



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Yorkshire GREEN
<b>File reference</b>	EN020024
<b>Status</b>	<b>FINAL</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	12 April 2022
<b>Meeting with</b>	National Grid
<b>Venue</b>	Virtual: Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project Update Meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	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 update since last meeting in October 2021*

The Applicant summarised the need for the project and provided a map to help locate the project (see Appendix 1). The Applicant also reiterated that Corridor B has been identified as the preferred corridor as per the October 2021 project update meeting.

The project includes the installation of one new 400kV overhead line and cable sealing end compound (CSEC), which would provide a connection from the existing YR 400kV line, to a new substation. From the new Substation (known as Overton Substation) two new 275kV overhead lines would connect to the existing XCP 275kV overhead line. As part of this work, some realignment of the XCP line would take place around Moor Monkton. A new substation at Monk Fryston would also be required, adjacent to and connecting into the existing Monk Fryston Substation, along with a further set of CSEC's at Tadcaster.

The Applicant advised that upgrades will also be required to the existing infrastructure. The Inspectorate queried what classed as "upgrading;" the Applicant advised that the proposed upgrades would include an increase from six conductors to 12 conductors on the existing XCP and XC 275kV line and strengthening works to pylons. The Applicant stated that new pylons will be required in some locations but will be comparable to existing pylons and advised that they are not planning to use T-

pylons. Temporary diversion work will also be required. The works detailed above are all included in the DCO.

### ***Update on the consultation to date***

The Applicant confirmed that statutory consultation was carried out between 28 October and 9 December 2021 with all the relevant consultation material being made available on the dedicated website. 17,000 letters were distributed, and 152 prescribed consultees were emailed. 55 local community groups were contacted in addition to local parishes, sports groups and hard to reach groups, amongst others.

The Applicant stated that they received 2,000 hits on their website and 40,000 to 100,000 impressions on social media which includes their Twitter and Facebook pages.

The Applicant confirmed that four in-person events were held, with approximately 170 attendees consisting mainly of local landowners and residents. Eight online webinar events were also run between 30 October 2021 and 7 December 2021 with 19 attendees for seven events. 54 questions were asked and answered across the events. A total of 95 responses were received during the statutory consultation, of which 63 were from the general public and 32 were from prescribed or wider consultees.

The Inspectorate queried if there were any issues raised regarding consultation and the Applicant advised that nothing significant has been raised at this stage. Initial consultation with local councils raised some minor comments which were incorporated into the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and reflected within the consultation undertaken. The Applicant advised that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, material was provided online on the website rather than the use of USB sticks.

Post-launch of the s42 statutory consultation, the Applicant's Land Referencing team issued 285 additional consultation letters in error on 10 November and 11 November 2021 which informed category 3 affected parties of construction and operational noise. The Applicant confirmed that 197 of 285 contacted parties would not be affected whereas the letter advised they would be. The Applicant wrote to everyone incorrectly contacted and explained the error. The Applicant also offered an extended deadline to 48 of the 285 of the contacted parties who would be affected to 12 January or 21 January 2022. The Applicant advised these issues will be set out in the Consultation Report.

### ***Post Section 42 consultation***

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that they had provided assistance to stakeholders in locating relevant information, and that all of the responses received to the s42 consultation would be included in the Consultation Report. The Applicant confirmed that they will also provide details of their Design Change process, which will aim to explore the feasibility of the relevant design changes in the Consultation Report.

In response to the feedback and further design and survey work, the Applicant was exploring a number of potential design changes with its engineering, lands and environmental team, in relation to avoiding veteran trees, junction widening, changes to cycle routes, and amendments to infrastructure. The Applicant identified eight locations where, as a result of the potential design changes, there would be changes to the development consent order (DCO) boundary/ order limits relative to the information published as part of the s42 consultation. The Applicant undertook targeted consultation (deadline 14 April 2022) with relevant persons with an interest in the land (PILs), parish councils, local planning and highways authorities, cycle groups and wildlife groups in these locations. The Applicant amended the order limits following targeted consultation (see appendix 2 and 3).

## ***Matters to Discuss***

The Applicant advised that in 2021 they received signed licenses for 74% of land access on a voluntary basis, although access was provided to some land without a license being signed. The Applicant advised that in 2022 land access on a voluntary basis is currently at 57% but this is expected to increase (the Applicant confirmed following the meeting that this figure has increased to 73% in May 2022). The Applicant is discussing alternative approaches with relevant bodies, including Natural England (NE) and local planning authorities (LPAs) where land access is not available. NE has advised the Applicant to rely on advice from its own environmental team in this regard at this stage, as they do not have the capacity to engage on detail on this Project. Currently, no issues have been identified with the extent of land access for surveys, but the Applicant is keeping this under review. The Applicant confirmed that a district level license is being progressed in respect of great crested newts, and this has been agreed with NE.

