

Better practices in engagement with environmental NGO's and permitting bodies – Marine Environment.

BEST GRID



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BirdLife is a global partnership of nature conservation NGOs.

- Own and manage nature reserves
- Push for good nature legislation and full implementation
- Seek to improve (or if that fails, resist) projects that would harm nature, through the planning process

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is BirdLife's UK Partner. RSPB reviewed its 'casework' experience engaging with UK grid developments over the last 15 years.



First reaction to projects: “How will this affect my (organisation’s) interests?”

“Will it reduce the value of my property?”

“Will it be developed without unnecessary or unacceptable impacts on birds and nature?”

But attitudes to specific grid projects are also shaped by a ‘bigger picture’:

“Can we trust this organisation to listen and carry out their promises?”

“Is this project really needed?”



Climate change is starting to bite: expected to have huge impacts for nature conservation.

'Bigger picture' for many environmental NGOs = 'Is this development needed for renewables and the energy transition'?

Being able to answer these contextual questions positively (and honestly) will make a big difference to acceptability.



Developers need to do more to understand nature protection stakeholders.

Environmental stakeholders have much to learn about the role of grid in the bigger climate and energy picture.

Projects like BESTGRID are very valuable to create and communicate mutual understanding.

