

A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to Ellingham

Scheme Number: TR010059

Statement of Common Ground – National Grid Gas

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]


Statement of Common Ground – National Grid Gas

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STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

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

Signed 

Mark Stoneman

Project Manager

On behalf of Highways England

Date: 6 July 2021

Signed 

Spencer Jefferies

Town Planner

On behalf of National Grid Gas

Date: 06/07/2021

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT	1
1.2	PARTIES TO THIS STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND	1
1.3	TERMINOLOGY	1
2	RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT	3
3	ISSUES	8

TABLES

Table 2-1 - Record of Engagement for the Whole Scheme	4
Table 2-2 - Record of Engagement for Part A Only	4
Table 3-1 - Issues Related to the Whole Scheme	8

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) National Grid Gas (NGG).
- 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. NGG is the company with responsibility for the transmission and supply of gas nationally, including within the North East.

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 NGG 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 NGG.

2 RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT

- 2.1.1. A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between Highways England and NGG in relation to the Application is outlined in Table 2-1.
- 2.1.2. This table has been split to reflect that discussions were held with NGG in relation to Part A only. There have been no discussions between Highways England and NGG in relation to Part B of the Scheme as there are no records of any NGG apparatus in the vicinity of Part B.
- 2.1.3. As such, engagement in relation to Part A is recorded in Table 2.2, below, whilst all engagement following combination of Part A and Part B into the Scheme in March 2020 is recorded in Table 2.1.

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

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
22/10/2020	Email	<p>Key Topic The Applicant's legal team first contacted NGG to discuss protective provisions.</p> <p>Key Outcome NGG first responded by email on 28/10/2020. Discussions as to protective provisions between the respective legal teams concluded on 2 July 2021.</p>

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

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
01/09/2017	Telephone & email to NGG advising that WSP will be acting for Highways England on the scheme going forward	<p>Key Topic Advising of change in consultant acting for Highways England.</p> <p>Key Outcome Confirmation that WSP would be attending CDC challenge & review meeting and introducing discussion on interface between NGG Feeder Main & NPG/NGN diversion routes.</p>
14/09/2017	Telephone meeting with NG & Highways England	<p>Key Topic Discussion on details of emerging CDS and detail around land use, stopples etc.</p> <p>Key Outcome Confirmation to NGG of Highways England programme intentions for advance diversions and from NGG on diversion programme matters.</p>
03/10/2017	Email issue of CDS from NGG	<p>Key Topic Issue of Conceptual Design Study by NGG.</p> <p>Key Outcome Conceptual cost estimate & drawing package.</p>
19/10/2017	Email Issue of CDS siteworks programme by NGG	<p>Key Topic Conceptual site works programme.</p> <p>Key Outcome Programme timescales and order of works.</p>
27/10/2017	NG CDS Review Meeting with NGG & Highways England	<p>Key Topic To review CDS.</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>Key Outcome Clarified understanding of CDS design and costs.</p>
13/11/2017	National Grid Diversion Update Meeting with Highways England, VOA, NGG & Jacobs	<p>Key Topic To review CDS.</p> <p>Key Outcome Updated record plans to review for conflict.</p>
28/12/2017	NGG C2 Existing Services Update	<p>Key Topic Update of existing NGG services affected by route.</p> <p>Key Outcome Confirmation of affected apparatus being limited to Causey Park.</p>
30/04/2018	National Grid Diversion Update Meeting with Highways England, NGG & 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>
19/07/2018	National Grid Diversion Update Meeting with Highways England & NGG	<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>
12/09/2018	National Grid Update Meeting with Highways England & NGG	<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 how responsibility including site set-up are to be divided between Highways England and NGG prior to contract agreement and for general update regarding land acquisitions, design etc.</p>
28/11/2018	Telecon Meeting with Highways England & NGG	<p>Key Topic Discussion of outstanding items for siteworks start in Spring 2019.</p> <p>Key Outcome Agreement on items to be clarified and concluded to allow site start. Confirmation that agreement for NPG & NGN diversions in advance of NGG site start is progressing.</p>
12/12/2018	Advance Utility Works Land Meeting with NGG, NGN, NPG & Highways England	<p>Key Topic Discussion of outstanding items for siteworks start. NGG, NGN & NPG advised of intended delay of siteworks until 2020.</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>Key Outcome Agreement on items to be clarified and concluded to allow site start. Confirmation that Highways England remain committed to works despite year delay.</p>
07/02/2019	Email issue of DDS from NGG	<p>Key Topic Issue of Detailed Design Study by NGG.</p> <p>Key Outcome Detailed cost estimate & drawing package.</p>
10/09/2019	Advance utility Works Meeting with NGG, 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>
04/05/2020	Pre-Start Site Meeting & Walkover	<p>Key Topic Pre-Start Meeting.</p> <p>Key Outcome Agreement progression on programme, contract, CDM, environmental matters and outstanding items.</p>
04/06/2020	Email to NGG	<p>Key Topic Query to NGG regarding formal appointment of archaeology contractor.</p> <p>Key Outcome Formal appointment of contractor by NGG/Rayden.</p>
14/10/2020	Site Completion Walkover with NGG, Rayden, VOA, Landowner + Agent & Brunton Knowles	<p>Key Topic Site walkover & completion review.</p> <p>Key Outcome Agreement outstanding items and on quality of completed works.</p>
27/10/2020	Email from NGG	<p>Key Topic Issue of as-built information.</p> <p>Key Outcome Closure of works.</p>
26/11/2020	Email from NGG	<p>Key Topic Issue of Final CDM Register.</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		Key Outcome Closure of works.

3 ISSUES

Table 3-1 - Issues Related to the Whole Scheme

Item	National Grid	Highways England Response	Status
1.	NGG require protective provisions to be included within the DCO to ensure that its interests are adequately protected and to ensure compliance with relevant safety standards.	The dDCO submitted at Deadline 11 of the examination includes suitable protective provisions for gas undertakers in Part 1 of Schedule 10, as amended following discussions between the Applicant and NGG.	Agreed

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