

A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction

Scheme Number: TR010037

Volume 8

8.1 Statement of Commonality for Statements of Common Ground

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010
Rule 8(1)(e)

October 2021
Deadline 3

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction
Development Consent Order 202[x]

**STATEMENT OF COMMONALITY
FOR STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND**

Rule Number:	8(1)(e)
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference	TR010037
Application Document Reference	TR010037/EXAM/8.1
BIM Document Reference	HE551492-GTY-LSI-000-RP-ZL-40010
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Version	Date	Status of Version
Rev 0	October 2021	Deadline 1
Rev 1	November 2021	Deadline 3

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Commonality for Statements of Common Ground (“this Statement”) relates to an application made by Highways England (“the Applicant”) to the Planning Inspectorate (“PINS”) under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (“PA 2008”) for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”). If made the DCO would grant consent for the Applicant to undertake the A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction (“the Scheme”). A detailed description of the Scheme can be found in the Environmental Statement Chapter 2 The Proposed Scheme (**APP-039**).
- 1.1.2 This Statement has been prepared to provide the Examining Authority (“ExA”) with the current position on Statements of Common Ground (“SoCG”) between Highways England and prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and interested parties (“other parties”) in relation to the Scheme.
- 1.1.3 This Statement also provides a current position on the commonality on specific points in the various SoCGs at Examination Deadline 3 (23 November 2021).
- 1.1.4 This Statement will be updated and submitted at subsequent Examination Deadlines as necessary.

2 STRUCTURE OF STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

2.1.1 To ensure consistency in the approach taken to documenting matters agreed, matters subject to further negotiation or matters not agreed, each of the SoCGs adopts a standard format in order to provide clarity to other parties and ultimately the ExA.

2.1.2 Each SoCG has the following structure:

- Section 1: provides an introduction to the SoCG and a description of its purpose.
- Section 2: states the engagement that has occurred between the Applicant and the relevant party.
- Section 3: sets out any issues that have arisen, reporting on the status of each issue, i.e. whether it is agreed, still under discussion or not agreed, and any remaining actions.
- Appendices which contain any relevant document not forming part of the application that are referenced in the SoCG (e.g. emails / meeting notes / data).

3 LIST OF STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

- 3.1.1 The Applicant has begun to prepare SoCGs with a number of prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and other parties it considered beneficial to do so following acceptance to Examination.
- 3.1.2 SoCGs with further specific parties were also requested by the ExA through the Rule 6 letter dated 20 August 2021 and the Rule 8 letter dated 23 September 2021.
- 3.1.3 The parties which the Applicant is exploring the possible need for SoCGs are listed in Table 3-1 below. Further detail about the current position of each SoCG can be found at Section 4, Table 4-1 of this Statement.

Table 3-1 : List of Stakeholders for SoCGs

Prescribed Consultees
Environment Agency
Natural England
Historic England
Local Authorities
Norfolk County Council
South Norfolk Council
Statutory Undertakers
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
Cadent Gas
Anglian Water Limited
Other Interested Parties
Big Sky Developments Ltd

4 SUMMARY OF CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1.1 This section provides the current position of each SoCG as at Deadline 1. As final versions of the SoCGs are agreed as the DCO Examination progresses, they will be submitted alongside this Statement.
- 4.1.2 Table 4-1 provides a high-level position and where necessary includes further detail to aid understanding of the ExA. The high-level positions used in the table are:
- **Final Signed SoCG all matters agreed** – The final SoCG has been signed by both parties and all matters are agreed.
 - **Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding** – The final SoCG has been signed by both parties, and there remain matters outstanding, that the Applicant and the other party agree, will not be resolved during the Examination.
 - **Draft SoCG** – The SoCG has been drafted by the Applicant, it has been shared with the other party and comments have been provided. Discussion is ongoing to reach a 'Final Signed SoCG all matters agreed' or 'Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding'.
 - **SoCG drafted and shared with other party** – The SoCG has been drafted by the Applicant and shared with the other party, but awaiting comments to be provided before issue as 'SoCG in draft' to the Examining Authority. The SoCG will be provided at the earliest opportunity.
 - **SoCG under preparation** – The SoCG to be drafted by the Applicant subject to on-going discussions with the other party. The SoCG or position statement on why SoCG not needed will be provided at the earliest opportunity.

