



Meeting note

Project name	Bramford to Twinstead
File reference	EN020002
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	02 February 2023
Meeting with	National Grid Electricity Transmission
Venue	MS Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (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 programme

The Applicant confirmed that the Proposed Development is required to be operational by 2028. The Applicant is aiming for the Development Consent Order (DCO) decision by Autumn 2024 to meet the in service date of 2028. The Applicant also confirmed that the DCO application will be submitted in Spring 2023.

Project update

Targeted consultation closed on 19 October 2022, with 358 consultation responses received. Following the consultation, the Applicant indicated that minor changes were made to the design, including the decision not to proceed with the option of routeing through Hintlesham Woods. The Applicant advised that it had not been possible to identify appropriate ways of mitigating potential impacts to ecology in particular bats, partly because it was considered unlikely that a protected species licence could be secured from Natural England for works due to an alternative route being available.

A 4km haul road at the western end of project has also been adjusted following landowner feedback. The Applicant confirmed that routeing optionality has now been removed from the proposals, but limits of deviation would be included.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that planning permission had been granted for the grid supply point (GSP) substation under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) in November 2022. Construction is set to begin in the coming months and the Applicant will shortly begin the process of discharging conditions. The Applicant confirmed that

the GSP substation will also be retained in the DCO application but may be removed at a later date. The Inspectorate suggested that it would be helpful for the Applicant to include a progress update in the DCO application cover letter.

The majority of Heads of Terms for voluntary land agreements have been issued, and additionally there is set to be further minor s42 consultation. In addition, the Applicant informed the Inspectorate that stakeholder discussions and the Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) are progressing well. The Applicant stated it is aiming to submit draft SoCGs with statutory consultees with the DCO application.

Submission Arrangements

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the application will be submitted using Microsoft SharePoint. A request was made to the Inspectorate to provide a list of names of the people who will require access to the SharePoint upon submission. The application is predicted to consist of up to 190 documents. The Applicant confirmed it would like the documents to be published on the project web page before the Acceptance decision is made. The Inspectorate noted this and advised that it may take up to the end of the 28-day Acceptance period to process and publish the application. The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant of its policy that only links to verifiable government websites can be hyperlinked in the application; any others will be redacted. The Applicant confirmed that its GIS shapefile will be submitted 10 days before application submission.

The Applicant expects there to be one confidential report (a badger survey) as part of the application documents. The Inspectorate requested that the confidential information be separated into an annex so that the wider report could be published.

Examination Arrangements

The Applicant confirmed it aims to begin the Relevant Representation period soon after the Acceptance decision is made, should the application be accepted. The Inspectorate advised that blended hearings are continuing. The Inspectorate explained that it would send the Applicant a suite of documents relating to arrangements for hearings, such as a venue checklist, health and safety form and others.