

# **Bridgend Local Development Plan 2018-2033**

## **Statement of Common Ground, between Bridgend County Borough and National Grid**

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**Between**

Bridgend County Borough Council

**And**

National Grid

Statement Date: 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022



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### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This is a joint statement produced by National Grid and Bridgend County Borough Council to address the deliverability of the Local Development Plan (LDP) allocations.
- 1.2 The Council is legally required to prepare a LDP under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Part 6. The LDP must be determined 'sound' by the examination Inspector in order to be adopted (section 64 of the 2004 Act). One of the tests of soundness is 'will the plan deliver?' The Council must be able to demonstrate that the LDP is deliverable with no significant impediment to its implementation. This includes demonstrating that electricity and gas infrastructure provision is, or can be, in place to deliver the allocated sites within the LDP period.
- 1.3 National Grid is a 'specific consultation body' in the plan process and as such the Council have worked in close collaboration with National Grid throughout the different stages of LDP preparation. Sites were assessed and those allocations where electric and gas capacity may be constrained over the lifetime of the LDP were identified.

### **2 Purpose of this document**

- 2.1 The purpose of this SoCG is to set out discussions between the parties and to identify any objections to policies, if they have been able to be resolved and if there are any still outstanding. This will provide a useful position statement for the inspector and enable discussion at Examination to focus primarily on remaining areas of disagreement.

### **3 Electricity & Gas**

#### **3.1 Electricity**

- 3.1.1 National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) owns and maintains the electricity transmission system in England and Wales. The energy is then distributed to the electricity distribution network operators, so it can reach homes and businesses. Western Power Distribution owns and operates the local electricity distribution network in Bridgend County Borough Council. National Grid seeks to encourage high quality and well-planned development in the vicinity of its high voltage overhead lines. Land beneath and adjacent to the overhead line route should be used to make a positive contribution to the development of the site and can for example be used for nature conservation, open space, landscaping areas or used as a parking court. National Grid, in association with David Lock Associates has produced 'A Sense of Place' guidelines, which provide detail on how to develop near overhead lines and offers practical solutions which can assist in avoiding the unnecessary sterilisation of land near high voltage overhead lines.
- 3.1.2 Potential developers of these sites should be aware that it is National Grid policy to retain existing overhead lines in-situ. The relocation of existing high voltage overhead

lines will only be considered for projects of national importance which has been identified as such by central government.

- 3.1.3 A review of the proposed development sites has been undertaken by National Grid to identify as to whether sites cross or are in close proximity to National Grid assets. Following a review of the Replacement Deposit Local Development Plan, National Grid identified that one or more proposed development sites are crossed or in close proximity to National Grid assets.

### **Electricity Transmission**

<b>Development Plan Document Site Reference</b>	<b>Asset Description</b>
<b>Policy ENT5:</b> Former Ford Site, Bridgend	<b>XM ROUTE: 275Kv Overhead Transmission Line route:</b> ABERTHAW - CARDIFF EAST – PYLE
<b>Policy ENT1(8) &amp; ENT2(8):</b> Waterton Industrial Estate	<b>XM ROUTE: 275Kv Overhead Transmission Line route:</b> ABERTHAW - CARDIFF EAST – PYLE
<b>Policy COM1(1):</b> Parc Afon Ewenni	<b>XM ROUTE: 275Kv Overhead Transmission Line route:</b> ABERTHAW - CARDIFF EAST – PYLE
<b>Policy PLA2:</b> Land South of Bridgend (Island Farm), Bridgend Sustainable Growth Area	<b>XM ROUTE: 275Kv Overhead Transmission Line route:</b> ABERTHAW - CARDIFF EAST – PYLE
<b>Policy COM1(2):</b> Craig y Parcau	<b>XM ROUTE: 275Kv Overhead Transmission Line route:</b> ABERTHAW - CARDIFF EAST – PYLE

## 3.2 Gas

- 3.2.1 National Grid Gas (NGG) owns and operates the high-pressure gas transmission system across the UK. In the UK, gas leaves the transmission system and enters the UK's four gas distribution networks where pressure is reduced for public use. Wales and West Utilities distribute gas in the Bridgend CBC area. As a general rule, the Bridgend network has enough capacity to maintain pressures, but any future plans for development on extremities of the network will likely result in infrastructure upgrades (reinforcement). This can be applied as a general principle for all networks. When looking at reinforcement projects, Wales and West calculate the projected cost to construct the pipeline and look at revenue they are likely to receive from transporting gas to the new development. This means that they will potentially fund some or all of the potential reinforcement costs. Generally, the higher the pressure the least chance of reinforcement but High Pressure connections are only cost effective if the development site is of a very large scale.
- 3.2.2 Within BCBC, a high pressure gas line runs from East to West starting to the north of Pencoed and maintaining a route north of the Valleys Gateway settlements, traversing the A4061, A4063, A4064 and Bettws Road. After passing to the north of Coytrahen the line exits the borough to the north of Margam mine. Two high pressure spurs follow a southwards path to the east and west of Pencoed.
- 3.2.3 The line to the east passes through the Pencoed Campus College site, traverses the M4 and continues to Waterton. National Grid requests that any High-Pressure Gas Pipelines are taken into account when site options are developed in more detail. These pipelines form an essential part of the national gas transmission system and National Grid's approach is always to seek to leave existing transmission pipelines in situ.
- 3.2.4 National Grid have land rights for each asset which prevents the erection of permanent/ temporary buildings, or structures, changes to existing ground levels, storage of

materials etc. Additionally, written permission will be required before any works commence within the National Grid easement strip, and a deed of consent is required for any crossing of the easement.

**4 Conclusion**

4.1 National Grid considers there to be no major constraints regarding the capability of the electricity and gas transmission systems to accommodate the development growth proposed in the LDP. In relation to electricity, specific development proposals within the local planning authority area are unlikely to have a significant direct effect upon National Grid's electricity transmission system. Generally, improvements to the system to provide supplies to the local distribution network are as a result of overall regional demand growth rather than site specific developments. At this stage no issues relating to capacity for the provision of electricity to the allocated sites are anticipated. In relation to gas, no issues relating to capacity are anticipated, although in some cases additional load generated from allocated sites may trigger a requirement for reinforcement of the gas network. There are no areas of outstanding disagreements of which ensures that the allocated sites can be delivered as proposed.

**Signatories**

**Bridgend County Borough Council**  
Richard Matthams  
Strategic Planning and Transportation Manager

Date 16/09/2022

Signature 

**National Grid**

Name Chris Johnson (agent)

Date 16/09/2022

Signature 