

BT-NG-020621-545-0204

Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Volume 8: Examination Submissions

**Document 8.3.6.3: Draft Statement of Common Ground TC East Anglia
ONE OFTO Limited**

**Final Issue A
September 2023**

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020002

**The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010
Regulation 8(1)(e)**

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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is a written statement produced as part of the application for development consent and is prepared jointly between the applicant and another party. It sets out matters of agreement between both parties, as well as matters where there is not an agreement. It also details matters that are under discussion.
- 1.1.2 The aim of a SoCG is to help the Examining Authority manage the examination phase of the application. Understanding the status of the matters at hand will allow the Examining Authority to focus their questioning, and provide greater predictability for all participants in examination. A SoCG may be submitted prior to the start of or during examination, and then updated as necessary or as requested during the examination phase.
- 1.1.3 This SoCG is between National Grid (the Applicant) and TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited and relates to the application for development consent for the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement ('the project'). This SoCG has been prepared in accordance with the guidance for the examination of applications for development consent for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) (Planning Act 2008) published by the Department of Communities and Local Government (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2015).
- 1.1.4 This SoCG has been prepared to identify matters agreed and matters currently outstanding between National Grid and TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited in respect to the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement and the East Anglia One project only. The SoCG will evolve as the application progresses through examination.
- 1.1.5 The subject of this SoCG was previously contained as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) submission in the Draft Statement of Common Ground TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited and East Anglia Three Limited [APP-174], as ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) owned both projects. However, the transmission assets of the East Anglia One Windfarm were subsequently transferred to TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited, who are now the Transmission Licence holder for these assets.
- 1.1.6 Since the divestment of East Anglia One from SPR, National Grid has been engaging with the new licence holder and as such, this SoCG relates to TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited only. Meanwhile, the East Anglia Three project remains wholly owned by SPR and a separate SoCG has been progressed with them. Both the separate/standalone SoCG are provided at Examination Deadline 1 and supersedes the version submitted in April 2023 at application stage (Draft Statement of Common Ground TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited and East Anglia Three Limited [APP-174]).

1.2 Description of the Project

- 1.2.1 This document supports National Grid's application for an order granting development consent to reinforce the transmission network between the existing Bramford Substation in Suffolk, and Twinstead Tee in Essex. This would be achieved by the construction and operation of a new electricity transmission line over a distance of approximately 29km. The project meets the threshold as a NSIP, as defined under Part 3 of the Planning Act 2008, hence National Grid requires a DCO.

- 1.2.2 The reinforcement would comprise approximately 18km of overhead line (consisting of approximately 50 new pylons, and conductors) and 11km of underground cable system (with associated joint bays and above ground link pillars).
- 1.2.3 Four cable sealing end (CSE) compounds would be required to facilitate the transition between the overhead and underground cable technology. The CSE would be within a fenced compound, and contain electrical equipment, support structures, control building and a permanent access track.
- 1.2.4 Approximately 27km of existing overhead line and associated pylons would be removed as part of the proposals (25km of existing 132kV overhead line between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee, and 2km of the existing 400kV overhead line to the south of Twinstead Tee). To facilitate the overhead line removal, a new grid supply point (GSP) substation is required at Butler's Wood, east of Wickham St Paul, in Essex. The GSP substation would include associated works, including replacement pylons, a single circuit sealing end compound and underground cables to tie the substation into the existing 400kV and 132kV networks.
- 1.2.5 Some aspects of the project, such as the underground cable sections and the GSP substation, constitute 'associated development' under the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.2.6 Other ancillary activities would be required to facilitate construction and operation of the project, including (but not limited to):
- Modifications to, and realignment of sections of existing overhead lines, including pylons;
 - Temporary land to facilitate construction activities including temporary amendments to the public highway, public rights of way, working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, welfare, storage and access;
 - Temporary infrastructure to facilitate construction activities such as amendments to the highway, pylons and overhead line diversions, scaffolding to safeguard existing crossings and watercourse crossings;
 - Diversion of third-party assets and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint; and
 - Land required for mitigation, compensation and enhancement of the environment as a result of the environmental assessment process, and National Grid's commitments to Biodiversity Net Gain.

1.3 Project Programme

- 1.3.1 It is assumed that the GSP substation and the associated works would take approximately 18 months to construct and this would take place in advance of the development consent being granted. The main overhead line/underground cable works are proposed to commence in mid-2024, starting with first site access and compound set up and then be completed in mid-2028. Reinstatement and landscape planting would then take place until mid-2029.

1.4 This Statement of Common Ground

- 1.4.1 For the purpose of this SoCG, National Grid and TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited will jointly be referred to as the 'Parties'. When referencing to TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited alone, they will be referred to as 'the Consultee'.
- 1.4.2 Throughout the SoCG:
- Where a section begins 'Matters Agreed', this sets out matters that have been agreed between the Parties and where there is no dispute.
 - Where a section begins 'Matters Not Agreed', this sets out matters that are not agreed between the Parties and where a difference of opinion remains.
 - Where a section begins 'Matters Under Discussion', this sets out matters that are subject to further negotiation between the Parties.
- 1.4.3 This SoCG is structured as follows:
- Section 1 provides an introduction to this SoCG and a description of its purpose.
 - Section 2 states the role of the Consultee in the DCO application process and details engagement undertaken between the Parties.
 - Section 3 sets out matters agreed between the Parties.
 - Section 4 sets out matters not agreed between the Parties.
 - Section 5 sets out matters where agreement is currently outstanding between the Parties.
 - Section 6 includes the signing off sheet.
- 1.4.4 It should be noted that this SoCG does not seek to agree the acceptability of the Consultee's development(s), but it will set out an approach as to how the Consultee's development(s) will be managed in the context of the project and the powers granted by the DCO, in respect to the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement and the East Anglia One project only.

