

AIPUT notes that their land rights over plots 6/733, 6/734, 6/736, 6/737, 6/740 are now listed within the Land Rights Tracker Version 3 (Document Ref. 8.3 [REP5-033]). The Land Rights Tracker v3 contains the following update from GAL on the status of negotiations with AIPUT:

“Deadline 5 (6th June 2024) update:

The Applicant is in discussions with AIPUT and their appointed representatives, and a number of meetings have taken place. The last meeting was undertaken on the 19th April 2024. The Applicant has issued detailed Heads of terms to AIPUT and discussions are progressing. The Applicant has also provided a number of responses to representations made by AIPUT throughout the examination process. The Applicant has recently sent further comments to AIPUT for consideration, following feedback from AIPUT and requests for commitments regarding their property. The Applicant is awaiting feedback from AIPUT and will continue to work with them to address their comments with a view to concluding a voluntary agreement.”

Whilst AIPUT acknowledges that there has been some progress with GAL in discussions on a potential agreement, AIPUT remains concerned that progress has been slower than anticipated. The status update provided by GAL in the Land Rights Tracker, as set out above, does not give an accurate reflection of the position. The last meeting between AIPUT and GAL’s representatives took place on 19 April 2024. At that meeting GAL committed to send AIPUT a revised draft of the Heads of Terms that are being negotiated. This is still awaited by AIPUT.

The Examining Authority will be aware that AIPUT has previously raised concerns about the lack of engagement from GAL in relation to the impacts of the project on AIPUT’s land interests at the site known as Viking House and questioning the justification for GAL’s proposals to permanently acquire part of its land and a large number of rights that benefit AIPUT’s land and are important to the ongoing operations of the site (see AIPUT’s written representation [REP1-165] and Deadline 4 submissions [REP4-084]). AIPUT wishes to reach a satisfactory agreement with GAL to resolve the issues that it has raised, but is concerned that continued lack of progress in negotiations may lead to it having to incur additional costs in the DCO examination process. If more substantial progress is not made in negotiating the agreement in the coming weeks, then AIPUT may have no option but to make further detailed submissions at Deadline 7 which seek to protect its interests directly through the DCO and to request a compulsory acquisition hearing in the week commencing 27 July 2024. AIPUT reserves its right to do so at this stage.