



MetroWest+

Portishead Branch Line (MetroWest Phase 1)

Planning Inspectorate Reference: TR040011

Applicant: North Somerset District Council

DCO Document Reference: 9.7 ExA.SoC.D1.V1

Statement of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground

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Version history			
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1. LIST OF TABLES

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2. ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

2008 Act	Planning Act 2008
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
ExA	Examining Authority
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground

In the text, "DCO Document Reference" refers to the DCO document reference number as shown on the documents on the Portishead Branch Line (MetroWest Phase 1) [project page on the PINS website](#).

In cases where a document appears twice and there are two Document reference numbers, (for example, the AGVMP which appears twice as standalone document reference number 8.12 and as ES Appendix 9.11, document 6.25), we have used the DCO Document Reference for the standalone document.

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1 Scheme Overview

- 3.1.1 The Applicant has applied to the Planning Inspectorate ("PINS") for a DCO to construct the Portishead Branch Line under the Planning Act 2008 ("Application"). The Application was made on 15 November 2019 under reference TR040011 and was accepted for examination on 12 December 2019.
- 3.1.2 The DCO Scheme will provide an hourly (or hourly plus) railway service between Portishead and Bristol Temple Meads Railway Station, with stops at Portishead, Pill, Parson Street and Bedminster.
- 3.1.3 The DCO Scheme comprises the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ("NSIP") as defined by the Planning Act 2008 ("the 2008 Act") to construct a new railway 5.4 kilometres long between Portishead and the village of Pill, and associated works including a new station and car park at Portishead, a refurbished station and new car park at Pill and various works along the existing operational railway line between Pill and Ashton Junction where the DCO Scheme will join the existing railway. Ashton Junction is located close to the railway junction with the Bristol to Exeter Mainline at Parson Street.¹

3.2 Purpose of the Statement of Commonality

- 3.2.1 This document provides the Examining Authority ("ExA") with an overview of the position of each Statement of Common Ground ("SoCG") between the Applicant and the various parties in relation to the MetroWest Portishead Branch Line DCO at Deadline 1.

¹ Please refer to Schedule 1 of the DCO (DCO Document Reference 3.1) for more detail.

3.2.2 The Statement of Commonality is provided at the request of the ExA which sets out the Applicant's understanding of the current progress of negotiations and the areas of commonality across the SoCGs.

3.2.3 The Applicant will continue to work with interested parties to review any matters that remain unresolved as the Examination progresses.

3.3 Structure

3.3.1 This report is structured as follows:

- (i) Section 4 outlines the coherent structure of the SoCGs.
- (ii) Section 3 sets out the status of each SoCG.
- (iii) Section 4 sets out the matters agreed, the matters not agreed and the matters subject to further discussions. The matters subject to further discussions have also been summarised in section 4.2.

3.4 Deadline 1 status of Statements of Common Ground

3.4.1 Table 1 provides a summary of the current position of negotiations of SoCGs at Deadline 1. The status of negotiations is categorised as follows:

- (i) **Agreed and signed** – all matters are agreed between the parties and the interested party has signed the SoCG;
- (ii) **Agreed but not yet signed** – all matters are agreed between the parties but the interested party has not yet signed the SoCG;
- (iii) **Largely agreed but not yet signed** – the SoCG has been significantly progressed but matters remain outstanding. The Applicant will also undertake a review of the issues covered in the SoCG following the ExA's first written questions;
- (iv) **Applicant's latest draft not yet agreed** – a draft SoCG is in circulation between the parties but matters remain outstanding and the latest draft by the Applicant is yet to receive comments/ approval from the interested party. The

draft submitted at Deadline 1 is, the Applicant believes, an accurate reflection of the current position between the parties;

- (v) **SoCG not yet in circulation** – notification of the ExA's request for a SoCG with this party was received in the Rule 6 letter. The Applicant had either not anticipated entering into a SoCG with this party, or the Applicant had been prioritising agreement on specific matters before determining if a SoCG was required. The SoCG will be progressed through the course of the Examination.