2. Record of Engagement

2.1 Role of the Consultee in the Process

- 2.1.1 East Anglia Offshore Wind Limited was originally a joint venture owned equally by SPR (UK) Limited and Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd. East Anglia Offshore Wind Limited has a Zone Development Agreement with The Crown Estate to develop approximately 7.2 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind projects off the coast of East Anglia. East Anglia Offshore Wind has renamed this Zone the East Anglia Zone.
- 2.1.2 However, the transmission assets of the East Anglia One Windfarm have been transferred to TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited, and TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited is now the Transmission Licence holder for these assets. Since the divestment of East Anglia One from SPR, National Grid has been engaging with the new licence holder company, 'Transmission Investment'. Transmission Investment and Amber are joint venture partners for Transmission Capital (TC) and as such own and manage over a third of the Offshore Transmission assets in the UK, now including East Anglia One. As such, the recipient of the original SoCG (SPR) has now changed to 'TC East Anglia One OFTO'.

2.2 East Anglia One

- 2.2.1 The first project developed in the East Anglia Zone was the East Anglia One project which comprised the development of an offshore wind farm consisting of up to 325 wind turbine generators and associated infrastructure, located 43km from the Suffolk Coast. The East Anglia One project includes an onshore substation adjacent to the existing substation at Bramford, to connect the offshore windfarm to the National Grid. A plan showing East Anglia One's Order Limits within the proximity of Bramford Substation is contained at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2.2 In respect to the East Anglia One project, the high-level project timeline is summarised as follows:
- An application for development consent was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in November 2012.
 - Consent was granted by the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Energy and Climate Change in June 2014.
 - A non-material change request was subsequently submitted in 2015 and a further non-material change request was submitted in 2021.
 - From September 2019 power from the turbines began flowing to the onshore substation near Bramford.
 - East Anglia One is now fully operational, with the capacity to produce 714MW of energy.

2.3 Project Interface

- 2.3.1 The project would contain and/or involve development works that relate to the removal/installation of overhead lines on/or in close proximity to elements of the

Consultee's existing developments at Bramford near Bramford Substation. Of particular importance, the Consultee has implemented a substation (pursuant to East Anglia One), including associated landscaping, to the north of the existing National Grid substation in Bramford.

- 2.3.2 Meanwhile, the project would involve works at the existing National Grid substation at Bramford. There are proposed works at Bramford Substation, including the installation of new shunt reactors to maintain the electrical operating parameters of the 400kV network and gantry structures to connect the overhead line into the substation. This work would take place within the boundaries of National Grid's operational land.
- 2.3.3 The proposed 400kV overhead line would tie into the existing substation on the western boundary. This would require the realignment of the existing 400kV overhead line and a new angle pylon, near Hill Farm to connect into Bramford Substation. The existing 400kV overhead line to the northeast of Hill Farm would be removed (comprising three pylons and the intervening spans of conductors).
- 2.3.4 The following list provides details of the proposed development works, that would be required pursuant to the project and as detailed on Sheet 1 General Arrangement Plan (see **Appendix 2**), which may interface with the Consultee's development in this location:
- The removal of a short section of the existing 400kV overhead line including two pylons 4YL002 and 4YL003;
 - Realignment of the existing 400kV line (removal of the section of line extending north-west from the substation (green line) and replacement of line extending to the south-west (grey line);
 - Moving the existing 400kV overhead line (downleads and conductors) from the northern gantry;
 - Constructing the two 400kV overhead lines to both come into the two western gantries;
 - Switchgear; and
 - Shunt reactors on the southern line (one for each circuit, needed due to the underground cable section down the line).
- 2.3.5 Following SPR's feedback to the Statutory Consultation in respect to the interface with East Anglia One and East Anglia Three, a number of changes to the proposals around Bramford Substation to reduce the impact on SPR's landscape planting southwest of the East Anglia One Substation were implemented:
- Rerouted construction access track;
 - Construction compound moved to adjacent field to the south and away from the SUDs pond; and
 - Minimised the Order Limits to allow more space for SPR's mitigation planting.
- 2.3.6 The technical interface between the respective projects is currently being determined during on-going discussions. The interface chiefly comprises the removal of three spans of overhead line; the existing SuDs pond and it being a potential receptor for run off during demolition and construction; the proposed accesses including the access from Bullen Lane and East Anglia Three's access to the SuDs pond; works within the substation itself and the cable routes from the substation (East Anglia One) and converter station (East Anglia Three).

