



# MetroWest+

## Portishead Branch Line (MetroWest Phase 1)

TR040011

Applicant: North Somerset District Council

9.2 ExA.SoCG1.D0.V1 Progress update on Statements of Common Ground

Author: North Somerset District Council

Version: 1

Date: October 2020



**DOCUMENT CONTROL**

**Document Properties**

**Author** North Somerset District Council

**Document Reference** 9.2 ExA.SoCG1.D0.V1

**VERSION HISTORY**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description/changes</b>
25/09/2020	-	Draft	-
02/10/2020	1	PINS submission	-

# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1 Purpose**

- 1.1.1 This document has been prepared to provide an update on the position of Statements of Common Ground (**SoCG**) between North Somerset District Council (**the Applicant**) and statutory consultees in relation to the Portishead Branch Line (MetroWest Phase 1) (**the Scheme**).
- 1.1.2 Where necessary the Applicant will continue to work with relevant parties and review any matters that are still subject to further discussion during the Pre-Examination and Examination stages.
- 1.1.3 This document will be updated further at relevant Examination deadlines where appropriate and where progress has been made.

# **2. Statements of Common Ground**

## **2.1 Structure of SoCGs**

- 2.1.1 Each SoCG has adopted a consistent and standardised format (to the extent this has been possible whilst accommodating the input of the different third parties) to provide clarity to other parties and ultimately the Examining Authority (**ExA**).
- 2.1.2 Each SoCG is broadly based on the following structure:
  - a) Introduction to the SoCG and a description of its purpose;
  - b) Scheme overview;
  - c) Matters of interest to the third party in the Scheme;
  - d) Overview of engagement;
  - e) Relevant representations (if made);
  - f) Setting out of the topics that have arisen and whether they have been agreed, remain subject to negotiation, or are not yet agreed; and
  - g) A sign-off sheet.
- 2.1.3 Additional appendices have been added to SoCGs where relevant to provide further information and context for the matters described in the respective documents.

## **2.2 Summary of current position**

- 2.2.1 Table 1 lists the parties with whom SoCGs are being pursued, the nature of engagement to date with each party, the progress made, and an anticipated timescale for finalising the SoCG.

**Table 1 Current position of Statements of Common Ground**

<b>Party</b>	<b>Type of engagement</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Anticipated timescales for completion</b>
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	Consulted as a statutory stakeholder at all stages, and issues discussed through email and meetings.  Relevant Representation received.	The SoCG has been drafted and issued to Avon and Somerset Constabulary in September 2020 for comment. Based on past engagements, there are no areas of disagreement.	By Deadline 1 appears feasible.
Bristol City Council	Engagement held at all stages of the scheme's development, with regular meetings, briefings, and emails exchanged.  Relevant Representation received.	The majority of the SoCG has been agreed. The Applicant is finalising the remaining matters following receipt of the outstanding Bristol City Council Officer comments.	By Deadline 1 appears feasible .
The Bristol Port Company Limited <b>(BPC)</b>	Engagement held at all stages of the scheme's development, with regular meetings, briefings, and emails exchanged.  Relevant Representation received.	Since a letter of 2 <sup>nd</sup> September from the Applicant to BPC, engagement between the two parties has improved. The SoCG is in development by the Applicant and will be shared with BPC shortly.	Unlikely to be ready before Deadline 2.
Bristol Water PLC	Engagement held at all stages of the scheme's development, with regular meetings, briefings, and emails exchanged.	The Applicant has been in dialogue with Bristol Water PLC in respect of a proposed Protective Agreement. A draft agreement is in circulation. A	Unlikely to be ready before Deadline 2.

Party	Type of engagement	Progress	Anticipated timescales for completion
		SoCG is being drafted to share with Bristol Water PLC shortly.	
Environment Agency (EA)	Engagement held at all stages of the scheme's development, with regular meetings, briefings, and emails exchanged.  Relevant Representation received.	The draft SoCG was issued to the EA on 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2020 and has been followed up by both parties via email. The EA requires time to review the SoCG and associated documents issued by the Applicant to the EA post-DCO application.	Unlikely to be ready before Deadline 2.
Forestry England (formerly Forestry Commission)	Engagement held at all stages of the scheme's development, with regular meetings, briefings, and emails exchanged.	Heads of Terms for an option agreement regarding interests in land are in the process of being agreed. This is expected to be signed shortly. A SoCG is in development by the Applicant and will be shared with Forestry England shortly.	Unlikely to be ready before Deadline 2.
Highways England	Engagement held at all stages of the scheme's development, with regular meetings, briefings, and emails exchanged.  Relevant Representation received.	A draft SoCG has been issued to Highways England, with comments expected shortly. A relatively small number of matters remain outstanding.	Unlikely to be ready before Deadline 2.
Historic England	Consulted as a statutory stakeholder at all stages, and	Historic England confirmed by email of 30 <sup>th</sup> September that the final	By Deadline 1 appears feasible.