The Inspectorate queried whether there are any other projects that may overlap with the Yorkshire GREEN project. The Applicant advised that there are only small projects planned and there are no known physical interrelationships with any other projects or planned projects at this time. The Applicant confirmed it was speaking to the LPAs regularly and would use this forum to monitor any potential new cumulative projects coming forward.

The Inspectorate advised that examinations are currently virtual by default, but that the Examining Authority may decide to hold a blended Examination or blended hearings. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to identify Audio Visual providers who can facilitate blended examinations/hearings.

The Applicant asked whether the statutory timeframes for examination could be shortened (e.g., the Pre-Examination stage). The Inspectorate advised that although on average the length of the Pre-Examination period is usually three months, the length of this stage depends on a number of factors, and the Inspectorate would not be able to commit to a shorter period. The Inspectorate also advised that there are no planned changes to statutory timeframes, and as such the existing timeframes should be used until such a time that any changes are officially made.

## ***Project Programme & Further engagement***

The Applicant confirmed that they are starting to consider their pre-submission and submission requirements and are aiming to submit their application for development consent towards the end of 2022.

The Inspectorate advised that application documents can be submitted via a file sharing website and encouraged the same submission method to be used for draft documents.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the current expected date for draft documents to be submitted for review would be the start of August 2022. The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant should allow six to eight weeks for completion of the Inspectorate's comments. The Applicant advised that due to their intended programme ideally they would require reviews to be completed within four weeks. The Inspectorate advised that a possible solution would be for the Applicant to submit their draft documents for review in a staggered approach, and to send draft versions of their documents when they are ready, rather than all at once. The Applicant confirmed they would review this, and draft document submission would be discussed with the Inspectorate further at a later date.

The Inspectorate requested that any novel issue to be addressed during the Inspectorate's review of the draft documents should be highlighted when submitting their draft documents.

At this time, the Applicant is not proposing to submit any of the draft Environmental Statement chapters for draft document review. However the Applicant would expect to submit drafts of the Consultation Report, and the draft DCO for consideration by the Inspectorate.

The Applicant stated that a full Habitats Regulations Assessment will not be required, and a No Significant Effects Report will be submitted with the DCO application. The Applicant stated that this position is agreed with Natural England.

The Applicant advised that a meeting in mid-July 2022 would be beneficial and proposed the discussion of proposed routing and key environmental information about particular pinch points with the view of aiding understanding and possibly informing on the number of inspectors that may be required for the panel. The Inspectorate advised that a meeting would also be held following the review of the Applicant's draft documents.

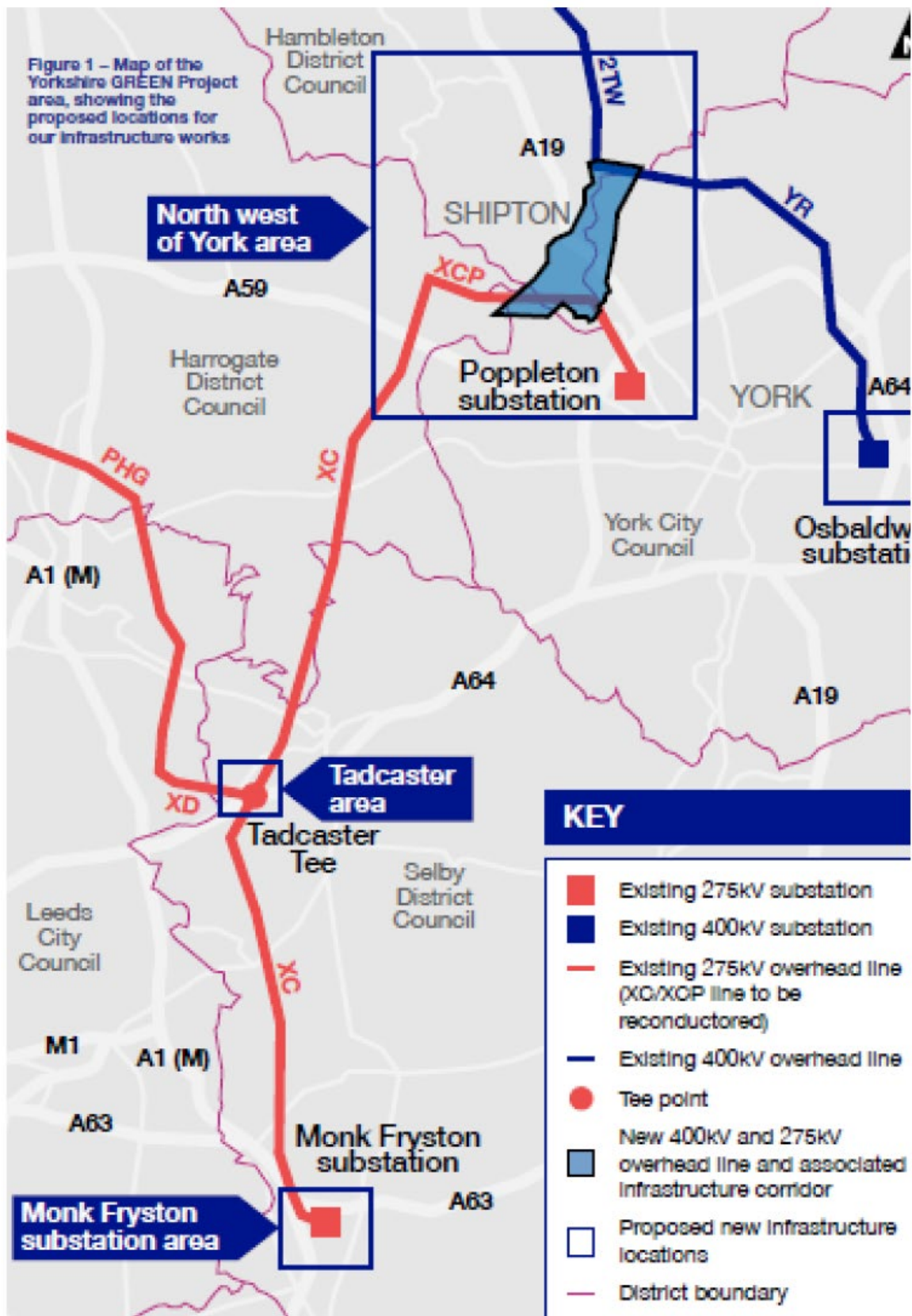
### ***Specific decisions/ follow-up required?***