- 2.3.7 The Order Limits for the project fall within an area of landscape planting south-west of the East Anglia One Substation where the removal of a short section of the existing 400kV overhead line including two pylons 4YL002 and 4YL003 is proposed. This landscape planting was implemented as part of the East Anglia One Order Requirements to mitigate landscape and visual impacts of the Substation. An interface plan showing the overlap of the Parties' projects is contained at **Appendix 3**. Meanwhile, the approved East Anglia One landscaping proposals are contained at **Appendix 4**.

2.4 Summary of Pre-Application Discussions

- 2.4.1 Table 2.1 summarises the consultation and engagement that has taken place between the Parties prior to submission of the application.

Table 2.1 – Pre-application discussions

| Date | Subject | Discussion Points |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 21 March 2022 | Written response to Statutory Consultation | The Consultee (SPR) responded to National Grid's Statutory Consultation in the capacity of both East Anglia One and East Anglia Three. The Consultee drew a distinction between East Anglia One & Three, identified their land interests and advised that the project (as proposed at the time) was likely to impact on the Consultee's existing planting implemented as part of East Anglia One's Order Requirements to mitigate landscape and visual impacts associated with the Converter Station. In addition, the Consultee requested that matters in respect to cumulative effects between the projects were fully considered in any cumulative effects assessment, including traffic and transport, landscape, ecology, water resources and noise. See written response at Appendix 5 . |
| 14 April 2022 | Consultee's Statutory Consultation feedback | Meeting between National Grid and the Consultee (SPR), focussed on the Consultee's Statutory Consultation feedback, particularly in respect to the implications of the Consultee's existing landscaping, SUDS pond, access, and cumulative effects. Issues discussed included whether a proposed construction compound to the south-west of the Consultee's converter station can be moved, and access routes rationalised. |
| 20 June 2022 | Introductions | Follow-up email from the National Grid Consents Officer to initiate further discussions of the relative projects with a view of progressing a SoCG with the Consultee (SPR). |
| 10 August 2022 | Project interface | Virtual meeting with the Consultee's Consents Compliance Managers (SPR) and to follow up on introductory emails and discuss the relative projects with a view of progressing a SoCG. |
| 23 August 2022 | landscaping Discharge of Requirements, email from the Consultee | A follow up email from the meeting held on 10 August 2022, providing National Grid to a link in respect to the landscaping Discharge of Requirements in respect to East Anglia Three for the area around Bramford Substation. |
| 29 September 2022 | Landscape planting and the Targeted Consultation, email to the Consultee | Following the Consultee's (SPR) feedback at Statutory Consultation, it was reported to the Consultee's Consents Compliance Managers that a number of changes to the proposals around Bramford Substation had been implemented to reduce the impact on the Consultee's landscape planting southwest of the East Anglia One's Substation. It was also advised that the targeted consultation was open for responses. |

| Date | Subject | Discussion Points |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 10 October 2022 | Consultee's written response to Targeted Consultation | The Consultee (SPR) responded to National Grid's Targeted Consultation advising that they were pleased to see a number of changes implemented following the Statutory Consultation. In addition, the Consultee requested that matters in respect to cumulative effects between the projects were fully considered in any cumulative effects assessment, including traffic and transport, landscape, ecology, water resources and noise. The Consultee also encouraged on-going discussions to inform any SoCG. See response contained at Appendix 6 . |
| 18 January 2023 | Email from SPR's Head of Development to National Grid's Consents Office | Email from SPR's Head Of Development advising that the Transmission Assets of the East Anglia One Windfarm have been transferred to TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited. As of this date TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited is the Transmission Licence holder for these assets. |
| 20 January 2023 | Draft SoCG | Email to Consultee (SPR) with the Draft SoCG attached to initiate further discussions. |
| 24 April 2023 | Introductory meeting with Transmission Investment's Consent Officer | Since the divestment of East Anglia One from SPR, National Grid has engaged with Transmission Investment. Transmission Investment and Amber are joint venture partners for Transmission Capital (TC) and as such own and manage over a third of the Offshore Transmission assets in the UK, now including East Anglia One. |

2.5 Summary of Post-Submission Discussions

2.5.1 Table 2.2 summarises the consultation and engagement that has taken place between the Parties post submission of the application.

Table 2.2 – Post-submission discussions

| Date | Topic | Discussion Points |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 6 June 2023 | Notification Relevant Representation | of National Grid wrote to the Consultee to inform them that the application for development consent had been accepted and that relevant representations could be submitted. |
| 17 July 2023 | Draft SoCG | Email to Consultee (SPR) with the Draft SoCG attached to initiate further discussions. |
| 18 August 2023 | Follow up email | No response from the Consultee |
| 8 September 2023 | Follow up email | No response from the Consultee |

3. Matters Agreed

3.1.1 The Parties agree the following:

- i. Pursuant to section 6A(5) of the Electricity Act 1989, the Consultee benefits from an electricity supply licence under section 6(1)(d) of the Electricity Act 1989.
- ii. The Consultee acknowledges the project description for the project as set out in Section 1.2 of this SoCG.
- iii. The Consultee has no objection to the principle of the project.
- iv. The Parties can see no reason why the project and the East Anglia One project cannot be implemented without conflict with one another.
- v. The Parties agree to continue discussing landscape mitigation in the areas of land in which both Parties have an interest (located within the vicinity of all that land that may be required for the project and falls within the Order Limits for the project). Meanwhile, if any of the Consultee's existing landscape planting is removed by the project, it would need to be replaced and further discussions would also be required on the subsequent maintenance of any replacement planting over a ten-year period.
- vi. The Consultee agrees to provide a diagram and list of all their apparatus (existing or proposed) that is in the vicinity of the project and the Consultee agrees that it has identified and listed those parts of its network apparatus (existing or proposed) that are located within the vicinity of all that land that may be required for all the development works required under the terms of the project.

