

A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling

Scheme Number: TR010040

Volume 8

8.1 Statement of Commonality for Statements of Common Ground

Rule 8(1)(e)
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

November 2021
Deadline 7

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms and
Procedure) Regulations 2009**

A47 Blofield to North Burlingham
Development Consent Order 202[x]

**STATEMENT OF COMMONALITY
FOR STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Commonality for Statements of Common Ground (“this Statement”) relates to an application made by Highways England (“the Applicant”) to the Planning Inspectorate (“PINS”) under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (“PA 2008”) for a Development Consent Order (a “DCO”). If made the DCO would grant consent for the Applicant to undertake the A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Scheme (“the Scheme”). A detailed description of the Scheme can be found in the ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Scheme (**REP4-017**).
- 1.1.2 This Statement has been prepared to provide the Examining Authority (ExA) with the current position on Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) between Highways England and prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and interested parties (“other parties”) in relation to the Scheme.
- 1.1.3 This Statement also provides a current position on the commonality on specific points between SoCG at Examination Deadline 7 (18 November 2021).
- 1.1.4 This Statement will be updated and submitted at subsequent Examination Deadlines as necessary.

2 STRUCTURE OF STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

- 2.1.1 To ensure consistency in the approach taken to documenting matters agreed, matters subject to further negotiation or matters not agreed, each of the SoCG adopts a standard format in order to provide clarity to other parties and ultimately the ExA.
- 2.1.2 Each SoCG has the following structure:
- o Section 1: provides an introduction to the SoCG and a description of its purpose.
 - o Section 2: states the engagement that has occurred between the Applicant and the other Party.
 - o Section 3: sets out any issues that have arisen, reporting on the status of each issue, i.e. whether it is agreed, still under discussion or not agreed, and any remaining actions.
 - o Appendices which contain any relevant document not forming part of the application that are referenced in the SoCG (e.g. emails / meeting notes / data).

3 LIST OF STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

- 3.1.1 The Applicant has begun to prepare SoCGs with a number of other parties it considered beneficial to do so following acceptance to Examination.
- 3.1.2 SoCG with further specific parties were also requested by the ExA through the Rule 6 letter dated 27 April 2021.
- 3.1.3 The other parties which the Applicant has prepared SoCG with are listed in Table 3-1 below. Further detail about the current position of each SoCG can be found at Chapter 4, Table 4-1 of this Statement.

Table 3-1 : List of SoCGs

Stakeholder
Local Authorities
Broadland District Council
Norfolk County Council
Prescribed Consultees
Environment Agency
Natural England
Historic England
Statutory Undertakers
Anglian Water
BT Openreach – no longer required
Cadent Gas
UK Power Networks
Virgin Media
Vodafone
Interested Parties
Blofield Parish Council
Norwich Cycling Campaign – no longer being progressed

4 SUMMARY OF CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1.1 This section provides the current position of each SoCG as at Deadline 7. As final versions of the SoCGs are agreed as the DCO Examination progresses, they will be submitted alongside this Statement.
- 4.1.2 Table 4-1 provides a high-level position and where necessary includes further detail to aid understanding of the ExA. The high-level positions used in the table are:
- o **Final Signed SoCG all matters agreed** – The final SoCG has been signed by both parties and all matters are agreed.
 - o **Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding** – The final SoCG has been signed by both parties, and there remain matters outstanding, that the Applicant and the other party agree, will not be resolved during the Examination.
 - o **SoCG in draft** – The SoCG has been drafted by the Applicant, it has been shared with the other party and comments have been provided. Discussion is ongoing to reach a 'Final Signed SoCG all matters agreed' or 'Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding'.
 - o **SoCG under preparation** – The SoCG has been drafted by the Applicant but not yet shared with the other party. Discussion is ongoing to reach agreement. The SoCG will be provided at the earliest opportunity.

