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Dear Sirs

National Grid North Sea Link Limited (East Sleekburn) Compulsory Purchase Order 2016

We write on behalf of National Grid North Sea Link Limited, ("the Acquiring Authority") in connection with the above compulsory purchase order ("the Order").

Request for Modifications to the Compulsory Purchase Order

Since the making of the CPO in October 2016, there has been some progression of detailed design. The Acquiring Authority have therefore undertaken a review of the Order land to ascertain where refinements can be made to reduce the potential effect of the Order on landowners and occupiers. As a result of the exercise, the Acquiring Authority requests modifications to the Order as explained below. These proposed modifications do not add any more land or any more rights into the Order, and do not change the purposes of the Order. They simply reduce either the land subject to the Order, or the rights to be created by the Order, or both.

In order to present the amendments to the order itself as easily as possible the following documents have been provided:

- a track changed copy of the current order showing the amendments required to the existing wording and plots.
- Annex A to the order which is in 2 parts as follows:
 - Part 1 – this part sets out the proposed new rights packages which are set out in more detail and reflect that not all rights are now required over the whole of the land; and
 - Part 2 – sets out the new plots proposed to be added to the Order to give effect to the changes described below.

Below is a description of the modifications proposed to the Order along with an explanation of why these changes are requested. Included with this letter is an indicative plan to illustrate the changes that are proposed to the Order land.

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Rights Packages

In the current Order, the 'New Rights' are sought over all plots in the Order land (other than plots 24 and 25 over which the acquisition of all interests are sought). Having undertaken further detailed design work since the Order was made, the Acquiring Authority has been able to reduce the scope of rights sought over a number of plots. The Acquiring Authority propose that the rights sought can be split into 4 different 'packages'. This reflects the fact that some plots are only needed only for construction, access or drainage purposes and not the full suite of New Rights which the Acquiring Authority had previously considered necessary to include in the Order. The 'Interconnector Right' is identical to the 'New Rights' included in the current Order whilst the other rights packages are also based on the 'New Rights' but reflect a reduced suite of rights.

The proposed tailored rights packages are:

The '**Interconnector Right**' means all rights necessary:

- to construct and place new electricity interconnector infrastructure within, upon or over the land and thereafter retain, inspect, maintain, repair, alter, renew, replace, remove and use the electricity interconnector infrastructure;
- to use the land as a working and compound area for construction, inspection, maintenance, repair, alteration, renewal, replacement and removal of the electricity interconnector infrastructure;
- to protect the electricity interconnector infrastructure, prevent interference with, damage or injury to the electricity interconnector infrastructure or its operation, or interference with or obstruction of access to it;
- to prevent any works on or use of the land which may interfere with or damage the electricity interconnector infrastructure or which interferes with or obstructs access to the electricity interconnector infrastructure;
- to access the land and access adjoining land in connection with the electricity interconnector infrastructure;
- to fell, trim and lop all trees, bushes and other vegetation which obstructs or interferes with the exercise of those rights;
- to execute such other works for the purpose of, or incidental to, the construction, use or maintenance of the electricity interconnector infrastructure, including but not limited to drainage works; and
- to carry out any activities ancillary or incidental thereto.

The '**Construction Right**' means all rights necessary:

- to use the land as a working and compound area for construction, inspection, maintenance, repair, alteration, renewal, replacement and removal of the electricity interconnector infrastructure;
- to prevent any works on or use of the land which may interfere with the construction works or which interferes with or obstructs access to the electricity interconnector infrastructure;
- to access the land and access adjoining land in connection with the construction of the electricity interconnector infrastructure;

- to fell, trim and lop all trees, bushes and other vegetation which obstructs or interferes with the exercise of those rights;
- to execute such other works for the purpose of, or incidental to, the construction, use or maintenance of the electricity interconnector infrastructure, including but not limited to drainage works; and
- to carry out any activities ancillary or incidental thereto.

The '**Access Right**' means all rights necessary to access the land and access adjoining land in connection with the electricity interconnector infrastructure and to prevent any works or use of the land which may interfere with or obstruct such access.