4. Matters Not Agreed

Table 4.1 – Matters not agreed

| SoCG ID | Matter | The Consultee Position | National Grid Position |
|---------|--------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

5. Matters Under Discussion

Table 5.1 – Matters under discussion

| SoCG ID | Matter | The Consultee Position | National Grid Position |
|---------|--------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

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6. Approvals

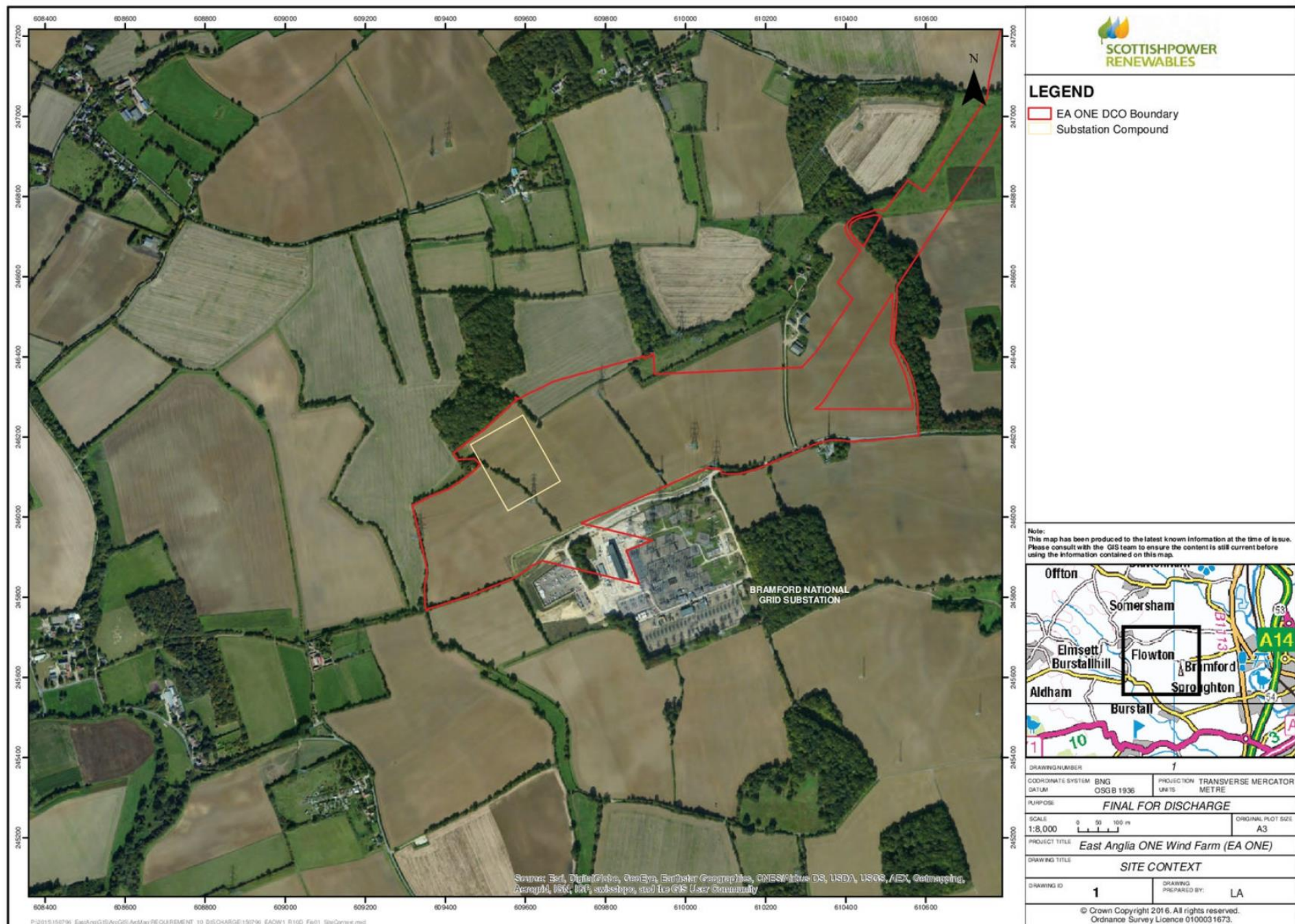
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| Name | |
| Position | |
| Date | |

Reference List

Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) *Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent*. March 2015 (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2015)

Appendix 1: The Consultee's Order Limits near Bramford Substation



Appendix 2: The Project's Order Limits near Bramford Substation (Sheet 1, General Arrangement Plan)

For consultation purposes only

NATIONAL GRID (BRAMFORD TO TWINSTEAD REINFORCEMENT) ORDER
GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLANS
REGULATION 5(2)(i)
SHEET 1 OF 30

