

BT-NG-020621-545-0200

Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Volume 8: Examination Submissions

Document 8.3.1: Deadline 1 Cover Letter

Final Issue A
September 2023

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020002

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

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The Secretary of State
c/o The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2, The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

For the attention of: Andrew Mahon (Lead Member of the Examining Authority)
(c/o Jake Stephens (Case Manager))

25 September 2023

By email to: bramfordtotwinstead@planninginspectorate.gov.uk and by file transfer

Our Reference: Document 8.3.1

Your Reference: EN020002

Dear Mr Mahon,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (National Grid) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Deadline 1 Cover Letter

This cover letter has been prepared by National Grid (the Applicant) to accompany the Applicant's submissions to the Examining Authority (ExA) at Deadline 1 (25 September 2023) of the Examination of the proposed Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement.

These submissions are made in accordance with the Examination Timetable set out at Annex A of the Rule 8 Letter dated 19 September 2023 [PD-003].

Overview of Deadline 1 Submissions

Submissions made at Deadline 1 comprise the Applicant's response to actions and requests arising from the Preliminary Meeting and Open Floor and Issue Specific Hearings held during the week commencing 11 September 2023; as well as other documents or updated documents either requested by the ExA or which the Applicant wishes to be submitted as part of the Examination.

The table below lists the documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 1.

Document Reference	Document Title	Revision
Volume 1		
1.4 (B)	Navigation Document (clean)	B
1.4 (B)	Navigation Document (tracked)	B
Volume 2		
2.3 (B)	Land Plans	B
Volume 4		
4.3 (B)	Book of Reference (clean)	B
4.3 (B)	Book of Reference (tracked)	B

Document Reference	Document Title	Revision
Volume 5		
5.3 (B)	Habitats Regulation Assessment Report (clean)	B
5.3 (B)	Habitats Regulation Assessment Report (tracked)	B
5.6 (B)	Water Framework Directive Assessment (clean)	B
5.6 (B)	Water Framework Directive Assessment (tracked)	B
5.10 (B)	Arboricultural Impact Assessment (clean)	B
5.10 (B)	Arboricultural Impact Assessment (tracked)	B
Volume 7		
7.3 (B)	Status of Statements of Common Ground (clean)	B
7.3 (B)	Status of Statements of Common Ground (tracked)	B
7.3.1 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Local Authorities (clean)	B
7.3.1 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Local Authorities (tracked)	B
7.3.5 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground East Suffolk Water Management Board (clean)	B
7.3.5 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground East Suffolk Water Management Board (tracked)	B
7.3.8 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Anglian Water (clean)	B
7.3.8 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Anglian Water (tracked)	B
Volume 8		
8.3.1	Deadline 1 Cover Letter	A
8.3.2.1	Applicant's Written Summaries of Oral Submissions to Preliminary Meeting	A
8.3.2.2	Applicant's Written Summaries of Oral Submissions to Issue Specific Hearing 1	A
8.3.3	Applicant's Comments on Relevant Representations	A
8.3.4	Applicant's Draft Itinerary for an Accompanied Site Inspection	A
8.3.5	Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference	A
8.3.6.1	Draft Statement of Common Ground Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	A
8.3.6.2	Draft Statement of Common Ground Cadent Gas Limited	A
8.3.6.3	Draft Statement of Common Ground TC East Anglia ONE OFTO Limited	A
8.3.6.4	Draft Statement of Common Ground East Anglia Three Limited	A
8.3.7	Dedham Vale AONB Special Qualities and Statutory Purpose	A
8.3.8	Identified Setting of Dedham Vale AONB with Project Viewpoints	A

Document Reference	Document Title	Revision
8.3.9	Applicant's Response to Issue Specific Hearing 1 Action Points	A
8.3.10	Legal Note on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Points Raised at Preliminary Meeting	A
8.3.11	Ecological Survey of the Temporary Access Route off the A131	A
8.3.12	Extant Grid Supply Point Substation Consents	A

All updated documents are labelled as Revision (B) and supersede the documents previously submitted by the Applicant.

Each of these updated documents includes a Version History table following the front cover which outlines the amendments that have been made by the Applicant since the previous version was submitted. Where applicable these documents are provided in clean and tracked versions as requested in the Rule 6 Letter **[PD-002]**.

The Navigation Document (**Document 1.4 (B)**) has been updated to reflect the above submissions.