The '**Drainage Right**' means all rights necessary:

- to construct and place new drainage infrastructure within, on or over the land and thereafter retain, inspect, maintain, repair, alter, renew, replace, remove and use the drainage infrastructure;
- to use the land as a working and compound area for construction, inspection, maintenance, repair, alteration, renewal, replacement and removal of the drainage infrastructure;
- to protect the drainage infrastructure and prevent interference with, damage or injury to the drainage infrastructure or its operation, or interference with or obstruction of access to it;
- to prevent any works on or use of the land which may interfere with or damage the electricity interconnector infrastructure or which interferes with or obstructs access to the drainage infrastructure;
- to fell, trim and lop all trees, bushes and other vegetation which obstructs or interferes with the exercise of those rights;
- to access the land and access adjoining land in connection with the electricity interconnector infrastructure and drainage infrastructure;
- to execute such other works for the purpose of, or incidental to, the construction, use or maintenance of the drainage infrastructure; and
- to carry out any activities ancillary or incidental thereto.

Proposed Modifications

The modifications proposed for the parcels fall into one or more of the following categories:

- removal of the land from the Order in its entirety
- geographical area reduction where the scope of the land over which rights are proposed to be acquired can be reduced
- tailoring the scope of the rights package to be acquired over that land to reduce the extent of the rights to be taken
- consequential subdivision of the plot to give effect to the tailoring of the rights package (the plot numbering has been preserved so as to assist in identifying which plot the subdivision comes from e.g. where the plot was originally plot 1, all plots are pre-fixed by 1 e.g. 1a).

Accordingly, the Acquiring Authority respectfully requests that in the event that the Secretary of State decides to confirm the Order, he does so with modifications in respect of the following land parcels:

In respect of Plot 1, which comprises foreshore and land adjoining the foreshore.

It is proposed that the current plot 1 is split into 2 separate plots and labelled plot 1 and plot 1a. The total combined area of the sub-plots remains the same as the original plot 1 therefore this proposed amendment represents a reduction in the scope of the rights sought rather than the area over which they are sought.

The Cable Burial Surveys referred to in the Statement of Reasons and Statement of Case have now been undertaken which has allowed the Acquiring Authority to limit the areas over which the full Interconnector Rights are required. Therefore, these rights are only required over the revised plot 1.

Plot 1a will be required for construction purposes only and therefore the scope of the rights sought over this plot has been reduced and tailored. The plot has been subdivided to give effect to this amendment.

The revised areas of the plots required and rights required over them are:

- Plot 1 – the area of land over which rights are sought is 17362 square metres and the Interconnector Right is sought over this plot.
- Plot 1a – the area of land over which rights are sought is 29209 square metres and the Construction Right is sought over this plot.

In respect of Plot 2, which comprises land to the North East of Cambois Farm.

It is proposed that the current plot 2 is split into 2 separate plots and labelled plot 2 and plot 2a. The total combined area of the sub-plots remains the same as the original plot 2 therefore this proposed amendment represents a reduction in the scope of the rights sought rather than the area over which they are sought.

As there is now more certainty as to where the cable will come ashore in plot 1 and the angle which it will run up the beach, the area over which rights for the Interconnector Rights are required in plot 2 can be reduced. The new plot 2a is required for construction purposes only in connection with the Interconnector. Therefore the rights packages required over this plot have been reduced and the plot has been subdivided to give these amendments effect.

The revised areas of the plots and the rights required over them are:

- Plot 2 – the area over which rights are sought is 3118 square metres and the Interconnector Right is sought over this plot.
- Plot 2a – the area over which rights are sought is 6496 square metres and the Construction Right is sought over this plot.

In respect of Plot 3, which comprises highway.

It is proposed that the current plot 3 is split into 2 separate plots and labelled plot 3 and plot 3a. The total combined area of the sub-plots remains the same as the original plot 3 and therefore this proposed amendment represents a reduction in the scope of the rights sought rather than the area over which they are sought.

As further refinement has been undertaken in relation to the cable alignment, the area over which rights are required for the Interconnector infrastructure can be reduced. Construction

rights only would be required over the new plot 3a. Therefore the rights sought over the plot have been reduced and the plot has been subdivided to give effect to these changes.

The revised areas of the plots and the rights required over them are:

- Plot 3 – the area over which rights are sought is 260 square metres and the Interconnector Right is sought over this plot.
- Plot 3a – the area over which rights are sought is 37 square metres and the Construction Right is sought over this plot.

In respect of Plot 4, which comprises highway.

