

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE NATIONAL GRID (NORTH LONDON REINFORCEMENT PROJECT)
(AMENDMENT) ORDER 202[]

[Year] No. [XXXX]

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared to explain the purpose and effect of each provision contained within the National Grid (North London Reinforcement Project) (Amendment) Order 202[*] (the **Draft Order**).
- 1.2 National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (the **Applicant**) is applying to the Secretary of State for Energy, Security and Net Zero (the **Secretary of State**) for the Draft Order be made. The Draft Order would amend certain provisions of the National Grid (North London Reinforcement Project) Order 2014 (the **2014 Order**).
- 1.3 The application is made under section 153 of, and paragraph (2) of Schedule 6 to, the Planning Act 2008.

2 Background to the Application

- 2.1 The Applicant operates the high voltage electricity transmission system in Great Britain and owns the system in England and Wales. The system operates at 400kV and 275kV, connecting the electricity generators to substations where the high voltages are transformed to lower voltages, enabling the power to be distributed to homes and businesses.
- 2.2 The 2014 Order, made by the (then) Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, authorised the Applicant to uprate the existing ZBC overhead electric line (**OHL**) running from Waltham Cross substation to Tottenham substation from 275kV to 400kV, together with associated works to the substations at Waltham Cross, Brimsdown and Tottenham (the **2014 Project**). The 2014 Project forms part of wider proposals known as the North London Reinforcement Project (**NLRP**).
- 2.3 The NLRP is one of 17 ASTI projects and a crucial component of the Great Grid Upgrade, aimed at enhancing the electricity transmission network in London and the surrounding area. It will play a significant role in meeting the Government's plans to power all homes and businesses with green energy by 2030 (as per the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan).
- 2.4 The 2014 Project included works to facilitate a bypass of Tottenham substation via the installation of a new section of underground cable (see Work Nos. 10 and 11 in Schedule 1 to the 2014 Order). The proposed bypass of Tottenham substation creates a single continuous 400kV line from Pelham to Hackney substations without the need to uprate the substation itself.
- 2.5 During the detailed design of the proposed cable bypass, constraints have been identified that have led the Applicant to conclude that it is preferable for the Tottenham substation bypass to be delivered by means of a new section of OHL spanning the existing substation building. Changes are required to the 2014 Order to facilitate this.

3 Purpose of the Draft Order

- 3.1 The purpose of the Draft Order is to give effect to the non-material changes required to the 2014 Order to enable the Tottenham bypass to proceed by means of an OHL.
- 3.2 Changes are proposed to the design of a transmission pylon consented under the 2014 Order (known as **VC1R**) and a new transmission pylon (known as **ZBC44**) is also proposed.

Two new sections of 400kV OHL are proposed between these pylons. The 2014 Order Limits are proposed to be extended over a portion of the substation building (owned by the Applicant) to ensure that the new section of OHL benefits from development consent. Finally, changes are also required to remove the underground cable bypass from the description of the development authorised by the 2014 Order.

4 Draft Order

- 4.1 The purpose and effect of the provisions of the Draft Order are now explained in sequence. The Draft Order has had regard to the guidance set out in the Office of Parliamentary Counsel Drafting Guidance¹ as well as precedent set by other Amendment Orders made to date.

Article 1 – Citation and commencement

- 4.2 Article 1 sets out the name of the Order, establishing how it may be cited in subsequent legislation. It also provides the date on which the Order will come into force.

Article 2 – Amendments to the National Grid (North London Reinforcement Project) Order 2014

- 4.3 Article 2 contains the substantive amendments that are proposed to be made to the 2014 Order. The effect of each paragraph within Article 2 is further explained below:

- 4.4 Paragraph (1) proposes a series of amendments to the definitions contained within Article 2 (interpretation) of the 2014 Order. These amendments are as follows:

- 4.4.1 Paragraph (1)(a) amends the definition of the “*access/rights of way plans*” to refer to the updated “*access/rights of way plans*” to be submitted with the Application. Two substitute sheets, namely the “*Key Plan*” and “*Sheet 10 of 10*” of the “*access/rights of way plans*” are proposed; the new sheets illustrate the revised design for the Tottenham bypass;
- 4.4.2 Paragraph (1)(b) amends the definition of the “*design drawings and sections*” to refer to the updated “*design drawings and sections*” to be submitted with the Application. Four substitute sheets, namely “*Sheet 11*”, “*Sheet 12*”, “*Sheet 13*” and “*Sheet 14*” of the certified “*design drawings and sections*” are proposed; the new sheets illustrate the revised design for the Tottenham bypass;
- 4.4.3 Paragraph (1)(c) amends the definition of the “*land plans*” to refer to the updated “*lands plans*” to be submitted with the Application. Two substitute sheets, namely the “*Key Plan*” and “*Sheet 10 of 10*” of the certified “*land plans*” are proposed; the new sheets illustrate the revised design for the Tottenham bypass and identify a new plot of land numbered 383A (see paragraph 4.4.8 below);
- 4.4.4 Paragraph (1)(d) amends the definition of “*Order land*” so that it is now comprises of two separate components, namely the “*2014 Order land*” and the “*Additional Order land*”. The purpose and effect of these new definitions are explained at paragraph 4.4.7 below;
- 4.4.5 Paragraph (1)(e) amends the definition of the “*special category land/replacement land plans*” to refer to the updated “*special category land/replacement land plans*” to be submitted with the Application. Two substitute sheets, namely the “*Key Plan*” and “*Sheet 10 of 10*” of the certified “*special category*

¹ The Cabinet Office and Office of Parliamentary Counsel, Office of the Parliamentary Counsel: drafting guidance (April 2024).

land/replacement land plans” are proposed; the new sheets illustrate the revised design for the Tottenham bypass;

- 4.4.6 Paragraph (1)(f) amends the definition of the “*works plans*” to refer to the updated “*works plan*” to be submitted with the Application. Two substitute sheets, namely the “*Key Plan*” and “*Sheet 10 of 10*” of the certified “*works plans*” are proposed; the new sheets illustrate the revised design for the Tottenham bypass;
- 4.4.7 Paragraph (1)(g) introduces two new definitions into the 2014 Order as follows:
- (i) Firstly, the term “*2014 Order Land*” is introduced – the wording employed mirrors the definition of ‘*Order Land*’ in the 2014 Order and this definition captures all land lying within the Order Limits applicable to the 2014 Order;
 - (ii) Secondly, the term “*Additional Order Land*” is introduced. This term is defined to capture a small area of land that is being added to the Order Limits, namely plot 383A (see paragraph 4.4.8 below).
- 4.4.8 The Draft Order is proposing a small extension to the Order Limits set by the 2014 Order. The purpose of this extension is to ensure that the development consent granted by the 2014 Order (as amended) extends to the full alignment of the new section of OHL between ZBC44 and VC1R. This section of OHL will span over the existing substation building at Tottenham. This substation building was excluded from the 2014 Order Limits and so the extension to the Order Limits is designed to address this exclusion to the extent necessary to cover the route of the new section of OHL. The Applicant is the owner of the land comprised within plot 383A and no new powers to acquire land or interests in land compulsorily are being sought in relation to it or otherwise.
- 4.5 Paragraph (2) proposes an amendment to article 32 (*temporary use of land for maintaining the authorised development*). Article 32 contains certain powers to use land by compulsion which, unlike the other land powers within the 2014 Order, have not time expired. The purpose of this amendment is to restrict the application of article 32 to the 2014 Order Land only and to ensure that the Additional Order Land is not inadvertently the subject of these land powers.
- 4.6 Paragraph (3) proposes several amendments to the description of the authorised development in Schedule 1 (*authorised development*) to the 2014 Order. These amendments are as follows:
- 4.6.1 Paragraph (a) amends Work No. 10 to remove existing Work Nos. 10(b) to (d), all of which related to the proposed cable bypass at Tottenham substation and to insert new Work Nos. 10(b) to (d) which describe the additional works required, namely the installation of new pylon ZBC44 and the installation of two new sections of OHL;
 - 4.6.2 Paragraph (b) removes from Work No. 11 works components which were wholly related to the cable bypass design, and which are no longer required.

Article 3 – Certification of substitute plans

- 4.7 Article 3 makes provision for the certification by the Secretary of State of the substitute plans provided for in article 2.