Environmental Documents

The Applicant considers that the submission of the following environmental documents will assist the ExA during the Examination:

- **Document 5.3(B)** Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Report – the Applicant has updated the HRA Report based on the feedback in Natural England's Relevant Representation **[RR-042]** in particular around the clarity of good practice measure GH07 in the report;
- **Document 5.6(B)** Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment – the Applicant has updated the WFD Assessment based on the feedback in the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation **[RR-031]** in relation to the clarity of no effects on the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan;
- **Document 8.3.7** Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Special Qualities and Statutory Purpose – The Applicant has produced this report to provide further information relating to the assessment presented in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual **[APP-074]** regarding the effects on individual special qualities of the Dedham Vale AONB;
- **Document 8.3.8** Identified Setting of Dedham Vale AONB and Project Viewpoints – the Applicant has produced this document in response to a request from Natural England in its Relevant Representation **[RR-042]** for a plan showing the project viewpoints overlying the identified setting of the AONB as described in Environmental Statement Appendix 6.2 Annex A **[APP-099]**; and
- **Document 8.3.11** Ecological Survey of the Temporary Access Route off the A131 – this note is submitted as part of the documents requested by the ExA at the Preliminary Meeting to clarify the adequacy of the Applicant's Environmental Statement.

Compulsory Acquisition Documents

As requested in the Rule 8 Letter **[PD-003]** the Applicant has submitted an updated version of the Book of Reference (**Document 4.3 (B)**) and an accompanying Schedule of Changes (**Document 8.3.5**).

These updates take account of additional and/or changes to interests in land identified since the Book of Reference **[APP-042]** was prepared to support the application. This includes interests identified in Relevant Representations where confirmed.

In addition, updated Land Plans (**Document 2.3 (B)**) are also submitted.

The Land Plans have been updated by the Applicant to reflect the fact that Class 5 rights (compulsory acquisition of rights for biodiversity net gain (BNG)) are no longer sought in respect of certain plots. This reflects the Applicant's discussions with landowners and refinement of its BNG proposals.

The Applicant has also undertaken a further exercise to review the rights and powers sought to ensure that the minimum land necessary is subject to powers of compulsory acquisition and/or temporary possession. This has resulted in some small plots (minor slithers) of land where such rights and/or powers are no longer sought. The plots are therefore shown as Class 8 (land that is not subject to powers of acquisition) on the Land Plans. Equivalent changes have also been made to the updated Book of Reference referenced above.

Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

As requested in both the Rule 6 Letter [**PD-002**] and the Rule 8 Letter [**PD-003**] the Applicant has submitted a series of updated and additional SoCG as listed above. The Applicant has also submitted an updated version of the Status of Statements of Common Ground (**Document 7.3 (B)**) reflecting progress as at Deadline 1.

The SoCG listed below have not progressed sufficiently to be updated or submitted at Deadline 1. The Applicant will therefore continue engaging with the relevant Interested Parties and proposes to submit the following SoCG at the next appropriate deadline:

- Natural England [**APP-169**];
- Environment Agency [**APP-170**];
- Historic England;
- Network Rail;
- Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Partnership;
- National Highways [**APP-171**]; and
- UK Power Networks [**APP-173**].

Oral Summaries

The Applicant has prepared a summary of the oral submissions made by the Applicant at the Preliminary Meeting held on 12 September 2023 (**Document 8.3.2.1**) and at Issue Specific Hearing 1 held on 14 September 2023 (**Document 8.3.2.2**).

The Applicant has not submitted a summary of oral representations made by the Applicant at the Open Floor Hearing 2 held on 13 September 2023 as no points of substance were made.

Hearing Action Points

The action points noted by the Applicant at the Preliminary Meeting are covered by the following:

- Applicant's Response to Preliminary Meeting Action on the Temporary Access Route (**Document 8.2.2**; submitted on 15 September 2023);
- Legal Note on EIA Points Raised at Preliminary Hearing (**Document 8.3.10**; submitted at this Deadline); and
- Ecological Survey of the Temporary Access Route off the A131 (**Document 8.3.11**; submitted at this Deadline).

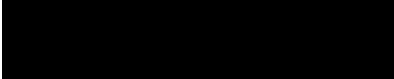
No specific action points were noted at Open Floor Hearing 2 that are not covered by other submissions, principally the Applicant's Comments on Relevant Representations (**Document 8.3.3**).

The Applicant has provided a response to the Issue Specific Hearing 1 Action Points issued by the ExA [**EV-018**] in **Document 8.3.9**.

Document 8.3.12 (Extant Grid Supply Point Substation Consents) provides copies of the consents obtained by the Applicant in relation to the Grid Supply Point Substation, further to a request made by the ExA at Issue Specific Hearing 1.

Should the ExA have any queries in relation to this letter, they are invited to contact Nuno Fernandes of Jacobs (nuno.fernandes@Jacobs.com) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,



John Bevan
Senior Project Manager
For and on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission

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