A1/ACC/21847/001

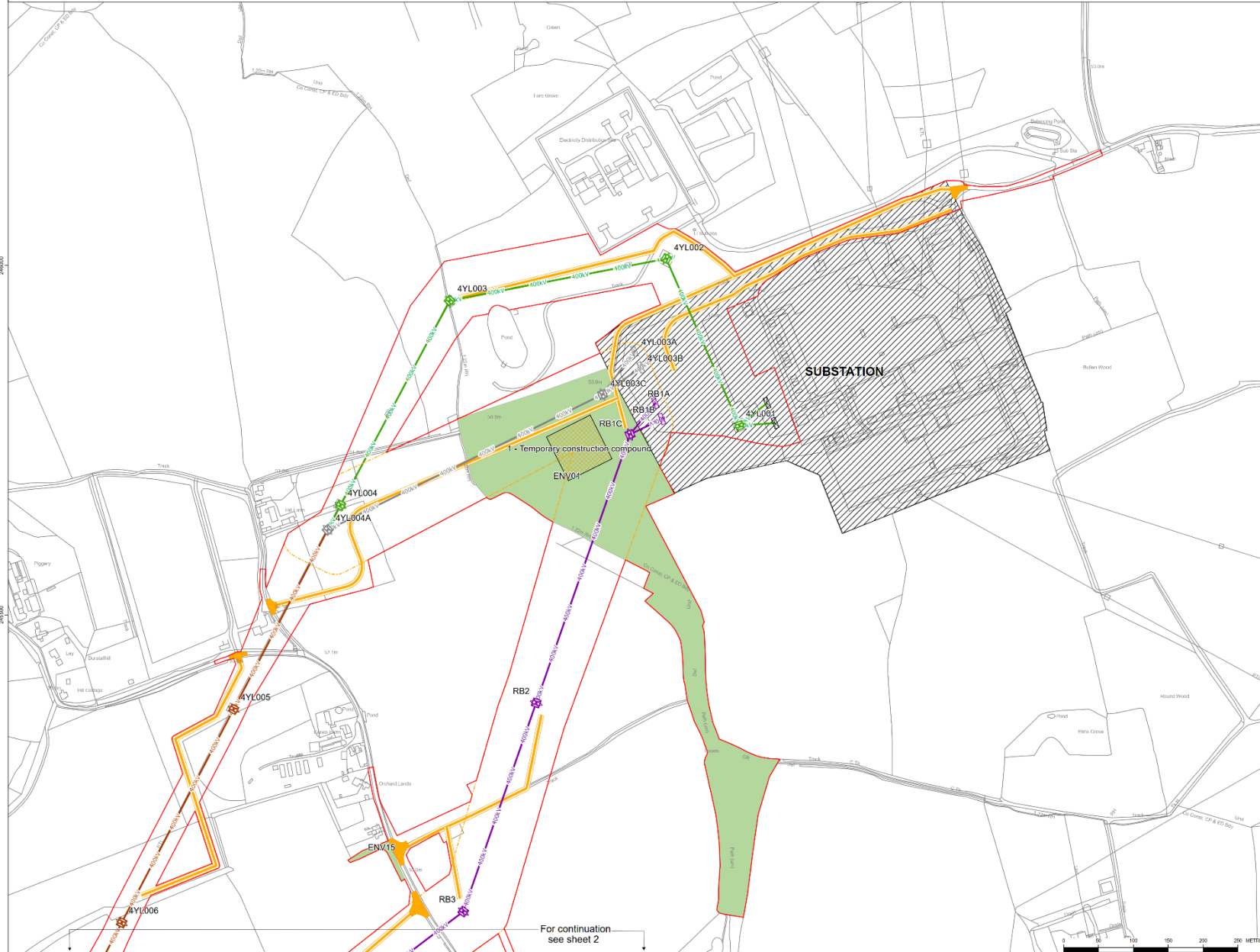
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Legend

- Draft order limit
- Limit of deviation
- ✱ Proposed pylon (not to scale)
- ✱ Proposed gantry (not to scale)
- ✱ Proposed pylon modification works (not to scale)
- ✱ Proposed pylon realignment (not to scale)
- ✱ Proposed pylon removal (not to scale)
- ✱ Existing gantry (not to scale)
- ✱ Proposed gantry realignment (not to scale)
- Proposed 400kV overhead line
- Proposed modification to 400kV overhead line
- Proposed realignment of existing 400kV overhead line
- Proposed removal of 400kV overhead line
- Bellmouth
- Temporary access route
- Temporary construction compound
- Existing substation
- Environmental area

For Consultation Purposes Only. These Plans show the Draft Order Limits and Draft Alignment and potential pylon locations. Due to the need for future flexibility, National Grid will be applying for Limits of Deviation within its Development Consent Order, within which any final alignment (including pylon locations) would lie. Therefore the Draft Alignment and pylon locations should be treated as indicative only.

