

A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to Ellingham

Scheme Number: TR010059

7.6G Statement of Common Ground – Northern Powergrid

Rule 8 (1)(e)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

April 2021

Infrastructure Planning

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

**The A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to
Ellingham**

Development Consent Order 20[xx]

Statement of Common Ground – Northern Powergrid

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

- 1.1.1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) relates to an application made by Highways England (the “Applicant”) on 7 July 2020 to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Transport via the Planning Inspectorate (the “Inspectorate”) under the Planning Act 2008 (the “2008 Act”) for a Development Consent Order (DCO). The DCO was accepted for examination by the Inspectorate on 4 August 2020.
- 1.1.2. If made, the DCO would grant consent for the A1 in Northumberland, Morpeth to Ellingham (the “Scheme”). The Scheme is formed of two parts as follows: A1 Morpeth to Felton (Part A) and A1 Alnwick to Ellingham (Part B). A detailed description of the Scheme can be found in Chapter 2: The Scheme of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-037].
- 1.1.3. This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents. All documents are available on the Inspectorate website:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/North%20East/A1-in-Northumberland---Morpeth-to-Ellingham/>
- 1.1.4. 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) Northern Powergrid (NPG).
- 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 SoS. 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. NPG is the company that manage the electricity network in the North East, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire.

1.3 TERMINOLOGY

- 1.3.1. In the tables in the Issues section of this SoCG, “Not Agreed” indicates a final position, and “Under discussion” indicates 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 Chapter 3 of this SoCG are not of material interest or relevance to NPG 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 NPG.

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2 RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT

- 2.1.1. A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between Highways England and NPG in relation to the Application is outlined in Table 2-1. This table has been split to reflect discussions held on Part A, Part B and the Scheme as a whole.
- 2.1.2. This table has been split to reflect discussions held on Part A, Part B and the Scheme as a whole. This reflects the history of the Scheme. Part A and Part B were originally proposed to be the subject of separate applications for DCOs but were combined into the current single Scheme.
- 2.1.3. Engagement detailed within the separate sections for Part A and Part B relates to discussions held prior to the combination of the two parts of the Scheme in March 2020. All engagement following this date is detailed under the header for the Scheme.

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Table 2-1 - Record of Engagement for the Whole Scheme

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
30/10/2020	Letter from NPG to Highways England	<p>Key Topic Letter from NPG to register an objection to the Scheme in order to protect NPG's assets and encourage engagement. Undertaking requested.</p> <p>Key Outcome The 30/10/2020 letter was subsequently submitted to the Examining Authority by NPG on 18/02/21. Discussions as to NPG's objection to the Scheme are ongoing.</p>
22/10/2020	Emails	<p>Key Topic The Applicant's legal team first contacted NPG to discuss protective provisions.</p> <p>Key Outcome Acknowledgment received 02/02/2021, further response received 15/03/2021.</p>
24/03/2021	Emails	<p>Key Topic Initial contact received from NPG's legal representatives.</p> <p>Key Outcome Discussions as to NPG's objection to the Scheme are ongoing.</p>

