



Meeting note

Project name	Bramford to Twinstead
File reference	EN020002
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	30 September 2022
Meeting with	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)
Venue	Microsoft teams
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) Case Team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Project update including targeted consultation

The Applicant, National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), confirmed that the project was currently undertaking a targeted consultation. The consultation materials had previously been sent to the Planning Inspectorate. The consultation was originally planned to run from 8 September to 7 October 2022. However, this period was extended to close on 19 October 2022 to have regard to the period of national mourning.

There are quite a few minor changes to proposed order limits, for example for construction access routes and bellmouths to access points. However, the main changes are at the western end of the scheme and consist of:

- Changing the alignment of the proposed reinforcement to move it further away from the village of Alphamstone
- Still proposing the use of underground cables but now using a proportion of trenchless construction methods to reduce effects on ecological and landscape features
- New temporary construction haul road between the A131 and the Stour Valley West Cable Sealing End compound.

The new haul road is intended to reduce the number of interventions required to make the existing local road network suitable for some construction vehicles.

It is intended that the application be submitted in early 2023.

Options in application

The Applicant consulted the Inspectorate on how to best pursue implementing its plans by proposing flexibility in the plans, usually appearing as a choice between options A or B. In Reference 1 of the Applicant's plans, the Applicant's proposed two options, both highlighted as viable options for the project; Option 1 included transpositions, while Option 2 did not include these transpositions.

Options were considered for the routing of the OHL or underground cables in the vicinity of Althamstone following feedback from public consultation, technical studies, and ongoing environmental and technical consideration potential introduction of a temporary construction haul road; and some minor revisions to the draft order limits, which represent a reduction overall, but the addition of some new land therefore requires consultation with landowners.

Draft documents

The Applicant and the Inspectorate discussed the draft documents feedback table. Clarity was sought and provided on various references in the feedback table.

Ref No. 1: The Applicant confirmed that works plans include what *is* included and not what *is not* included. The Applicant also confirmed that two almost identical plans with slight changes in both exist, however the Inspectorate had not yet seen both plans mentioned. The Inspectorate advised to check the Sheringham and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm extensions project. The Applicant agreed to share a link to both work plans with the Inspectorate for information.

Ref No. 2: The Applicant confirmed it did not yet want to reference directly to Schedule 1 of the dDCO. The Inspectorate advised that an explanation would be needed, such as a guide to the options and how they distinguish from each other.

Ref No. 6: The Applicant confirmed that both options are covered and that it is within the scope of the Environmental Statement.

Ref No. 7: The Applicant confirmed it would take the Inspectorate's points away and that the Environmental Statement is unlikely to be a certified document in the draft DCO but the Applicant will consider the Inspectorate's feedback on this matter. The Applicant explained that the Environmental Statement is defined in the dDCO and therefore provides a basis for the "no materially new or materially different effects" clause. There was an agreement between the Applicant and Inspectorate that there needed to be a mechanism to ensure it was clear what the totality of the ES is, where there are changes during the examination.

Ref No. 8: The application will have a "Guide to the Plans" to help members of the public navigate them. The Applicant will also ensure that all flexibility being sought is covered in the Environmental Statement. Parameters will be secured in controlling documents. However, the Applicant will consider whether the wording in Schedule 1 should be tweaked in view of the Inspectorate's comments. With regard to pylons, the Applicant noted that the numbering of them and total number installed could differ depending on the usage of flexibility within the limits of deviation. Consideration will be given to how this can be controlled.

Ref No. 10: The Applicant confirmed that all parameters have been secured and that they would be covered in a separate section of the DCO, for example Article 3(7) Works' Plans.

Ref No. 11: The Applicant confirmed that at the current time the proposal that two options for mitigation at Hintlesham Woods would be included in the DCO application, and that we would be including two options for the Secretary of State to make a decision on, and that the accompanying mitigation strategy would flow from the decision with the other option and its mitigation strategy falling away.

Ref No. 28: The Applicant confirmed that National Grid are responsible for all parts of the authorised development; both NGET works and DNO works. The project will include the removal of approximately 20km of UK Power Network overhead lines to enable National Grid's works. National Grid will be the

principal promoter, but the DCO will include compulsory acquisition powers for UKPN as the Distribution Network Operator (DNO). This will all be controlled by the same management plans.

Ref No. 30: The Inspectorate advised that the land plan boundary colour is too similar to the plot colour.

Ref No. 36: The issue of GDPR were raised in regard to the Consultation Report. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to check the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project (A66 project) for guidance.

Ref No. 41: The Inspectorate advised that the A66 is a 'project speed' application and that elements from this project will be reviewed to consider any future new examination best practice. The Inspectorate confirmed that a Statement of Commonality may not be required, due to the Applicant's proposed combined SoCG approach. The Applicant was advised to make this clear in the application cover letter.

Yorkshire Green

The Applicant noted that the National Grid projects teams for Bramford to Twinstead and Yorkshire Green are collaborating effectively with a view to ensuring consistency across NG projects; the Inspectorate commended and welcomed this.

Update from PINs

The Inspectorate advised the applicant that there had been some updates to the Advice Notes, and changes would be described in the Control Register.