The following actions were agreed:

- The Inspectorate queried whether a Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment would be prepared and submitted with the DCO application. The Applicant confirmed post-meeting that the WFD assessment would be incorporated into the ES and would not be submitted as a standalone document. The Inspectorate drew the Applicant's attention to Advice Note 18: The Water Framework Directive in this regard.
- The Applicant queried the redaction of consultation responses as their online forms have been automatically populating an excel spreadsheet which will require manual work to redact or move to a Word/PDF file. The Inspectorate advised that the standard format would be Word or PDF and provided further advice in an email following the meeting on 25 April 2022 to confirm that consultation responses are only requested in the event of an issue identified during Acceptance, and that if requested the responses are not published. The Inspectorate also advised that consultation responses should be prepared during Pre-Acceptance so that they are ready to be provided to the Inspectorate if needed during Acceptance.
- The Applicant confirmed that they will provide a selection of proposed dates to the Inspectorate for the next project meeting

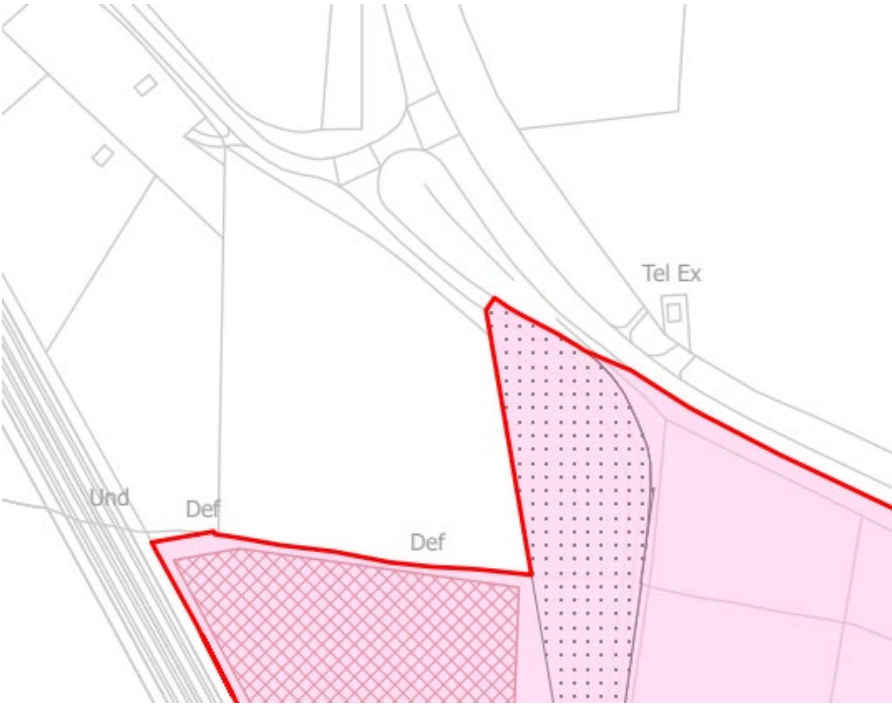
## Appendices

### Appendix A – Map of the Yorkshire GREEN Project area, showing the proposed locations of infrastructure works





**Appendix 2 – Original s42 order limit.**



**Appendix 3 – Post s42 amended order limit as shown at targeted consultation.**