Table 4-1 : SoCG high level position

Document Reference	Party	Position at Deadline 1 6 Jul 21	Position at Deadline 2 20 July 21	Position at Deadline 3 3 Aug 21	Position at Deadline 4 9 Sept 21	Position at Deadline 5 19 Oct 21	Position at Deadline 6 2 Nov 21	Position at Deadline 7 18 Nov 21	Position at Deadline 8 7 Dec 21	Position at Deadline 9 15 Dec 21	Position at Deadline 10 21 Dec 21
Local Authorities											
8.2	Broadland District Council	SoCG under preparation	SoCG in draft, with BDC	No update at Deadline 3	SoCG in draft and submitted at Deadline 4	SoCG in draft and submitted at Deadline 5	No update at Deadline 6	No update at Deadline 7			
8.3	Norfolk County Council	SoCG in draft and submitted at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3	SoCG in draft and submitted at Deadline 4	No update at Deadline 5	No update at Deadline 6	SoCG in draft and submitted at Deadline 7			
Prescribed Consultees											
8.4	Environment Agency	SoCG in draft and submitted at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3	No update at Deadline 4	SoCG in draft and submitted at Deadline 5	No update at Deadline 6	Final Signed SoCG all matters agreed			
8.5	Natural England	SoCG in draft and submitted at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3	No update at Deadline 4	No update at Deadline 5	No update at Deadline 6	No update at Deadline 7			
8.6	Historic England	SoCG in draft and submitted at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3	No update at Deadline 4	No update at Deadline 5	No update at Deadline 6	No update at Deadline 7			
Statutory Undertakers											
8.7	Anglian Water	SoCG under preparation	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3	No update at Deadline 4	No update at Deadline 5	No update at Deadline 6	No update at Deadline 7			
8.8	BT Openreach	SoCG under preparation	SoCG not required								
8.9	Cadent Gas	SoCG under preparation	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3	No update at Deadline 4	No update at Deadline 5	No update at Deadline 6	Unlikely to be required			
8.10	UK Power Networks	SoCG under preparation	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3	No update at Deadline 4	No update at Deadline 5	No update at Deadline 6	Unlikely to be required			
8.11	Virgin Media	SoCG under preparation	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3	No update at Deadline 4	No update at Deadline 5	No update at Deadline 6	Unlikely to be required			
8.12	Vodafone	SoCG under preparation	No update at Deadline 2	No update at Deadline 3	No update at Deadline 4	No update at Deadline 5	No update at Deadline 6	Unlikely to be required			
Interested Parties											
8.13	Blofield Parish Council	SoCG under preparation	No update at Deadline 2	SoCG in draft, with BPC	SoCG in draft and submitted at Deadline 4	No update at Deadline 5	No update at Deadline 6	No update at Deadline 7			
8.14	Norwich Cycling Campaign	Awaiting meeting with Norwich Cycling Campaign	No update at Deadline 2	No longer being progressed							

5 COMMONALITY

- 5.1.1 This section of the Statement provides a summary of principal issues covered in the SoCG and demonstrates where there is commonality in the topics or matters.
- 5.1.2 The table is presented in such a way to show topics covered within the various SoCG and how these are relevant to each other party and a position for each topic as follows:

	Matter agreed
	Matter subject to further discussion
	Matter not agreed

- 5.1.3 Where a matter is not relevant to the other party, it is not included within the SoCG and therefore not covered in Table 5-1 and shown as a blank.

Table 5-1 : Table of Commonality at Deadline 7

SoCG Ref	Party	Draft DCO	Protective Provisions	Other Consents and licenses	EMP and associated documents	Design and Engineering	Planning Policy	Landscape & Visual	Historic Environment	Biodiversity (including Arboriculture)	Traffic and Transport	Air Quality	Noise and Vibration	Road Drainage and Water Environment	Geology, Soils and Agriculture	Socio-economic and Recreation	Cumulative effects	Detrunking & Adoption	Materials Assets & Waste	Climate
8.2	Broadland District Council																			
8.3	Norfolk County Council																			
8.4	Environment Agency																			
8.5	Natural England																			
8.6	Historic England																			
8.7	Anglian Water																			
8.9	Cadent Gas Ltd																			
8.10	UK Power Networks																			
8.11	Virgin Media Ltd																			
8.12	Vodafone Ltd																			
8.13	Blofield Parish Council																			

6 POSITION AT DEADLINE 7

- 6.1.1 This section provides a summary of the current position at Deadline 7 between the Applicant and each party. This section provides the ExA with a summary. The individual SoCG should be referred to for the full detail on specific matters.

BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 6.1.2 The position of Broadland District Council (BDC) at Deadline 7 is currently Under Discussion.
- 6.1.3 Since Deadline 5, the Applicant and BDC have been discussing each of the outstanding matters.
- 6.1.4 There are 25 issues identified in the SoCG, of which 17 are now agreed. The outstanding items relate to the following:
- assessment of hedgerows (1 issue)
 - noise (1 issues)
 - walking, cycling and horse-riding (5 issues)
 - policy (1 issues)
- 6.1.5 The Applicant and BDC are not agreed on the 5 issues relating to the central crossing point and connectivity to Acle. The Applicant will continue to discuss other matters under discussion with BDC and is confident that the majority of these can be agreed.

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

- 6.1.6 The position of Norfolk County Council (NCC) at Deadline 7 is currently Under Discussion.
- 6.1.7 Since Deadline 5, the Applicant has continued to engage with NCC to agree outstanding matters.
- 6.1.8 There are 113 items identified in the SoCG, of which 70 are now agreed, 16 since last update. The outstanding items are summarised below:
- adoption and de-trunking (6 issues)
 - construction (2 issues)
 - design, primarily related to highway details (7 issues)
 - discharge of requirements (1 issue)
 - drainage and flooding (5 issues)
 - environment (various) (7 issues)
 - highways impacts (1 issue)
 - landscape (2 issues)
 - walking, cycling and horse-riding (12 issues)
- 6.1.9 The Applicant will continue to engage with NCC, through a series of targeted meetings to discuss the details of each of these with the respective specialists and is confident that the majority of issues can be agreed, however it is likely

that the lack of central crossing point will be a matter than cannot be agreed.