It is proposed that the current plot 4 is split into 2 separate plots and labelled plot 4 and plot 4a. The total combined area of the sub-plots remains the same as the original plot 4 and therefore this proposed amendment represents a reduction in the scope of the rights sought rather than the area over which they are sought.

As further refinement has been undertaken in relation to the cable alignment, the area over which rights are required for the Interconnector infrastructure can be reduced. Construction rights only are required over the new plot 4a. The rights packages required over the plot have therefore been reduced and the plot has been subdivided to give this amendment effect.

The revised areas of the plots and the rights required over them are:

- Plot 4 – the area over which rights are sought is 256 square metres and the Interconnector Right is sought over this plot.
- Plot 4a – the area of which rights are sought is 114 square metres and the Construction Right is sought over this plot.

In respect of Plot 5, which comprises land known as The Paddock.

It is proposed that the current plot 5 is split into 2 separate plots and labelled as plot 5 and plot 5a. The total combined area of the sub-plots remains the same as the original plot 5 and therefore this proposed amendment represents a reduction in the scope of the rights sought rather than the area over which they are sought.

As further refinement has been undertaken in relation to the cable alignment, the area over which rights are required for the Interconnector infrastructure can be reduced. Construction rights only are required over the new plot 5a. The rights packages required over the plot have therefore been reduced and the plot subdivided to give effect to this amendment.

The revised area of the plots and the rights required over them are:

- Plot 5 – the area over which rights are sought is 2267 square metres and the Interconnector Right is sought over this plot
- Plot 5a – the areas over which rights are sought is 1155 square metres and the Construction Right is sought over this plot.

In respect of Plot 6, which comprises land known as Cambois Farm.

It is proposed that the current plot 6 is split into 3 separate plots and labelled as plot 6, plot 6a and plot 6b. The total combined area of the sub-plots remains the same as the original plot 6 and therefore this proposed amendment represents a reduction in the scope of the rights sought rather than the area over which they are sought.

As further refinement has been undertaken in relation to the cable alignment, the area over which rights are required for the Interconnector infrastructure can be reduced. The rights

packages required over the plot have therefore been reduced and the plot subdivided to give effect to the amendments.

The Interconnector Right is required over plot 6 for the laying of the interconnector infrastructure. Plots 6a and 6b are required for construction with access also being required over plot 6b.

The revised areas of the plots and the rights required over them are:

- Plot 6 – the area over which rights are sought is 23771 square metres and the Interconnector Right is sought over this plot.
- Plot 6a – the area over which rights are sought is 9891 square metres and the Construction Right is sought over this plot.
- Plot 6b – the area over which rights are sought is 774 square metres and the Construction Right and the Access Right are sought over this plot.

In respect of Plot 7, which comprises land comprising Blyth Sewage Treatment Works.

There are no changes proposed to the area of this plot. However, the rights package has been reduced and only the Interconnector Right is required over this plot.

In respect of Plot 8, which comprises land which is part of the A189 at North Seaton.

There are no changes proposed to the area of this plot. However, the rights package has been reduced and only the Interconnector Right is required over this plot.

In respect of Plot 9, comprising part of the A189 at North Seaton.

There are no changes proposed to the area of plot 9. However, as further detailed design work has been undertaken, it has been confirmed that this area will only be required for construction. Therefore, the rights package has been reduced and only the Construction Right is required over this plot.

In respect of Plot 10, comprising highway known as Wembley Gardens.

It is proposed that current plot 10 is split into 2 separate plots and labelled as plot 10 and plot 10a. The total combined area of the sub-plots remains the same as the original plot 10 and therefore this proposed amendment represents a reduction in the scope of the rights sought rather than the area over which they are sought.

Detailed design has confirmed that these plots are required for construction works and also 10a will be required for access to the Interconnector infrastructure. Therefore the rights sought over the plot have been reduced and the plot has been subdivided to give effect to these changes.

The revised areas of the plots and the rights required over them are:

- Plot 10 – the area over which rights are sought is 78 square metres and the Construction Right is sought over this plot.
- Plot 10a – the area over which rights are sought is 11 square metres and the Construction Right and Access Right are sought over this plot.

In respect of Plot 11, comprising the Railway at Cambois.

There are no changes proposed to the area of this plot. However, the rights package has been reduced and only the Interconnector Right is required over this plot.

In respect of Plot 12, comprising land adjacent to the Railway at Cambois.

