



Meeting note

File reference	EN020017
Status	Final
Author	Kath Dunne
Date	5 October 2015
Meeting with	National Grid
Venue	Telecon
Attendees	Ken Guest - National Grid Emer McDonnell – National Grid Katie Persaud - Bircham Dyson Bell Kath Dunne – Infrastructure Planning Lead Gail Boyle – Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor Will Spencer – EIA and Land Rights Advisor Nicola Mathiason - Lawyer
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting to discuss the draft document advice issued by the Planning Inspectorate
Circulation	All

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Programme

National Grid (NG) provided an update on the delay to the submission of the application, as a result in changes to order limits and work to ensure the application is examination ready. The application will now be submitted in the week commencing 11 January 2016. The relevant Local Authorities have been informed. NG confirmed that although the submission has been delayed, there is no change to the anticipated construction completion date for the project (end October 2018).

Draft Documents

The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) queried the date on which NG intends to submit a draft HRA report, NG informed that they expect to be able to provide this at the end of October.

PINS' section 51 advice on NG's draft documents, which was issued on 1 October 2015, was discussed as follows.

Draft DCO

In general accordance

PINS queried the use of the phrase 'in general accordance' within the draft DCO. NG explained they are happy to remove it, except where it applies to the detailed design drawings, because these are only indicative. NG will justify this approach and PINS explained that it is likely to be examined by the Examining authority (ExA).

Article 30 Temporary use of land by National Grid

PINS explained that the current drafting appears as a wide power. NG explained it is the intention to enter temporarily onto parts of plots (not whole plots) and that this article could also relate to other works in the draft DCO (for example surveying) therefore NG would prefer to leave it in the draft DCO. PINS explained that the ExA is likely to seek justification for this power, therefore the explanatory memorandum should explain the purpose in detail. PINS also queried why it states 'in respect of which no notice of entry has been served', NG will consider this.

Article 43(2) Trees subject to tree preservation orders (TPO)

NG explained that they had drafted this Article with the intention of being able to cover any TPOs which may come forward post-application. PINS directed NG to Advice Note 15 on this matter.

Tailpieces

Requirements containing tailpieces were also discussed, and PINS advised NG to carefully consider whether any such items were necessary and justified.

Funding Statement

PINS advised that it may be helpful for NG to view any ExA questions on these documents for other projects which have been through PA 2008 examinations.

Consultation report

NG stated that the draft consultation report has been revised in the meantime, addressing many of the comments received from PINS. NG explained the layout of the report and how each stage of consultation would be summarised, as well as discussing how the terms 'consultation' and 'engagement' have been used, which will be clearly defined in the final version.

While NG consider the Consultation Report to fully cover the requirements of the PA 2008 and TEN-E Regulation, they will include a table as requested to show compliance with TEN-E Manual of Procedures (specific to the consultation requirements) to make this as clear as possible.

Local Authorities

NG met with Local Authorities last week, where the main topics of discussion were the findings of the EIA and its reporting, and a mitigation workshop was held to discuss landscape, biodiversity, cultural heritage and environmental health issues. Another meeting is planned in the near future to progress Statements of Common Ground (SOCG) with the Local Authority technical experts.

NG advised that work continues with Natural England on collision risk modelling which is progressing well.

In total 14 SOCG are anticipated to be prepared, NG advised that the RSPB are being represented by the Kent Wildlife Trust. Work continues with Network Rail on their SOCG in light of design as it becomes fixed.

Canterbury's draft Local Plan may be in examination just after Easter 2016, so there is potential for the Richborough Connection Project and the examination of the Plan to be running in parallel which may have resourcing implications for some interested parties. On this note, NG advised that the shortlist of potential hearing venues is progressing and NG intend to inspect 8 venues in the area.