

A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling

Scheme Number: TR010040

Volume 8

8.1 Statement of Commonality for Statements of Common Ground

Rule 8(1)(e)
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

August 2021
Deadline 3

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

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

A47 Blofield to North Burlingham
Development Consent Order 202[x]

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

Regulation Number:	Rule 8(1)(e)
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference	TR010040
Application Document Reference	8.1
BIM Document Reference	HE55190-GTY-LSI-000-RP-TX-30049
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Version	Date	Status of Version
Rev 0	July 2021	Deadline 1
Rev 1	July 2021	Deadline 2
Rev 2	August 2021	Deadline 3

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2	STRUCTURE OF STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND	2
3	LIST OF STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND.....	3
4	SUMMARY OF CURRENT POSITION	4
5	COMMONALITY	6
6	POSITION AT DEADLINE 2.....	8

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 (a “DCO”). If made the DCO would grant consent for the Applicant to undertake the A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Scheme (“the Scheme”). A detailed description of the Scheme can be found in the ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Scheme (**REP1-018**).
- 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 between SoCG at Examination Deadline 3 (03 August 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 SoCG 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 other 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 other parties it considered beneficial to do so following acceptance to Examination.
- 3.1.2 SoCG with further specific parties were also requested by the ExA through the Rule 6 letter dated 27 April 2021.
- 3.1.3 The other parties which the Applicant has prepared SoCG with are listed in Table 3-1 below. Further detail about the current position of each SoCG can be found at Chapter 4, Table 4-1 of this Statement.

Table 3-1 : List of SoCGs

Stakeholder
Local Authorities
Broadland District Council
Norfolk County Council
Prescribed Consultees
Environment Agency
Natural England
Historic England
Statutory Undertakers
Anglian Water
BT Openreach – no longer required
Cadent Gas
UK Power Networks
Virgin Media
Vodafone
Interested Parties
Blofield Parish Council
Norwich Cycling Campaign – no longer being progressed

4 SUMMARY OF CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1.1 This section provides the current position of each SoCG as at Deadline 3. 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.
 - **SoCG in draft** – 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 under preparation** – The SoCG has been drafted by the Applicant but not yet shared with the other party. Discussion is ongoing to reach agreement. The SoCG will be provided at the earliest opportunity.

Table 4-1 : SoCG high level position

Document Reference	Party	Position at Deadline 2 6 Jul 21	Position at Deadline 2 20 July 21	Position at Deadline 3 3 Aug 21	Position at Deadline 4 9 Sept 21	Position at Deadline 5 19 Oct 21	Position at Deadline 6 2 Nov 21	Position at Deadline 7 18 Nov 21	Position at Deadline 8 7 Dec 21	Position at Deadline 9 15 Dec 21	Position at Deadline 20 21 Dec 21
Local Authorities											
8.2	Broadland District Council	SoCG under preparation	SoCG in draft, with BDC	No update at Deadline 3							
8.3	Norfolk County Council	SoCG in draft and submitted at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3							
Prescribed Consultees											
8.4	Environment Agency	SoCG in draft and submitted at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3							
8.5	Natural England	SoCG in draft and submitted at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3							
8.6	Historic England	SoCG in draft and submitted at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3							
Statutory Undertakers											
8.7	Anglian Water	SoCG under preparation	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3							
8.8	BT Openreach	SoCG under preparation	SoCG not required.								
8.9	Cadent Gas	SoCG under preparation	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3							
8.10	UK Power Networks	SoCG under preparation	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3							
8.11	Virgin Media	SoCG under preparation	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3							
8.12	Vodafone	SoCG under preparation	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3							
Interested Parties											
8.13	Blofield Parish Council	SoCG under preparation	No update at Deadline 2	SoCG in draft, with BPC							
8.14	Norwich Cycling Campaign	Awaiting meeting with Norwich Cycling Campaign.	No update at Deadline 2	No longer being progressed							

5 COMMONALITY

- 5.1.1 This section of the Statement provides a summary of principal issues covered in the 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 SoCG and how these are relevant to each other party and a position for each topic as follows:

	Matter agreed
	Matter subject to further discussion
	Matter not 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 3

SoCG Ref	Party	Draft DCO	Protective Provisions	Other Consents and licenses	EMP and associated documents	Design and Engineering	Planning Policy	Landscape & Visual	Historic Environment	Biodiversity (including Arboriculture)	Traffic and Transport	Air Quality	Noise and Vibration	Road Drainage and Water Environment	Geology, Soils and Agriculture	Socio-economic and Recreation	Cumulative effects	Detrunking & Adoption	Materials Assets & Waste	Climate
8.2	Broadland District Council																			
8.3	Norfolk County Council																			
8.4	Environment Agency																			
8.5	Natural England																			
8.6	Historic England																			
8.7	Anglian Water																			
8.9	Cadent Gas Ltd																			
8.10	UK Power Networks																			
8.11	Virgin Media Ltd																			
8.12	Vodafone Ltd																			
8.13	Blofield Parish Council																			

6 POSITION AT DEADLINE 3

6.1.1 This section provides a summary of the current position at Deadline 3 between the Applicant and each party. This section provides the ExA with a summary. The individual SoCG should be referred to for the full detail on specific matters.

BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

6.1.2 The position of Broadland District Council (BDC) at Deadline 3 is currently Under Discussion.

6.1.3 Regular meetings have been held and it is understood that BDC support the scheme in principle as that it aligns with the existing and emerging development plan and that it, amongst other things, supports the economic growth.

6.1.4 BDC have confirmed their concerns are as those noted in their Relevant Representation, to which the Applicant has responded at Deadline 1 (**REP1-060**).

6.1.5 The Applicant will discuss the conformity with development plan policies, as requested in the ExA's First Written Questions (1.1.14) and provided in Appendix D of the Applicants' response (**REP1-061**).

6.1.6 The Applicant has shared the draft Statement of Common Ground on 14 July 2021 and has arranged a meeting with BDC to discuss any outstanding issues on 4 August 2021.

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

6.1.7 The position of Norfolk County Council (NCC) at Deadline 3 is currently Under Discussion.

6.1.8 The first draft of the SoCG between the Applicant and NCC was shared via email on 16 April 2021. Written feedback was received on 04 May 2021 and a second draft was shared 26 May 2021. Written feedback was then received on 30 June 2021, which notes NCC status on the issues. The Applicant will continue to engage with NCC to gain agreement on further matters.

6.1.9 NCC have confirmed their primary concerns are as those noted in their Relevant Representation, to which the Applicant has responded at Deadline 1 (**REP1-060**). The Applicant will discuss these at the next meeting with NCC on 5 August 2021 and will update the SoCG and share accordingly.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

6.1.10 The position of Environment Agency (EA) at Deadline 3 is currently Under Discussion.

6.1.11 The issues contained in the draft SoCG have all been agreed. The issues raised in their Relevant Representation have been responded to by the Applicant at Deadline 1 (**REP1-060**). In their Written Representation (**REP2-013**) the EA commented that "We have considered the Applicant's response to our Relevant Representation, in particular the proposed amendments to the draft Development Consent Order (DCO). We are satisfied that the proposed amendments will ensure that we are able to appropriately review the detail of the proposed scheme for issues within our remit".

6.1.12 The Applicant has responded to the EAs Written Representation at Deadline 3

(**TR010040/EXAM/9.14**). Any matters outstanding will be discussed with the EA for inclusion in an updated SoCG to be submitted at a subsequent Deadline.

NATURAL ENGLAND

- 6.1.13 The position of Natural England at Deadline 3 is currently Under Discussion.
- 6.1.14 The first draft of the SoCG between the Applicant and Natural England was shared on 23 April 21. The Applicant is awaiting comments from Natural England. Natural England have not submitted a Relevant Representation.

HISTORIC ENGLAND

- 6.1.15 The position of Historic England at Deadline 3 is currently Under Discussion.
- 6.1.16 The issues contained in the draft SoCG have all been agreed. The issues raised in their Relevant Representation have been responded to by the Applicant at Deadline 1 (**REP1-060**).
- 6.1.17 The Applicant has responded to Historic England's Written Representation at Deadline 3 (**TR010040/EXAM/9.14**). Any matters outstanding will be discussed with the Historic England for inclusion in an updated SoCG to be submitted at a subsequent Deadline.

ANGLIAN WATER SERVICES LTD

- 6.1.18 The position of Anglian Water at Deadline 3 is currently Under Discussion. Discussions are ongoing in respect of protective provisions. Anglian Water are considering whether a SoCG is appropriate.

OPENREACH LTD

- 6.1.19 Openreach Ltd have confirmed that the standard protective provisions included within the dDCO (**REP1-006**) provide adequate protections for their interests and therefore do not intend to take part in the examination process.

CADENT GAS LTD

- 6.1.20 The position of Cadent Gas Ltd at Deadline 3 is currently Under Discussion. Discussions are ongoing in respect of protective provisions.

Discussions have been ongoing between the Applicant and Cadent and the Applicant will shortly be submitting an application to amend the application. The proposed amendments have been requested by Cadent in order to replace some above-ground apparatus and provide access to it.

UK POWER NETWORKS (UKPN)

- 6.1.21 The Applicant will invite UKPN to enter into a SoCG, however there have been no issues raised to date. Standard protective provisions are included within the dDCO (**REP1-006**).

VIRGIN MEDIA LTD

- 6.1.22 The Applicant will invite Virgin Media Ltd to enter into a SoCG. Virgin Media have asked for bespoke protective provisions, which are currently under review.

VODAFONE LTD

- 6.1.23 The Applicant will invite Vodafone Ltd to enter into a SoCG, however there have been no issues raised to date. Standard protective provisions are included within the dDCO (**REP1-006**), which the Applicant understands Vodafone have sent to an external lawyer for review.

BLOFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

- 6.1.24 The position of Blofield Parish Council (BPC) at Deadline 3 is currently Under Discussion. Blofield Parish Council have not submitted a Relevant Representation. Discussions have been ongoing with BPC and the Applicant has shared the draft SoCG on 3 August 2021.

NORWICH CYCLING CAMPAIGN

- 6.1.25 The position of Norwich Cycling Campaign at Deadline 2 is currently Under Discussion. Norwich Cycling Campaign requested that the Applicant prepare a SoCG. The Applicant has requested a meeting and will prepare the SoCG following the meeting and confirmation of the issues.
- 6.1.26 The Applicant has responded to Norwich Cycling Campaign's Written Representation (**TR010040/EXAM/9.14**) and as no further direct contact has been made by the group the SoCG is not being progressed at this time.