Appendix 3B Scoping Opinion

BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Place Directorate
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My Ref: 2016/ENQ/00530
Your Ref:
Date: 17th March 2017
Enquiries to: Andrew Burton
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E-Mail: andrewburton@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Mrs Jones

NON EIA DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT SCOPING OPINION – PROPOSED UNDERGROUNDING OF A SECTION OF THE EXISTING 400KV OVERHEAD LINE (4Z0.2) IN THE AREA OF DUNFORD BRIDGE

I refer to the scoping report received in connection with the above proposed development and your request for a “scoping opinion” for a non mandatory Environmental Statement which is scheduled to accompany the application. This is notwithstanding that the screening opinion issued 13/01/2017 has determined that the proposal does not constitute EIA development.

The Council agrees that the topics listed in the scoping report would provide sufficient coverage for the Environmental Statement which is scheduled to accompany the planning application. Namely there are:-

- Planning Policy
- Consultation
- Landscape and Visual
- Ecology
- Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Water Resources
- Water Resources
- Geology, Soils and Contaminated Land
- Agriculture and Land use
- Air Quality
- Electric and Magnetic Fields
- Traffic and Transport
- Socio-Economics and Tourism
- Noise and Vibration
- Climate Change
- Sustainability

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CONSULTATIONS
The following internal and external consultees were contacted in order to seek their views on the scope of the ES:-

Internal:-

Air Quality Pollution Control Officer – Chris Shields
Biodiversity Officer – Trevor Mayne
Highways – Barbara Wilson
Public Rights of Way – Sarah Ford
Planning Policy – Helen Willows
Conservation Officer – Tony Wiles
Pollution Control – James Gardham
Drainage – Ian Grayson
Tree Officer – Ed Jowett
Public Health – Julie Tolhurst
South Yorkshire Mining Advisory Service – Paul James
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service – Any Lines

External:-

Peak District National Park Authority
Environment Agency
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
Coal Authority
Yorkshire Water

Below is a summary of the responses provided:-

Air Quality - The operational phase assessment shall need to take account of cumulative / already permitted development in the area. The assessment shall use traffic data obtained from the proposed Transport Assessment. Furthermore, the operational phase assessment shall also follow the requirements of the Barnsley Air Quality and Emissions Good Practice Planning Guidance (https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/4006/bmbc-air-quality-and-emissions-good-practice-planning-guidance.pdf), in order to ensure that the air quality impact of the development is suitably mitigated.

Biodiversity Officer –

- The vast majority of the Scoping Report (July 2016, unauthored) and its Appendix A (AECOM, 2016) are satisfactory. My following comments are the exceptions:
- With regards to the Scoping Report, Trevor disagrees with the proposal at 1.41 not to scope the 'do nothing' option. This option is a serious option which should also be evaluated.
- At 2.5 they refer to the Stakeholder Reference Group he does not believe BMBC (a member of the SRG) agreed to the single option route.
- With reference to 4.9, Engagement with BMBC in April 2015, he does not believe he was involved regarding the VIP project until late in 2015 so our biodiversity interests may not have been taken on board earlier in 2015.
- With regards to the ecology section 6, he disagrees with the parts of the table 6.2 in section 6.24 with respect to brown hare and hedgehogs – these may well be present in Wogden Foot and in the TPT verges and I think these should be surveyed for. With regards to fish – because I do not think only the one route option has been agreed and other options affect the river channel more, priority species of fish should be surveyed.

Finally, Trevor would request that the applicant makes the raw data from their new surveys available to Barnsley Biological Records Centre, via himself, to better inform future land-use decisions in the borough and to help nature conservation. The data would remain the property of National Grid and could be removed by them at any time. The data is best used in excel spreadsheet format with at least 6-figure grid references preferably.

Coal Authority - The application site does not fall within the defined coalfield; there is no requirement therefore to consider coal mining issues as part of this planning application or to consult The Coal Authority.

Conservation Officer – No comments have been received. Please therefore assume that he has no comments to make regarding the considerations proposed to be taken into account of in the section on archaeology and cultural heritage.

