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Progress Update Deadline 1 Deadline 3	at Progress Update at Deadline 4	Progress Update at Deadline 5	Progress Update at Deadline 6
				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			

No.	SoCG Document Name	Latest Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1	Progress Update at Deadline 3	Progress Update at Deadline 4	Progress Update at Deadline 5	Progress Update at Deadline 6
				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	[REP5-018]	Construction programmes, the technical interface between the project and East Anglia Three Limited's existing and proposed assets and mitigation planting.	D1. As above, the subject matter of this SoCG was previously contained in the Draft Statement of Common Ground TC East Anglia One	has not been submitted at D3, whilst discussions with East Anglia Three Limited are continuing. There are currently no material updates to	SoCG submitted at D4. There are currently no material updates to report from	has been provided at D5. This SoCG reflects the latest	submitted at D6. There are currently no material updates to report

No.	SoCG Document Name	Latest Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1	Progress Update at Deadline 3	Progress Update at Deadline 4	Progress Update at Deadline 5	Progress Update at Deadline 6
				Limited remain in discussions in respect to the technical interface, with a view of agreeing a suitable interface agreement. 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 Cons	ultees						
13	Draft SoCG Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	[REP1-028]	SSSI and RSPB reserve; effects on birds within the	The content of the SoCG has been agreed with the RSPB and a signed	submitted at D3. An updated SoCG has not been submitted at D3, whilst discussions with the RSPB are	SoCG submitted at D4. There are currently no material updates to report from D3.	There are currently no material updates to report from D4.	No updated SoCG submitted at D6. There are currently no material updates to report from D5.
14	SoCG Dedham Vale and Stour	8.8.2.1	Effects on the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley	SoCG not submitted at D1.	No SoCG submitted at D3.		No SoCG submitted at D5.	A Final SoCG has been submitted at D6.

No.	SoCG Document Name	Latest Document Number	Summary of Key Topics Covered	Progress Update at Deadline 1	Progress Update at Deadline 3	Progress Update at Deadline 4	Progress Update at Deadline 5	Progress Update at Deadline 6
	Valley Project Partnership		the special qualities,	the Applicant intends to submit is currently awaiting review and comment from the Dedham Vale AONB	A draft SoCG was submitted to the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Partnership on 5 October 2023. The Applicant is awaiting comments from the Partnership on whether this can be submitted into Examination.	currently no material updates to report from D3.	been submitted to the Partnership board for approval	This outlines the matters agreed and not agreed with the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Project Partnership There are no further matters under discussion with Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Project Partnership
15	Draft SoCG Essex Police	8.8.2.2	Communication during construction, designing out crime, anti-social behaviour and theft, potential crime mitigation, workforce profile and		N/A	N/A	N/A	A New SoCG submitted at D6 (A). A new SoCG has been submitted. This SoCG reflects the latest position with Essex Police.
			training, construction travel information, incident management, major accidents, traffic management and road safety and the Construction Traffic Management Plan.					

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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