

A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme

TR010060

8.5 Statement of Common Ground with Network Rail Infrastructure Limited

Rule 8 (1)(e)

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A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme

Development Consent Order 202[]

Statement of Common Ground with Network Rail Infrastructure Limited

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P01.1	02/2023	DRAFT for Deadline 2

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared and agreed by (1) National Highways Company Limited and (2) Network Rail Infrastructure Limited.

Signed
[NAME]
Project Manager
on behalf of National Highways
Date: [DATE]
Signed
[NAME]
[POSITION]
on behalf of Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
Date: [DATE]

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground ("SoCG") has been prepared in respect of the proposed A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening Scheme ("the Application") made by National Highways Company Limited ("National Highways ") to the Secretary of State for Transport ("Secretary of State") for a Development Consent Order ("the Order") under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ("PA 2008").
- 1.1.2 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents. All documents are available in the deposit locations and/or the Planning Inspectorate website.
- 1.1.3 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) National Highways as the Applicant and (2) Network Rail Infrastructure Limited ("Network Rail").
- 1.2.2 National Highways 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 Secretary of State. The legislation establishing National Highways 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 National Highways.

1.3 Terminology

- 1.3.1 In the tables in the Issues chapter of this SoCG, "Agreed" indicates a final position, and "Under discussion" where these points will be the subject of ongoing 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 the Issues chapter of this SoCG are not of material interest or relevance to Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and therefore have not been the subject of any discussion 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 Network Rail Infrastructure Limited.

2 Record of Engagement

2.1.1 A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between National Highways and Network Rail Infrastructure Limited in relation to the Application is outlined in table 2.1

Table 2.1 Record of Engagement

Date	Form of correspondence	Key Topic discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
17 th October 2019	Letter from National Highways (NH)	Preferred Route Announcement.
12 th February 2021	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR and NH.	 BAPA Proposed Paynes Lane footbridge WCH requirements of the footbridge Clearance to OLE (Overhead Line Equipment) Clearance process for air rights above the railway during construction, maintenance and decommission. Bridge Agreement. Network Rail land boundary adjacent to the proposed northbound on-slip road Estimated constructing programme Disruptive Track Possession Requirements for Borrow Pits in the vicinity of the railway Cross sections showing the proposed ground levels, latest plan of the footbridge with realigned ramps and a high-level programme to assist with producing the BAPA
18 th June 2021	Letter from National Highways	Section 42.
5 th August 2021	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR and NH.	 Project overview Footpath 4 had been diverted around the new Network Rail electricity feeder station and expressed a preference for the Public Right of Way to be extinguished by the A12 scheme Possible increase in traffic during or after construction over Network Rail bridges or level crossings Red line boundary The Rail Head at Marks Tey to be changed to temporary land as it is leased out for receiving and loading aggregate and cannot be relocated. Level crossing

Date	Form of correspondence	Key Topic discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
16 th August 2021	Email from NR to NH.	Letter of response to section 42. Key topics discussed: Impact on Network Rail Infrastructure • Freight • Strategic Planning • Level Crossings • Asset Protection (ASPRO) • Investigation and Mitigation • Legal and Land Interests including Standard Provisions Including: • Requirement for further information and consultation • Potential Agreements • Network Rail Contacts
6 th September 2021	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR and NH.	 Requested Beaulieu Park NR information Requested NR STAT's information Discussed potentially temporarily moving NR boundary fence during north abutment construction (NR didn't seem to have an issue with this). The proposed new track alignment and 3rd line associated with the new Beaulieu Railway Station The proposed OLE layout/changes associated with the track alignment/3rd line Minimum vertical/horizontal clearances between the OLE & new footbridge Minimum horizontal offset distances from any bridge piers to the railway boundary & nearest running rail of the physical track. Realignment of the on-slip ramp Proposed Carriageway Retaining wall 'Land take' requirements – NR processes, Business/Technical Clearances Licenses, i.e., for new footbridge/airspace, temporary works, access to NR land, etc, Design submission requirements – Approval In Principle, Detailed Design, Design Check, etc Construction requirements – monitoring, daytime and/or possession working, etc Timescales
26 th November,	Microsoft Teams meeting held	Paynes Lane FootbridgePermanent oversailing