CPRE/Friends of the Peak District - Friends of the Peak District and CPRE South Yorkshire welcome the opportunity to respond to this scoping assessment. They have been participating in the proposals to underground a short section of the overhead line in the Dunford Bridge area since it was first proposed. They understand that the PDNPA has already decided that an EIA is not required for the area that lies within the National Park.

Whether or not Barnsley MBC decides an EIA is required for the area that would be impacted on by the undergrounding, we would commend National Grid's proposed assessment. It appears comprehensive and robust, and is inclusive of the local community and landowners/land managers.

Our only comment is that CPRE's tranquillity mapping should be included in the assessment http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/tranquil-places/item/1800- This gives the existing tranquillity levels in the area. As pylons are perceived as a major negative impact on tranquillity their removal would increase the resource, and this improvement should be formally documented.

Environment Agency – Comments have been received regarding the following issues:-

Flood risk

The River Don at this point is an Ordinary Watercourse so the Lead Local Flood Authority (Barnsley MBC) should be consulted on the report.

This development may require a Flood Risk Activities Environmental Permit under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 from the Environment Agency for any proposed works within the floodplain. This was formerly called a Flood Defence Consent. Some activities are also now excluded or exempt. A permit is separate to and in addition to any planning permission granted. Further details and guidance are available on the GOV.UK website: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits

Groundwater

From a groundwater perspective we accept the findings and recommendations within the submitted report.

Water resources

From a water resources perspective we are satisfied with the content of the Scoping report and would like to make the following comments:
Chapter 8 - we support the report's consideration of the potential impacts and mitigation measures to the water course, existing abstractors, water quality and the surrounding area and their obligations under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Paragraph 8.11 – we confirm the waterbody overall WFD classification is Moderate (Cycle 2, 2015 classification). The waterbody fails for fish, invertebrates and Mitigation Measure Assessment.

Paragraph 8.15 – we support the report's consideration of existing abstractors.

Paragraph 8.20 – Reference is made to the 'Impact on the hydrology and flow conveyance of watercourses due to temporary bridge crossings (associated with access), which might increase the risk of blockage or constriction to flows…' The applicant should note that if they intend to impound a watercourse, ditch or stream they are likely to need to apply to us for an Impoundment Licence.

8.28 – we support the report's inclusion and consideration of the potential for WFD waterbody deterioration and the potential for the waterbody from being prevented from achieving good status.

For information - the waterbody 'Don from source to Scout Dyke' at Location: SE1664402615 GB104027057500 fails for fish, invertebrates and Mitigation Measure Assessment.

Drainage – Officers are satisfied that the scope of the proposed chapter on Water Resources would adequately address their considerations.

Highways – No comments have been received. Please therefore assume that the Highways are content with the proposed scope of the chapter on highways and transport. Please note that there will be an expectation that information accompanying the application shall need to include information on the types of vehicles associated with the development being undertaken including any abnormal loads, information on the number of movements anticipated, a phasing plan, a before and after survey of the routes to be used by construction traffic vehicles, a construction method statement relating to the various phases of the work including site compound arrangements, the storage of building materials, the parking of employees, the erection of security fencing and measures to prevent mud and debris being deposited on the public highway network.

Peak District National Park – No comments have been received me directly regarding the scoping report. However I am aware that you have received a screening opinion from the Authority which has arrived at the same conclusion that the development would not require an EIA.

Pollution Control – The proposed methodology to inform the noise assessment within the noise and vibration chapter are considered acceptable by the relevant officer.

Planning Policy – Comments have been provided regarding the proposed landscape and visual impact chapter:-

1. The EIA should reference Barnsley's Landscape Character Assessment which places the site and much of its context within the character area of Thurlstone and Langsett Unenclosed Moorland.

