



Meeting note

Project name	Grimsby to Walpole
File reference	EN020036
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	24 June 2024
Meeting with	National Grid Electricity Transmission (“The Applicant”)
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed, and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Project Update

Non-Statutory Consultation

The Applicant confirmed that a large volume of feedback/comments were received in response to the non-statutory consultation which ran from 18 January 2024 to 13 March 2024. The Applicant is currently preparing a feedback report which will record all comments and their relevant responses and any changes that have been made to the scheme as a result. The report will be published alongside the statutory consultation documents in due course.

High level Programme – Key dates

The Applicant confirmed that there were no changes to the key dates proposed in the previous meeting held in March 2024. They remain as follows:

- Non statutory consultation: January 2024
- Request for scoping opinion: July 2024
- Statutory consultation: Summer 2025
- Targeted consultation: Q1/Q2 2026
- DCO Application submission: Q2 2027
- Start Construction: Summer 2029
- Construction to be complete: Summer 2033

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping

The Applicant advised that the Scoping report is being prepared and it is anticipated to be submitted to the Inspectorate at the end of July 2024. The Applicant confirmed the GIS shapefile will be submitted 10 working days in advance of the Scoping Report submission, but it may be available in advance of this. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to provide both high and low resolution versions of the Scoping Report to assist with accessibility

The Applicant advised that whilst it has faced some difficulties accessing land for surveys, voluntary access of 65-70% of the land has been achieved thus far. Section 172 powers are being used to access the remaining land required for surveys. The majority of surveys are anticipated to be completed in 2024, with any further required surveys to be undertaken in 2025.

Following stakeholder feedback, the Applicant is considering a sectional approach for presentation of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and the Environmental Statement which will allow stakeholders to more easily understand and review impacts in their area. The Planning Inspectorate acknowledged this approach has been undertaken on previous projects and advised the Applicant to take care when dividing up the route to ensure that areas such as the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape are not split across different sections.

PINS engagement during Pre-Application Stage

The Applicant confirmed that it is currently preparing its response to the Expression of Interest (EoI), to confirm which level of service it wishes to pursue in the new pre-application service. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that in line with the pre-application guidance, and prospectus, the apparent complexity of the project could be challenging for the examination to follow the formal fast-track procedure. However, the Inspectorate would need sight of the response to the EoI before coming to a view. As such, the Applicant should fully consider the guidance and prospectus when considering its preferred level of pre-app service and whether it intends to follow the formal fast track route by the deadline of 10 July 2024.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- Applicant to submit GIS shapefile at least 10 working days in advance of Scoping Report submission.
- September 2024 was agreed as appropriate timing for a next Project Update Meeting.