



Meeting note

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| Project name | North Humber to High Marnham Reinforcement |
| File reference | EN020034 |
| Status | Final |
| Author | The Planning Inspectorate |
| Date | 5 October 2023 |
| Meeting with | National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) |
| Venue | MS Teams |
| Meeting objectives | Project Update 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.

National Grid Electricity Transmission (the Applicant) gave an update on the non-statutory consultation carried out between 1 June - 27 July 2023. This included an introductory newsletter, advertising online and in the press of the consultation, online webinars and public consultation events. The Applicant provided documents on its website, which remain online.

Over 500 feedback responses were received on a number of topics, which will inform the design of the proposal. These include impacts on the landscape and visual characteristics, including requests for the undergrounding of cables. Ecology, heritage and potential impacts to health were also raised.

The Applicant is considering all feedback received, including specific comments on the emerging preferred corridor and graduated swathe, as they work to identify a proposed route.

The Applicant gave an overview of the tasks it's currently engaging in, including meetings with stakeholders in relation to land surveys, environmental matters and local government.

The Applicant anticipates consulting on the Statement of Community Consultation in Spring / Summer 2024 and a second round of consultation on their proposals in Autumn 2024.

The Inspectorate asked if feedback had been received from any of the local authorities. The Applicant explained that it had not received formal feedback during the non-statutory consultation period, however, a late feedback response had been received from one host LPA, North Lincolnshire Council and the Applicant are reviewing this feedback. The Applicant advised they were continuing to work with the host LPAs to understand their preferences with regard to route corridors, potential alternatives and impacts.

The Applicant explained that environmentally themed discussions with Natural England, the Environment Agency and other relevant key stakeholders are ongoing.

The Applicant intends update its project website with key emerging themes from non-statutory consultation, with a detailed consultation feedback report available for statutory consultation.

The Applicant gave an update on its work with other developers along the proposed route, such as solar farm operators and the impacts on substations.

The Applicant explained that Planning Performance Agreements were being discussed with Local Authorities

EIA scoping opinion

Following the issue of the EIA scoping opinion on 29 September 2023, the Applicant asked for clarification on the following points.

The removal of existing pylons for line swap overs are listed under the decommissioning phase in the scoping opinion, however the Applicant consider this to fall under the construction phase. The Inspectorate explained that the guidance given in the scoping opinion is produced on the information available to the Inspectorate at that time. The Applicant can disagree with the opinion and is able to make changes, as long as this is explained in the environmental statement and robust evidence is provided to justify this approach.

The Applicant asked what weight should be given to the appended information and advice sent by consultation bodies with regard to the scoping opinion. The Inspectorate advised that the scoping opinion has been informed by the consultee responses but is not necessarily a full reflection of the views of the consultees. The Applicant should have regard to them and consider these views during ongoing consultation exercises.

Digital EIA

The Applicant is considering utilising digital EIA elements as a supplemental consultation tool and asked if the Inspectorate is planning on admitting these as application documents? The Inspectorate confirmed it is in the early stages of considering how these can be used and request that the Applicant provide updates on this aspect. Any digital submission would need to be in addition to a pdf version of the environmental statement, to allow all stakeholder to be able to access the information.

The Inspectorate stated that the Applicant should request a further meeting, once routing options were more evolved and that the Inspectorate would require around a month's notice to finalise the meeting arrangements.