



Meeting Note

File reference	EN020003 - King's Lynn B Power Station Connection
Status	Final
Author	Ewa Sherman

Meeting with	National Grid
Meeting date	14th May 2012
Attendees (Planning Inspectorate)	Chris White (Case Manager) Robert Hanson (Legal) Alison Down (EIA Advisor) Gail Boyle (Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Ewa Sherman (Case Officer) Jan Bessell (Pre-application Examining Inspector)
Attendees (non Planning Inspectorate)	Andrew Connolly (National Grid) Will Bridges (National Grid) Carolyn Gratty (EIA Consultant, TEP) Caroline Searle (Community Relations, Grayling) Tom Bowden – Green (Community Relations, Grayling) Stephen McNaught (Solicitor, Dundas and Wilson) Yohanna Weber (Solicitor, Dundas and Wilson)
Location	TQH, Bristol

Meeting purpose	Project update Presentation by National Grid on King's Lynn B Power Station Connection project. Feedback from PINS with regard to the draft DCO, plans, book of reference, and explanatory memorandum.
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Summary of key points discussed and advice given	PINS openness policy: protocol for meeting notes and exchange of information: PINS advised on its openness policy, that any advice given does not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) can rely, and that applicants must rely on their own legal advice. It was also confirmed that, having been involved in giving advice, JB would not be appointed to undertake an examination of any submitted application. Overview National Grid (NG) has an agreement with Centrica to connect a proposed 981MW power station to the national high voltage transmission network. The project consists of a 400kV overhead electric line connecting the proposed power station to the existing high voltage transmission overhead line. Three stages of consultation have been completed:
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- Stage One: February 2010 – March 2011 – consultation on Route Corridor,
- Stage Two: March 2011 – March 2012 – consultation on route alignment within chosen corridor;
- Stage Three: 28 March – 11 May 2012 - statutory consultation stage. (Deadline extension until 25 May for Watlington Parish Council).

NG currently anticipates submitting a Development Consent Order application in Summer 2012 (late July/early August).

Consultation update

The Stage One Consultation on three corridor options known as West, Central and East resulted in the East Corridor being chosen as the preferred route. The East Corridor offers some (limited) natural screening, lowest potential risk to migrating birds, and greatest opportunity for locating towers away from properties. SSSIs in the East were noted.

The Stage Two Consultation focused on a route alignment. NG used a pilot 3D modelling technology of a 5 square km area during public meetings and events. It was based on a LIDAR survey, and was reported to be very well received.

In reply to PINS' query regarding accuracy, NG confirmed that traditional photomontages would be produced for the DCO application, using the same data as for the 3D model of the area.

NG confirmed that 100% of persons with an interest in the land agreed access rights for survey works.

The associated development (fibre, culverts, temporary towers if outside of exemption regulations) has been defined.

The new route will be 2.8km long and have eight new towers and one replacement tower on the existing overhead line route, possibly L13 (a fine structured design) pylons which are being tested. The limits of deviation proposed in the DCO application would be narrow (about 20m) as a result certainty established by surveys already undertaken.

During the statutory consultation stage one of the main concerns raised by consultees was construction traffic passing through Watlington village.

The Stage Three Consultation closed on 11 May 2012, with the exception of an extended deadline for Watlington Parish Council. Public events were held on 19, 20 and 21 April. At present NG are reviewing the Stage Three Consultation feedback (responses from 63 stakeholders to date), and they are involved in ongoing discussions with Natural England.

They advised that other major projects in the area have dominated media coverage therefore interest in the consultation has been smaller than predicted. NG confirmed that they informed hard-to-reach groups who did not participate in the consultation events.

Environmental Impact Assessment

NG confirmed that Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) was produced, and the PEI Report was consulted on and available at public events. It is available on the project website. Survey guidance submitted previously has been updated. There are ongoing discussions with Natural England regarding bird surveys.

Land Rights

NG explained their Land Rights Strategy and advised that to date 75% of the landowners signed voluntary agreements, and NG are not anticipating contentious issues, although they might be seeking some compulsory acquisition powers if any matters cannot be finally resolved by the date of application. There are no statutory undertakers' or local authorities' land involved.

Draft DCO / Plans / Book of Reference / Explanatory Memorandum

NG appreciated advice provided regarding draft documents which they had submitted in April 2012. PINS confirmed that it was very helpful to have sight of a draft DCO so early.

PINS made the following observations:

- Copies of consultation responses from statutory consultees were likely to be requested on receipt of the DCO application and arrangements should be made for them to be made available at short notice in a redacted and un-redacted form.
- If compulsory acquisition of land is requested, a financial statement will be required to ensure that funds are secured and available throughout the process.
- S138 of the Localism Act 2011 amended the definition of a local authority under s43 of the Planning Act, there are now four categories of local authorities (A, B, C and D) that must be consulted. NG was advised to take these changes into account when dealing with the relevant host and neighbouring councils.
- It would be useful if NG provided PINS with as much notice as possible with regard to the submission date of the application to help with resource planning at PINS.
- All advice given under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 will be published and available online.

Specific decisions/ follow up required?	NG to send presentation in PDF format for publishing on the National Infrastructure Planning's pages on the Planning Portal alongside this meeting note.
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Circulation List	All attendees
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