Date	Form of correspondence	Key Topic discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
10 th December 2021	between NR and NH.	 Permanent land take Retaining wall Temporary land requirements – access, compounds, hoarding lines, boundary line relocation BAPA Temporary car park location
3 meeting held between 21 st February 2022 and 23 rd March 2022	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR and NH.	 Framework Agreement CAD models/shapefiles Greater Anglia RAP (Railway Access Points) Clearances and timescale Framework Agreement Letter of Assurance Scheme overview J19 footbridge (Bridge Agreement) and retaining structure (Asset Agreement) to be separate from BAPA Potential issues at Hatfield Peverel due to stopping up on the carpark and alternative routes Cross sections BAPA Level Crossings Traffic Management Plans Fees Event of disagreement Legal proceedings Borrow Pits
5 th April 2022	Email from NH to NR.	Network Rail Costs letter
6 th April 2022	Email from NR to NH.	Requested details about the proposed Borrow Pits (depth/size, approximate distance from the railway boundary line, water extraction, whether they will be back filled, use).
6 th April 2022	Email from NH to NR.	Information about Borrow Pits provided.
3 meetings held between 6 th April	Microsoft Teams meeting held	 BAPA update - progress, legal costs, liaison with TOC and Countryside Properties plc access Greater Anglia

Date	Form of correspondence	Key Topic discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
2022 and 4 th May 2022	between NR and NH.	 Legal – costs Clearances Countryside access Drainage Beaulieu Park Station Foot crossing Right of way Viaduct for access to the retaining wall
22nd April 2022	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR, BPS and NH.	Meeting with Murphy's • Murphy's Infrastructure Overview • Traffic Management • Footbridge • DCO Programme • Murphy's programme – timeline, car park • Ditch • Land Use and Clearance • Access Road to Paynes Lane Bridge • Bridge Ramps
13 th May 2022	Letter from National Highways	Land Use Design Changes.
4 meetings held between 18 th May 2022 and 29 th June 2022	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR and NH.	 BAPA – includes proposed footbridge, slip road realignments and retaining wall. Specific agreements for the footbridge and retaining wall Asset Protection Agreement Borrow pits Greater Anglia Legal – cost letter Clearance – coordinates, plans updated to reduce land take Statement of Reasons, Cross sections Clarification of temporary land take at Marks Tey

Date	Form of correspondence	Key Topic discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
		Beaulieu station – waiting for a response from Countryside about Paynes Lane Bridge (especially northern ramps)
		Vehicle incursion around Hatfield Peverel
		Retaining structure
		APA - needs technical approval
		• 2/17i
		Viaduct
		Risk assessment
		Document Sharing Platform
9 th June 2022	Letter from National Highways	Proposed changes to the Scheme.
29 th June 2022	Email from NH to NR.	Signed BAPA agreement.
13 th July 2022	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR and NH.	 Greater Anglia Clearance update Query on purple land - National Highways to clarify rationale behind acquisition of subsoil interests. Beaulieu Station update – landing of the ramps agreed with Murphy's to go outside of Countryside's Red Line Boundary. DCO submission date to be pushed back to accommodate this change. Document Sharing platform Forecast Clarification of what agreements are required
27 th July 2022	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR and NH.	 More complex works e.g. the bridge, on-slip and retaining walls works require an agreement separate to the BAPA Clearances update and possibility of beginning the bridge agreement Beaulieu Park Station- concerns that some of National Highways works will clash with Network Rail plans (track alignment is being moved 1.5 m to the south and there is some proposed A12 land take here) Beaulieu Park Station – description of works (new station, car park, update to the railway line) Subsoil rights (purple land-2/17i)