- 6.1.10 An updated SoCG (**TR010040/EXAM/8.3 Rev 2**) has been submitted at Deadline 7.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 6.1.11 The Applicant and the Environment Agency have reached agreement on all matters.
- 6.1.12 A final signed SoCG (**TR010040/EXAM/8.4 Rev 2**) has been submitted at Deadline 7.

NATURAL ENGLAND

- 6.1.13 The position of Natural England at Deadline 7 is currently Under Discussion.
- 6.1.14 The first draft of the SoCG between the Applicant and Natural England was shared on 23 April 21. The Applicant has not yet received a response from Natural England but believes there are no outstanding matters as Natural England have not submitted a Relevant or Written Representation.

HISTORIC ENGLAND

- 6.1.15 The position of Historic England at Deadline 7 is currently Under Discussion.
- 6.1.16 The issues contained in the draft SoCG have all been agreed. The issues raised in their Relevant Representation have been responded to by the Applicant at Deadline 1 (**REP1-060**). The Applicant has responded to Historic England's Written Representation at Deadline 3 (**REP3-025**).
- 6.1.17 The Applicant has shared the proposed final SoCG with Historic England for sign-off, to be submitted at a subsequent Deadline.

ANGLIAN WATER SERVICES LTD

- 6.1.18 The position of Anglian Water at Deadline 7 is currently Under Discussion.
- 6.1.19 Anglian Water have requested a SoCG. The Applicant has shared a draft SoCG with Anglian Water on 8 November 2021 and is awaiting their comments.
- 6.1.20 Discussions are ongoing in respect of protective provisions, with those in favour of Anglian Water included in the dDCO (**REP4-007**), Schedule 9 Part 3 at Deadline 4.
- 6.1.21 There are three issues between the Applicant and Anglian Water, as described in the Statutory Undertakers Progress Schedule (**TR010040/EXAM/9.5 Rev 4** submitted at Deadline 7).

OPENREACH LTD

- 6.1.22 Openreach Ltd have confirmed that the standard protective provisions included within the dDCO (**REP4-007**) provide adequate protections for their interests and therefore do not intend to take part in the examination process.

CADENT GAS LTD

- 6.1.23 The position of Cadent Gas Ltd at Deadline 7 is currently Under Discussion.

6.1.24 Protective provisions in favour of Cadent in an agreed form have been included in the dDCO (**TR010040/APP/3.1 Rev 5**) Schedule 9 Part 4 submitted Deadline 7. Formal agreements are now being put in place.

6.1.25 It is now unlikely that a Statement of Common Ground will be required as no other issues have been identified.

UK POWER NETWORKS (UKPN)

6.1.26 UK Power Networks have not requested bespoke protective provisions or have they identified any other concerns regarding the Scheme. Standard protective provisions are included within the dDCO (**REP4-007**).

6.1.27 It is now unlikely that a Statement of Common Ground will be required as no issues have been identified.

VIRGIN MEDIA LTD

6.1.28 Virgin Media have sent a standard notification to the Applicant. The Applicant is currently seeking to establish whether Virgin Media is seeking any variation from the standard provisions at Part 2 of Schedule 9, of the dDCO (**TR010040/APP/3.1 Rev 5**) (submitted at Deadline 7).

6.1.29 If protective provisions can be agreed then it is unlikely that a SoCG will be required as no issues have been identified.

VODAFONE LTD

6.1.30 Vodafone have requested bespoke protective provisions, which are currently being reviewed by the Applicant.

6.1.31 If protective provisions can be agreed then it is unlikely that a SoCG will be required as no issues have been identified.

BLOFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

6.1.32 The position of Blofield Parish Council (BPC) at Deadline 7 is currently Under Discussion. Blofield Parish Council have not submitted a Relevant Representation.

6.1.33 The Applicant shared the draft SoCG on 3 August 2021 and received feedback on this in writing on 9 September 2021. The Applicant met with Blofield Parish Council on 11 November 2021 to discuss each of the matters. The Applicant will share a draft update of the SoCG with Blofield Parish Council, to be submitted at the next Deadline.

6.1.34 The key issues for Blofield Parish Council are in relation to the impact on Blofield Allotments, during construction and post-construction.

NORWICH CYCLING CAMPAIGN

6.1.35 A Statement of Common Ground is no longer being prepared with Norwich Cycling Campaign.

6.1.36 The Applicant has responded to Norwich Cycling Campaign's Written Representation in the Applicant's Response to Written Representations (**REP3-025**) and to their Deadline 4 submission in the Applicant's Response to Deadline 4 Submissions (**TR010040/EXAM/9.21 Rev 0**).