There are no changes proposed to the area of this plot. However, the rights package has been reduced and only the Interconnector Right is required over this plot.

In respect of Plot 13, comprising highway known as Wembley Gardens.

There are no changes proposed to the area of this plot. However, the rights package has been reduced and only the Interconnector Right is required over this plot.

In respect of Plot 14, comprising land adjacent to the highway known as Wembley Gardens.

There are no changes proposed to the area of this plot. However, the rights package has been reduced and only the Interconnector Right is required over this plot.

In respect of Plot 15, comprising land at Cambois Industrial Estate.

There are no changes proposed to the area of this plot. However, the rights package has been reduced and only the Construction Right is required over this plot.

In respect of Plot 16, comprising land known as Sleekburn Business Centre and the site of former Home Office Stores.

It is proposed that current plot 16 is split into 2 separate plots and labelled 16 and 16a. The total combined area of the sub-plots remains the same as the original plot 16 and therefore this proposed amendment represents a reduction in the scope of the rights sought rather than the area over which they are sought.

Further detailed design works means that the Interconnector Right is required over plot 16 only and only Construction Right is required over plot 16a. Therefore the rights sought over the plot have been reduced and the plot has been subdivided to give effect to these changes.

The revised areas of the plots and the rights required over them are:

- Plot 16 – the area over which rights are sought is 1621 square metres and the Interconnector Right is sought over this plot.
- Plot 16a – the area over which rights are sought is 404 square metres and the Construction Right is sought over this plot.

In respect of Plot 17, comprising land at Cambois Industrial Estate.

It is proposed that current plot 17 is split into 2 separate plots and labelled 17 and 17a. The total combined area of the sub-plots remains the same as the original plot 17 and therefore this proposed amendment represents a reduction in the scope of the rights sought rather than the area over which they are sought.

Further detailed design work has confirmed that only plot 17 is required for the Interconnector infrastructure and plot 17a is required for construction purposes. Therefore the rights sought over the plot have been reduced and the plot has been subdivided to give effect to these changes.

The revised areas of the plots and the right required over them are:

- Plot 17 – the area over which rights are sought is 3105 square metres and the Interconnector Right is sought over this plot.
- Plot 17a – the area over which rights are sought is 1355 square metres and the Construction Right is sought over this plot.

In respect of Plot 18, comprising land known as Sleekburn Business Centre and the site of the former Home Office Stores.

There are no changes proposed to the area of this plot. However, the rights package has been reduced and only the Interconnector Right is required over this plot.

In respect of Plot 19, comprising land known as the Sleekburn Business Centre and the site of the former Home Office Stores.

There are no changes proposed to the area of this plot. However, the rights package has been reduced and only the Interconnector Right is required over this plot.

In respect of Plot 20, comprising land known as Sleekburn Business Centre and the site of the former Home Office Stores.

There are no changes proposed to the area of this plot. However, the rights package has been reduced and only the Interconnector Right is required over this plot.

In respect of Plot 21, comprising land known as the Sleekburn Business Centre and the site of the former Home Office Stores.

There are no changes proposed to the area of this plot. However, the rights package has been reduced and only the Interconnector Right is required over this plot.

In respect of Plot 22, comprising land adjoining Blyth Power Station.

It is proposed to split the current plot 22 into 2 separate plots labelled as 22 and 22a. The total combined area of the sub-plots remains the same as the original plot 22 and therefore this proposed amendment represents a reduction in the scope of the rights sought rather than the area over which they are sought.

Plot 22a is required for construction purposes only. Plot 22 is required for the Interconnector infrastructure. Therefore the rights sought over the plot have been reduced and the plot has been subdivided to give effect to these changes.

The revised areas of the plots and the rights required over them are:

- Plot 22 – the area over which rights are sought is 12253 square metres and the Interconnector Right is sought over the plot.
- Plot 22a – the areas over which rights are sought is 615 square metres and the Construction Right is sought over the plot.

In respect of Plot 23, comprising land at East Sleekburn.

It is proposed to split the current plot 23 into 2 separate plots labelled as 23 and 23a. The total combined area of the sub-plots remains the same as the original plot 23 and therefore this proposed amendment represents a reduction in the scope of the rights sought rather than the area over which they are sought.

Plot 23a is required for construction purposes only. Plot 23 is required for the Interconnector Infrastructure. Therefore the rights sought over the plot have been reduced and the plot has been subdivided to give effect to these changes.

