

# Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	East Anglia Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project
<b>File reference</b>	EN020027
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	11 October 2022
<b>Meeting with</b>	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)
<b>Venue</b>	Temple Quay House
<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.

## Programme overview

The Applicant provided a brief overview of the main components of the Proposed Development:

- A new 400kV overhead line between Norwich and Bramford.
- A new 400kV overhead line between Bramford and Tilbury, with an underground section within Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- A new 400kV substation to facilitate connections to the proposed North Falls and Five Estuaries offshore wind farm projects.

## Summary of consultation responses/ stakeholder engagement to date, and key themes arising

The Applicant advised that between April and June 2022, a preferred route corridor was published as part of its non-statutory consultation, showing where the project could be located in order to indicate to stakeholders where they may be affected. Other route corridors that it had considered were also published as part of the consultation material and reasons for the preferred corridor set out. The corridor varies in width but typically at approx. 1km to 2.5km wide, which will be refined during the Pre-application stage, prior to the submission of the Development Consent Order application. The Applicant said that it had published the Corridor Preliminary Routing Siting Study as part of the consultation material to help shape consultation with stakeholders and local communities.

In terms of engagement with the public, the project had approx. 3,500 feedback responses to the non-statutory consultation. The Applicant highlighted its efforts towards positive

engagement with stakeholders, adding more FAQs to the project website and confirming that a newsletter, containing high-level information to update and inform, will be published shortly. The Applicant stated that it had, and continues to have, meetings with the local planning authorities and other statutory consultees, including Thematic Group meetings, where the scoping of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was discussed.

The Applicant also indicated that land agent briefings had been carried out by the Lands Team to brief them on the proposed project and the land rights strategy as part of the effort to seek voluntary agreements with landowners to conduct land surveys. This would include allowing access for the Applicant to carry out environmental and non-intrusive engineering surveys. The Applicant also added that it had restructured the letter sent out to land agents and owners to provide a greater understanding of the processes it was aiming to undertake.

It was also stated that the Applicant met virtually with the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons group; an interest group with over 3,000 members, continuing efforts towards positive engagement.

The Applicant confirmed that it was intending to start drafting the Statement of Community Consultation.

## **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping update**

The Applicant confirmed that its EIA Scoping Report was in the process of being finalised and is expected to be submitted in early November 2022.

The Applicant explained that it has based the Scoping Report on the route corridor used for the non-statutory consultation. The Inspectorate highlighted that a broad route corridor may affect the ability of the Inspectorate and consultation bodies to provide detailed comments, as well as the Inspectorate's ability to agree to scope out aspects/ matters to enable the refinement of the Environmental Statement (ES).

The Applicant stated that it is intending to apply a proportionate approach to assessment and will be proposing to reduce the scale of the relevant topics to aspects and matters where a likely significant effect may occur.

The Inspectorate noted that suitable justification to support the scoping out of aspects and matters in the Scoping Report should include information to address the questions set out in paragraph 5.11 of its [Advice Note Seven](#).

## **Approach to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)**

The Applicant explained that it has begun the development of the structure of the PEIR, which is intended to align with the Scoping Report and will be refined to take account of the Scoping Opinion, once this is adopted. The Inspectorate pointed out the need to ensure the PEIR has enough detail regarding the methodologies used to assess the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development.

## **Consultation material**

The Applicant advised that, for the purposes of consultation material, the project would be set out in nine overlapping geographical sections (running north to south) over its 180km route, and the potential impacts associated with each of the different sections would be identified.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to clearly set out in relevant documents its reasoning for why the route has been split at those specific locations.

The Inspectorate asked how the Applicant was planning to consider the overlapping elements of the nine different sections, to which the Applicant responded that there would be a clear line running through the project route corridor showing the impacts of the project by area and the corresponding receptors in each section. The Applicant hoped that local authorities and Affected Persons would favour this approach because of how easily it can be used to locate area-specific impacts.

The Applicant noted the benefits of this method when dealing with impacts such as socioeconomics; impacts on tourism, for example, was stated to be well-explained through connected sections in a map view. The Southampton to London Pipeline Project was used as a relevant example to show this method's potential to be logical and easy to understand.

## **Summary of actions/ follow-up required**

The following actions were agreed:

- The Inspectorate asked the Applicant to consider future meeting dates, potentially the next project update meeting could be scheduled to take place following adoption of the Scoping Opinion.
- The Applicant will share a test link for file sharing ahead of the submission of the Scoping Report. This is to ensure the Inspectorate's team is able to successfully access the link ahead of the Report arriving.
- It was also discussed that any information regarding dialogue with landowners and any sites of concern would be helpful to provide background to the Inspectorate.