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Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Volume 7: Other Documents

Document 7.3.6 (B): Statement of Common Ground UK Power Networks

Final Issue B
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Version History

Date	Issue	Status	Description / Changes
April 2023	A	Final	For DCO submission.
23 February 2024	B	Final	Updates to all sections of the Draft SoCG to reflect on-going discussions with the Consultee, for submission at Examination Deadline 9.

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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 or parties. It sets out matters of agreement between both/all 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', the Applicant) and UK Power Networks relating to the application for development consent for the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement. 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 All matters are now agreed between the Applicant and UK Power Networks.
- 1.1.5 This SoCG covers the relationship and agreements between the Applicant and UK Power Networks. It will also make reference to the Bi-Lateral Connection Agreement between UK Power Networks and National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO), which is integral to the changes required by National Grid Electricity Transmission to the UK Power Networks Assets and electrical system.

1.2 Description of the Project

- 1.2.1 The Applicant has submitted an application for an order granting development consent 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'). The project meets the threshold as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), as defined under Part 3 of the Planning Act 2008, hence the Applicant requires a development consent order (DCO).
- 1.2.2 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).
- 1.2.3 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, 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, a single circuit sealing end compound and underground cables to tie the substation into the existing 400kV and 132kV networks.

1.2.5 Some aspects of the project, such as the underground cable sections and the GSP substation, constitute 'associated development' under the Planning Act 2008.

1.2.6 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 the Applicant's commitments to Biodiversity Net Gain.

1.3 This Statement of Common Ground

1.3.1 For the purpose of this SoCG, the Applicant and UK Power Networks will jointly be referred to as the 'Parties'. When referencing the Consultee 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 dispute remains.
- Where a section begins 'matters under discussion', 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 DCO application process and details the engagement undertaken between the Applicant and the Consultee.
- Section 3 sets out matters agreed between the Applicant and the Consultee.
- Section 4 sets out matters not agreed between the Applicant and the Consultee.
- Section 5 sets out matters where agreement is currently under discussion between the Applicant and the Consultee.

- 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 named in the draft Order as a secondary 'Undertaker' on the project, is the local Distribution Network Operator (DNO); operates under a Distribution Code Licence and is regulated by Ofgem.
- 2.1.2 As a result of the options appraisal process, the route for the reinforcement selected requires the Applicant to utilise the route corridor currently occupied by the Consultee's existing DNO 132kV PCB overhead line.
- 2.1.3 To enable the Consultee to release this route corridor, the Applicant has agreed to provide the Consultee with system reinforcement providing electrical equivalency. This is being achieved by the building of a new 400/132kV grid supply point substation, adjacent to the A131 in Braintree, Essex.
- 2.1.4 The proposed reinforcement also interacts with a number of the Consultee's lower voltage assets.

2.2 Summary of pre-application discussions

- 2.2.1 The Applicant's engagement with the Consultee in respect to the agreements includes regular monthly meetings held since the project was re-launched in 2020, including:
- Director-level meetings to discuss progress and resolve outstanding issues;
 - Project manager-level meetings to maintain progress;
 - Engineering meetings to discuss and agree the technical interface;
 - Legal team meetings to work through the Bi-lateral and Framework Agreements; and
 - Lands meetings to address the interaction of land interests.
- 2.2.2 In addition, the Applicant has consulted UK Power Networks on multiple occasions in its capacity as a prescribed consultee under the Planning Act, at the following stages:
- Non-statutory consultation (between 25 March 2021 and 6 May 2021) – the Applicant emailed the Consultee on 26 March 2021.
 - Statutory consultation (between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022) – the Applicant wrote to the Consultee on 19 January 2021.
 - Targeted consultation (between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022) – the Applicant emailed the Consultee on 1 September 2022.
- 2.2.3 The Applicant and the Consultee have agreed the principles of the various agreements and interaction between the two companies. These agreements comprise a Bi-lateral Connection Agreement, and a Framework Agreement.
- 2.2.4 A Bi-lateral Connection Agreement is the means by which the Applicant agree with the Consultee the details of the modification to the electricity system (connection and use of system code).

2.2.5 The Framework Agreement is the means by which matters including the scope of works (including diversionary works), the division of responsibilities, programme, and commercial matters are agreed.