The revised areas of the plots and the rights required over them are:

- Plot 23 – the area over which rights are sought is 8321 square metres and the Interconnector Right is sought over the plot.
- Plot 23a – the area over which rights are sought is 369 square metres and the Construction Right is sought over the plot.

In respect of Plot 24, comprising land at East Sleekburn.

It is proposed that the current plot 24 is split into 2 separate plots and labelled as plot 24 and plot 24a.

A lease of the land required for the converter station was completed with Arch Commercial Enterprises, the landowner, on 24 February 2017. Compulsory acquisition powers are therefore no longer required over this land and the Acquiring Authority propose that the land comprising plot 24 (9649 square metres) is removed from the Order.

Plot 24a is required for access during the construction period. The area of plot 24a is 6855 square metres and the Construction Right is sought over it.

In respect of Plot 25, comprising land at East Sleekburn.

It is proposed that the current plot 25 is split into 4 separate plots and labelled 25, 25a, 25b and 25c.

A lease of the land required for the converter station was completed with Arch Commercial Enterprises, the landowner, on 24 February 2017. Compulsory acquisition powers are therefore no longer required over this land and the Acquiring Authority request that the land comprising plot 25 (61557 square metres) is removed from the Order.

Plot 25a is required for the interconnector cables as they come into and out of the converter station. Plots 25b is required for construction works. Plot 25c is required for drainage. Therefore the rights sought over the plot have been reduced and the plot has been subdivided to give effect to these changes.

The revised areas of the plots and rights required over them are:

- Plot 25a – the area of which rights are sought is 5500 square metres and the Interconnector Right is sought over the plot.
- Plot 25b – the area over which rights are sought is 3548 square metres and the Construction Right is sought over the plot.
- Plot 25c – the area over which rights are sought is 192 square metres and the Drainage Right is sought over the plot.

In respect of Plot 26, comprising highway known as Brock Lane.

It is proposed that the current plot 26 is split into 2 separate plots and labelled 26 and 26a. The total combined area of the sub-plots remains the same as the original plot 26 and therefore this proposed amendment represents a reduction in the scope of the rights sought rather than the area over which they are sought.

Further detailed design in relation to the Project means that it is now known where the permanent drainage works are required and therefore the area over which these rights are sought can be limited to the area of plot 26 only. Access rights are required over both plots. Therefore the rights sought over the plot have been reduced and the plot has been subdivided to give effect to these changes.

The revised areas of the plots and rights required over them are:

- Plot 26 – the area over which rights are sought is 78 square metres and the Drainage Right and Access Right are required over this plot.
- Plot 26a – the area over which rights are sought is 524 square metres and the Construction Right and the Access Right are required over this plot.

In respect of Plot 27, comprising highway known as Brock Lane.

There are no changes proposed to the area of this plot. However, the rights package has been reduced and only the Interconnector Right is required over this plot.

In respect of Plot 28, comprising land adjoining Blyth Power Station.

It is proposed that the current plot 28 is split into 4 separate plots and labelled as 28, 28a, 28b and 28c. The total combined area of the sub-plots remains the same as the original plot 28 and therefore this proposed amendment represents a reduction in the scope of the rights sought rather than the area over which they are sought.

Further detailed design in relation to the Project means that it is now known where the permanent drainage works are required and therefore the area over which these rights are sought can be limited to plot 28 and 28c only. Plot 28b is only required for the construction of the drainage works and only construction and access rights are needed over plots 28a. Therefore the rights sought over the plot have been reduced and the plot has been subdivided to give effect to these changes.

The revised areas of the plots and the rights required over them are:

- Plot 28 – the area over which rights are sought is 123 square metres and the Drainage Right and the Access Right are required over this plot.
- Plot 28a – the area over which rights are sought is 696 square metres and the Construction Right and the Access Right are sought over this plot.
- Plot 28b – the area over which rights are sought is 4200 square metres and the Construction Right is sought over this plot.
- Plot 28c – the area over which rights are sought is 646 square metres and the Drainage Right is sought over this plot.

In respect of Plot 29, comprising land adjoining Blyth Power Station.

It is proposed that the current plot 29 is split into 2 separate plots and labelled as 29 and 29a.