Table 2-2 - Record of Engagement for Part A Only

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
28/10/2016	C3 Request Issue	<p>Key Topic Cost estimate requested</p> <p>Key Outcome To advise Part A costs</p>
28/12/2016	C3 Cost Estimate received	<p>Key Topic Cost estimate received</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>Key Outcome Part A costs advised</p>
13/09/2017	Email to NPG	<p>Key Topic Request for further cost breakdown of original C3 estimate. Advising that WSP has been appointed to Part A.</p> <p>Key Outcome NPG informed that the Applicant will be taking utility diversion and protection matters related to Part A forward.</p>
28/12/2017	NPG C2 Existing Services Update	<p>Key Topic Update of existing NPG services affected by route.</p> <p>Key Outcome Confirmation of affected apparatus being limited to Causey Park.</p>
20/04/2018	Highways England Letter	<p>Key Topic Formal notification of WSP appointment to act for Highways England.</p> <p>Key Outcome Formal notification of WSP appointment to act for Highways England.</p>
01/05/2018	Letter to NPG	<p>Key Topic and Outcome Formal request for updated C3 estimate based on agreed diversion routing.</p>
30/05/2018	Letter to NPG	<p>Key Topic and Outcome Issue of Section 85 Notice regarding the works.</p>
28/08/2018	Letter from NPG	<p>Key Topic Issue of Causey Park advance diversions quote.</p> <p>Key Outcome Cost & programme for diversion.</p>
07/09/2018	Letter from NPG	<p>Key Topic Issue of revised C3 quotation based on the programme of diversions agreed with NPG.</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>Key Outcome Provided an updated estimate based on the proposed diversion routes across Part A.</p>
25/10/2018	Causey Park Diversion Update Meeting with Highways England, NPG & NGN	<p>Key Topic Update on key items for siteworks start in Spring 2019.</p> <p>Key Outcome Agreement on items to be clarified and concluded to allow site start, including contract, programme, alignment & design.</p>
12/12/2018	Advance Utility Works Land Meeting with NG, NGN, NPG & Highways England	<p>Key Topic Discussion of outstanding items for siteworks start. NG, NGN & NPG advised of intended delay of siteworks until 2020.</p> <p>Key Outcome Agreement on items to be clarified and concluded to allow site start. Confirmation that Highways England remains committed to works despite year delay.</p>
10/09/2019	Advance utility Works Meeting with NG, NGN, NPG & Highways England	<p>Key Topic Discussion of outstanding items for siteworks start in 2020.</p> <p>Key Outcome Agreement progression on programme, contract, CDM and environmental matters.</p>
20/11/2019	Advance Utility Works Meeting with Highways England, NGN & NPG	<p>Key Topic Discussion of outstanding items for siteworks start in 2020.</p> <p>Key Outcome Agreement progression on programme, contract, CDM and environmental matters.</p>
25/03/2020	Site Meeting	<p>Key Topic Site walkover to discuss construction approach.</p> <p>Key Outcome Agreement progression on programme, contract and CDM.</p>
07/04/2020	Email from NPG	<p>Key Topic Confirmation of legal agreement to access land.</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>Key Outcome Confirmation of site start.</p>
25/03/2020	Site Meeting with NPG	<p>Key Topic Pre-commencement walkover of Causey Park advance diversion route.</p> <p>Key Outcome Agreed works programme.</p>
28/04/2020	Email to NPG	<p>Key Topic Review of ongoing works.</p> <p>Key Outcome Additional H&S measures agreed.</p>
11/06/2020	Email to NPG	<p>Key Topic Causey Park advance diversion.</p> <p>Key Outcome Confirmation that the NPG overhead line that was obstructing the National Grid diversion progress had now been removed and was no longer obstructing the diversion.</p>
04/11/2020	Email to NPG	<p>Key Topic Causey Park advance diversion.</p> <p>Key Outcome Receipt of as-built drawings.</p>

Table 2-3 - Record of Engagement for Part B Only

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
28/10/2016	C3 Request Issue	<p>Key Topic Cost estimate requested.</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>Key Outcome To advise Part B costs.</p>
30/12/2016	C3 Cost Estimate received	<p>Key Topic Cost estimate received.</p> <p>Key Outcome Part B costs advised.</p>
13/09/2017	Email to NPG	<p>Key Topic Request for further cost breakdown of original C3 estimate. Advising that WSP has been appointed to Part B.</p> <p>Key Outcome NPG informed that Highways England will be taking utility diversion and protection matters related to Part B forward.</p>
13/11/2017	Meeting	<p>Key Topic Site-wide diversion proposals.</p> <p>Key Outcome Initial discussion around 66kv diversion principles.</p>
12/03/2018	Email	<p>Key Topic 66kv cable.</p> <p>Key Outcome Request to NPG for comment on route options around existing cable.</p>
20/04/2018	Highways England Letter	<p>Key Topic Formal notification of WSP appointment to act for Highways England.</p> <p>Key Outcome Formal notification of WSP appointment to act for Highways England.</p>
26/04/2018	Email	<p>Key Topic 66kv cable.</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>Key Outcome Confirmation of H&S construction requirements applied by NPG to works around existing cable.</p>
30/05/2018	Letter to NPG	<p>Key Topic and Outcome Issue of Section 85 Notice regarding the works.</p>
20/09/2018	Meeting	<p>Key Topic Discussion on 66kv requirements and options.</p> <p>Key Outcome Confirmation of requirements around buildability and potential diversion programmes.</p>
02/11/2018	Letter to NPG	<p>Key Topic and Outcome Formal request for updated C3 estimate based on agreed diversion routing.</p>
11/12/2018	Letter from NPG	<p>Key Topic Issue of revised C3 quotation.</p> <p>Key Outcome Updated estimate based on agreed diversion routes.</p>
22/10/2019	Email	<p>Key Topic 66kv cable.</p> <p>Key Outcome Information on NPG policy and on cable failure frequency.</p>
29/11/2019	Email	<p>Key Topic 66kv cable.</p> <p>Key Outcome Construction details on cable depth etc.</p>
30/11/2020	Email	<p>Key Topic Options for temporary diversion of 66kv cable during highway construction works.</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		Key Outcome Requirement would be for 2 full cost separate diversions (including all legal requirements).

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3 ISSUES

Table 3-1 - Issues Related to the Whole Scheme

Item	Northern Powergrid	Highways England Response	Status
1.	An undertaking is sought in respect of the costs associated with the diversion of apparatus, plant and/or equipment.	The Applicant considers that NPG is sufficiently protected by the protective provisions for electricity undertakers in Part 1 of Schedule 10 to the dDCO [REP3-004 and 005] and no case has yet been made by NPG as to why any such additional undertaking is required.	Under discussion

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