



Meeting note

File reference	EN020017
Status	Final
Author	Siân Evans
Date	16 December 2015
Meeting with	National Grid
Venue	Rivergate House, Bristol
Attendees	Emer McDonnell - National Grid Ken Guest - National Grid Kath Dunne – Planning Inspectorate Chris White – Planning Inspectorate Siân Evans – Planning Inspectorate Nicola Mathiason – Planning Inspectorate Will Spencer – Planning Inspectorate Hannah Nelson – Planning Inspectorate
Meeting objectives	Update on submission of Richborough Connection project
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The participants introduced themselves and their roles. National Grid (NG) were made aware of the Planning Inspectorate's (PINS) openness policy, that any advice given will be recorded and placed on the PINS website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) as amended. Any advice given does not constitute legal advice on which the developer or others can rely.

NG confirmed that the programme has not changed and the application is expected to be submitted to PINS w/c 11 January 2016. PINS asked NG to confirm the precise date of submission in w/c 4 January. This will assist PINS in communications with the local authorities.

NG advised that the National Grid Nemo Link Ltd Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) reserved matters application for the Richborough substation and convertor substation will be submitted to Thanet and Dover District Councils in January 2016. NG explained that they consider the Richborough 400kV substation is not part of the overhead line Project of Common Interest (PCI 1.1.2) under the TEN-E Regulation, because it was consented (outline permission) as part of PCI 1.1.1, which fell under the transitional provisions of the TEN-E Regulation. NG explained that the construction

of the substations would take longer than the overhead line. PINS asked for the consenting approach to the substations to be clearly explained in the NSIP application. NG confirmed that it would include that detail in the TEN-E regulation checklist.

NG confirmed that works to the Canterbury substation are being carried out under permitted development rights.

PINS suggested that to cover off any potential questions during the examination, NG should include in their application documentation information showing how they have complied with the TEN-E Regulation. NG advised that they will submit a TEN-E Regulation checklist alongside the section 55 checklist when the application is submitted. PINS advised that this include reference to the TCPA reserved matters application.

NG advised that discussions with the host local authorities are going well. The construction working hours are an outstanding issue and PINS advised NG to focus on getting the statements of common ground completed. NG advised that first drafts have already been sent to the local authorities.

PINS advised that a telecon had taken place with the local authorities and a note of this is available on the website. PINS asked if NG could send an updated list of contacts for all consultees to assist PINS in ensuring correspondence goes to the correct people.

PINS enquired whether any accompanied site inspection through the SSSI in section A of the proposed route would be off public footpaths. PINS will need to seek permission from Natural England, as well as the landowner.

NG gave an update on environmental matters including progress made on obtaining Letters of No Impediment (LoNI) for protected species. They have a LoNI for dormice. NG are making minor changes to the draft licence applications for bats and great crested newts and hope to resubmit these to Natural England soon. NG do not anticipate needing a protected species licence for badgers.

PINS asked that if any confidential information (such as that relating to badgers) is submitted with the application then it should be clearly marked 'Confidential – Do not publish'. NG confirmed that 2 copies of any confidential information will be submitted – one will be a websafe version which simply explains that it is confidential information which is not available to view.

NG confirmed that they had reviewed the s51 advice received from PINS in respect to the draft HRA Report and had no questions to ask.

PINS enquired whether any transboundary information has changed. NG confirmed that it hasn't. PINS advised NG to make this clear in the application as it is something that will need to be reassessed when the application is submitted.

PINS enquired whether NG had engaged with the occupiers of the gypsy and traveller site. NG confirmed that they had sent letters as well as undertaking face-to-face engagement, with assistance from the liaison officer at Kent County Council.

PINS asked NG about protective provisions and NG confirmed that these are progressing.

PINS asked NG how negotiations with landowners are progressing and NG advised that these are ongoing.

PINS advised that it is helpful for submissions to be submitted on flash cards/memory sticks. PINS asked for 6 memory sticks to be submitted with the application. If the application is accepted then it would be helpful to receive memory sticks for each deadline submission. NG advised that they will send a memory stick to PINS prior to submission to check documents can be opened and appear correctly. PINS reminded NG to check that what is on the memory sticks matches exactly what is submitted in hard copy. NG will also send a link to their project dropbox to check if PINS can access documents that way as well, although this method will only be used if NG are unable to send memory sticks in sufficient time to meet a deadline.

PINS advised that NG's cover letters used for each submission on the Hinkley Point C Connection project (HPCC) were very helpful. NG confirmed that they would pass this information on to their legal advisors. PINS stated that NG's 'Guide to the Application' document used on HPCC was also very useful and NG confirmed that they would be using this again.

PINS advised that the use of a projector at hearings to show plans and photomontages was extremely useful and appreciated by the Examining Authority (ExA) at the HPCC hearings. As this project is also a linear scheme there may be a requirement for this facility at any hearings.

NG advised that they are looking at potential venues for the preliminary meeting and hearings. Most community involvement in the project is in Canterbury and this has the most suitable venues however there may be problems with availability if the Canterbury Local Plan hearings are taking place at the same time.

PINS enquired about libraries being used as deposit locations. As PINS uses electronic deposit locations any libraries would need to have free internet access. NG agreed to send a list of suitable libraries to PINS.

NG advised that they have identified some additional PILs due to slight changes to the Order limits and conducting further title interrogations of land affected.. A number of these additional PILs have been notified under section 47 of PA 2008. A table setting this out will be included in the consultation report and details provided in the s55 checklist.

PINS asked if NG could send a spreadsheet with details of everyone they notify under section 59 to assist PINS in completing their mailmerge list. PINS also advised that they will be sending a spreadsheet to NG and ask them to populate it with information from the Book of Reference. This will assist the ExA in assessing any compulsory acquisition objections.

PINS asked whether NG explains anywhere in their application how the category 3 persons in the Book of Reference are compiled. This information assists PINS in dealing with any queries from Interested Parties as to why they receive correspondence from us. NG agreed to look at this.

NG advised that they will send a list of potential dates for a preliminary meeting, should the application be accepted.

PINS advised that the structure of the recent meetings has been helpful, and they would wish to continue this on other NG projects. NG noted that they would make other projects aware.

PINS advised that a project mailbox has now been set up and all future correspondence should now be emailed to Richborough@pins.gsi.gov.uk.