Table 4-1 : SoCG high level position

Doc. Ref.	Party	Position at Deadline 1 13 Oct 2021	Position at Deadline 2 26 Oct 2021	Position at Deadline 3 23 Nov 2021	Position at Deadline 4 6 Dec 2021	Position at Deadline 5 20 Dec 2021	Position at Deadline 6 18 Jan 2022	Position at Deadline 7 10 Feb 2022	Position at Deadline 8 3 Mar 2022	Position at Deadline 9 14 Mar 2022	Position at Deadline 10 18 Mar 2022
Prescribed Consultees - Statutory Environmental Bodies											
8.2	Natural England	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party							
8.3	Environment Agency	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party							
8.4	Historic England	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party							
Local Authorities											
8.5	Norfolk County Council	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party							
8.6	South Norfolk Council	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party							
Prescribed Consultees – Statutory Undertakers											
8.7	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party							
8.8	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited	SoCG under preparation	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	Draft SoCG							
8.9	Cadent Gas	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party							
8.10	Anglian Water Limited	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party							
Other Interested Parties											
8.11	Big Sky Developments Ltd	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	SoCG drafted and shared with other party	Draft SoCG							

5 COMMONALITY

- 5.1.1 This section of the Statement provides the Applicant’s summary of principal issues covered in each SoCG and demonstrates where there is commonality in the topics or matters.
- 5.1.2 The table is presented in such a way to show topics covered within the various SoCGs and how these are relevant to each other party and a position for each topic as follows:

	Matter agreed with other party
	Matter provisionally agreed – unchanged since agreed in draft SoCG submitted in Annex N of the Consultation Report with DCO application, or the Applicant believes is endorsed in Relevant Representation. Seeking confirmation in updated SoCG discussions.
	Matter subject to further discussion
	Matter not able to be agreed

- 5.1.3 Where a matter is not relevant to the other party, it is not included within the SoCG and therefore not covered in Table 5-1 and shown as a blank.

Table 5-1 : Table of Commonality at Deadline 1

SoCG Ref	Party	Draft DCO	Protective Provisions	Other Consents & Licenses	EMP and Associated Documents	Design and Engineering	Planning Policy – Local Plan	Landscape & Visual	Historic Environment	Arboriculture	Biodiversity	Traffic & Transport	Air Quality	Noise and Vibration	Road Drainage and Water Environment	Geology, Soils and Agriculture	Socio-economic and Recreation (incl. PRoWs)	Cumulative Effects	Detrunking & Adoption	Materials Assets & Waste	Climate	
8.2	Natural England																					
8.3	Environment Agency																					
8.4	Historic England																					
8.5	Norfolk County Council																					
8.6	South Norfolk Council																					
8.7	National Grid																					
8.8	Network Rail																					
8.9	Cadent Gas																					
8.10	Anglian Water Limited																					
8.11	Big Sky Developments Ltd																					

6 POSITION AT DEADLINE 3

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 This section provides the ExA with a summary of the current position at Deadline 3 between the Applicant and each party. The individual SoCG should be referred to for the full detail on specific matters.
- 6.1.2 For the statutory undertakers in Section 6.4, the Applicant and the parties are focusing on seeking agreement of the Protective Provisions and/or (where relevant) a side agreement, unless it is agreed with the statutory undertaker that a SoCG is required.

6.2 Statutory Environmental Bodies

Natural England

- 6.2.1 The position of Natural England at Deadline 3 is currently Under Discussion.
- 6.2.2 A draft SoCG is being developed between the Applicant and Natural England. The draft reflects the issues raised during statutory consultation and meetings/correspondence on the development of the Scheme design and Environmental Statement. The Applicant is awaiting comments from Natural England on the SoCG but notes that Natural England have not submitted a Relevant Representation.
- 6.2.3 The Applicant and Natural England will continue discussions and aim to reach agreement on any outstanding points.

Environment Agency

- 6.2.4 The position of Environment Agency at Deadline 3 is currently Under Discussion.
- 6.2.5 A draft SoCG is being developed between the Applicant and the Environment Agency. The draft reflects the issues raised: during statutory consultation; during meetings/correspondence on the development of the Scheme design and Environmental Statement; following receipt of the Relevant Representations. The Applicant is awaiting comments from the Environment Agency on the SoCG.
- 6.2.6 The Applicant will continue to engage with the Environment Agency to gain agreement on these and any further matters.