When the Order was made, it was necessary to include 2 different potential routes for the AC cable route within the scope of the Order. This is explained at paragraph 5.4.7 of the Statement of Reasons. However, further detailed design work has now been undertaken and the route for the AC cable chosen. Therefore 13274 square metres forming part of the current plot 29 can be excluded from the Order in its entirety.

Further detailed design work has confirmed that only the interconnector right for the AC cables is needed over the remainder of plot 29 only. Plot 29a is only required for access. Therefore the rights sought over the plot have been reduced and the plot has been subdivided to give effect to these changes.

The revised areas of the plots and rights required over them are:

- Plot 29 – the area over which rights are sought is 8670 square metres and the Interconnector Right is sought over this plot.
- Plot 29a – the area over which rights are sought is 1303 square metres and the Access Right is sought over this plot.

In respect of Plot 30, comprising land adjoining Blyth Power Station.

It is proposed that the current plot 30 is split into 2 separate plots and labelled as 30 and 30a. The total combined area of the sub-plots remains the same as the original plot 30 and therefore this proposed amendment represents a reduction in the scope of the rights sought rather than the area over which they are sought.

Further detailed design in relation to the Project means that it is now known where the permanent drainage works are required and therefore the area over which these rights are sought can be limited to plot 30. Plot 30a is only required for construction of the drainage works. Therefore the rights sought over the plot have been reduced and the plot has been subdivided to give effect to these changes.

The revised areas of the plots and the rights required over them are:

- Plot 30 – the area over which rights are sought is 132 square metres and the Drainage Right is required over this plot.
- Plot 30a – the area over which the rights are sought is 1054 square metres and the Construction Right is sought over this plot.

In respect of Plot 31, comprising land adjoining Blyth Power Station.

When the Order was made, it was necessary to include 2 different potential routes for the AC cable route within the scope of the Order. This is explained at paragraph 5.4.7 of the Statement of Reasons. However, further detailed design work has now been undertaken and the route for the AC cable chosen. Therefore 14714 square metres comprising the current plot 31 can be excluded from the Order in its entirety.

Rights for the interconnector infrastructure are required over the remainder of the plot and therefore the rights package has been reduced and only the Interconnector Right is sought over this plot.

In respect of Plot 32, comprising land known as Blyth Power Station.

There are no changes proposed to the area of this plot. However, the rights package has been reduced and only the Interconnector Right is required over this plot.

In respect of Plot 33, comprising land known as Blyth Power Station.

There are no changes proposed to the area of this plot. However, the rights package has been reduced and only the Interconnector Right is required over this plot.

Supporting Documents

We enclose the following documents which identify how the Order Map and the Order Schedule should be modified were the Secretary of State to give effect to these modifications:

1. Revised Order Map showing a 'marked-up' version of the proposed modifications with the land to be removed shown hatched green.

Please note that there are no amendments required to the key of the map or colouring to reflect the amendments to the rights as these are proposed to be effected by amendments to the text of the Order and the Order schedule.

2. A 'Marked up' version of the Order showing the proposed amendments to be made.
3. Annex A (Parts 1 and 2) setting out the proposed new rights packages and plots.

Also enclosed for information are:

1. An indicative plan showing the areas over which the scope of rights have been limited to those only required for the construction period, these show the areas where rights are only required during the construction period in cross hatching to help illustrate the textual amendments made to the Order.
2. A plot schedule showing the proposed changes to the areas and rights sought.

Modification Text

In the event that the Secretary of State is minded to make the Order with the modifications outlined, the Acquiring Authority requests that reference to Annex A is incorporated into the confirmatory text using the following suggested text or similar:

"The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy confirms the above order subject to the modifications shown on it in [red] ink, including those additions shown at Annex A".

Further, it is requested that the following suggested text or similar is included on the plan:

"This is the map referred to in the National Grid North Sea Link Limited (East Sleekburn) Compulsory Purchase Order 2016 as confirmed with modification by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The Map is modified with green hatch marking to show parts of plots to be removed."

Updates further to the Statement of Case

As the Acquiring Authority's Statement of Case was submitted almost 6 months ago in June 2017, we provide an update below on a number of matters which may assist the Secretary of State's decision-making process.

National Grid Electricity Transmission Substation

Further to the update provided in the Statement of Case (paragraph 3.23), National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc have agreed heads of terms for the acquisition of the land required for the new substation.