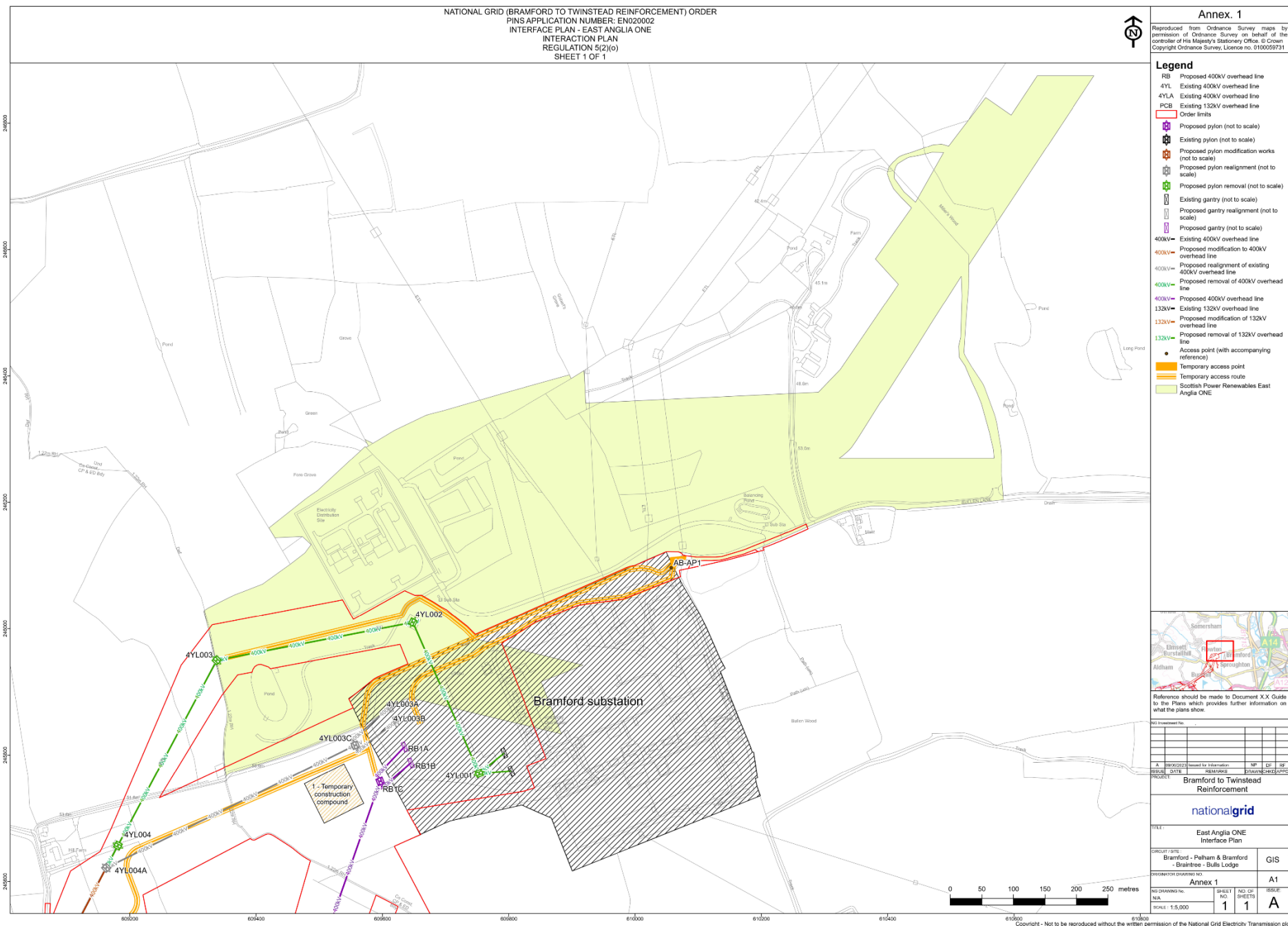
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|--|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| STATUS | A | NUMBER | |
| DESIGN | LD | | |
| DESIGN 1 | | | |
| DESIGN 2 | | | |
| DATE | | | |
| DATE | 25/08/22 | NG Investment No. | 21847 |
| PROJECT | Bramford to Twinstead | | |
| nationalgrid | | | |
| Document 5 | | | |
| General Arrangement Plans | | | |
| FILE: | | | |
| CIRCUIT / SHEET | | | GIS |
| Bramford - Pelham & Bramford - Braintree - Bulls Lodge | | | |
| COORDINATOR (DRAWING NO.) | | | A1 |
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| NG DRAWING NO. | | SHEET NO. | NO. OF SHEETS |
| W1-AN-000031-100-0014-01 | | 1 | 30 |
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Appendix 3: East Anglia One and Bramford to Twinstead Interface



Appendix 4: East Anglia One Approved Landscaping Proposals

Appendix 5: The Consultee's Response to Statutory Consultation



21st March 2022

To whom it may concern,

Response to the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement January 2022 consultation

This letter sets out jointly ScottishPower (UK) Limited's (SPR), East Anglia One Limited's (EAOL) and East Anglia Three Limited's (EATL) comments on the National Grid proposal to reinforce the electricity transmission network between the National Grid Bramford Substation and Twinstead Tee.

EAOL own and operate the East Anglia ONE offshore wind farm (EA1). EAOL is a joint venture between SPR and Bilbao Offshore Holding Limited (which is part of the Green Investment Group). EATL is wholly owned by SPR and is in the process of discharging Development Consent Order Requirements for the East Anglia THREE offshore wind farm (EA3). EA1 and EA3 are both Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects for which development consent was granted, respectively, on 16 June 2014 pursuant to the East Anglia ONE Offshore Wind Farm Order 2014 (EA1 Order) and on 7 August 2017 pursuant to the East Anglia THREE Offshore Wind Farm Order 2017 (EA3 Order). The EA1 Order grants consent for electricity generation with an installed capacity of up to 750MW and the EA3 Order grants consent for electricity generation with an installed capacity of up to 1,400MW.