Date	Form of correspondence	Key Topic discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
		 Footbridge and documentation to be shared via sharing platform.
		Forecast
		Statement of Common Ground
		Route for A12 maintenance access – best route would be via eastern side of car park, entered from the northern end via a gated maintenance road.
		Murphy's update
		Programme of works
		Railway re-profiling
		Footbridge
		Document sharing platform and interface
15 th and	Microsoft Teams	Land boundaries
27 th July	meeting held between NR,	 Anglian Water – as built needed for BPS
2022	BPS and NH.	DCO timelines
		• Access
		Carpark detail
		Paynes Lane footbridge
		Preferred pedestrian bridge options
		Maintenance access track
27 th July 2022	Email from NH to NR.	Confirmed that Plot 2/17f has now been removed.
29 th July 2022	Email from NH to NR.	Draft copy of DCO attached.
29 th July 2022	Email from NH to NR.	Confirmed that there is a live application with Essex Highways to close the crossing at Boreham. Noakes level crossing at 32.77 is proposed to be extinguished under TWAO powers. Requested a meeting to further understand National Highways' latest plans and to understand timescales and the impact on the level crossings along the A12 corridor.
29 th July 2022	Microsoft Teams	Confirmation of Paynes Lane Bridge Land take.
	meeting held between NR and NH.	 2/17i. Confirmed that there is a brick arch viaduct that the Boreham Brook goes under
		 Utilities mast – assumed to be located on 19/11b
		 Confirmation of works at Marks Tey Station area

Date	Form of correspondence	Key Topic discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
		CAD model to be sent through by Ardent so that NR can draft clearance plans
		Beaulieu Park Station
3 meetings		Forecast – cost breakdowns
held		Statement of Common Ground
between 10 th	Microsoft Teams	Clearance update
August 2022 and	meeting held between NR and	BAPA update
31 st	NH.	Clash
August 2022		 Confirmation of deconfliction with BPS workstream.
2022		CAD files
		Statement of Common Ground
		Clash protection
		 Levels between A12 slip and the track
		 Overlay
		Timescales
26 th	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR, BPS and NH.	Plan of tentative cross section
August		Access Road/Car Park
2022		Surface water drainage
		Maintenance rights must be added into agreement involving plot 2/15a
		Land transfers
		Design plans
2 nd September 2022	Email from NH to NR.	Countryside Zest – site developers to the north of Paynes Lane bridge are planning to transfer land for an overspill car park to Network Rail. Some of this land will be in the A12 Red Line Boundary and will be operated on a franchise basis
		 National Highways require an easement to maintain and service the bridge which may need to be through Network Rail land
		 Conversations with Beaulieu Park Station have revealed that the location of track has been heavily investigated by Network Rail and the regrading of the embankment

Date	Form of correspondence	Key Topic discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
5 th September 2022	Email from NR to NH.	Stakeholder Contacts – New Paynes Lane Footbridge and Junction 19 works document/ AMP002 form shared.
6 th September 2022	Letter from NH.	Land use design changes letter.
7 th September 2022	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR and NH.	 Land transfer from Countryside Zest to Network Rail Clearance – make sure that none of the land transfer will impact this Beaulieu Park Station – land take, how much of an effect to the land parcels of the land south of the railway Overlay Technical clearance Insurance
13 th September 2022	Email from NH to NR.	Beaulieu Park Station interface attached.
13 th September 2022	Email from NH to NR.	Car park overlay attached.
20 th September 2022	Letter from NH.	Section 56.
14 th and 21 st September 2022	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR and NH.	 Drainage Clearances update – business and technical Collaboration Space Land acquisition Beaulieu Park Station Structures – footbridge, detailed design Cost undertaking
28 th September 2022	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR, BPS and NH.	 DCO programme Clearance Bridge/ramp design Land acquisition/design Drainage Embankment

Date	Form of correspondence	Key Topic discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
3 meetings held between 7 th October 2022 and 26 th October 2022	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR and NH.	 Paynes Lane Footbridge Ownership of footbridge Clearance overview Timescales Deliverables DDA Compliance Design – steps/ramps Survey access Clearance update Asset Protection Agreement Land acquisition – Junction 19 and Marks Tey area Process Overview Bridge Agreement Embankment subsidence
14 th October 2022	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR, CZ and NH.	 District Valuer Overlay plan – overlays all interests in the area (National Highways, Network Rail and Beaulieu Park Station) Timescales for the diversion east to west route Land transfer Operational access along the fence line (Murphy's) Timescales for the footbridge
3 meetings held between 2 nd November 2022 and 16 th November 2022	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR and NH.	 Clearance Relevant Representation Bridge agreement Embankment subsidence Deed of undertaking Strategy Clearance Countryside Zest – land transfer Plans AOB
2 nd November 2022	Email from NR to NH.	Current Network Rail and National Highways Overbridge Agreement attached

