

## A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme TR010036

### 8.15 Statement of Common Ground with Southern Electric Power Distribution

APFP Regulation 5(2)(g)  
Planning Act 2008  
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed  
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009  
April 2018



Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning  
(Applications: Prescribed Forms and  
Procedure) Regulations 2009**

**A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling  
Scheme**

Development Consent Order 201[X]

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**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

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<b>Regulation Number:</b>	Regulation 5(2)(q)
<b>Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference</b>	TR010036
<b>Application Document Reference</b>	8.15
<b>Author:</b>	A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme Project Team, Highways England

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status of Version</b>
A	March 2019	Draft submission for Deadline 4

**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

**This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared and agreed by (1) Highways England Company Limited and (2) Southern Electric Power Distribution plc.**

**Signed.....**  
**[NAME]**  
**[ROLE]**  
**on behalf of Highways England**  
**Date: [DATE]**

**Signed.....**  
**[NAME]**  
**[ROLE]**  
**on behalf of Southern Electric Power Distribution plc**  
**Date: [DATE]**

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# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1 Purpose of this document**

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground ("SoCG") has been prepared in respect of the proposed A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling ("the Application") made by Highways England Company Limited ("Highways England") to the Secretary of State for Transport ("Secretary of State") for a Development Consent Order ("the Order") under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ("PA 2008").
- 1.1.2 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents. All documents are available in the deposit locations and / or the Planning Inspectorate website.
- 1.1.3 The SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority where agreement has been reached between the parties to it, and where agreement has not (yet) been reached. SoCGs are an established means in the planning process of allowing all parties to identify and so focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination.

## **1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground**

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared by (1) Highways England as the Applicant and (2) Southern Electric Power Distribution plc (SEPD).
- 1.2.2 Highways England became the Government-owned Strategic Highways Company on 1 April 2015. It is the highway authority in England for the strategic road network and has the necessary powers and duties to operate, manage, maintain and enhance the network. Regulatory powers remain with the Secretary of State. The legislation establishing Highways England made provision for all legal rights and obligations of the Highways Agency, including in respect of the Application, to be conferred upon or assumed by Highways England.
- 1.2.3 SEPD is part of the FTSE-50 energy company, SSE. Their electricity distribution and transmission networks carry electricity to over 3.7 million homes and businesses across the north of the Central Belt of Scotland and also Central Southern England.

## **1.3 Terminology**

- 1.3.1 In the tables in the Issues chapter of this SoCG, "Not Agreed" indicates a final position, and "Under discussion" where these points will be the subject of on-going discussion wherever possible to resolve, or refine, the extent of disagreement between the parties. "Agreed" indicates where the issue has been resolved.
- 1.3.2 It can be taken that any matters not specifically referred to in the Issues chapter of this SoCG are not of material interest or relevance to SEPD, and therefore have not been the subject of any discussions between the parties. As such, those matters can be read as agreed, only to the extent that they are either not of material interest or relevance to SEPD.

## 1.4 Record of Engagement

1.4.1 A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between Highways England and SEPD in relation to the Application is outlined in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Record of engagement

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the issues tables)
15/12/15	Records search	Highways England's agent (Mott Macdonald-Sweco) search of SEPD's plant records to determine presence of their plant within the scheme area.
29/02/16	Letter	Highways England's agent (Mott Macdonald-Sweco) request budget estimate for diversionary or protection works to SEPD's plant.
24/03/16	Email	SEPD's provision of budget estimate for diversionary works.
20/02/17	Meeting	To discuss preliminary design and request SEPD's assistance in the provision of preliminary layouts for input to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.
13/01/18	Email	Further provision, by SEPD, of budget estimate and outline layout plans to assist with the preparation of the DCO application.
22/11/18	Email	Highways England's agent (Mott Macdonald-Sweco) outlining the status of the scheme, key elements of the DCO application, and requesting input to a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG).
12/12/18	Telecon	General discussion regarding preparation of SoCG
07/02/19 onwards	Emails / telecons	Discussions regarding ongoing preparation of a side agreement regarding the Protective Provisions

1.4.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key meetings and consultation undertaken between (1) Highways England and (2) SEPD in relation to the issues addressed in this SoCG.

## 2. Issues

Topic	Sub-section	SEPD comment	Highways England response	Status
General	General	At this stage, the protective provisions and the need to protect SEPD's existing and future rights, interests and apparatus are the only elements that we would envisage would need to be addressed within the statement of common ground.	Accepted. Highways England and SEPD are currently preparing a side agreement in order to address the concerns raised by SEPD in relation to the protective provisions and the protection of SEPD's existing and future rights, interests and apparatus.	<b>AGREED</b>

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