EAOL and EATL are statutory undertakers for the purposes of their respective projects and by virtue of Article 31 of the EA1 Order and Article 30 of the EA3 Order, the land within their Order Limits should be treated as operational land required in connection with their statutory undertaking. Proposed works in Section AB - Bramford Substation to Hintlesham - are located within the Order Limits of the onshore connection works for EA1 and EA3, namely the proposed removal of existing 400kV pylons and replacement with a new 400kV pylon at Bramford Substation. As such, EAOL and EATL have a significant interest as statutory undertakers whose operational land is affected.

SPR owns land adjacent to Bramford substation and is the grantee under deeds of grant of easement along the EA1 and EA3 onshore export cable corridor.

EAOL is also a tenant under a lease of part of the land owned by SPR adjacent to the Bramford substation and is entitled, as tenant, to exercise certain of the rights granted to SPR under deeds of grant of easement along the EA1 export cable corridor.

SPR, EAOL and EATL recognise the importance of the proposed reinforcement works, however it is imperative that the works do not compromise the construction and operation of EA3 or the operation of EA1, both of which will deliver substantial renewable energy benefits towards meeting the national need for renewable energy identified in the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3). There are a number of concerns for National Grid to consider, as described below.

Works within EA1 and EA3 Order limits

The proposed removal of two 400kV pylons and the construction of a new 400kV pylon at Bramford Substation, are within the EA1 and EA3 Order Limits, on land owned by SPR and also

on land leased to EAOL. It is imperative that the reinforcement works around Bramford Substation are designed to ensure there is no impact on any land required by EAOL or EATL to mitigate impacts of or operate the EA1 and EA3 projects. Access to the EA1 and EA3 substations by SPR, EAOL and EATL must also be maintained at all times during both the construction and operational phases of the proposed works.

Specifically, the proposed works at Bramford Substation will impact on landscape planting south-west of the EA1 Substation, which was implemented as part of the EA1 Order Requirements to mitigate landscape and visual impacts. Any landscape planting removed would need to be replaced and further discussions would also be required on the subsequent maintenance of any replacement planting over a ten-year period.

Similarly, the two temporary access tracks required for the removal of the two 400kV pylons would also require the removal of EA1 landscape planting. It is recommended these access tracks are rationalised and combined to reduce the impact on landscape planting.

Further consideration must also be given to the proposed location of the temporary construction compound south-west of the EA1 Substation. The location proposed would sever the existing access track, impacting on the EA1 access to the SuDS pond. The proposed location in proximity to the pond also creates a risk of additional run-off from the construction compound, risking increased siltation of the SuDS pond.

Proposed planting

In initial discussions with SPR, National Grid have explored potential opportunities to provide landscape planting as part of their own net gain requirements along the existing power line route, following the removal of the pylons near to the EA1 Substation. Further discussions would be required if this proposal were to be taken forward, particularly regarding types of planting proposed, details of who would undertake landscaping, land agreements to allow access and planting to take place, and what provision for the ongoing maintenance and replanting of any failed landscaping over an extended period would be made.

Additionally, further consideration is needed to ensure that any additional planting, replacement planting and/or loss of existing planting does not undermine the EA1/EA3 Landscape Master Plan requirements contained within the respective Orders and landscape management strategies. The loss of any planting resulting in a greater visibility of the respective EA1 and EA3 substations would not be acceptable in the first instance and will require coordination of an overall landscape master plan for all three schemes in cooperation with the appropriate Local Planning Authority. The requirement for any variation or consents as part of these works resulting for EA1/EA3 would be the responsibility of National Grid in consultation with EA1 and EA3 respectively.

Cumulative effects

Given the requirement to assess cumulative effects in paragraph 5(e) of Schedule 4 to the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, we trust that a full cumulative environmental assessment with both the EA1 and EA3 projects will be undertaken but we would comment particularly on EA3 for reasons set out below.

As the proposed works are likely to coincide with the construction phase of EA3, we believe the following topics require consideration, some of which are already noted in the preliminary cumulative assessment in the PEIR:

- **Traffic and transport:** Cumulative impacts from construction traffic associated with the proposed works and the EA3 Converter Station and cable route should be assessed. Additionally, the impact on Public Rights of Way (PRoW) amenity along the bridleway at Bullen Lane, which coincides with the vehicular access along Bullen Lane, should be considered.
- **Landscape, ecology and water resources:** As noted above, there is the potential for cumulative impacts in relation to landscape, water resources and ecology. This is associated with the impacts on existing landscape planting around the EA1 and EA3 substations and on the SuDS pond. This could have subsequent impacts on local fauna, including Great Crested Newts in the SuDS pond.
- **Noise:** The potential noise impacts from concurrent construction activities should be considered in the assessment and mitigated accordingly. It should be noted that piling activities are expected at the EA3 Converter Station. Information on the number, type and timing of these works will become available in Quarter 3 of 2023.

