



Meeting note

Project name	Yorkshire GREEN
File reference	EN020024
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	8 February 2021
Meeting with	National Grid
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Inception 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.

Introduction

The Inspectorate advised they will take a note of the meeting and publish to the website under s51 advice.

The Applicant outlined the need for the project, and its significance in working towards NetZero targets by 2050.

The Applicant stated that Yorkshire GREEN would reinforce the transmission network in the area, by increasing capacity for power flows (which may come from Offshore Wind Farm (OWF) and interconnector capacity) in the north east of England and Scotland.

Project Update

The Applicant explained their progress so far, identifying a list of strategic options which were shortlisted through a series of technical workshops.

The Inspectorate queried whether there had been consultation on the strategic options that had been identified or whether it is only being considered on an internal basis. The Applicant stated that the strategic options were subject to internal review only.

The Applicant described how their strategic proposal stage has identified a broad technical solution that meets the need case (i.e. an overhead line). The strategic proposal, comprising an overhead line, was further refined through a corridor and preliminary routing and siting study (CPRSS). This identified a number of corridor options with preliminary locations for associated infrastructure identified in those corridors. The CPRSS concluded with the identification of a preferred route corridor to locate the new overhead line and the associated infrastructure. It is this corridor that is being consulted on through the non-statutory consultation process in March and April 2021.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to be prepared for questions on the strategic proposal stage, and ensure people still have the option to feed in and understand how the proposals have been developed.

The Applicant stated their next stage will be refining the proposed corridor further. This will be done by using feedback on the CPRSS. The feedback from the non-statutory consultation would help inform the more detailed design of the project (i.e. the siting of towers, and other associated infrastructure). The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to ensure that there is clear evidence, and explanation, as to why the options have been selected during consultation.

The Applicant showed a Location Plan for the proposal, explaining how the new infrastructure is influenced by the location of existing infrastructure. The Applicant explained that a new 400kV overhead line would be connected to an existing 400kV overhead line using cable sealing end compounds. The new 400kV line would then connect to a new substation, and the voltage would be reduced from 400kV to 275kV. Two new 275kV overhead lines would then connect from the new substation to the existing 275kV overhead line in the south. The existing 275kV overhead line would then require reconducting works (an upgrade of the wires to be able to transport more electricity) down to Monk Fryston substation. Around the Tadcaster area, cable sealing end compounds would be required to join the reconducted lines to a further existing 275kV overhead line. At Monk Fryston Substation, a new 400kV substation would be constructed adjacent to the existing substation.

Consultation and Engagement to Date

The Applicant is proposing to begin statutory consultation in November 2021. Non statutory consultation with prescribed consultees and wider consultees including the public is ongoing (up to mid-April 2021). The Applicant commented that the Local Planning Authority (LPA) comments on the non-statutory consultation strategy were due by 5 February 2021, and that webinars with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England are ongoing, and that webinar engagement with wider consultees and the public will commence in mid-March 2021.

The Inspectorate noted that Advice Note 14 - Compiling a Consultation Report was due to be updated, and that it would be in the best interest for the Applicant to review upon publication. However, it is an update and not a radical change and so should not cut

across any work already done on a draft Report. The Inspectorate further advised the Applicant to report their non-statutory consultation in full, and to provide rationale for targeted consultation if any was to be carried out.

EIA Scoping

The Applicant provided the Inspectorate with a brief overview of potential constraints associated with the route alignment from north west of York to Monk Fryston in the south. These include York Minster (distant views), listed buildings including Beningborough Hall and Monk Fryston Lodge, the flat landscape of the Vale of York, greenbelt, Clifton Ings and Rawcliffe Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), functionally linked habitat and bird flight paths, areas of flood zone and archaeological features (including Tadcaster Roman Road).

The Applicant aims to provide the Inspectorate with the relevant shapefile for the EIA Scoping boundary by 1 March 2021. Submission of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping request is planned for the week commencing Monday 15 March 2021.

The Applicant identified that it would seek to incorporate flexibility into the detailed design of the route and pylon siting, drawing on knowledge gained from previous projects such as Hinkley C connection.

The Applicant noted that the scoping would rely on desk-based assessment. The Inspectorate queried whether there was any merit in delaying the submission of the application to incorporate data from the ongoing Phase 1 Habitats Survey. The Applicant stated that its delivery programme was driving the scoping submission timeline and wouldn't allow for incorporation of the survey report, and even with some survey data, it was unlikely to be enough to be able to scope out some technical aspects.

The Applicant commented that they would be meeting with Natural England to discuss birds and flightpaths. The Inspectorate highlighted that a clear strategy or justification in relation to bird diverters would be useful to inform the design approach, as this matter had been subject to discussion on previous projects.

Further Engagement With PINS

The Applicant explained that they would like regular meetings with the Inspectorate, given the compressed programme. The Inspectorate suggested they and the Applicant meet regularly, to discuss general points/feedback at key milestone events in the programme.

The Inspectorate requested the Applicant add them to the mailing list so they could be kept up to date as to when the consultation is taking place and to keep up to date with the progress of the project more generally.

The Inspectorate enquired about how other National Grid reinforcement and connection projects might influence the Yorkshire GREEN project. The Applicant explained that connection agreements are in place with new interconnectors which have a direct bearing on the Yorkshire GREEN Project timescales in terms of the earliest in service date (i.e. the date the Yorkshire GREEN Project has to be operational). The Applicant also confirmed that they were considering the cumulative effects of relevant projects.

Outline Programme

The Applicant explained timescales and milestones including discussions with political stakeholders in Q1 2021. Recent briefings in Q4 2020 with LPA's, Natural England and Historic England and the Environment Agency are also noted.

The Applicant shared their outline programme with PINS, which included future consultation, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) including the preparation of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and DCO submission by Q4 2022.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- Applicant to report consultation in full
- Regular meetings between the Inspectorate and the Applicant at key milestone events
- Scoping shapefile submission by 1 March 2021, with EIA Scoping Request submission w/c 15 March 2021