Table 1 – Position of Statements of Common Ground at Deadline 1

Document Reference	Party	Position at Deadline 1	Position at Deadline 3	Position at Deadline 5	Position at Deadline 6	Position at Deadline 7
Local authorities						
9.3.2 ExA.SoCG- BCC.D1.V1	Bristol City Council Local Planning Authority	Largely agreed but not yet signed				
9.3.1 ExA.SoCG- NSC.D1.V1	North Somerset District Council Local Planning Authority	Largely agreed but not yet signed				
9.3.9 ExA.SoCG- SCC.D1.V1	Somerset County Council	Agreed and signed				
Statutory consultees						
9.3.3 ExA.SoCG- EA.D1.V1	Environment Agency	Applicant's latest draft not yet agreed				
9.3.4 ExA.SoCG- HECL.D1.V1	Highways England	Agreed and signed				

Document Reference	Party	Position at Deadline 1	Position at Deadline 3	Position at Deadline 5	Position at Deadline 6	Position at Deadline 7
9.3.5 ExA.SoCG- HE.D1.V1	Historic England	Agreed and signed				
9.3.6 ExA.SoCG- NE.D1.V1	Natural England	Largely agreed but not yet signed				
9.3.7 ExA.SoCG- NSLIDB.D1.V1	North Somerset Levels Internal Drainage Board	Largely agreed but not yet signed				
9.3.11 ExA.SoCG- ASP.D1.V1	Avon & Somerset Constabulary	Agreed but not yet signed				
-	National Trust	SoCG not yet in circulation				
-	Forestry England (formerly Forestry Commission)	SoCG not yet in circulation				
Statutory undertakers						

Document Reference	Party	Position at Deadline 1	Position at Deadline 3	Position at Deadline 5	Position at Deadline 6	Position at Deadline 7
9.3.8 ExA.SoCG- NGET.D1.V1	National Grid (NGET)	Largely agreed but not yet signed				
9.3.12 ExA.SoCG- BPC.D1.V1	Bristol Port Company	Applicant's latest draft not yet agreed				
9.3.10 ExA.SoCG- OL.D1.V1	Openreach Limited	Agreed but not yet signed				
9.3.12 ExA.SoCG- WW.D1.V1	Wessex Water Limited	Applicant's latest draft not yet agreed				
-	Bristol Water PLC	SoCG not yet in circulation				
-	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited	SoCG not yet in circulation				
-	Western Power Distribution	SoCG not yet in circulation				
Interested parties						

Document Reference	Party	Position at Deadline 1	Position at Deadline 3	Position at Deadline 5	Position at Deadline 6	Position at Deadline 7
-	Woodland Trust	SoCG not yet in circulation				

4. COMMONALITY

4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 This section of the report provides a summary of the principal topics covered in the SoCGs and evidences the areas of commonality with various parties at Deadline 1.
- 4.1.2 The summary in Table 2 outlines the topics covered in the SoCGs and how these are relevant to each party, with the position for each topic presented as follows:

	Matter agreed
	Matter subject to further discussions
	Matter not relevant/not covered by the SoCG

Document Reference Number	Party	Topics															Impacts on statutory undertakers/bodies		
		Air quality	Biodiversity, Ecology and the Natural Environment	Climate change	Construction impacts (inc. CEMP and CTMP)	Cultural heritage	Design and engineering	Draft DCO	EIA and ES	Water environmental effects	Noise, vibration and light	Planning policy	Public rights of way and cycle routes	Socio-economic effects	Traffic and transport	Contamination (land/water)		Other consents and licences	Landscape
9.3.11 ExA.SoCG-ASP.D1.V1	Avon & Somerset Constabulary																		
9.3.8 ExA.SoCG-NGET.D1.V1	National Grid (NGET)																		
9.3.12 ExA.SoCG-BPC.D1.V1	Bristol Port Company																		
9.3.10 ExA.SoCG-OL.D1.V1	Openreach Limited																		
9.3.12 ExA.SoCG-WW.D1.V1	Wessex Water Limited																		
-	National Trust																		
-	Forestry England																		
-	Bristol Water PLC																		
-	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited																		
-	Western Power Distribution																		
-	Woodland Trust																		

5. UPDATES TO STATEMENT OF COMMONALITY

- 5.1 This version of the Statement of Commonality submitted at Deadline 1 addresses broad themes based around both the Principal Issues identified in the examination and topics which have emerged through dialogue with the interested parties.
- 5.2 The Applicant's intention is to update this Statement of Commonality as SoCGs are commenced with interested parties not yet engaged in respect of a SoCG. This may present additional high level issues/topics to report.
- 5.3 In addition to the broad issues/topics of commonality, by Deadline 3 the Applicant expects to be able to narrow down the outstanding issues with a number of parties. At this point it is proposed that each issue/topic is explored with a range of issue-specific tables.