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 DCO application.

Table 2.2 – Post-submission discussions

Date	Topic	Discussion points
03/04/2023	Network Development for BTNO	Interactions between the DNO and National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) system
18/04/2023	Design Interface Meeting	Design of the interface for Removal of PCB Line
21/04/2023	Flexible Connection Meeting	How Bramford to Twinstead enables new Renewable connections
17/05/2023	Legal Agreements Meeting	Design of the Overarching Agreements and Contents of Appendices
30/05/2023	Commercial Legal Agreements Meeting	Design of NEC4 contracts for work to be delivered by NGET on behalf of UK Power Networks
02/06/2023	Network Development for BTNO	Interactions between the DNO and NGET system
06/06/2023	Regional Strategy Meeting	How Bramford to Twinstead impacts on other joint projects, outage planning
15/09/2023	Flexible Connection Meeting	How Bramford to Twinstead enables new Renewable connections
04/10/2023	Design Interface Meeting	Design requirements of the Consultee for the Twinstead Green GSP.
14/11/2023	Commercial Legal Agreements Meeting	Design of NEC4 contracts for work to be delivered by NGET on behalf of the Consultee
December 2023	NEC4 Contract	Work to agree the commercial follow-on agreements for the work being undertaken by the Applicant on behalf of UK Power Networks.
04/01/2024	Outstanding Issues Review	Final outstanding wording for the agreements
10/01/2024	Overarching and Commercial Agreements	Final check of Draft documents before circulation.
15/01/2024	Revisions to the Appendices of the Overarching Agreement	Bringing dates and sequencing up to date.
25/01/2024	Governance	Discussion on final wording and progress through governance process.

- 2.3.2 The Applicant and the Consultee have engaged in positive and productive dialogue, establishing mutual agreement regarding the interfaces between the proposed reinforcement and the DNO network.
- 2.3.3 Significant progress has been made since discussions commenced in 2020, with both parties in agreement to progress both a Bi-lateral Connection Agreement and a Framework Agreement. These documents have been approved by both parties and are going through final internal governance processes. There are no material outstanding issues between the Applicant and the Consultee.

3. Matters Agreed

Table 3.1 – Matters agreed

SoCG ID	Agreed Position	Date Agreed
3.1 Diversions to UK Power Networks 11kV and 33kV networks		
3.1.1	All diversionary works have been assessed and agreed to allow the 400kV cable and overhead line to progress.	07/02/2023
3.2 UK Power Networks responsibility under DCO		
3.2.1	The Consultee has agreed to be named as a ‘Secondary Undertaker’ in the DCO for the project.	04/01/2023
3.2.2	The Applicant agrees that should the DCO fail to be made, that the Consultee will not be adversely affected by the decision.	
3.3 The DNO Options		
3.3.1	Following a detailed Distribution Network Options Study, it was agreed that the most cost-effective solution to allow for the 132kV PCB overhead line to be removed (in part) is a two Supergrid transformer GSP substation located at Butlers Wood, east of Wickham St Paul, in Essex.	04/02/2022
3.3.2	The Applicant has agreed with the Consultee, the measures required to modify their system, to enable the project to proceed.	04/02/2022
3.4 Framework Agreement		
3.4.1	Bi-lateral Connection Agreement and Framework Agreement agreed subject to final internal governance.	01/02/2024

4. Matters Not Agreed

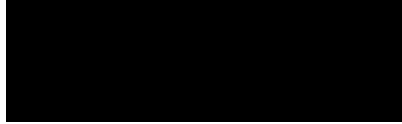
- 4.1.1 There are no outstanding matters that are to be agreed between the Applicant and UK Power Networks.

5. Matters Under Discussion

5.1.1 There are no matters that are under discussion between the Parties.

6. Approvals

Signed



On Behalf of

National Grid

Name

Robert Jones

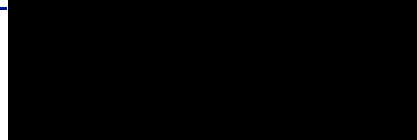
Position

Senior Project Manager
East Anglia Technical Lead

Date

22/02/24

Signed



On Behalf of

UK Power Networks

Name

Shaun Barrell

Position

Property & Consents Networks Manager EPN & SPN

Date

2/12/24

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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