

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

**Scheme Number: TR010059**

## **Statement of Common Ground – Northern Gas Networks**

AFPP Rules 2010 Rule 8 (1)(e)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

## Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning  
(Applications: Prescribed Forms  
and Procedure) Regulations 2009****The A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to  
Ellingham**

Development Consent Order 20[xx]

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**Statement of Common Ground – Northern Gas Networks**

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<b>Regulation Reference:</b>	APFP Regulation Rule 8 (1)(e)
<b>Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference:</b>	TR010059
<b>Doc Reference:</b>	7.6H
<b>Author:</b>	A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to Ellingham Project Team, Highways England

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Rev 1	July 2021	Final



## STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared and agreed by (1) Highways England Company Limited and (2) Northern Gas Networks.

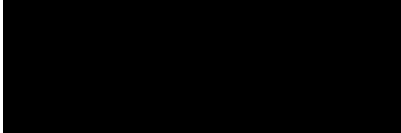
Signed 

Mark Stoneman

Project Manager

On behalf of Highways England

Date

Signed 

Richard Armstrong

In-House Solicitor

On behalf of Northern Gas Networks

# DATECONTENTS

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 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 Gas Networks (NGN).
- 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. NGN is responsible for distributing gas to homes and businesses across Yorkshire, the North East and northern Cumbria. It is one of four main gas suppliers and eight gas distribution networks in the United Kingdom.

## 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 NGN 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 NGN.

## 2 RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT

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- 2.1.1. A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between Highways England and NGN 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.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Form of Correspondence</b>	<b>Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes</b>
27/03/2020	Site Meeting with NGN	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Review of progress to date and agreement on location and depths for directional drill and proposed highway works crossing.</p> <p><b>Key Outcome</b> Agreed works to completion.</p>
24/04/2020	Site Meeting with NGN	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Review of completed works in relation to Part A.</p> <p><b>Key Outcome</b> Remedial requirements agreed.</p>
22/10/2020	Email	<p><b>Key Topic</b> The Applicant's legal team first contacted NPG to discuss protective provisions.</p> <p><b>Key Outcome</b> NGN responded by email on 28/10/2020. Discussions as to protective provisions are ongoing.</p>

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Form of Correspondence</b>	<b>Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes</b>
01/09/2017	Email to NGN	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Advising that WSP has been appointed to Part A.</p> <p><b>Key Outcome</b> NGN informed that the Applicant will be taking utility diversion and protection matters related to Part A forward.</p>
21/09/2017	Meeting	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Revision to existing C3 estimates and review of developing Part A diversion proposals.</p> <p><b>Key Outcome</b> Clarification on the route of the Morpeth to Ellingham scheme and confirmation that it is to be split into 2 parts. Initial discussion and agreement on diversion options for NGN apparatus.</p>
13/11/2017	Meeting	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Discuss and agree NGN diversion programme and tie-in requirements of other stats around Causey Park, where there are a number of diversions for the apparatus of other statutory undertakers.</p>



Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p><b>Key Outcome</b> Agreed timescales and processes to arrange Causey Park diversions.</p>
11/12/2017	C3 Request Issue	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Cost estimate requested</p> <p><b>Key Outcome</b> To advise Part A costs</p>
28/12/2017	NGN C2 Existing Services Update	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Update of existing NGN services affected by route.</p> <p><b>Key Outcome</b> Confirmation of affected apparatus being limited to Causey Park.</p>
09/01/2018	C3 Cost Estimate received	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Cost estimate received</p> <p><b>Key Outcome</b> Part A costs advised</p>
20/04/2018	Highways England Letter	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Formal notification of WSP appointment to act for Highways England.</p> <p><b>Key Outcome</b> Formal notification of WSP appointment to act for Highways England.</p>
30/04/2018	Causey Park Diversion Update Meeting with Highways England, NG & NGN	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Update on key items for siteworks start in Spring 2019.</p> <p><b>Key Outcome</b> Agreement on items to be clarified and concluded to allow site start, including contract, programme, alignment &amp; design.</p>
01/05/2018	Letter to NGN	<p><b>Key Topic and Outcome</b> Formal request for updated C3 estimate based on agreed diversion routing.</p>
30/05/2018	Letter to NGN	<p><b>Key Topic and Outcome</b> Issue of Section 85 Notice regarding the works.</p>
25/10/2018	Causey Park Diversion Update Meeting with Highways England, NPG & NGN	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Update on key items for siteworks start in Spring 2019.</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p><b>Key Outcome</b> Agreement on items to be clarified and concluded to allow site start, including contract, programme, alignment &amp; design.</p>
12/12/2018	Advance Utility Works Land Meeting with NG, NGN, NPG & Highways England	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Discussion of outstanding items for siteworks start. NG, NGN &amp; NPG advised of intended delay of siteworks until 2020.</p> <p><b>Key Outcome</b> Agreement on items to be clarified and concluded to allow site start. Confirmation that Highways England remain committed to works despite year delay.</p>
17/12/2018	Email to NGN	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Formal notice of delay of Causey Park diversions.</p> <p><b>Key Outcome</b> Delay of contracts.</p>
15/07/2019	Letter from NGN	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Issue of revised C3 quotation.</p> <p><b>Key Outcome</b> Updated estimate based on agreed diversion routes.</p>
10/09/2019	Advance utility Works Meeting with NG, NGN, NPG & Highways England	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Discussion of outstanding items for siteworks start in 2020.</p> <p><b>Key Outcome</b> Agreement progression on programme, contract, CDM and environmental matters.</p>
20/11/2019	Advance Utility Works Meeting with Highways England, NGN & NPG	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Discussion of outstanding items for siteworks start in 2020.</p> <p><b>Key Outcome</b> Agreement progression on programme, contract, CDM and environmental matters.</p>
10/12/2019	Highways England email to NGN	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Issue of PO and confirmation of payment of Causey Park advance works contract.</p> <p><b>Key Outcome</b> NGN to progress to contract.</p>
11/02/2020	Email from NGN	<p><b>Key Topic</b> Confirmation of legal agreement to access land.</p>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Form of Correspondence</b>	<b>Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes</b>
		<b>Key Outcome</b> Confirmation of site start.

### 3 ISSUES

**Table 3-1 - Issues Related to the Whole Scheme**

<b>Item</b>	<b>NGN Position</b>	<b>Highways England Response</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.	<p>We object to the planning application on the grounds that the protection given to our plant may be diminished by the works you intend to carry out.</p> <p>The Applicant is in correspondence with NGN on the content of an Asset Protection Agreement. The parties are close to agreement on the outstanding matters, but will not complete the Agreement until shortly after the close of the Examination</p>	<p>The DCO [REP005 and 006] includes protective provisions for gas undertakers in Part 1 of Schedule 10.</p> <p>The Applicant is in correspondence with NGN on the content of an Asset Protection Agreement. The parties are close to agreement on the outstanding matters, but will not complete the Agreement until shortly after the close of the Examination</p>	Under discussion

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