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9 October 2023

Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero
Attention: John McKenna
By e mail John.McKenna@energysecurity.gov.uk

THE NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC (SCOTLAND TO ENGLAND GREEN LINK TO) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2023(CPO)

I and two other individuals are trustees and the legal owners of plots 35/987 and 35/988 which we hold on behalf of the members of the Golden Hill Club (**club**) from time to time. The club is a fishing club and owns one half of the bed of the river Hull (Driffield Beck) together with a few yards of the related river bank under which it is proposed that the SEGL2 pipeline will pass.

It is in this capacity that I am writing to you on behalf of the club to object to the CPO. Our grounds for objection are as follows:

Given the special nature of the engineering issues relating to the crossing of the river acquisition of the land by CPO is not appropriate.

The club has made it clear from the outset that it did not wish in any way to obstruct the construction of the cable and was willing to enter into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (**NEGT**) and its representatives. This approach has been emphasised from time to time by our agents Dee Atkinson & Harrison (**DAH**) and also by me on behalf of the club in a letter dated 23 June 2023 sent to NEGTE and Fisher German.

Despite discussions between the parties having taken place since early this year, commencing initially with a meeting held on 2 February 2023 at the offices of DAH with both representatives of NEGTE and Fisher German, there has been no progress.

We have continually made the point that the standard heads of terms which have been sent to us are not appropriate to the relatively unique circumstances relating to the crossing of the club's land adjacent to the river bank and the half of the river owned by it. Our willingness to co-operate is demonstrated by our proposal, made some months ago, to appoint independent consultants to advise the club on any engineering solution but to date no such solution has emerged.

In addition to the fact that National Grid has not progressed negotiations for a voluntary agreement to acquire the rights it needs with us, our other concerns are also with regard to the damage that this Project could have on the habitat of the River Hull as follows:

Given the sensitive nature of the site, which is a designated SSSI site, our concern is heightened by having seen that the Dogger Bank South Offshore wind farms project which was going to cross the river at Wansford which is very near to the land owned by us is no

longer going to do so given the prevailing ground conditions (see extract from that Project's Preliminary Environmental Information Report below). So far as we are aware only limited ground investigation works have been carried out on the neighbouring landowner's land.



Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

4.13.3. Review of the Onshore Export Cable Corridor Short List

4.13.3.1. Wansford and A1147 Pinch Points

96. Following further engineering assessment an additional pinch point was identified at Wansford. At Wansford the crossing of the River Hull, Driffield Canal and Main Drain is impacted by the shallow chalk aquifer with artesian groundwater expected at this location (i.e. the groundwater is under pressure and HDD would risk flooding the local area). Detailed intrusive and geophysical investigation would be required to confirm feasibility. Even if the crossing was feasible, it would likely require 24 hour work in close proximity to residential properties. It was deemed this crossing would be too complex and therefore all onshore export cable corridors associated with this pinch point were not taken forward.

We have not been given information on the depth of the cable and thus the HDD methodology of drilling but, as well as the impact on groundwater, we are concerned what impact the construction and cable will have on the SSSI. For example vibration and noise from drilling during construction and heat and electro magnetic frequencies from the cable during operation would disturb the habitat of the river bed.

In summary given the fact that no engineering solution has yet been proposed by NEG T and its representatives in view of the difficult technical issues and environmental consequences of crossing a chalk stream which is a designated SSSI site it is clear that imposing a solution by the exercise of powers granted under a CPO, particularly given the club's willingness to negotiate, is inappropriate and the CPO should not be confirmed so far as these plots of land are concerned by the Secretary of State. We do not believe that in this location the public benefits of the Project outweigh the private rights affected.

Yours faithfully

P D Barton
Club Treasurer