Historic England

- 6.2.7 The position of Historic England at Deadline 1 is currently Under Discussion.
- 6.2.8 A draft SoCG is being developed between the Applicant and the Historic England. The draft reflects the issues raised: during statutory consultation; during meetings/correspondence on the development of the Scheme design and Environmental Statement; following receipt of the Relevant Representations. The Applicant is awaiting comments from Historic England on the SoCG.
- 6.2.9 The Applicant will continue to engage with the Historic England to gain agreement on these and any further matters.

6.3 Local Authorities

Norfolk County Council

- 6.3.1 The position of Norfolk County Council (NCC) at Deadline 3 is currently Under Discussion.
- 6.3.2 A draft of the SoCG is being developed between the Applicant and NCC. The draft reflects the issues raised: during statutory consultation; during meetings/correspondence on the development of Scheme design and Environmental Statement; following receipt of the Relevant Representations; and during discussions on issues during September 2021.
- 6.3.3 The Applicant will continue to engage with NCC to gain agreement on these and any further matters.

South Norfolk Council

- 6.3.4 The position of South Norfolk Council (SNC) at Deadline 3 is currently Under Discussion.
- 6.3.5 A draft of the SoCG is being developed between the Applicant and SNC. The draft reflects the issues raised: during statutory consultation; during meetings/correspondence on the development of Scheme design and Environmental Statement; following receipt of the Relevant Representations. The Applicant is awaiting comments from South Norfolk Council on the SoCG.
- 6.3.6 The Applicant will continue to engage with SNC to gain agreement on these and any further matters.

6.4 Prescribed Bodies – Statutory Undertakers

National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc

- 6.4.1 The position of National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (NGET) at Deadline 3 is currently Under Discussion.
- 6.4.2 Discussions are ongoing and focussed on protective provisions and access to existing infrastructure. The draft reflects the issues raised during meetings/correspondence on the development of Scheme design and following receipt of the Relevant Representations.
- 6.4.3 The Applicant will continue to engage with National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc on any further matters that arise.

Network Rail Infrastructure Limited

- 6.4.4 The position of Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (NRIL) at Deadline 3 is Draft SoCG.
- 6.4.5 Discussions are ongoing and focussed on the extent to which the Scheme might impact on NRIL assets. The Draft SoCG has been shared with Network Rail Infrastructure Limited, comments have been received and the SoCG has been updated accordingly.

- 6.4.6 The Applicant will continue to engage with Network Rail Infrastructure Limited on any further matters that arise.

Cadent Gas

- 6.4.7 The position of Cadent Gas at Deadline 3 is currently Under Discussion.
- 6.4.8 Discussions are ongoing and focussed on protective provisions and diversions of existing infrastructure. A form of protective provisions has been agreed and discussions are ongoing in relation to the development of the design and construction methodology for diverting the low pressure gas pipeline in advance of the main works and securing access to Cadent assets. The draft reflects the issues raised: during meetings/correspondence on the development of Scheme design and following receipt of the Relevant Representations.
- 6.4.9 The Applicant will continue to engage with Cadent gas on any further matters that arise.

Anglian Water

- 6.4.10 The position of Anglian Water Limited at Deadline 3 is currently Under Discussion.
- 6.4.11 Discussions are ongoing and focussed on protective provisions and diversions and protection of existing infrastructure. Discussions are ongoing in relation to the development of the design and construction methodology for diverting the fresh and foul water services in advance of the main works. The draft reflects the issues raised: during statutory consultation; during meetings/correspondence on the development of Scheme design and following receipt of the Relevant Representations
- 6.4.12 The Applicant will continue to engage with Anglian Water Limited on any further matters that arise.

6.5 Other Interested Parties

Big Sky Developments Ltd

- 6.5.1 The position of Big Sky Developments Limited at Deadline 3 is currently Draft SoCG
- 6.5.2 Discussions are ongoing and focussed on environmental mitigation, construction phasing and alternative solutions for the on-site public open space allocation. The draft reflects the issues raised: during statutory consultation; during meetings/correspondence on the development of Scheme design and following receipt of the Relevant Representations. The Draft SoCG has been shared with Big Sky Developments Ltd, comments have been received and the SoCG has been updated accordingly.
- 6.5.3 The Applicant will continue to engage with Big Sky Developments Ltd on any further matters that arise.