



Meeting note

Project name	Grimsby to Walpole
File reference	EN020036
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	25 January 2024
Meeting with	National Grid Electricity Transmission (“The Applicant”)
Venue	Microsoft 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.

Project Update

The Applicant has begun its first stage of non-statutory consultation, which is seeking views on the emerging preferred corridor route and graduated swathe.

The overhead electricity transmission line is split into 11 main sections to allow for easier understanding and feedback. The Applicant will also be highlighting five proposed substation zones during the consultation.

All consultation materials are available on the Applicant’s website. A series of public consultation events are being held from 31 January 2024 to 29 February 2024 at locations surrounding the emerging preferred corridor. The Applicant has also provided physical versions of the consultation materials to a number of local information points.

The Applicant highlighted changes to its high-level programme following the previous meeting in October 2023. The expected date for submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application remains as Q2 2027.

EIA Scoping

The Applicant postponed the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping request to June/July 2024 to prevent overlap with the non-statutory consultation and allow for design evolution following feedback. During the period between the consultation and scoping request the Applicant will focus on survey strategies, baseline data collection, project

design, addressing consultation feedback and incorporating mitigation commitments. The Applicant is aiming to use remote sensing to inform the scope of site surveys and is seeking to complete the majority of surveys during 2024 but anticipates requiring further surveys next year to fill in gaps.

The Inspectorate directed the Applicant towards other published Scoping Opinions available on the National Infrastructure website such as the North Humber to Marnham Scoping Opinion to their aid approach to the Scoping Report.

The Inspectorate also enquired about communications with statutory bodies to date. The Applicant will be meeting with Natural England in February 2024, and meetings with other statutory bodies will be arranged shortly.

The next project design iteration is subject to the Scoping Opinion will seek to address feedback received on the graduated swathe. The Applicant expects the route corridor to be refined although it will still incorporate a degree of flexibility.

PINS Engagement during Pre-Application Stage

The Applicant raised the possibility of an enhanced pre-application service. The Inspectorate confirmed that further information on the revised pre-application service was likely to be published shortly, and this matter could be revisited at subsequent meetings once that information has been digested.