2. Policy agree with the comments at para 5.9 that the new Sealing End Compound (SEC)would represent a greater visual impact than a standard pylon and note the further comment that the issues arising can be adequately assessed in a full landscape/visual impact assessment and mitigation strategy.
3. With respect to the intention to produce a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), Helen is pleased to note:
a. The stated intentions to produce photography and visualisations at para 5.50 and to produce 'zone of theoretical visibility maps' at para 5.56.
b. The study area for the LVIA reflects the area which it is considered could be affected to a significant degree by the terminal pylon required at the SEC.
c. The stated intention to discuss viewpoints with BMBC at para 5.57.

Public Health – No comments have been received. Please therefore assume that they have no comments to make regarding the proposed coverage of any of the chapters within the exercise.

Public Rights of Way – No comments have been received specifically with regards to the scoping report. However Sarah Ford has been heavily involved in the assessment of the proposals to date. Please therefore continue liaising with Sarah to ensure that public rights of way issues are suitably taken into account of.

Tree Officer - Without specific details it is difficult to offer meaningful comments. However in general Ed would ask that wherever possible the groups of trees and any significant individual trees be avoided. Given the nature of the area he would say that some impacts on trees will be inevitable especially in light of some pylons being surrounded by trees and the evident potential for impacts during demolition. There are also the more evident potential issues for the trees which could arise whilst installing the new underground cables etc. All Ed asks at this stage is that every care be taken to avoid trees altogether, but where operations are likely to take place in close proximity he requests that a tree survey and arboricultural impact assessment are undertaken and used to inform the scheme. He also requests that these documents are submitted with the application.

SYAS - No comments have been received. Please therefore assume that the South Yorkshire Archaeology are content with the proposed scope of the chapter on archaeology and cultural heritage.

SYMAS - Confirm that after reviewing the applicant's details and supporting documentation, the area in question lies outside the western edge of the coalfield and therefore outside of any referral areas, both from our records and the Coal Authorities. No mining legacy from a coal mining aspect would be anticipated; quarrying of sandstones/gritstones may however, but this appears to have been adequately considered through the consultants recommendations.

Yorkshire Water - 1) Within the red line boundary there is a 100mm and a 225mm combined sewer (with a support pipe bridge) located on the approach to Dunford Bridge waste water treatment works (WWTW). The WWTW (in Yorkshire Water's ownership) is also located within the site boundary.

2) There are assorted sized live raw and treated water mains and a service reservoir in the redline area.

A Non-Technical Summary
It is a statutory requirement to prepare a non-technical summary to sit alongside the ES to enable non-experts to understand its findings

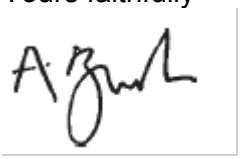
RECOMMENDATION

This letter represents the Council's "scoping opinion". The contents of this letter, including the comments from consultees, should be taken into account when preparing the version of the Environmental Statement to accompany the planning application.

Any additional comments from consultees subsequently received will be forwarded on to you and should be taken into account when preparing the planning application and Environmental Statement.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Burton, Group Leader (Inner Area Team)

For and on behalf of
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Your Ref: 2016/ENQ/00530
Our Ref: S012839

19th August 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Peak District East National Park 4ZO Line - Environmental statement scoping opinion - proposed undergrounding of existing 400kV overhead line (4ZO.2) in the area of Dunford Bridge (Screening Opinion)

Thank you for consulting Yorkshire Water regarding the above proposed development. We have no opinion regarding the need for a screening/scoping opinion but have the following comments:

Protection of infrastructure

1) Within the red line boundary there is a 100mm and a 225mm combined sewer (with a support pipe bridge) located on the approach to Dunford Bridge waste water treatment works (WWTW). The WWTW (in Yorkshire Water's ownership) is also located within the site boundary.

2) There are assorted sized live raw and treated water mains and a service reservoir in the redline area.

I am assuming that the developer is conducting a utilities search and if they haven't already done so, will in due course contact the relevant teams in Yorkshire Water with regard to protecting this infrastructure, much of which is subject to deeds of easement (in addition to YW owned land).

Yours faithfully

Stephanie Walden
Land Use Planning Manager