Party	Type of engagement	Progress	Anticipated timescales for completion
	issues discussed through email and meetings.	outstanding issue in the draft SoCG was agreed, subject to senior level approval. It is expected the SoCG will be finalised shortly.	
National Trust	Engagement held at all stages of the scheme's development, with regular meetings, briefings, and emails exchanged.  Relevant Representation received.	A number of matters remain outstanding which continue to be discussed through meetings and email. A SoCG is in development by the Applicant and will be shared with National Trust shortly.	Unlikely to be ready before Deadline 2.
Natural England	Engagement held at all stages of the scheme's development, with regular meetings, briefings, and emails exchanged.  Relevant Representation received.	The majority of the SoCG has been agreed, with amendments made to the various environmental documents following feedback received to address any issues raised. The Applicant is finalising the remaining outstanding matters.	By Deadline 1 appears feasible.
Network Rail (NR)	Initial draft being prepared.	As this SoCG was not envisaged as being required work to draft the document has only just commenced. The Applicant sees the benefit of this SoCG as a comprehensive summary of the agreed position between NR and the Applicant. Given the likely volume	Unlikely to be ready before Deadline 2

<b>Party</b>	<b>Type of engagement</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Anticipated timescales for completion</b>
		of points to be covered the document will take a little time to prepare.	
National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC ( <b>NGET</b> )	Engagement held at all stages of the scheme's development, with regular meetings, briefings, and emails exchanged.  Relevant Representation received.	A draft SoCG has been issued to NGET and emails and meetings have been held to reach agreement on a number of outstanding issues.	Unlikely to be ready before Deadline 2.
National Grid Gas PLC	None.	The Applicant has suggested to the ExA that this SoCG is not needed. The interests of National Grid Gas PLC scheduled in the Book of Reference are historic and the Applicant believes now benefit Wales & West Utilities Limited.	Pending ExA's confirmation no SoCG required.
North Somerset Council	Engagement held at all stages of the scheme's development, with regular meetings, briefings, and emails exchanged.  Relevant Representation received.	The majority of the SoCG has been agreed. The Applicant is finalising the remaining outstanding matters.	By Deadline 1 appears feasible.
North Somerset Levels Internal Drainage Board ( <b>NSLIDB</b> )	Engagement held at all stages of the scheme's development, with regular meetings, briefings, and emails exchanged.  Relevant Representation received.	Remaining outstanding queries being finalised by the Applicant, ready to be issued to NSLIDB.	By Deadline 1 appears feasible.

<b>Party</b>	<b>Type of engagement</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Anticipated timescales for completion</b>
Openreach Limited	Engagement held at all stages of the scheme's development, with regular meetings, briefings, and emails exchanged.	SoCG has been signed by Openreach and the Applicant. Awaiting Network Rail to sign.	By Deadline 1 appears feasible.
Pill and Easton-In-Gordano Parish Council	Engagement held at all stages of the scheme's development, with regular meetings, briefings, and emails exchanged.  Relevant Representation received.	SoCG is being drafted to be shared with the parish council shortly.	Unlikely to be ready before Deadline 2.
Somerset County Council	Consulted as a statutory stakeholder but no issues raised.  Relevant Representation received	SoCG drafted and is with Somerset County Council for their review.	By Deadline 1 appears feasible.
Wessex Water Limited	Engagement held at all stages of the scheme's development, with regular meetings, briefings, and emails exchanged.	The Applicant has approached Wessex Water Limited to ascertain its requirements for a Protective Agreement. There is no draft in circulation at this time. A SoCG will also be drafted to share with Wessex Water Limited shortly.	Unlikely to be ready before Deadline 2.
The Woodland Trust	Relevant Representation received.	The Applicant has written to The Woodland Trust stating a SoCG with Natural England is substantially agreed and that SoCG addresses the concerns	Unlikely to be ready before Deadline 2.



Party	Type of engagement	Progress	Anticipated timescales for completion
		<p>raised in The Woodland Trust's Relevant Representation. On this basis the Applicant has asked The Woodland Trust whether it requires a SoCG.</p>	