Date	Form of correspondence	Key Topic discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)	
16 th November 2022	Email from NR to NH.	Table of Network Rail interests and Schedule of Works document attached.	
28 th November 2022	Email from NR to NH.	Queries raised about clearances: • 2/18d - confirmation of the rights acquired • 19/11a - confirmation of the rights acquired • 19/11b - confirmation of the rights acquired • 19/12a - confirmation of the rights acquired • 19/12b - confirmation of the rights acquired • 19/12c - confirmation of the rights acquired	
30 th December 2022	Email from NR to NH.	Asset Protection Agreement Outside Party and Third-Party Asset Protection Agreement templates attached.	
9 meetings held between 23 rd November 2022 and 25 th January 2023	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR and NH.	 DCO update Clearances – update Beaulieu Park Station – overlay, plans, clashes (2/15, NR boundary, footbridge, utilities, access) Template agreements – bridge agreements and retaining wall and earthworks, asset agreement Protective Provisions/Agreements CM/CEM agreement Timescale Drainage – existing ditch, 2/17g, 2/17n 2/1b NR land interest 	
26th January 2023	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR, NH and CZ.	 Plans/overlay Shape files Area of the car park, main area DCO and Beaulieu 'clash' - coordinated boundary Land transfer Assets and issues arising from this Red line boundary 2/15a Purple land Face to face meeting Underground search report 	

Date	Form of correspondence	Key Topic discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)	
		 Proposed works at Marks Tey and communications with Tarmac Trading 	
1 st February 2023	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR and NH.	 Clearances – including rejections NR occupier rights Filter drain Ditch and slope design Viaduct space 	
8 th and 9 th February 2023	Microsoft Teams meeting held between NR and NH	 Clearances – now reduced to 70 SoCG Filter drain 	

- 2.1.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key meetings and consultation undertaken between (1) National Highways and (2) Network Rail Infrastructure Limited in relation to the issues addressed in this SoCG.
- 2.1.3 This statement is The Applicant's draft, it is not agreed with Network Rail.

 Network Rail were only provided with the draft statement on 9th February 2023 and will comment on the draft at Deadline 3 [9th March 2023]



3 Issues

3.1 Issues agreed

Table 3.1 Issues agreed.

Ref	Issue	Doc Reference	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited Position	National Highways Position	Status	Date
1.	Utilities, including telecoms mast at Marks Tey.		Concerns over the mast location being within NR land	The mast is located on National Highways land.	Agreed	Aug-22
2.	Data sharing			Data sharing platform set up to provide up to date information to NR.	Agreed	June-22

3.2 Issues in discussion

Table 3.2 Issues is discussion.

Ref	Issue	Doc Reference	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited Position	National Highways Position	Status	Date
1.	Business Clearance		Update [11 January 2023] - One has been rejected [insert clearance no]. There have been delays due to the production of the overlay plans, in a SHP file. Countryside can comment how Beaulieu is affecting the NR.	Countryside Zest [developer of area to the east of new Beaulieu Park Railway Station] have provided the overlays to NR on 21st November 2022 On 11th January 2023, Network Rail confirmed that	Under discussion	Feb-23



Ref	Issue	Doc Reference	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited Position	National Highways Position	Status	Date
			217G/ii has business clearance 2/17g ii, not yet technical clearance. Plot 2/17m (iii) approval for business clearance.	there are now 164 Clearances to approve. NH requested a clearance status confirmation schedule on 11 th January 2023 in order to resource and assist NR in working through the clearances. As requested, NH resent the Shapefile to NR on 19 th January 2023. NH have reviewed outstanding clearance parcels and believe some can be removed from the Book of Reference.		
2.	Technical Clearance		Awaiting business clearance	Discussions on Technical Clearance have commenced. 19/01/23 NR are organising an internal meeting with Kenneth Dinah (Technical Clearance Manager) to expedite process.	Under discussion	Feb-23
3.	Framework Agreement		NR provided their template draft Framework Agreement.	National Highways is reviewing the draft Agreement.	Under discussion	Feb-23



