

Statement of Common Ground

Merton Local Plan Review

September 2022

1. Parties Involved

- National Grid
- The London Borough of Merton

2. Areas of Agreement

2.1 National Grid submitted responses to the Merton Local Plan at [Stage 2](#) (Jan 2019), [Stage 2a](#) (April 2021) and [Stage 3](#) (September 2021).

2.2 National Grid did not object to any of the policies within the draft Plan, but provided confirmation of the location of National Grid assets and additional guidance wording for proposed development that may affect National Grid assets.

2.3 National Grid identified five site allocations within the draft Local Plan that are crossed, or in close proximity to National Grid assets. These include sites CW2, CW5, Mi1, Mi16 and Wi12.

2.4 Both parties agree that the policies contained within the relevant site allocations and Chapter 14 Infrastructure, support the protection and continued safe operation of National Grid infrastructure that is on, or in close proximity to, the proposed site allocations in the Local Plan. The policies also facilitate future National Grid infrastructure investment and requirements.

3. Proposed Modifications

3.1 Both parties agree that the following additional text is needed to Site Allocation CW2 (under Infrastructure Requirements), to reflect the up to date information provided by National Grid in their Stage 3 consultation response:

This site is in close proximity to National Grid infrastructure YYU route 275Kv two circuit route from Beddington substation in Sutton to Wimbledon substation in Merton. The statutory safety clearances between overhead lines, the ground, and built structures must not be infringed. To comply with statutory safety clearances, the live electricity conductors of National Grid's overhead power lines are designed to be a minimum height above ground. Where changes are proposed to ground levels beneath an existing line then it is important that changes in ground levels do not result in safety clearances being infringed. National Grid can, on request, provide to developers detailed line profile drawings that detail the height of conductors, above ordnance datum, at a specific site.

It is recommended that the developer liaise with National Grid at the earliest opportunity to discuss the infrastructure on site. The council will require evidence of liaising with National Grid with any submitted planning application.

3.2 Both parties agree that the following additional text is needed to Site Allocation Wi12 (under Infrastructure Requirements), to reflect the up to date information provided by National Grid in their Stage 3 consultation response:

This site is in close proximity to National Grid infrastructure 33Kv Underground Cable route Earlsfield Rail Feeders 427, 440 & 443 Section 3 and 33Kv Underground Cable route Wimbledon 33Kv D S/S Electrical Substation Wimbledon 132KV. The statutory safety clearances between overhead lines, the ground, and built structures must not be infringed. To comply with statutory safety clearances, the live electricity conductors of National Grid's overhead power lines are designed to be a minimum height above ground. Where changes are proposed to ground levels beneath an existing line then it is important that changes in ground levels do not result in safety clearances being infringed. National Grid can, on request, provide to developers detailed line profile drawings that detail the height of conductors, above ordnance datum, at a specific site. It is recommended that the developer liaise with National Grid at the earliest opportunity to discuss the infrastructure on site. The council will require evidence of liaising with National Grid with any submitted planning application.

3.3 Both parties agree that the following additional modifications to the supporting text of Policy IN14.1 are necessary, to reflect the up to date information provided by National Grid in their Stage 3 consultation response.

14.1.25 National Grid's underground electricity transmission cables cross through Colliers Wood and Mitcham. In addition, the National Grid's high voltage overhead electricity transmission lines run through the borough along the River Wandle through the Colliers Wood, Wimbledon and Mitcham neighbourhoods. Five Three of the proposed Site Allocations (CW2, CW5, Wi12, Mi1 and Mi16) contain or are within close proximity to the National Grid Infrastructure. Potential developers of sites with overhead lines 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 or regional importance. ~~which has been identified as such by central government.~~

14.1.27 Developers must take into account the location and nature of the existing electricity transmission equipment when planning developments.

~~The following guidance should be referenced prior to submitting a planning application: [Working near our assets](#), [Linesearch before you dig](#) and [Guidelines for development near pylons and high voltage overhead power lines](#). is outlined in National Grid's "A Sense of Place" guidelines on how to create high quality development near overhead lines.~~

4. Signatories

4.1 Both parties agree that this statement is an accurate representation of matters discussed and issues agreed upon.

Signatories

Signed for London Borough of Merton by:

Name – Tara Butler

Job Title – Deputy Head, Future Merton

Signature - 

Date - 20 September 2022

Signed for National Grid by:

Name – Chris Johnson (agent acting on behalf of National Grid)

Job Title – Senior Planner, Avison Young

Signature - 

Date – 13/09/2022