

The Planning Inspectorate  
Major Casework Directorate  
Temple Quay House (2 The Square)  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
Avon  
BS1 6PN

**Our ref:** AE/2024/129094/01-L01  
**Your ref:** EN020002  
**Date:** 04 January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**NATIONAL GRID (BRAMFORD TO TWINSTEAD REINFORCEMENT)  
DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER NOTICE. DEADLINE 7 - EXQ2**

Thank you for consulting us on the Examining Authorities further written question (ExQ2). We have provided a response to your questions directed to the Environment Agency below.

**EC 2.3.7: The Applicant has said that it considers the Environment Agency to be the HRA competent authority with regards to the Hydrogeological Risk Assessment [REP5-013]. Natural England acknowledges that the Environment Agency is the relevant authority in relation to matters relating to groundwater and surface water quality but notes that it should be an advisor to other competent authorities in its role as the ‘nature conservation body’ (Regulation 5 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)). It therefore considers it must be consulted on the hydrogeological risk assessment. What process would be followed to ensure this?**

Please consult both parties to allow for each to provide their respective responses. The Environment Agency are happy to work with Natural England should this be of assistance.

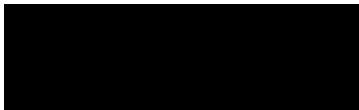
**WE2.12.8 Further to your response to ExQ1 WE1.12.40, can you confirm the status of discussions with the Applicant concerning embankments that potentially need to be installed?**

We have been in discussions with the Applicant and have included some text in section 3.1.6 of the statement of common ground. Should land raising be required (this can include the addition of embankments) in Flood Zones 2 or 3 to access the temporary crossings, it is essential that flood risk modelling is carried out to ensure no increase in flood risk elsewhere. It is also essential that the Applicant provides to the Environment Agency; detailed drawings of temporary crossings alongside river levels to ensure a sufficient head clearance for navigation, for approval before

proceeding. This will also allow us to ensure that any embankments will not harm any of our assets. It is our understanding that this level of detail is not being provided at this stage of the DCO process. It is imperative that the Environment Agency is able to review these details as they become available. We note that the Applicant is not disapplying the need for a Flood Risk Activity Permit and so we will also be able to review further details at this time.

We trust this advice is useful.

Yours faithfully

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**Miss Liam Robson  
Planning Specialist**

Direct dial 

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