

JUAN MURRAY: PLANNING AND CONSENTS

SUMMARY PROOF OF EVIDENCE

1. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

- 1.1 My name is Juan Murray, and I am a Chartered Town Planner and Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute. I hold a Master's degree in Planning and Sustainable Environments from the University of Salford.
- 1.2 I am an Associate Director at The Environment Partnership (TEP) and Team Manager for the Environmental Planning Team. I have 18 years' experience as a consultant working on a range of projects, from large linear infrastructure to small residential schemes.
- 1.3 I was instructed by NGET as lead consent officer, to secure the necessary consents to allow the delivery of the project. I have visited the site on numerous occasions.
- 1.4 I have secured the following consents / processes:
 - Section 37 Consent pursuant to the Electricity Act 1989 (temporary OHL diversion)
 - Section 38 Consent pursuant to the Commons Act 2006 (works within Cleeve Common)
 - Planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for two Cable Sealing End Compounds (Tewkesbury Borough Council and Cotswold District Council) and a Shunt Reactor (Wiltshire Council).
 - Screened the Scheme as a whole for EIA under The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The Secretary of State has also confirmed in writing that the proposed works are not EIA development under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017).
 - NGET will make use of permitted development rights for:
 - o the excavation of the cable trenches (General Permitted Development Order (GPDO) 2015 Schedule 2, Part 15, Class B(a));
 - o the installation of the section of underground electric and fibre cable between the two CSECs located at each end of the cable route (General Permitted Development Order (GPDO) 2015 Schedule 2, Part 15, Class B(a)); and
 - o the installation of temporary construction compounds and construction working areas (including the haul road) that are required to construct the infrastructure listed above (General Permitted Development Order (GPDO) 2015 Schedule 2, Part 4, Class A).
 - o All activities beneath ground which are associated with the trench, including its ultimate fit-out and cable installation, will also be carried out pursuant to permitted development rights.

- 1.5 There has been one objection made to the order which is relevant to the process undertaken at the Planning Permission stage. Mr Jonathan Morton Stanley and Corinium Construction Limited (**CD C7**) state that planning permission for the southern CSEC was sought before any notice was given to the affected landowners. I reject this procedural criticism. NGET notified all owners of its application for planning permission to construct the CSEC and associated accesses pursuant to the requirements of Article 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. A copy of the notice to Mr Jonathan Morton Stanley, related cover letter and an extract of the application form confirming the same are included at **CD B12.1, B12.2** and **B12.3**. I feel these appropriately deal with this objection and no further comments are required.
- 1.6 There has also been an objection made by Mr Jonathan Morton Stanley and Corinium Construction Limited contained within their Statement of Case (**CD E1**) stating that an OCEMP is non-binding so that insufficient safeguards are in place. I have addressed this, as I believe it's a planning matter. As I have shown in paragraph 6.7 of my statement, each planning application has a condition requiring a detailed CEMP to be produced, submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of construction / development starting. It is my firm view that, having regard to these requirements, there are firm safeguards in place which will preclude the carrying out of development until relevant environmental protections are agreed and approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- 1.7 In my view, there are no planning impediments to the delivery of the project.

2. WITNESS DECLARATION

- 2.1 I confirm that the evidence prepared for this Inquiry and contained with this statement of evidence are my true and professional opinions. I confirm that I have understood and complied with my duty to the Inquiry as an Expert Witness and have provided my evidence impartially and objectively. I confirm that I have no conflicts of interest.
- 2.2 I confirm that artificial intelligence has not been used to produce this statement of evidence.



JUAN MURRAY

9 OCTOBER 2025