



Bassetlaw
DISTRICT COUNCIL
— North Nottinghamshire —

Alicia Little
Senior Consents Manager
North Humber to High Marnham
National Grid Electricity Transmission

Our Ref: N/A
Officer: Karen Johnson
Email:
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17th December 2024

Dear Alicia,

National Grid Electricity Transmission – North Humber to High Marnham: Section 47 Planning Act (2008) Consultation on Draft Statement of Community Consultation.

I refer to your email dated 13 November 2024, which requests comments on the proposed North Humber to High Marnham project.

General Comments:

The document covers the issues that we expect to find but a few things are generally lacking in detail. More specifically, we felt the NH-HM Localised Consultation Strategy (LCS) provided more thorough information than the draft SoCC. While it is acknowledged that some specifics may still be emerging and that more detail will inevitably feature in the subsequent Consultation Report, it would be helpful for clearer information to be included up-front. This will enable consultees to understand what opportunities for public engagement are available, the project, and National Grid ambitions for the scheme.

Specific Comments

Please find below comments relating to various elements of the SoCC:

There are inconsistencies in phrasing and abbreviations. For example, the NH-HM LCS provided full definitions of the Primary Consultation Zones (PCZ) and Secondary Consultation Zones (SCZ), but it is only abbreviated throughout albeit from paragraphs 3.34 and 3.35 when discussing the Localised non-statutory consultation. It would be useful to include full definitions of the PCZ and SCZ within the SOCC. In addition, paragraph 3.34 states: 'Hard-to-Reach' whereas it should be 'Seldom Heard' throughout.

Section: 5.4 Consultation Materials

The Project Background Document and Preliminary Environmental Information Report will provide valuable context for many communities and for many of our residents the website might not be the engagement tool of choice. To ensure equal access to the Project Background Document and Preliminary Environmental Information Report it would be

important that both are available on the consultation website **and** at public consultation events **and** inspection points. Table 5.1 seems to suggest a different approach: “The document will be published on the Project website, and be available in paper copy on request, at the inspection points listed in Table 5.2 and at public consultation event”.

Additionally, Table 5.1 Project maps and location points says that these will only be available on the website and to view on screen at events. Table 5.4 recognises that some communities may be digitally isolated so for consistency we would recommend that at least one project map is made available at inspection points to aid understanding.

Section 5.4 Methods to Make Consultation Documents Available

Inspection Points:

Mobile libraries (Inspire) cover the majority of Bassetlaw villages (including Bassetlaw) without close access to libraries. These include the rural areas within the consultation zones. The NH-HM LCS was available at Retford Leisure Centre and Misterton Parish Church which have been omitted from the draft SoCC. It would be useful to revisit these locations due to longer and more consistent opening times.

Public Information Events/Webinars

More detail is required on the type of venues for public information events. Village Halls are the most appropriate venue to host events in the rural area. Reference to village halls and/or community centres would be welcome.

Section 5.5 Promotion Methods

The list of outlets receiving a press release omits any local specific to Bassetlaw. This is a significant oversight given that the communities of Bassetlaw are directly impacted by the proposal. We would recommend that the Worksop Guardian, Retford Times, and Nottinghamshire Live are included in the draft SoCC.

Section 5.9 Underrepresented groups

Overall, there is a need to strengthen underrepresented group engagement tools. As the PCZ and SCZ cover Bassetlaw’s rural area, it would be imperative to host public consultation events where and when public transport is readily available to ensure that all consultees can participate equally. This would ensure that older people, digitally isolated and geographically isolated individuals or communities are not excluded from attending public consultation events.

If there is anything else you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact the Local Planning Authority again.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Johnson
Planning Policy and Specialist Services Manager