Crown Estate Licence

As set out in the Statement of Reasons and Statement of Case, the Acquiring Authority requires a licence from the Crown Estate in relation to the installation of the offshore DC cable from Cambois beach out to the 12 nautical mile boundary.

The consideration for entering into the option and the subsequent licence fee was agreed with the Crown Estate prior to the final investment decision for the Project in March 2015.

The Acquiring Authority and the Crown Estate now have an agreement in principle and drafting is being progressed with the aim of entering into the option agreement as soon as reasonably practicable.

Negotiations

The Order Land is in the ownership of eight landowners as follows:

1. Northumberland County Council;
2. Mr Albert Tote;
3. Banks Property Limited;
4. Northumbrian Water;

5. Network Rail;
6. The Trustees of the Fergusons (Blyth) Limited Small Self-Administered Pension Scheme;
7. Innogy PLC;
8. Arch (Commercial Enterprise) Limited.

Eight plots, namely 3, 3a, 4, 4a, 13, 26, 26a and 27 are in unknown ownership.

The Acquiring Authority has been in negotiations with all landowners and an update on progress is provided below.

1. Northumberland County Council

An agreement has now been completed with Northumberland County Council in relation to plots 1, 1a, 6, 6a, 6b, 8, 9, 10 and 10a.

2. Tote

Heads of terms were agreed on 28 April 2017 with Mr Albert Tote in relation to plots 2 and 2a. The documents are now substantively agreed and should be completed shortly.

3. Banks

Heads of terms were agreed on 29th July 2016 with Banks Property Limited in relation to plots 5 and 5a, and solicitors are finalising documents. It is hoped the agreement will be completed shortly.

4. Northumbrian Water

An offer has been made to Northumbrian Water for Plot 7 on 4th August 2016 to acquire the rights for cable easements. Northumbrian Water has not entered into a substantive dialogue with the Acquiring Authority but there has been discussion by telephone and email.

Northumbrian Water Limited do not object to the scheme. They have made clear that statutory rather than voluntary acquisition is preferred by them due to title complexity issues. No objection from Northumbrian Water was therefore made to the CPO.

5. Network Rail.

The agreement with Network Rail in relation to plot 11 has now been completed.

6. The Trustees of the Fergusons (Blyth) Limited Small Self-Administered Pension Scheme

Heads of terms were agreed on 15th March 2017 with Fergusons Limited Pension Fund in relation to plots 15, 16, 16a, 17, 17a, 18, 19, 20 and 21. Documents have been finalised and completed is awaited.

7. Innogy PLC.

Heads of terms were agreed on 20th January 2017 with RWE Innogy in relation to plots 22 and 22a and final documents have now been agreed and should be completed shortly.

8. Arch (Commercial Enterprise) Limited.

a) Converter Site

A lease was agreed with **Arch (Commercial Enterprise) Limited** in February 2017 for the converter station site at Plot 25 and the Laydown Compound for its construction at Plot 24.

b) Easement Option

An offer was made to Arch on 8th August 2016 for an easement option for the HVDC cable to north of converter site, the HVAC option to the south of the converter site and the drainage outfall easement option to the south of the converter site. These offers proposed the payment of consideration in return for the grant of an easement on standard NGNSL terms. The compensation offered reflected the agricultural use of the land affected by the cable routing. This offer was declined and negotiations continue with Arch (Commercial

Enterprise) Limited for plots 23, 23a, 24a, 25a, 25b, 25c, 28, 28a, 28b, 28c, 29, 29a, 30, 30a, 31, 32 and 33. Northumberland County Council declared on 17th November that Arch was to be dissolved and replaced by the Northumberland Development Company. The Acquiring Authority will pursue negotiations with the new owners.

c) Drainage Works Licence

Whilst the negotiations continue, a licence dated 9th June 2017 has been agreed between NGNSL and Arch for the occupation of land necessary to carry out the construction of the drainage outfall from the converter station. This Licence has recently been extended and will now lapse March 2018.

Network Rail

As you are aware, agreement has been reached with Network Rail and its objections have been withdrawn.

We trust that you have all the information that the Secretary of State requires to make a decision on the Order, but please do let us know if there is anything further the Secretary of State requires or that we can assist with.

Should you have any questions on the proposed modifications or require any further information please contact Sarah Wood of this office on 0207 919 0824.

Yours faithfully,

Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP

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Encs.