SPR, EAOL and EATL recognise the importance of the proposed works and the contribution both projects have in meeting the national need for renewable energy. We are keen to continue working with National Grid to address the concerns raised in this letter, as well as supporting National Grid's identification of enhancement opportunities around the Bramford Substation.

SPR are committed to Mid Suffolk District Council's strategic cumulative group in the Bramford area and are happy to provide appropriate information on the EA1 and EA3 sites as required. It is requested that National Grid continues to liaise with us through your existing contact at ScottishPower Renewables, Philip Rew-Williamson (prew-williamson@scottishpower.com). Please do not hesitate to contact us for further discussion or information requests.

Yours Sincerely,

**Gareth
Mills**

Digitally signed
by Gareth Mills
Date: 2022.03.21
14:49:20 Z

Gareth Mills
EA Hub Onshore Project Manager,
UK Offshore Development, ScottishPower Renewables

Appendix 6: The Consultee's Response to Targeted Consultation



10 October 2022

Return address:

Terence Epo

East Anglia Three Limited c/o ScottishPower
Renewables
320 St Vincent Street

Glasgow

G2 5AD

To whom it may concern,

Response to the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement September 2022 Targeted Consultation

This letter sets out East Anglia Three Limited's (EATL) comments on the updated National Grid proposal to reinforce the electricity transmission network between the National Grid Bramford Substation and Twinstead Tee.

EATL is wholly owned by ScottishPower Renewables and is in the process of discharging requirements for the East Anglia THREE offshore wind farm (EA3). EA3 is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project for which development consent was granted on 7 August 2017 pursuant to the East Anglia THREE Offshore Wind Farm Order 2017 (EA3 Order)..

By virtue of Article 30 of the EA3 Order, EATL is a statutory undertaker for the purposes of this project and the land within the Order Limits should be treated as operational land required in connection with its statutory undertaking. Proposed works in Section AB - Bramford Substation to Hintlesham - is located within the Order Limit of the onshore connection works for EA3, namely the proposed removal of existing 400kV pylons and replacement with a new 400kV pylon at Bramford Substation. As such, EATL have a significant interest as statutory undertaker whose operational land is affected.

EATL recognise the importance of the proposed reinforcement works, however it is imperative that the works do not compromise the construction and operation of EA3 which will deliver substantial renewable energy benefits towards meeting the national need for renewable energy identified in the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3).

Following on from our initial letter in response to the consultation in January 2022, alongside meetings between SPR and National Grid, the changes to the design at Bramford have been reviewed and it is appreciated that a number of our previous comments have been taken into consideration. Any outstanding comments are described below.

Works within EA3 Order limits

The proposed removal of two 400kV pylons and the construction of a new 400kV pylon at Bramford Substation, are within the EA3 Order Limits, on land owned by ScottishPower

EAST ANGLIA THREE LIMITED Offshore Windfarm, 3rd Floor, 1 Tudor Street, London EC4Y 0AH

Renewables. It is imperative that the reinforcement works around Bramford Substation are designed to ensure there is no impact on any EA3 land required to mitigate or operate the EA3 project. Access to the EA3 substation by EATL must also be maintained at all times during both the construction and operational phases of the proposed works.

Additionally, consideration is needed to ensure that any additional planting does not undermine the EA3 Landscape Master Plan requirements contained within the DCO and landscape management strategies. The requirement for any variation or consents as part of these works resulting for EA3 would be the responsibility of National Grid in consultation with EA3.

Cumulative effects

Given the requirement to assess cumulative effects in paragraph 5(e) of Schedule 4 to the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, we trust that a full cumulative environmental assessment with the EA3 project will be undertaken. As the proposed works are likely to coincide with the construction phase of EA3, we believe the following topics require consideration, some of which are already noted in the preliminary cumulative assessment in the PEIR:

- **Traffic and transport:** Cumulative impacts from construction traffic associated with the proposed works and the EA3 Converter Station and cable route should be assessed. Additionally, the impact on Public Rights of Way (PRoW) amenity along the bridleway at Bullen Lane, which coincides with the vehicular access along Bullen Lane, should be considered.
- **Landscape, ecology and water resources:** There is the potential for cumulative impacts in relation to landscape, water resources and ecology. This is associated with the potential for impacts on existing landscape planting around the EA3 substations and on the SuDS pond due to the proximity of the works. This could have subsequent impacts on local fauna, including Great Crested Newts in the SuDS pond.
- **Noise:** The potential noise impacts from concurrent construction activities should be considered in the assessment and mitigated accordingly. It should be noted that piling activities are expected at the EA3 Converter Station. Information on the number, type and timing of these works will become available in Q3 of 2023.

SPR recognises the importance of the proposed works and the contribution both projects have in meeting the national need for renewable energy. We are keen to continue working with National Grid and welcome further meetings to discuss the issues noted above and any other items, including if National Grid would still like to arrange a Statement of Common Ground following these design updates.

SPR are committed to Mid Suffolk District Council's strategic cumulative group in the Bramford area and are happy to provide appropriate information on the EA3 site as required. It is requested that National Grid liaise with us through Terence Epo, (tepo@scottishpower.com). Please do not hesitate to contact us for further discussion or information requests.

Yours Sincerely,





Terence Epo

Project Manager, Consent Compliance,
UK Offshore Development, ScottishPower Renewables

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152
nationalgrid.com