Ref	Issue	Doc Reference	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited Position	National Highways Position	Status	Date
4.	Network Rail Documents –		NR provided a template Overbridge Agreement.	National Highways are reviewing the template.	Under discussion	Feb-23
	Overbridge Agreement or Asset Protection Agreement/ – review the RR and talk about PPs					
5.	Protective Provisions		NR has requested that their Standard Protected Provisions for inclusion within DCOs.	National Highways agrees in principle to the inclusion of protective provisions in the DCO and the parties are currently discussing a few technical points.	Under discussion	Feb-23
6.	Maintenance road to Paynes Lane Bridge. Located on Countryside Zest land, to be transferred to Network Rail		The access being proposed by NH for maintenance is not a permanent access track.	National Highways is in discussion with NR and Countryside Zest.	Under discussion	Feb-23
7.	Transfer of Countryside Land to NR. Clash at bottom right of NR operational		Land is within the order limits that is required for Beaulieu Park Station.	To be worked through in Detailed Design and agreed with Network Rail. NH will agree to having a right to build and maintain the pedestrian bridge. The	Under discussion	Feb-23



Ref	Issue	Doc Reference	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited Position	National Highways Position	Status	Date
	overspill car park (plot 2/15a)			perceived clash appears to be down to the thickness of the Red Line Boundary.		
8.	Level Crossing removal – Generals Lane (located to the north of 2/7c)		NR ASPRO team have no issues with it being removed but await operational approval.	Application has commenced with NR Easements and Wayleaves team.	Under discussion	Feb-23
9.	Drainage design for A12 scheme interaction with NR embankment		NR embankment cannot be affected by the NH drainage proposals.	Design to be developed during the detailed design stage with consideration for NR asset risks.	Under discussion	Feb-23
10.	Interaction with proposed new Beaulieu Park Station		NR are waiting on Beaulieu Park ASPRO team to provide information to inform NH's design.	Design to be developed during the detailed design stage with consideration for NR asset risks. Dialogue ongoing with BPS.	Under discussion	Feb-23



Acronyms

Abbreviation	Term	
AOB	Any Other Business	
APA	Asset Protection Agreement	
ASPRO	Asset Protection	
BAPA	Basic Asset Protection Agreement	
BPS	Beaulieu Park Station	
CAD	Computer Aided Design	
CZ	Countryside Zest	
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act	
DCO	Development Consent Order	
NH	National Highways	
NR	Network Rail	
OLE	Overhead Line Equipment	
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground	
TOC	Train Operating Companies	
WBD	Womble Bond Dickinson	



Glossary

Term	Definition	
Business Clearance	Part of Network Rail's internal (non-statutory) clearance process which is required before land or rights can be disposed of and is a business requirement before the disposal can be signed off under the terms of their Network Licence.	
Technical Clearance	Part of Network Rail's internal (non-statutory) clearance process which is required before land or rights can be disposed of and is a business requirement before the disposal can be signed off under the terms of their Network Licence	





References





Appendix

- A.1 Appendix A
- A.1.1 Clearance list provided by NR on 15.12.22
- A.2 Appendix B
- A.2.1 Meeting minutes





For each of those areas that are in dispute, it would be beneficial if each party would put their estimation as to the likelihood that disagreement will remain by the end of the **Annex F**

F2 Examination. This should be done on a 'Low', 'Medium' and 'High' traffic light model. This will allow the ExA to assess those areas where oral discussions may be most beneficial.

Low		
Medium		
High		

Issue/ Matters under discussion	RAG Status Estimation National Highways	RAG Status Estimation Network Rail (NR)
Business Clearance		
Technical Clearance		
Framework Agreement		
Network Rail Documents – Overbridge Agreement or Asset Protection Agreement/ – review the RR and talk about PPs		
Protective Provisions		
Maintenance road to Paynes Lane Bridge. Located on Countryside Zest land, to be transferred to Network Rail		
Transfer of Countryside Land to NR. Clash at bottom right of NR operational overspill car park (plot 2/15a)		
Level Crossing removal – Generals Lane (located to the north of 2/7c)		





Drainage design for A12 scheme interaction with NR embankment	
Interaction with proposed new Beaulieu Park Station	

